AP United States Government and Politics Practice Exam

From the 2012 Administration

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Note: This publication shows the page numbers that appeared in the *2011–12 AP Exam Instructions* book and in the actual exam. This publication was not repaginated to begin with page 1.

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Exam Instructions

The following contains instructions taken from the ***2011–12 AP Exam Instructions*** book.

AP® United States Government and Politics Exam

Regularly Scheduled Exam Date: Tuesday morning, May 15, 2012

Late-Testing Exam Date: Wednesday morning, May 23, 2012

Section I: At a Glance

Total Time:
45 minutes
Number of Questions:
60
Percent of Total Score:
50%
Writing Instrument:
Pencil required

Section II: At a Glance

Total Time:
1 hour, 40 minutes
Number of Questions:
4
Percent of Total Score:
50%
Writing Instrument:
Pen with black or dark blue ink
Suggested Time:
25 minutes per question
Weight:
The questions are weighted equally.

Section I: Multiple Choice Booklet Instructions

Section I of this exam contains 60 multiple-choice questions. Fill in only the circles for numbers 1 through 60 on your answer sheet.

Indicate all of your answers to the multiple-choice questions on the answer sheet. No credit will be given for anything written in this exam booklet, but you may use the booklet for notes or scratch work. After you have decided which of the suggested answers is best, completely fill in the corresponding circle on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question. If you change an answer, be sure that the previous mark is erased completely.

Use your time effectively, working as quickly as you can without losing accuracy. Do not spend too much time on any one question. Go on to other questions and come back to the ones you have not answered if you have time. It is not expected that everyone will know the answers to all of the multiple-choice questions.

Your total score on the multiple-choice section is based only on the number of questions answered correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers or unanswered questions.

Section II: Free Response Booklet Instructions

The questions for Section II are printed in this booklet. You may use page 3 of this booklet to organize your answers and for scratch work, but you must write your answers on the lined pages provided for each question.

Write clearly and legibly. Do not skip lines. Cross out any errors you make; crossed-out work will not be scored.

Manage your time carefully. The proctor will announce the suggested time for each question, but you may proceed freely from one question to the next. You may review your responses if you finish before the end of the exam is announced.

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What Proctors Need to Bring to This Exam

- Exam packets
- Answer sheets
- AP Student Packs
- *2011-12 AP Coordinator's Manual*
- This book — *AP Exam Instructions*
- School Code and Home-School/Self-Study Codes
- Pencil sharpener
- Extra No. 2 pencils with erasers
- Extra pens with black or dark blue ink
- Lined paper
- Stapler
- Watch
- Signs for the door to the testing room
  - "Exam in Progress"
  - "Cell phones are prohibited in the testing room"

SECTION I: Multiple Choice

Do not begin the exam instructions below until you have completed the appropriate General Instructions for your group.

Make sure you begin the exam at the designated time.

If you are giving the regularly scheduled exam, say:

It is Tuesday morning, May 15, and you will be taking the AP United States Government and Politics Exam.

If you are giving the alternate exam for late testing, say:

It is Wednesday morning, May 23, and you will be taking the AP United States Government and Politics Exam.

In a moment, you will open the packet that contains your exam materials. By opening this packet, you agree to all of the AP Program's policies and procedures outlined in the *2011-12 Bulletin for AP Students and Parents*. You may now remove the shrinkwrap from your exam packet and take out the Section I booklet, but do not open the booklet or the shrinkwrapped Section II materials. Put the white seals aside. . . .

Look at page 1 of your answer sheet and locate the dark blue box near the top right-hand corner that states, "Take the AP Exam label from your Section I booklet and place the label here.". . .

Now look at the front cover of your exam booklet and locate the AP Exam label near the top left of the cover. . . .

Carefully peel off the AP Exam label and place it on your answer sheet on the dark blue box that we just identified. . . .

Now read the statements on the front cover of Section I and look up when you have finished. . . .

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Sign your name and write today's date. Look up when you have finished. . . .

Now print your full legal name where indicated. Are there any questions? . . .

Turn to the back cover and read it completely. Look up when you have finished. . . .

Are there any questions? . . .

Section I is the multiple-choice portion of the exam. You may never discuss these specific multiple-choice questions at any time in any form with anyone, including your teacher and other students. If you disclose these questions through any means, your AP Exam score will be canceled. Are there any questions? . . .

You must complete the answer sheet using a No. 2 pencil only. Mark all of your responses on your answer sheet, one response per question. Completely fill in the circles. If you need to erase, do so carefully and completely. No credit will be given for anything written in the exam booklet. Scratch paper is not allowed, but you may use the margins or any blank space in the exam booklet for scratch work. Are there any questions? . . .

You have 45 minutes for this section. Open your Section I booklet and begin.

Note Start Time here _____. Note Stop Time here _____. Check that students are marking their answers in pencil on their answer sheets, and that they are not looking at their shrinkwrapped Section II booklets. After 45 minutes, say:

Stop working. Close your booklet and put your answer sheet on your desk, face up. Make sure you have your AP number label and an AP Exam label on page 1 of your answer sheet. I will now collect your answer sheet.

Collect an answer sheet from each student. Check that each answer sheet has an AP number label and an AP Exam label. Then say:

Now you must seal your exam booklet. Remove the white seals from the backing and press one on each area of your exam booklet cover marked "PLACE SEAL HERE." Fold each seal over the back cover. When you have finished, place the booklet on your desk, face up. I will now collect your Section I booklet. . . .

