

# AP® U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## FREE PRACTICE TEST



USE THIS SHEET TO RECORD YOUR ANSWERS FOR THE EXAM.

## SECTION 1: MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS 1–55

Indicate your answers to the exam questions by filling in each circle completely.  
Mark only one response per question.

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## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

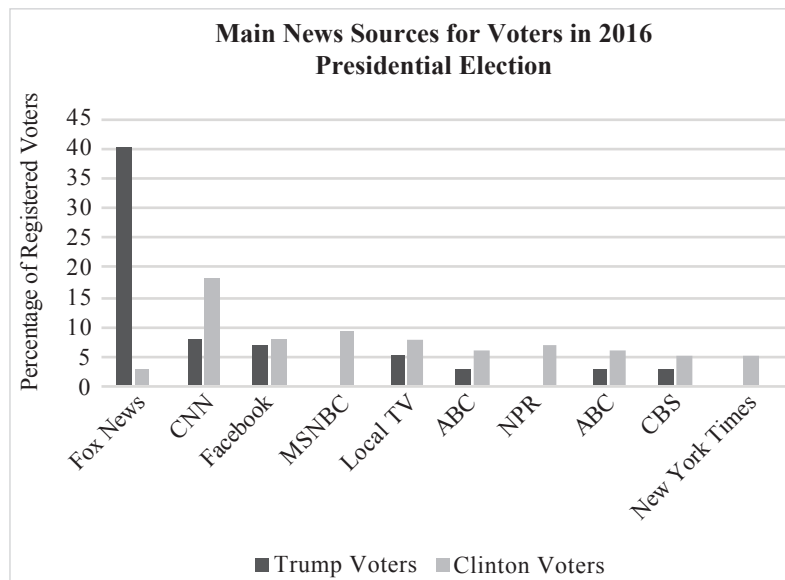
## SECTION I

Time—80 minutes

55 Questions

**Directions:** Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and then fill in the corresponding circle on the answer sheet.

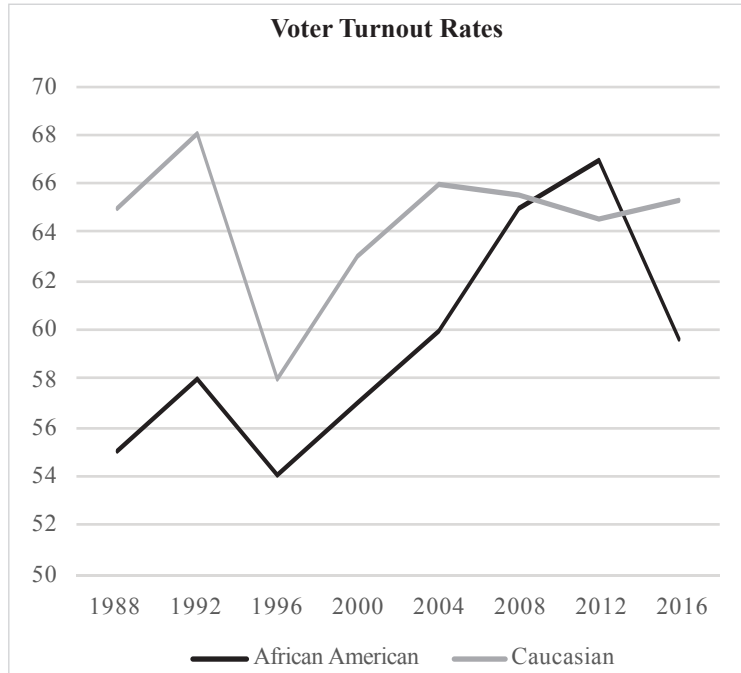
Questions 1 and 2 refer to the following graph.



- Which of the following conclusions can be determined based on the data in the chart?
  - Those who use newspaper sources were less likely to vote for Clinton in the 2016 presidential election than those who used television sources.
  - Among registered voters, there were common main sources of information for both Trump and Clinton voters.
  - Registered voters who used the New York Times as their main source of information were least likely to vote for Trump.
  - Of those using television sources for news, Clinton voters were less likely than Trump voters to use a common main source for information.
- Which of the following is a potential consequence of the pattern shown in the chart?
  - The rise of Internet news sources has led to the decline of traditional print media sources.
  - Registered voters are increasingly using sources of news that are targeted to their specific political affiliation.
  - Local news sources have become more important than national news sources for registered voters.
  - Public radio has been overrun with political content.

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Question 3 and 4 refer to the following graph.