Check that each student has signed the front cover of the sealed Section I booklet. There is a 10-minute break between Sections I and II. When all Section I materials have been collected and accounted for and you are ready for the break, say:

Please listen carefully to these instructions before we take a 10-minute break. Everything you placed under your chair at the beginning of the exam must stay there. Leave your shrinkwrapped Section II packet on your desk during the break. You are not allowed to consult teachers, other students, or textbooks about the exam during the break. You may not make phone calls, send text messages, check email, use a social networking site, or access any electronic or communication device. Remember, you are not allowed to discuss the multiple-choice section of this exam. Failure to adhere to

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any of these rules could result in cancellation of your score. Are there any questions? . . .

 **You may begin your break. Testing will resume at _____.**

SECTION II: Free Response

After the break, say:

May I have everyone's attention? Place your Student Pack on your desk. . . .

You may now remove the shrinkwrap from the Section II packet, but do not open the exam booklet until you are told to do so. . . .

Read the bulleted statements on the front cover of the exam booklet. Look up when you have finished. . . .

Now place an AP number label on the shaded box. If you don't have any AP number labels, write your AP number in the box. Look up when you have finished. . . .

Read the last statement. . . .

Using your pen, print the first, middle and last initials of your legal name in the boxes and print today's date where indicated. This constitutes your signature and your agreement to the statements on the front cover. . . .

Turn to the back cover and read Item 1 under "Important Identification Information." Print the first two letters of your last name and the first letter of your first name in the boxes. Look up when you have finished. . . .

In Item 2, print your date of birth in the boxes. . . .

In Item 3, write the school code you printed on the front of your Student Pack in the boxes. . . .

Read Item 4. . . .

Are there any questions? . . .

I need to collect the Student Pack from anyone who will be taking another AP Exam. You may keep it only if you are not taking any other AP Exams this year. If you have no other AP Exams to take, place your Student Pack under your chair now. . . .

While Student Packs are being collected, read the information on the back cover of the exam booklet. Do not open the booklet until you are told to do so. Look up when you have finished. . . .

Collect the Student Packs. Then say:

Are there any questions? . . .

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You have 1 hour and 40 minutes to complete Section II. It is suggested that you spend 25 minutes answering each question. At various points, you will be advised to move on to the next question. You are responsible for pacing yourself, and may proceed freely from one question to the next. You must write your answers in the exam booklet using a pen. Write the number of the question you are working on at the top of each page in the exam booklet. If you need more paper during the exam, raise your hand. At the top of each extra piece of paper you use, be sure to write only your AP number and the number of the question you are working on. Do not write your name. Are there any questions? . . .

You may begin.

 Note Start Time here _____. Note Stop Time here _____. Check that students are using pens to write their answers in their exam booklets. After 25 minutes, say:

You should move on to Question 2 if you have not already done so.

After 25 minutes, say:

You should move on to Question 3 if you have not already done so.

After 25 minutes, say:

You should move on to Question 4 if you have not already done so.

After 15 minutes, say:

There are 10 minutes remaining.

After 10 minutes, say:

Stop working and close your exam booklet. Place it on your desk, face up. . . .

If any students used extra paper for the free-response section, have those students staple the extra sheet/s to the first page corresponding to that question in their exam booklets. Then say:

Remain in your seat, without talking, while the exam materials are collected. . . .

Collect a Section II booklet from each student. Check for the following:

- Exam booklet front cover: The student placed an AP number label on the shaded box, and printed his or her initials and today's date.
- Exam booklet back cover: The student completed the "Important Identification Information" area.

When all exam materials have been collected and accounted for, return to students any electronic devices you may have collected before the start of the exam.

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If you are giving the regularly scheduled exam, say:

You may not discuss these specific free-response questions with anyone unless they are released on the College Board website in about two days. You should receive your score report in the mail about the third week of July.

If you are giving the alternate exam for late testing, say:

None of the questions in this exam may ever be discussed or shared in any way at any time. You should receive your score report in the mail about the third week of July.

If any students completed the AP number card at the beginning of this exam, say:

Please remember to take your AP number card with you.

Then say:

You are now dismissed.

All exam materials should be put in secure storage until they are returned to the AP Program after your school's last administration. Before storing materials, check the "School Use Only" section on page 1 of the answer sheet and:

- Fill in the appropriate section number circle in order to view a separate AP Instructional Planning Report (for regularly scheduled exams only) or Subject Score Roster at the class section or teacher level. See "Post-Exam Activities" in the *2011-12 AP Coordinator's Manual*.
- Check your list of students who are eligible for fee reductions and fill in the appropriate circle on their registration answer sheets.

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GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Student Answer Sheet for the Multiple-Choice Section

Use this section to capture student responses. (Note that the following answer sheet is a sample, and may differ from one used in an actual exam.)

2012 Answer Sheet

Take an AP Number label from your AP Student Pack and place the label here.

B123456789T

Take the AP Exam label from your Section I booklet and place the label here.

CollegeBoard

NAME AND EXAM AREA — COMPLETE THIS AREA AT EVERY EXAM.

USE NO. 2 PENCIL ONLY

To maintain the security of the exam and the validity of my AP score, I will allow no one else to see the multiple-choice questions. I will seal the multiple-choice booklet when asked to do so, and I will not discuss these questions with anyone at any time after the completion of the section. I am aware of and agree to the AP Program's policies and procedures as outlined in the *2011-12 Bulletin for AP Students and Parents*, including using testing accommodations (e.g., extended time, computer, etc.) only if I have been preapproved by College Board Services for Students with Disabilities.

A. SIGNATURE Sign your legal name as it will appear on your college applications. Date

B. LEGAL NAME Omit apostrophes, Jr., II.

Legal Last Name — First 15 Letters | Legal First Name — First 12 Letters | MI

C. YOUR AP NUMBER

D. EXAM DATE Month

E. EXAM START TIME AM PM

F. MULTIPLE-CHOICE BOOKLET SERIAL NUMBER S

G. ONLINE PROVIDER CODE

H. AP EXAM I AM TAKING USING THIS ANSWER SHEET Print Exam Name: Print Form: Print Form Code:

STUDENT INFORMATION AREA — COMPLETE THIS AREA ONLY ONCE.

I. DATE OF BIRTH

Month: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec

Day | Year

J. SEX

- Female
- Male

K. CURRENT GRADE LEVEL

- Pre-9th
- 9th
- 10th
- 11th
- 12th
- Post-12th

L. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (Optional)

M. EXPECTED DATE OF COLLEGE ENTRANCE

- Fall
- Winter/Spring
- Summer
- Undecided

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015

N. STUDENT SEARCH SERVICE®

I want the College Board to send information about me to colleges, universities and government scholarship programs interested in students like me.

- Yes
- No

O. WHICH LANGUAGE DO YOU KNOW BEST?

- English
- English and another language about the same
- Another language

P. ETHNICITY/RACE

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Mexican or Mexican American
- Puerto Rican
- Other Hispanic, Latino or Latin American
- White
- Other

Q. PARENTAL EDUCATION LEVEL

Father/ Male Guardian	Mother/ Female Guardian
	Grade school
	Some high school
	High school diploma or equivalent
	Business or trade school
	Some college
	Associate or two-year degree
	Bachelor's or four-year degree
	Some graduate or professional school
	Graduate or professional degree

SCHOOL USE ONLY

Section Number: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Fee Reduction Granted: 1 Option 1 2 Option 2

ETS USE ONLY

Exam

Exam

762000

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Q3428/1-4

R. SURVEY QUESTIONS — Answer the survey questions in the AP Student Pack. Do not put responses to exam questions in this section.

1 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ	4 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ	7 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ
2 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ	5 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ	8 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ
3 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ	6 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ	9 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ Ⓕ Ⓖ Ⓗ Ⓘ

S. LANGUAGE — Do not complete this section unless instructed to do so.

If this answer sheet is for the French Language and Culture, German Language and Culture, Italian Language and Culture, Spanish Language, or Spanish Literature Exam, please answer the following questions. Your responses will not affect your score.

1. Have you lived or studied for one month or more in a country where the language of the exam you are now taking is spoken?

◯ Yes ◯ No

2. Do you regularly speak or hear the language at home?

◯ Yes ◯ No

Indicate your answers to the exam questions in this section. If a question has only four answer options, do not mark option E. Your answer sheet will be scored by machine. Use only No. 2 pencils to mark your answers on pages 2 and 3 (one response per question). After you have determined your response, be sure to completely fill in the corresponding circle next to the number of the question you are answering. Stray marks and smudges could be read as answers, so erase carefully and completely. Any improper gridding may affect your score. Answers written in the multiple-choice booklet will not be scored.

1 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	26 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	51 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
2 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	27 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	52 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
3 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	28 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	53 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
4 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	29 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	54 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
5 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	30 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	55 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
6 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	31 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	56 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
7 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	32 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	57 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
8 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	33 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	58 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
9 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	34 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	59 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
10 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	35 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	60 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
11 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	36 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	61 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
12 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	37 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	62 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
13 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	38 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	63 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
14 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	39 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	64 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
15 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	40 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	65 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
16 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	41 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	66 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
17 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	42 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	67 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
18 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	43 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	68 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
19 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	44 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	69 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
20 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	45 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	70 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
21 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	46 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	71 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
22 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	47 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	72 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
23 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	48 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	73 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
24 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	49 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	74 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
25 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	50 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ	75 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ

ETS USE ONLY	48, 55, 62, 75, 87		R	W	O	OTHER		R	W	O
		PT02					TOTAL			
		PT03								
		PT04								

◯ DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

QUESTIONS 76–120

Be sure each mark is dark and completely fills the circle. If a question has only four answer options, do not mark option E.

| | | |

HOME ADDRESS AND SCHOOL AREA — COMPLETE THIS AREA ONLY ONCE.

T. YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

Use the address abbreviations from your AP Student Pack. Fill in only one circle per column. Indicate a space in your address by leaving a blank box; do not grid that column.

STREET ADDRESS (include street number, street name, apartment number, etc.)

CITY

ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY CODE

STATE

AK	HI	MI	NV	UT
AL	IA	MN	NY	VA
AR	ID	MO	OH	VT
AZ	IL	MS	OK	WA
CA	IN	MT	OR	WI
CO	KS	NC	PA	WV
CT	KY	ND	RI	WY
DC	LA	NE	SC	Puerto Rico
DE	MA	NH	SD	
FL	MD	NJ	TN	Other
GA	ME	NM	TX	

U. AREA CODE AND PHONE NUMBER

INTERNATIONAL PHONE

V. SCHOOL YOU ATTEND

SCHOOL CODE

School Name

City

State

Country

W. COLLEGE TO RECEIVE YOUR AP SCORE REPORT

COLLEGE CODE

Using the college code listed in the AP Student Pack, indicate the **ONE** college that you want to receive your AP score report.

College Name

City

State

Country

X. FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES ONLY

If the address gridded above is not complete enough for delivery of your score report, please fill in this circle and print your complete address below. ◯

Address	City	State or Province	Country	ZIP or Postal Code

Y. EMAIL ADDRESS

By providing your email address, you are granting the College Board permission to use your email in accordance with the policies in the *2011-12 Bulletin for AP Students and Parents*.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Section I: Multiple-Choice Questions

This is the multiple-choice section of the 2012 AP exam. It includes cover material and other administrative instructions to help familiarize students with the mechanics of the exam. (Note that future exams may differ in look from the following content.)

PLACE SEAL HERE

AP® United States Government and Politics Exam

2012

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

At a Glance

Total Time
45 minutes
Number of Questions
60
Percent of Total Score
50%
Writing Instrument
Pencil required

Instructions

Section I of this exam contains 60 multiple-choice questions. Fill in only the circles for numbers 1 through 60 on your answer sheet.