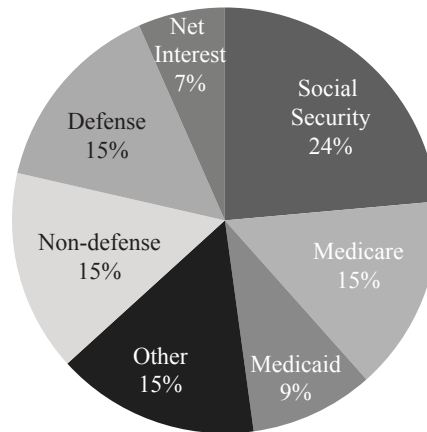


3. Which of the following best describes a trend shown in the chart above?
- (A) Voter turnout among African Americans increased substantially between 1988 and 2012.
  - (B) Voter turnout among Caucasians generally decreased between 2004 and 2016.
  - (C) Voter turnout among African Americans generally decreased between 1992 and 2004.
  - (D) Voter turnout among Caucasians consistently increased between 1988 and 2000.
4. Which of the following is an accurate conclusion based on a comparison of the trends shown in the line graph and your knowledge of voter behavior?
- (A) Less African Americans voted in the 1996 presidential elections because less citizens were eligible to vote prior to 2000.
  - (B) More African Americans voted in the 1992 presidential election than the 2004 election because media coverage declined between 1992 and 2004.
  - (C) Less African Americans voted in the 1988 presidential election than the 1996 election because the 1988 election was more important than the 1996 election.
  - (D) More African Americans voted in the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections because there was more money spent on outreach and an understanding that the elections were historically significant for African-Americans.

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Question 5 and 6 refer to the following graph.

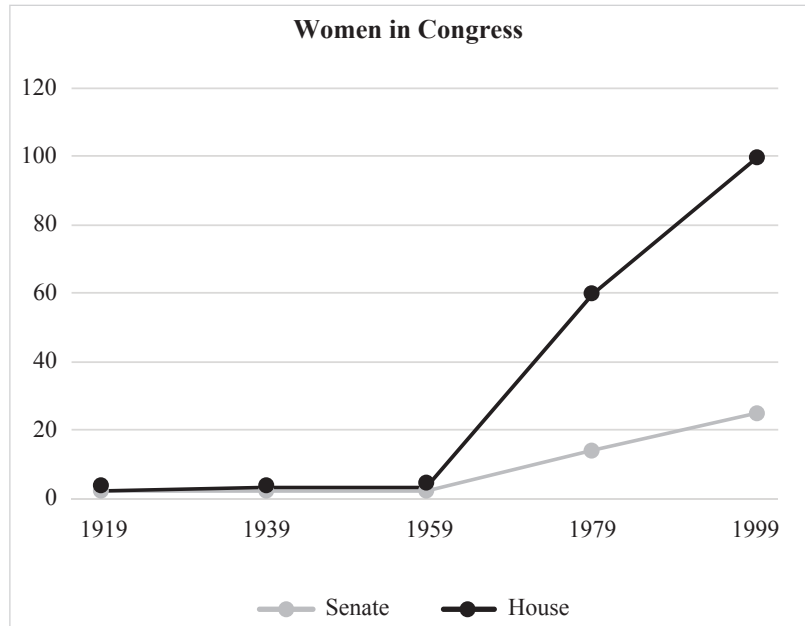
Federal Budget Spending in 2017



5. Which of the following accurately represents the information presented in the chart above?
- (A) Medicaid and Medicare spending represents a larger proportion of the budget than spending on Social Security.
- (B) The proportion of the budget spent on domestic social spending is higher than the proportion spent on defense.
- (C) The federal government spends a larger proportion of its budget on net interest than on Medicaid.
- (D) Medical care constitutes the largest proportion of spending within the federal bureaucracy.
6. Which of the following best explains the difference in the proportion of the budget allocated to Social Security and the amount allocated to defense spending?
- (A) The funding for Social Security was allocated in a time of peace before the defense budget was enlarged.
- (B) Social Security receives its funding directly from the President, while defense spending receives its funding from Congress.
- (C) Social Security is primarily supported at the federal level, whereas defense spending is often supplemented by state budgets.
- (D) The Social Security Administration hires more employees at the state level than the Department of Defense.

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Questions 7 and 8 refer to the following graph.



7. Which of the following accurately represents the information presented in the chart above?
- (A) Women have been consistently elected to the Senate at a lower level than to the House.
  - (B) The gender balance in the Senate in 1999 accurately represented the gender balance of the United States.
  - (C) Between 1980 and 1990, the number of women elected to the Senate increased faster than the number of women elected to the House.
  - (D) In 1999, the number of women in the Senate surpassed the total number of women ever elected to the House.
8. Based on the information in the line graph, which of the following is the most likely implication of the representation of women in the Senate and the House?
- (A) Changes in term limit laws would increase the number of women elected to Congress.
  - (B) Equal gender representation is mandated by law and cannot be changed.
  - (C) Republican control of the House will reduce the total number of women elected to Congress.
  - (D) Longer term lengths in the Senate will lead to slower increases in the number of women elected.

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Questions 9 and 10 refer to the following table.

**United States Presidential General Election Results**

	<b>Presidential Candidate</b>	<b>Electoral Vote</b>		<b>Popular Vote</b>	
1	Democratic Party	227	42.20%	65,853,652	48.02%
2	Republican Party	304	56.50%	62,985,134	45.93%
3	Libertarian Party	0	0%	4,489,235	3.27%
4	Green Party	0	0%	1,457,226	1.06%

9. Based on the information shown on the table, which candidate won the election?
- (A) The Democratic Party candidate
  - (B) The Republican Party candidate
  - (C) The Libertarian Party candidate
  - (D) The Green Party candidate
10. Based on the data shown in the table, which of the following conclusions can be determined about the Electoral College?
- (A) It can work against the principle of representative democracy because electors frequently do not vote for the candidate they agreed to support.
  - (B) It creates a scenario in which a candidate can be elected to political office without winning the most votes nationwide.
  - (C) It undermines election finance laws by allowing for direct lobbying of electoral representatives.
  - (D) It encourages adequate representation for third-party and independent candidates in presidential elections.

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Question 11–14 refer to the following passage.

“First. In a single republic, all the power surrendered by the people, is submitted to the administration of a single government; and the usurpations are guarded against, by a division of the government into distinct and separate departments. In the compound republic of America, the power surrendered by the people, is first divided between two distinct governments, and then the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments, and the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments. Hence a double security arises to the rights of the people. The different governments will control each other, at the same time that each will be controlled by itself.”

—James Madison, Federalist No. 51

11. Which of the following statements best summarizes Madison’s argument?
- (A) Checks and balances between different aspects of the government are necessary to protect the people’s interests.
  - (B) Using checks and balances reduces the ability of citizens to influence their government.
  - (C) The division of the government into a federal and state level is overly burdensome to the people.
  - (D) Even though the government is divided into departments, it still has the power to usurp the will of the people.
12. Which of the following constitutional provisions limits the power of the executive branch in Madison’s argument?
- (A) Full faith and credit arguments in Article IV
  - (B) Impeachment provisions in Article II
  - (C) Supremacy Clause in Article VI
  - (D) Required oaths of office in Article VI
13. Supporters of Madison’s view about checks and balances within the government could point to which of the following cases?
- (A) *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857)
  - (B) *Korematsu v. United States* (1944)
  - (C) *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010)
  - (D) *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
14. Based on the text, which of the following statements would the author most likely support?
- (A) The United States Constitution explicitly provides a mechanism for the legislative branch to override an executive veto.
  - (B) The creation of state and federal legislative bodies would create confusion about the ability of the federal government to make laws.
  - (C) The impeachment process could potentially be used to limit the principle of popular sovereignty.
  - (D) Judicial review represents an overreach of authority by the judicial branch.

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Question 15–17 refer to the following passage.

“So, as we begin, let us take inventory. We are a nation that has a government—not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our government has no power except that granted it by the people. It is time to check and reverse the growth of government, which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed. It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the Federal Government and those reserved to the States or to the people. All of us need to be reminded that the Federal Government did not create the States; the States created the Federal Government. Now, so there will be no misunderstanding, it’s not my intention to do away with government. It is rather to make it work—work with us, not over us; to stand by our side, not ride on our back.”

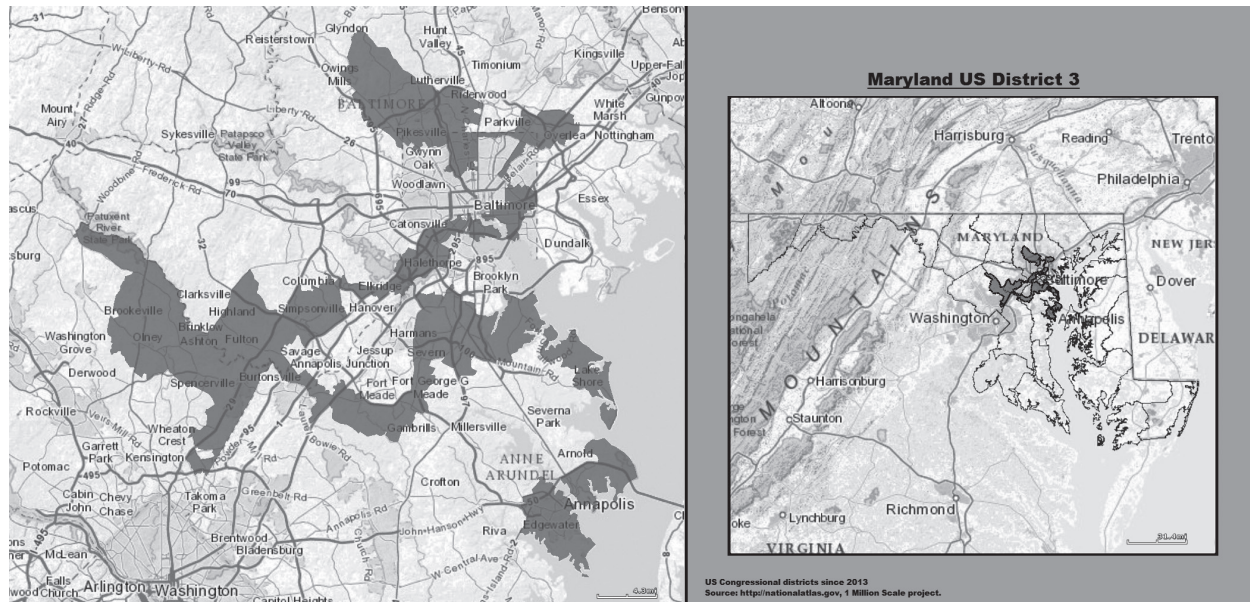
—President Ronald Reagan, Inaugural Address, 1981