Indicate all of your answers to the multiple-choice questions on the answer sheet. No credit will be given for anything written in this exam booklet, but you may use the booklet for notes or scratch work. After you have decided which of the suggested answers is best, completely fill in the corresponding circle on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question. If you change an answer, be sure that the previous mark is erased completely. Here is a sample question and answer.

Sample Question	Sample Answer
Chicago is a (A) state (B) city (C) country (D) continent (E) village	Ⓐ ● Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ

Use your time effectively, working as quickly as you can without losing accuracy. Do not spend too much time on any one question. Go on to other questions and come back to the ones you have not answered if you have time. It is not expected that everyone will know the answers to all of the multiple-choice questions.

Your total score on the multiple-choice section is based only on the number of questions answered correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers or unanswered questions.

PLACE SEAL HERE

Minimum 20% post-consumer waste

Form I
Form Code 4IBP4-S
57

PLACE SEAL HERE
DO NOT seal answer sheet inside

The inclusion of source material in this exam is not intended as an endorsement by the College Board or ETS of the content, ideas, or values expressed in the material. The material has been selected by the government and politics faculty who serve on the AP United States Government and Politics Development Committee. In their judgment, the material printed here reflects various aspects of the course of study on which this exam is based and is therefore appropriate to use to measure the skills and knowledge of this course.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section I

Time—45 minutes

60 Questions

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

1. The Articles of Confederation implemented the principle of

   (A) a strong national government
   (B) a unified system of taxes
   (C) universal suffrage
   (D) an independent judiciary
   (E) state sovereignty

2. Which of the following is a way Congress can influence the federal judiciary?

   (A) It can prohibit judicial activism.
   (B) It can filibuster decisions made by courts.
   (C) It can change appellate jurisdiction of federal courts.
   (D) It can review federal judges for reappointment every ten years.
   (E) It can exercise oversight authority over rulings of individual justices.

3. The framers of the Constitution intended to establish

   (A) a representative republic
   (B) a direct democracy
   (C) an authoritarian state
   (D) a socialist democracy
   (E) a parliamentary republic

4. Which of the following powers is shared by the House of Representatives and the Senate?

   (A) Holding trials of impeachment
   (B) Establishing federal courts
   (C) Approving treaties
   (D) Holding confirmation hearings
   (E) Approving major presidential appointments

5. Which of the following best describes a purpose of the Establishment Clause?

   (A) It gives Congress the power to protect civil rights and civil liberties.
   (B) It prohibits Congress from establishing a state religion.
   (C) It empowers Congress to create a national bank.
   (D) It prevents Congress from prohibiting the possession of guns on school grounds.
   (E) It grants Congress the power to establish post roads and post offices.

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6. Which of the following committees plays a major role in the House in shaping tax policy?

   (A) Finance
   (B) Ways and Means
   (C) Commerce
   (D) Appropriations
   (E) Governmental Affairs

7. Which of the following is most frequently reported in the media during a presidential election?

   (A) Results from public opinion polls that indicate which candidates are most likely to win
   (B) The official platforms of each of the major political parties
   (C) Financial strategies and management of the campaigns
   (D) Comparisons of candidates' positions on foreign and domestic policy issues
   (E) Information about the candidates' experience in government and record in office

8. The passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a significant political event because it

   (A) scaled back the provisions of the Fifteenth Amendment
   (B) was used to emancipate southern African Americans
   (C) was declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in *Shaw* v. *Reno*
   (D) was instrumental in increasing the number of African American and other minority voters
   (E) required that minority officeholders be elected

9. Many scholars argue that categorical grants-in-aid do which of the following?

   (A) Give states far too much power over national monies
   (B) Broaden state power beyond that outlined in the Constitution
   (C) Strengthen the impact of the Tenth Amendment
   (D) Give new life to the idea of dual federalism
   (E) Weaken the power of state governors and legislators

10. Party identification in the United States is most successfully transmitted by which of the following?

    (A) Workplace
    (B) Church
    (C) Educational system
    (D) The media
    (E) Family

11. Advocates of shifting the task of drawing United States House districts from state legislatures to independent commissions are likely to claim which of the following as an advantage of independent commissions?

    (A) House districts drawn by independent commissions are immune from challenges by the United States Department of Justice.
    (B) Independent commissions are more likely to create majority-minority districts where they are appropriate.
    (C) Independent commissions significantly reduce the influence of partisan gerrymandering in the redistricting process.
    (D) Independent commissions are more likely to create districts where minor parties can be victorious.
    (E) Independent commissions are more able to draw legislative districts that comply with the one person, one vote standard.

12. Which of the following is NOT an explanation for low voter turnout?

    (A) Registration requirements
    (B) Low political efficacy among many voters
    (C) Laws protecting minority voting rights
    (D) Frequent elections at the state and local level
    (E) Weekday elections

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13. Which of the following individuals would be most likely to vote in a Republican primary?

(A) A 25-year-old white male with some high school education who is employed as a laborer in Florida
(B) A 55-year-old African American saleswoman from Georgia who has a master's degree
(C) A 65-year-old Hispanic male from California who is retired and lives on social security
(D) A 35-year-old female secretary from New York with an associate's degree who is a devout Catholic
(E) A 45-year-old white businessman from South Carolina who attends church weekly

14. In the United States political system, the term Federalism refers to

(A) limits on the powers of the state governments
(B) limits on the powers of the national government
(C) the division of powers between the levels of government
(D) the fundamental basis of law
(E) legal authority of the courts to hear cases

15. Rules and regulations created by an agency such as the Federal Communications Commission are called

(A) constitutional law
(B) statutory law
(C) common law
(D) equity law
(E) administrative law

16. The agenda-setting function of the media refers to the power to

(A) endorse specific candidates for political office
(B) favor the position of one interest group over another
(C) counter the censorship activities of media watch groups
(D) mobilize economic interests in favor of a particular candidate
(E) decide which issues are important enough to bring to public attention

17. Which of the following is true of political action committees (PACs) ?

(A) They make campaign contributions in hopes of gaining access to legislators.
(B) They are a part of political party organizations.
(C) They are allowed to contribute to only one candidate in any election.
(D) They nominate candidates for president at national party conventions.
(E) They operate at the state level but not at the national level.

18. Which of the following is a correct statement about the federal government's role in interstate commerce?

(A) The federal government has no role in regulating interstate commerce.
(B) The federal government's role is limited to regulating activities that may lead to federal crimes.
(C) The federal government's role is limited to regulating commerce transported on interstate waterways such as the Mississippi River.
(D) The federal government's role is limited to regulating the transport of agricultural goods.
(E) The federal government's role has been greatly expanded through the interpretation of the interstate commerce clause.

19. Even with large majorities of their own party in Congress, presidents experience difficulty in exercising legislative leadership because

(A) the president must compete against state governors for influence
(B) the weak nature of political parties hampers the president's ability to control Congress
(C) the president's use of the veto is ineffective with Congress
(D) individual members of Congress attract greater publicity when challenging the president
(E) the president seldom addresses the same issues as members of Congress

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20. Which of the following constitutional provisions broadened the power of Congress?

(A) The necessary and proper clause
(B) The equal protection clause
(C) The Tenth Amendment
(D) The Ninth Amendment
(E) The eminent domain provision in the Fifth Amendment

21. The most widely performed act of political participation in the United States is

(A) writing letters to public officials
(B) voting in local elections
(C) voting in presidential elections
(D) contributing money to political candidates
(E) attending local party meetings

22. According to James Madison, which of the following best controls the effects of faction?

(A) Direct democracy
(B) The popular election of state judges
(C) A large republic
(D) Property requirements for eligibility to work
(E) The creation of a merit-based civil service

23. Generally, when is a president more likely to get congressional approval of proposed policies?

(A) After midterm congressional elections
(B) In the second term rather than in the first
(C) When public opinion is sharply divided over policies
(D) In social policy areas rather than in economic policy areas
(E) In foreign affairs rather than in domestic affairs

24. Legislation forbidding flag burning was deemed unconstitutional because it violated the

(A) First Amendment's free exercise clause
(B) necessary and proper clause
(C) First Amendment's protection of expression
(D) Fourteenth Amendment's definition of citizenship
(E) First Amendment's establishment clause

25. Voter turnout tends to be highest among

(A) college-educated voters
(B) working-class voters
(C) African American voters
(D) young voters
(E) low-income voters

26. Which of the following actions by a congressional representative is an example of "pork barreling"?

(A) Misusing campaign contributions
(B) Directing federal funds into the representative's district through legislation
(C) Accepting money from a political action committee (PAC)
(D) Attempting to kill a bill with unacceptable amendments
(E) Voting for a salary increase

27. In response to the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (McCain-Feingold Act), the United States Supreme Court, in *Citizens United* v. *Federal Election Commission* (2010), ruled that

(A) limits cannot be placed upon candidates' contributions to their own campaigns
(B) independent campaign expenditures by corporations and unions are protected by the First Amendment
(C) limits on issue advertisements 90 days before an election are unconstitutional
(D) limits on campaign contributions by minors are constitutional under the First Amendment
(E) requiring endorsement statements in campaign advertisements is unconstitutional

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28. The primary responsibility for determining monetary policy in the United States rests with the

(A) International Monetary Fund
(B) World Bank
(C) Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
(D) Treasury Department
(E) Comptroller of the Currency

29. All of the following make it difficult for presidents to control the actions of federal agencies EXCEPT

(A) the civil service system
(B) issue networks (iron triangles)
(C) bureaucratic inertia
(D) bureaucratic noncompliance
(E) the appointment of cabinet heads

30. Which of the following is an example of checks and balances in action in the United States government?

(A) The House and Senate cannot agree on the same version of a bill to send to the president.
(B) The president issues an executive order that freezes federal government hiring.
(C) The president vetoes a bill passed by Congress.
(D) The voters reject the status quo and elect all new members of Congress.
(E) The voters at the state level elect a governor from a party other than the president's.

31. In *Roe* v. *Wade,* the majority of Supreme Court justices determined that

(A) a constitutional right to privacy necessitated making contraceptives legal
(B) abortions could be performed only during the first twelve weeks of a pregnancy
(C) homosexuality is unconstitutional
(D) the United States Constitution implies a right to privacy and thus made abortions legal
(E) a husband is allowed to veto his wife's decision to have an abortion

32. Congressional oversight refers to the power of Congress to

(A) override presidential vetoes
(B) hold public hearings before confirming judicial appointees
(C) exercise some control over executive agencies
(D) allow nongovernmental agencies to defend or refute pending legislation publicly
(E) seek judicial opinion on the constitutionality of pending legislation

33. With respect to prayer in public schools, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that

(A) state-sponsored prayer violates the establishment clause of the First Amendment
(B) state-sponsored prayer is permitted by the free exercise clause of the First Amendment
(C) since educational policy is controlled largely by state governments, the First Amendment does not affect school policy on prayer
(D) the free exercise clause permits teachers to mandate silent prayer
(E) in school districts in which local authorities can demonstrate that all students belong to a single religion, mandated prayer is permissible

34. Executive agreements have been cited as evidence that

(A) modern presidents often try to avoid legislative checks and balances on their authority
(B) the executive branch has become too large and bureaucratic
(C) presidents have less power in handling foreign policy than in handling domestic policy
(D) interest groups have too much power in the contemporary governmental system
(E) the courts have few means of limiting presidential power

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35. The grandfather clause is significant in United States political history for which of the following reasons?