15. Which of the following statements best describes the author’s argument in this passage?
- (A) The government is responsible for providing social services to all citizens.
  - (B) There should be more emphasis on individual actions rather than government aid.
  - (C) Expanding the power of the states would undermine the federal government.
  - (D) Federalism and popular sovereignty are compatible values.
16. Which of the following ideological perspectives best aligns with the passage?
- (A) Libertarian
  - (B) Liberal
  - (C) Progressive
  - (D) Nationalist
17. Which of the following actions would the author most likely support?
- (A) Restricting states from setting their own minimum wages higher than the federal level
  - (B) Requiring all people voting in federal elections to have passports to use as photo identification
  - (C) Establishing minimum federal tax requirements for all citizens
  - (D) Allowing states to determine their own curriculum for public high schools

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Questions 18 and 19 refer to the following map.

### 3rd Congressional District of Maryland



18. The map shows the shaded area of a congressional district. Which of the following statements describes the most likely motivation behind the way that it is shaped?
- (A) It has been drawn to group together a wide range of socioeconomic classes.
- (B) It has likely been drawn to pack together voters who have similar political ideologies.
- (C) It has been drawn by a neutral third party to ensure competitive elections.
- (D) It has likely been drawn for logistical ease for door to door canvassing.
19. Which of the following is likely to result from how the district is drawn on the map?
- (A) It will likely lead to a very expensive and competitive general election.
- (B) It will lead to a seat that will be occupied by an independent candidate.
- (C) It will likely give candidates from one political party a competitive edge.
- (D) It will lead to a very high number of write-in votes.

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Questions 20 and 21 refer to the following cartoon.

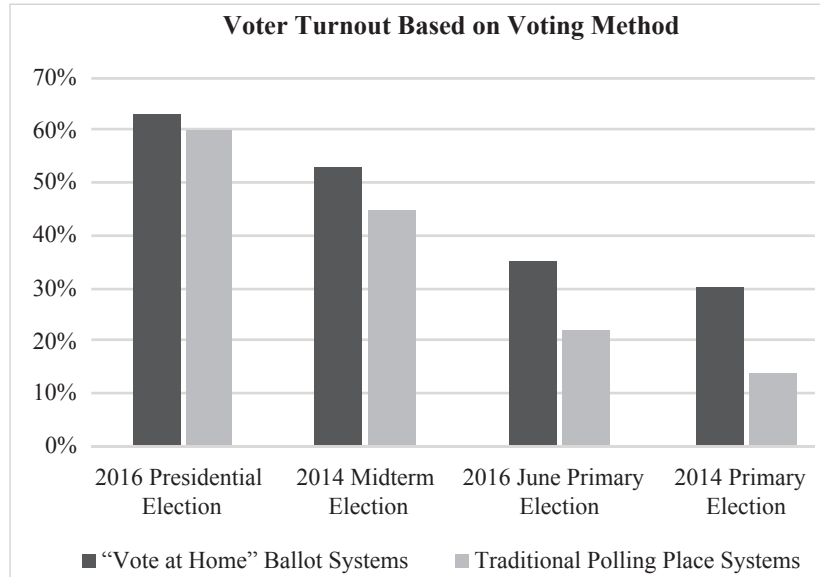


US Supreme Court, 2022

20. Which of the following best summarizes the message of the political cartoon?
- (A) Increasing gender parity in employment suggests that women will have a more active role in the government in future years.
  - (B) Placing limits on the number of women in judicial appointments would improve the justice system.
  - (C) Although the total number of women serving as judges may increase in coming years, the Supreme Court will never be entirely female.
  - (D) The Supreme court has a vested interest in ensuring that all sitting judges are women.
21. Which of the following Supreme Court cases is more applicable to the general theme of the cartoon?
- (A) *Chrapliwy v. Uniroyal, Inc.* (1982)
  - (B) *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* (2010)
  - (C) *Shaw v. Reno* (1993)
  - (D) *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015)

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Questions 22 and 23 refer to the following chart.



22. Based on the chart, which of the following claims would a supporter of “vote at home” ballot systems most likely make?
- (A) Increasing the number of polling places is likely to increase the voters who chose to vote in a polling place instead of through a “vote at home” system.
- (B) Voter turnout at traditional polling places will likely increase by 10% if voters are not required to present a government-issued ID to vote.
- (C) “Vote at home” systems will likely increase voter fraud, which will decrease voter confidence in institutions and thereby decrease turnout.
- (D) Voters who use “vote at home” systems are more likely to participate in elections that have traditionally low turnouts, such as primary elections in a year without a presidential election.
23. Based on the chart, which of the following approaches would a group trying to increase voter turnout be most likely to pursue?
- (A) Use radio ads to publicize locations for neighborhood polling places
- (B) Host a voter education night for election campaign volunteers
- (C) Lobby state legislatures to allow for “vote at home” systems in rural areas
- (D) Lobby Congress to increase pay for poll workers on election day