(A) It was a means whereby elderly voters were excluded from the electorate.
(B) It was declared unconstitutional by the Fifteenth Amendment.
(C) It was a means whereby Black citizens in southern states were disenfranchised.
(D) It was created by the Supreme Court's decision in *Plessy* v. *Ferguson*.
(E) It was struck down by the Supreme Court in *Brown* v. *Board of Education of Topeka*.

36. Most of the work of legislating in Congress takes place in

(A) joint committees
(B) ad hoc committees
(C) select committees
(D) conference committees
(E) standing committees

37. Which of the following is a primary function of the Senate Judiciary Committee?

(A) Conducting oversight hearings on the Supreme Court budget
(B) Conducting investigations into allegedly subversive activities
(C) Conducting hearings on judicial appointments made by the president
(D) Conducting investigations into wrongdoing by the executive branch
(E) Initiating appointments to the Supreme Court

38. Which of the following describes the social contract theory as advanced by John Locke?

(A) It is an agreement between political actors to maintain their grip on power.
(B) It is an agreement in which the government promises to provide a minimum standard of living to citizens.
(C) It is an agreement in which the government promises to protect the natural rights of people.
(D) It is an agreement between economic elites to maintain a stable economy.
(E) It is an agreement in which the government outlines socially acceptable norms of political behavior.

39. In the United States judicial system, when a judge decides a case based on decisions rendered in similar cases in the past, the judge is following the principle of

(A) amicus curiae
(B) stare decisis
(C) justiciability
(D) diversity
(E) certiorari

40. After a constitutional amendment has been proposed by both houses of Congress, its adoption requires

(A) official filing with the secretary of state
(B) support by a majority vote of the people
(C) signature by the president
(D) ratification by three-fourths of the states
(E) publication in the *Federal Register*

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41. One of the best strategies that interest groups can use to achieve their goals is

(A) pressing for changes in high-profile public policies
(B) lobbying members of Congress to make small changes in existing policy
(C) using the judiciary to invalidate federal legislation
(D) encouraging states to use their Tenth Amendment rights and ignore federal law
(E) running candidates for office

42. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are examples of

(A) cabinet departments
(B) independent agencies
(C) Executive Office bureaus
(D) congressional committees
(E) White House staff agencies

43. In which of the following circumstances would the rule of four be applied?

(A) Four senators agree to a cloture motion.
(B) Congress adjourns its session within four days of submitting a bill to the president, and the president does not act.
(C) Four states request a writ of certiorari.
(D) At least four justices on the Supreme Court agree that a case should be put on the Court's docket.
(E) The House Rules Committee limits floor debate to four minutes maximum for each member.

44. Why is federal case law more frequently established by the United States courts of appeal than by the United States Supreme Court?

(A) Courts of appeal must decide cases appealed to it from the lower courts, while the Supreme Court can choose its cases and hears relatively few each year.
(B) Courts of appeal usually have jurisdiction over cases appealed from state supreme courts.
(C) There are more judges on the courts of appeal than on the Supreme Court, so they can overrule the Supreme Court's decisions.
(D) According to the Constitution, rulings by the courts of appeal have more significance than Supreme Court rulings.
(E) Federalism stresses the court decision closest to the people should stand.

45. All of the following are examples of a linkage institution influencing the policy process EXCEPT

(A) the president delivering the State of the Union speech
(B) the Sierra Club lobbying the Environmental Protection Agency
(C) the outcome of a congressional election
(D) an exposé by the national media on the housing crisis
(E) the Republican Party pursuing a balanced budget amendment

46. A discharge petition is rarely used in the House of Representatives because

(A) it is unconstitutional to use a discharge petition in the House of Representatives
(B) the House is too large for a discharge petition to be effective
(C) a two-thirds majority is required to issue a discharge petition
(D) it is a challenge to majority leadership and informal rules of behavior
(E) the unscheduled use of a discharge petition could offend members of the Senate

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47. Which of the following is a principle underlying the Bill of Rights?

(A) The people should control all aspects of governance.
(B) Some rights are fundamental and should not be subject to majoritarian control.
(C) The legislature should be the most powerful branch of government.
(D) All people should be guaranteed the same rights, whether they are citizens or not.
(E) It is groups rather than individuals that have fundamental rights and immunities.

48. Since the 1960s, support for the Democratic Party has declined the most among which of the following groups?

(A) Labor union members
(B) Business leaders
(C) African Americans
(D) Native Americans
(E) White southerners

49. The House Rules Committee is an important part of the legislative process because it

(A) determines ethics rules for members' conduct
(B) determines whether a bill should be referred to a policy committee for consideration
(C) determines the terms and conditions of debate when a bill goes to the House floor
(D) has the authority to limit the Speaker and Minority leader in their use of patronage
(E) negotiates compromises on bills with the Senate Rules Committee

50. The president cannot veto which of the following?

(A) Joint resolutions that propose constitutional amendments
(B) Laws overturning United States Supreme Court decisions
(C) Legislation regulating congressional salaries
(D) Legislation affecting foreign policy
(E) Bills that originate in the Senate

51. To influence policy making by the federal courts, the president may do all of the following EXCEPT

(A) take partisanship into account in making judicial appointments
(B) take political ideology into account in making judicial appointments
(C) fire and replace federal judges
(D) make public statements about issues that might appear before the courts
(E) encourage the Justice Department to get involved in cases that test certain issues

52. An example of a discretionary item in the federal budget is

(A) interest on the public debt
(B) spending on national parks
(C) Social Security payments
(D) veterans' pensions
(E) liquidation of prior obligations

53. Which of the following is LEAST characteristic of the history of political parties in the United States during the twentieth century?

(A) An increase in the number of organized interest groups
(B) An increase in the influence of political action committee (PAC) money in congressional elections
(C) State adoption of direct primary elections
(D) The loss of party patronage power
(E) The splitting of the two major parties into a multiparty system

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54. The United States Supreme Court decision in *Brown* v. *Board of Education of Topeka* was based on which of the following?