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24. Which of the following is a way that a political party can directly influence the government?
- (A) Encouraging third parties to host write-in campaigns
  - (B) Paying lobbyists to approach members of Congress
  - (C) Recruiting candidates to run for political office
  - (D) Supporting gerrymandered districts to give them a competitive advantage
25. Which of the following is a consequence of the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010)?
- (A) The campaign funds available to third-party candidates has sharply increased.
  - (B) Courts have tightened the regulations over large money campaign donors in order to ensure compliance with the regulations.
  - (C) Individual donors who contribute small amounts have become progressively less active in presidential elections.
  - (D) Super PACs can contribute large amounts to support a candidate in an election, although they may not directly coordinate with the candidate.
26. Which of the following can the Supreme Court do to limit the president's power?
- (A) Declare war
  - (B) Declare presidential acts unconstitutional
  - (C) Override a presidential veto
  - (D) Impeach a president
27. The judicial process at the Supreme Court level reflects the intent of the framers of the Constitution to create a judicial branch that would
- (A) provide a system of trial for those charged with military crimes
  - (B) have original jurisdiction in matters concerning the states
  - (C) establish case law through the careful deliberation of hypothetical cases
  - (D) reflect the political interests of the power holding power in Congress
28. Members of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor are concerned about the nutritional quality of meals served at public schools in California. Which of the following is an action the committee can take to address its concern?
- (A) Withhold funding for schools that fail to comply with federal nutritional guidelines
  - (B) Appoint a new state superintendent of public instruction in California
  - (C) Place a referendum on the ballot in California to increase the nutritional content of the state-run school lunch program
  - (D) Launch an investigative action and fine school officials who refuse to comply with nutritional guidelines
29. The right of gun ownership has been limited in recent decades and cannot be extended to people who are found to be mentally incompetent, convicted felons, or who have a history of domestic abuse. Which of the following is a reason for this?
- (A) The U.S. Military redefined what constitutes a militia under the Second Amendment.
  - (B) The Fourth Amendment's right to privacy motivated state legislatures to limit the amount of information gathered from gun owners.
  - (C) The Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment had limitations that are considered "presumptively lawful."
  - (D) The protection against self-incrimination in the Fifth Amendment led to a wave of people failing to register guns or publicly acknowledge gun ownership.

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30. Which of the following best illustrates a legal action by a lobbyist based on current law?
- (A) A lobbyist provides a gift to a lawmaker after a long campaign to pass a law finally ends.
  - (B) A senator becomes a lobbyist immediately after resigning her office in order to advocate for greater gun control.
  - (C) A powerful lobby uses its vast financial resources to provide a commission bonus to lobbyists when they secure a vote in its favor.
  - (D) A lobbyist launches a pressure campaign to influence a lawmaker by sending them repeated mailings, scheduling meetings, and organizing protests.
31. A member of the Senate has introduced a highly controversial bill to require voter ID for all presidential elections, and its opponents want to prevent it from being brought to a vote. Which of the following is the best course of action for its opponents to take to avoid a vote on the bill?
- (A) Filing a motion to adjourn
  - (B) Presenting a cloture motion
  - (C) Holding a filibuster
  - (D) Require a quorum call
32. Based on previous rulings, the Supreme Court is most likely to view a case concerning which of the following as an unreasonable search and seizure case?
- (A) A police officer looks through the windows of a car parked on the street, sees illegal drugs, and impounds the car.
  - (B) In the course of executing a warrant to search for a possible murder weapon, the police stumble upon drug paraphernalia in a closed drawer in a suspect's home. The police pursue felony drug charges.
  - (C) During the course of an arrest, a suspect provides their cell phone passcode to police in order to try to clear their name. Police read the suspect's text messages and emails.
  - (D) Police track down a person of interest in a convenience store robbery using surveillance footage but are unable to confirm identification. When they arrive at the person of interest's home, the person refuses to let the police in without a warrant.
33. Which of the following statements describes a difficulty the House of Representatives faces in the policy creation process?
- (A) The House of Representatives must rely on Senate to initiate revenue bills.
  - (B) Members of the House of Representatives frequently filibuster bills that are controversial.
  - (C) In order to impeach a sitting president, the House of Representatives must prove the president is guilty of "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors."
  - (D) There must be a majority opinion in order to confirm presidential nominees to the Cabinet.
34. Based on previous rulings, which of the following scenarios would most likely violate the right to free speech under the First Amendment?
- (A) A protestor burns an American flag to protest U.S. actions overseas.
  - (B) A large corporation contributes 2% of its annual profit to a conservative presidential candidate.
  - (C) A student at a public high school leads a voluntary prayer circle before the school day.
  - (D) A student advocates illegal drug use during a personal testimonial at a school event.
35. The Affordable Care Act of 2009 authorized the government to require all individuals to purchase health insurance coverage or face a series of fines. Which enumerated power was cited by Congress as the basis for its authority to make the law?
- (A) Granting letters of marque and reprisal
  - (B) Regulating commerce
  - (C) Issuing copyrights and patents
  - (D) Creating uniform rules of naturalization