(A) The First Amendment's right to freedom of expression
(B) The Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause
(C) The Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection
(D) The Fourth Amendment's exclusionary rule
(E) The Fifth Amendment's power of eminent domain

55. When a bill passes the House and the Senate in different versions, the bill is resolved by which of the following types of committee?

(A) Conference
(B) Select
(C) Reconciliation
(D) Rules
(E) Standing

56. Candidates for political office use public opinion polls for all of the following purposes EXCEPT to

(A) assess recognition of the candidate's name
(B) measure voters' support for the candidate's issues
(C) bring the opposition's opinions into alignment with those of the candidate
(D) fine-tune policy stands
(E) identify key issues among the voters

57. The clause in the United States Constitution that states that federal law will prevail in the event of a conflict between federal and state law is known as the

(A) necessary and proper clause
(B) supremacy clause
(C) presentment clause
(D) confrontation clause
(E) equal protection clause

58. Which of the following stages comes first in the policy-making process?

(A) Agenda setting
(B) Legitimation
(C) Program evaluation
(D) Policy formulation
(E) Implementation

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59. Which of the following situations best illustrates the meaning of divided government in the United States political system?

(A) The majority of Supreme Court justices are from one party, but the president is from another.
(B) The majority of governors are from one party, but the president is from another.
(C) The president and a majority of members of Congress are from one party, but the majority of governors are from another.
(D) The majority of senators and the majority of representatives are from one party, but the president is from another.
(E) The majority of Supreme Court justices are from one party, but the majority of senators and representatives are from another.

60. All of the following are traditional political values held by most Americans EXCEPT

(A) individual freedom
(B) representative democracy
(C) equality of opportunity
(D) equality of outcome
(E) due process of law

END OF SECTION I.

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION.

DO NOT GO ON TO SECTION II UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE DONE THE FOLLOWING.

- **PLACED YOUR AP NUMBER LABEL ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET**
- **WRITTEN AND GRIDDED YOUR AP NUMBER CORRECTLY ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET**
- **TAKEN THE AP EXAM LABEL FROM THE FRONT OF THIS BOOKLET AND PLACED IT ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET**

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Section II: Free-Response Questions

This is the free-response section of the 2012 AP exam. It includes cover material and other administrative instructions to help familiarize students with the mechanics of the exam. (Note that future exams may differ in look from the following content.)

AP® United States Government and Politics Exam

SECTION II: Free Response

2012

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

At a Glance

Total Time
1 hour, 40 minutes
Number of Questions
4
Percent of Total Score
50%
Writing Instrument
Pen with black or dark blue ink
Suggested Time
25 minutes per question
Weight
The questions are weighted equally.

IMPORTANT Identification Information

PLEASE PRINT WITH PEN:

1. First two letters of your last name ☐☐
   First letter of your first name ☐
2. Date of birth
   ☐☐ Month ☐☐ Day ☐☐☐☐ Year
3. Six-digit school code
   ☐☐☐☐☐☐
4. Unless I check the box below, I grant the College Board the unlimited right to use, reproduce, and publish my free-response materials, both written and oral, for educational research and instructional purposes. My name and the name of my school will not be used in any way in connection with my free-response materials. I understand that I am free to mark "No" with no effect on my score or its reporting.
   No, I do not grant the College Board these rights. ☐

Instructions

The questions for Section II are printed in this booklet. You may use page 3 of this booklet to organize your answers and for scratch work, but you must write your answers on the lined pages provided for each question.

Write clearly and legibly. Do not skip lines. Cross out any errors you make; crossed-out work will not be scored.

Manage your time carefully. The proctor will announce the suggested time for each question, but you may proceed freely from one question to the next. You may review your responses if you finish before the end of the exam is announced.

Minimum 20% post-consumer waste

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate.

1. Members of Congress are charged with three primary duties—writing laws, overseeing the implementation of laws, and serving the needs of their constituents.

   (a) Describe the role of each of the following in lawmaking.

   - Senate filibuster
   - House Rules Committee
   - Conference committee

   (b) Describe one method by which Congress exercises oversight of the federal bureaucracy.

   (c) Explain how casework affects members' attention to legislation.

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GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 1.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Question 1 is reprinted for your convenience.

1. Members of Congress are charged with three primary duties—writing laws, overseeing the implementation of laws, and serving the needs of their constituents.

   (a) Describe the role of each of the following in lawmaking.

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ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 1.

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MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS*