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36. Which of the following challenges to a voting district's boundaries would most likely be allowed based on the precedent established by *Shaw v. Reno* (1993)?
- (A) A group of citizens challenges the borders of a majority minority district claiming race was the only factor used in its creation.
  - (B) A state eliminates districts and switches to a proportional voting system to allocate seats in Congress.
  - (C) A large segment of the population in a border state refuses to complete the U.S. Census as a political statement against gerrymandered districts in their state.
  - (D) A state court establishes a non-partisan redistricting commission that creates districts based on racial factors.
37. Which of the following scenarios would most likely be considered a violation of the Fifth Amendment?
- (A) An individual in a criminal trial invokes the Fifth Amendment on the witness stand and refuses to testify.
  - (B) The court compels testimony from a witness who has refused to self-incriminate after granting the witness immunity from prosecution.
  - (C) A suspect is detained by police and confesses after interrogation but before receiving a "Miranda warning."
  - (D) An individual is found not guilty in criminal court, but guilty in civil court after his accusers take him to trial a second time.
38. A new state governor has been elected and has a number of positions to fill within the state government. Which of the following is an example of filling a position based on a merit system?
- (A) Nominating a high-level campaign fund-raiser to serve in the governor's cabinet
  - (B) Choosing a State Athletic Commissioner that is related to the leader of the opposition party
  - (C) Reappointing the secretary of education because they belong to the same special interest groups as the new state governor
  - (D) Asking an economics professor from a prestigious university to serve as chair of the State Lotto Commission
39. In a public opinion poll of a representative sample of a population, 2,500 people were asked to agree, disagree, or express neutrality toward the following statements.
- Statement A: The government should spend more money providing aid to illegal aliens.  
Result: 38 percent of the respondents agreed.
- Statement B: The government should spend more money providing aid to immigrants.  
Result: 59 percent of the respondents agreed.
- Which of the following most likely accounts for the variations in results?
- (A) There were no immigrants in the sample.
  - (B) The questions used different terminology.
  - (C) The sample size was too large to use for statistical purposes.
  - (D) The questions addressed a controversial topic.
40. A nonprofit advocacy group seeks to pass legislation imposing stronger sentences for driving while intoxicated and mandatory penalties for first offenses. Which of the following accurately depicts the free-rider problem in this scenario?
- (A) The public can expect to reap the benefit of safer roads without making any contribution to the nonprofit group.
  - (B) The public will recognize the cost of regulating drunk driving exceeds state resources, so they can expect their legislators to vote against the legislation.
  - (C) The advocacy group will be forced to carry out its activities in the face of strong public opposition.
  - (D) The nature of the legislation supported by the nonprofit advocacy group will benefit its members, but will not impact the general public.

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41. A sitting president appoints a Supreme Court justice after a new president has been elected, but before the inauguration. The actions of the sitting president are most indicative of which of the following?

- (A) A Constitutional presidency
- (B) An oppositional presidency
- (C) A lame duck presidency
- (D) An impeached presidency

42. A recent poll indicates that 55 percent of the all people in the United States support phasing out the penny. Which of the following supports the credibility of the poll result?

- (A) The poll reported a sampling error.
- (B) The poll was conducted on social media by a popular financial analysis.
- (C) The poll was administered to several thousand employees of the U.S. Mint.
- (D) Before the question was asked, respondents were told that each penny costs 1.5 cents to make and that reducing the number of pennies produced will lead to lower taxes.

43. A framer of the Constitution believed that the Bill of Rights was not necessary, and that including it could limit the rights of American citizens in the long term. He also favored a strong central government and weak state governments. Which of the following political perspectives do his actions embody?

- (A) Federalist
- (B) Social Democrat
- (C) Democratic-Republicans
- (D) Anti-Federalist

44. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of the two court cases?

	<i>Engel v. Vitale</i> (1962)	<i>Tinker v. Des Moines</i> (1969)
(A)	Decided that religious activity of any time could not be permitted at public schools	Declared that draft evaders would be sentenced to serve time in federal prisons
(B)	Led to an increase in power for religious organizations	Established limits of student free speech rights in private schools
(C)	Decided that public school grounds were considered federal property	Ruled that the student right to free speech was limited in times of war
(D)	Declared that school sponsorship of religious activity violates the Establishment Clause	Recognized the right of students to engage in symbolic speech

45. Which of the following constitutes an enumerated power of Congress granted to the legislature by the U.S. Constitution?

- (A) The ability to change state boundaries
- (B) The power to borrow on the credit of the United States
- (C) The authority to grant titles of nobility
- (D) The ability to levy taxes on state exports

46. Which of the following scenarios would most likely be considered a violation of procedural rules in the House of Representatives?

- (A) A bill is referred to the Senate after receiving a simple majority in the House.
- (B) A member attempts to propose a bill before the House is called to order by the speaker.
- (C) The member requests a motion to adjourn for lack of a quorum.
- (D) Members advance the policy-making process by invoking cloture.

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47. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of conservative and liberal views on the size and scope of the federal government?

	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal</b>
(A)	The federal government should provide more funding for social programs.	The federal government should have a stronger role in defense spending.
(B)	The government should print more money in order to avoid inflation.	The government should regulate interest rates in order to avoid a recession.
(C)	Private industry and charity should be the first resort for low-income people.	The federal government should provide support to help individuals improve their economic well-being.
(D)	The authority of the federal government derives from a broad interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.	The authority of the federal government derives from a narrow interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

48. Which of the following scenarios is most likely to cause tension between the competing values of rule of law and limited government?
- (A) Expanding the authority of the National Guard
  - (B) Reducing mandatory sentencing for drug-related crimes
  - (C) Decreasing funding for environmental regulations
  - (D) Implementing required court monitoring for juvenile offenders on parole

49. Which of the following is contained in the Fourteenth Amendment and was likely a source of inspiration for the National Organization of Women's support of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)?

- (A) The guarantee that all citizens have the right to be protected from unreasonable searches and seizures of their personal property
- (B) The principle that all people have the right to a public trial by jury, including the right to confront the accuser in open court
- (C) The guarantee that all people have access to equal protection under the law, as represented through the equal protection clause
- (D) The citizenship clause, which states that all people born on U.S. soil are automatically U.S. citizens, regardless of the national origin of the child's parents

50. Which of the following measures would a president adhering to supply side economic principles most likely employ during an economic recession?

- (A) An executive order to loosen monetary policies, including increasing the amount of currency printed each year
- (B) A budget with significant increases in capital gains taxes for corporations
- (C) Legislation to lower the threshold for eligibility for unemployment benefits and increase the value of each benefit
- (D) Legislation to decrease personal income taxes and significantly reduce economic regulation

51. Which of the following scenarios would be considered an unconstitutional use of federal power?

- (A) The federal government passes a law that increases the cost of postage stamps.
- (B) The federal government ratifies a Constitutional amendment.
- (C) The federal government sends a U.S. ambassador to Bolivia.
- (D) The federal government enacts a law that increases the amount of currency in circulation.

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

52. Executive orders often lead to conflict with the congressional agenda for which of the following reasons?
- (A) Executive orders may extend presidential authority beyond its Constitutional scope.
  - (B) Executive orders are not subject to judicial review, while Congressional actions are.
  - (C) The vice president of the United States presides over the Senate so there is the potential for conflict of interest.
  - (D) Executive orders are limited to the span of an individual's presidency, and Congress is hesitant to support short term solutions.
53. The process of presidential judicial appointments is best defined as
- (A) a bureaucratic rubber stamp process that almost always allows the president's nominees to take the bench with little conflict
  - (B) the only opportunity the Senate has to approve or disapprove a presidential appointment
  - (C) a process that allows the president to influence policy long after the president's term has finished
  - (D) the opportunity for the House of Representatives to use popular sovereignty to shape the direction of the courts
54. In *Furman v. Georgia* (1972), the Supreme Court ruled that the way death penalty verdicts were handed out violated the Eight and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. In the following years, states revised their statutes and began re-imposing the death penalty. Which of the following statements best illustrates this scenario?
- (A) When the states do not support a decision by the Supreme Court, they disregard the ruling.
  - (B) There is nothing in the Constitution that regulates capital punishment.
  - (C) There is a tension between endorsing capital punishment and political motivations.
  - (D) Requiring bail is an example of cruel and unusual punishment.
55. The president is most likely to use a veto in order to check the power of Congress when
- (A) Congress is dominated by the opposition party
  - (B) the legislation concurs with his political agenda
  - (C) the Supreme Court has ruled the legislation unconstitutional
  - (D) the negotiation between the houses of Congress has reached an impasse

**STOP**

**END OF SECTION I**

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## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## SECTION II

Total Time—1 hour, 40 minutes

**Directions:** You have 1 hour and 40 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. It is suggested that you spend approximately 20 minutes each on Questions 1, 2, and 3 and 40 minutes on Question 4. Unless directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. It is recommended that you take a few minutes to plan each answer. You may plan your answers in this Questions booklet, but no credit will be given for notes written in this booklet. You will only earn credit for what you write in the Free Response booklet.

1. In recent years, financial institutions have begun offering “reverse mortgages” to homeowners over the age of 62. These “mortgages” allow homeowners to receive payments in return for equity (or ownership) of the house. For some senior citizens, reverse mortgages provide much-needed cash during their retirement years. Nevertheless, the loans do deplete the value of estates and can cause serious financial damage to senior citizens. In response to this trend, the American Mortgage Alliance, a nonpartisan interest group, has advocated for stricter regulations of reverse mortgages and even their complete abolition.

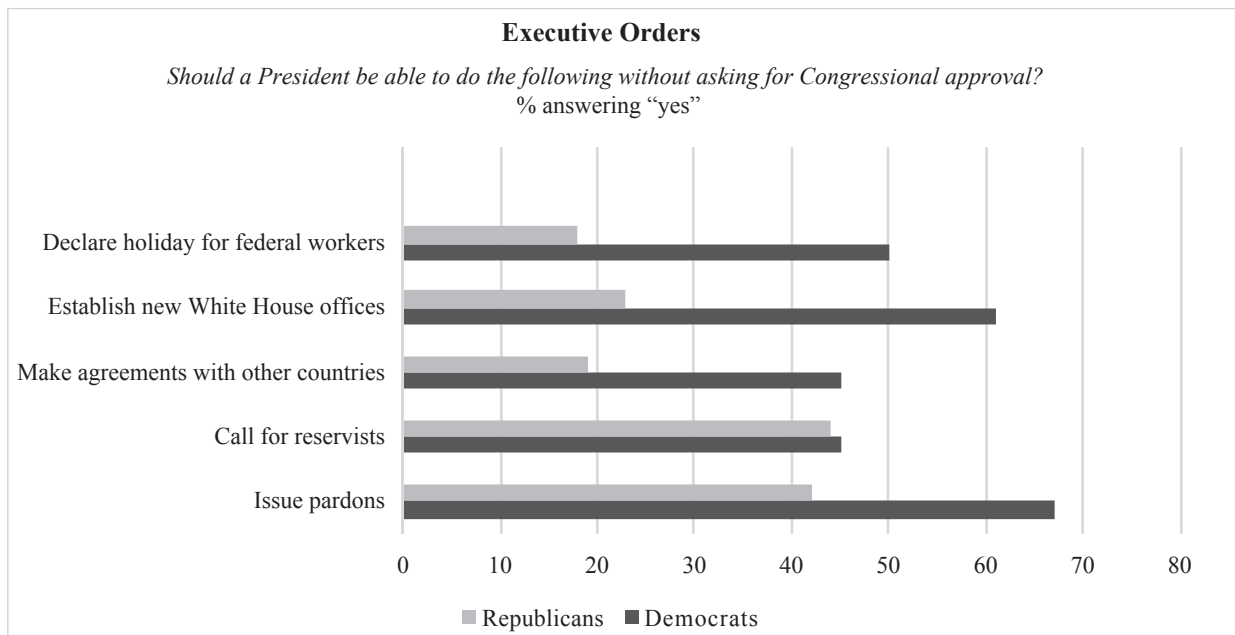
After reading the scenario, please respond to A, B, and C below.

- A. Describe a specific action Congress could take to address the concerns of the American Mortgage Alliance.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how ideological commitments about financial regulation could cause partisan divisions about the Congressional action described in part A.
- C. Explain why reverse mortgage providers might argue that prohibiting reverse mortgages violates the U.S. Constitution.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle indicating the question number.**

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2. Use the information graph to answer the questions.
- Identify the most broadly supported type of executive order.
  - Describe a similarity or difference in the perception of a specific type of executive order, as illustrated in the information graph, and draw a conclusion about that similarity or difference.
  - Explain how the data in the graph could shape how a Democratic president might shift his or her campaign positions after inauguration.
  - Explain how executive order types as shown in the information graph demonstrate the balance of powers in the U.S. Constitution.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle indicating the question number.**

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3. In 1983, Matthew Fraser, a senior in a public high school gave a speech nominating a classmate to serve as the Associated Student body vice president. In the course of this speech, Mr. Fraser made many sexual innuendos, but stopped short of making obscene statements. He was suspended from school for three days for violating school policies against disruptive behavior and vulgar or offensive speech. In addition, he was prohibited from speaking at the graduation ceremony. The student body utilized a write-in vote option to place him second among a vote used to determine graduation speakers, but the school administration continued to refuse him the right to speak at the ceremony.

In the ensuing case, *Bethel School District v. Fraser* (1986), the Supreme Court held in a 7 to 2 decision that no constitutional violation existed. The majority opinion stated that the right to free speech for students did not extend to speech that was vulgar or potentially disruptive.

Based on the information above, respond to the following questions.

- A. Identify the constitutional clause that is common to both *Bethel School District v. Fraser* (1986) and *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969).
- B. Based on the constitutional clause identified in part A, explain why the facts of *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969) led to a different holding than the holding in *Bethel School District v. Fraser* (1986).
- C. Describe an action that members of the student body who disagree with the holding in *Bethel School District v. Fraser* (1986) could take to limit its impact.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle indicating the question number.**

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4. The United States Constitution establishes the judiciary as an independent branch of the federal government. In recent decades the legitimacy of the Supreme Court has been brought into question as its power has increased.

Develop an argument about the extent to which the judicial branch has followed its original design in the U.S. Constitution.

Use at least one piece of evidence from one of the following foundational documents:

- Article III of the Constitution
- *Federalist No. 78*
- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)

In your essay, you must:

- ✓ Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning.
- ✓ Support your claim or thesis with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant evidence.
  - One piece of evidence must come from one of the foundational documents listed above.
  - A second piece of evidence can come from any other foundational document not used as your first piece of evidence, or it may be from your knowledge of course concepts.
- ✓ Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim or thesis.
- ✓ Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle indicating the question number.**

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**