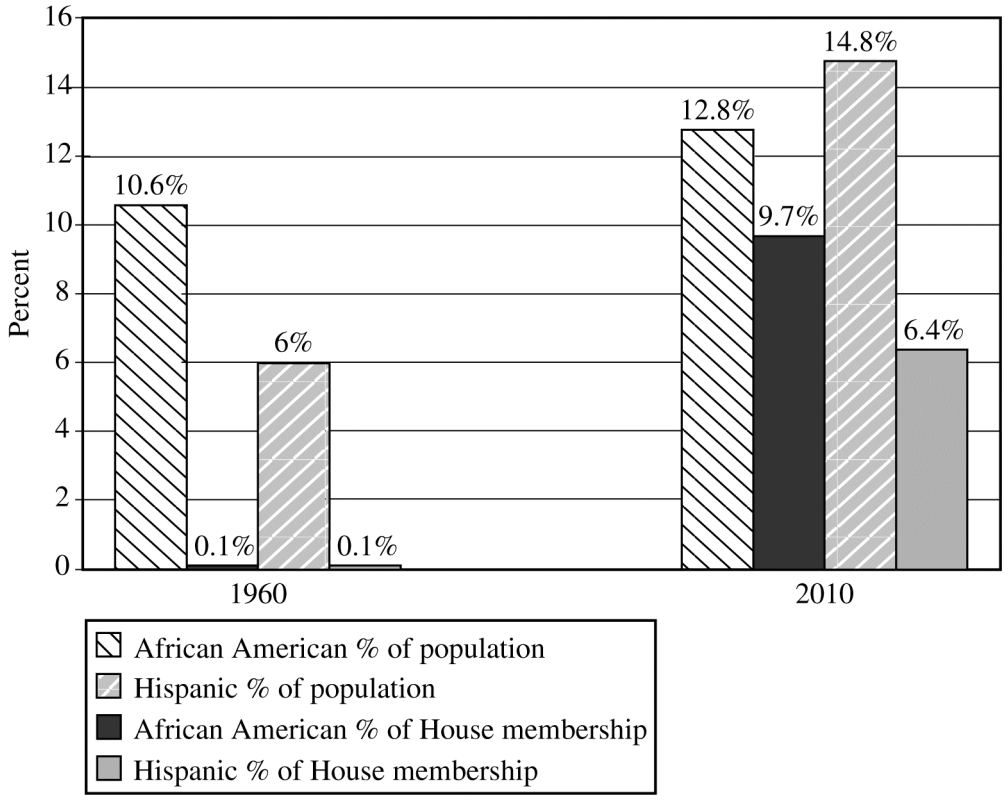


*Figure does not include all minority groups in Congress.

2. (a) Using the chart above, compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010.

(b) Explain how each of the following assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting.

- Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Twenty-fourth Amendment

(c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.

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ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 2.

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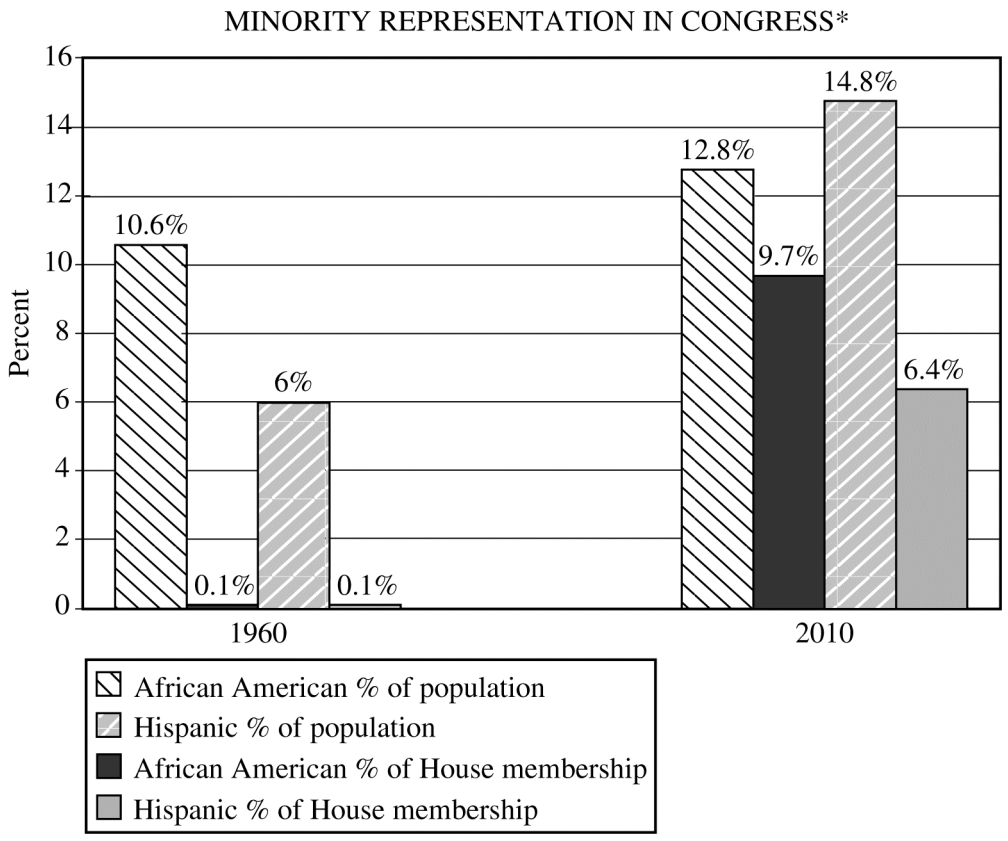


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ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 2.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

3. The judicial branch is often assumed to be insulated from politics. However, politics affects many aspects of the judiciary.

   (a) Describe two political factors that affect presidents' decisions to appoint members of the federal judiciary.

   (b) Identify two political factors that affect the confirmation process of a president's nominees and explain how each factor complicates a confirmation.

   (c) Explain how one legislative power serves as a check on court decisions.

   (d) Explain how one executive power serves as a check on court decisions.

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GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 3.

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Question 3 is reprinted for your convenience.

3. The judicial branch is often assumed to be insulated from politics. However, politics affects many aspects of the judiciary.
   (a) Describe two political factors that affect presidents' decisions to appoint members of the federal judiciary.
   (b) Identify two political factors that affect the confirmation process of a president's nominees and explain how each factor complicates a confirmation.
   (c) Explain how one legislative power serves as a check on court decisions.
   (d) Explain how one executive power serves as a check on court decisions.

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ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 3.

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4. Interest groups seek to influence political processes in ways that benefit their members. In doing so, however, they may not act in the overall public interest.

   (a) Describe two techniques interest groups use to influence elections.

   (b) Explain how interest groups use each of the following to influence government decision making.

   - Issue networks (also known as iron triangles)
   - Amicus curiae briefs

   (c) Explain how each of the following serves to limit interest group influence.

   - The media
   - Pluralism

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ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 4.

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Question 4 is reprinted for your convenience.

4. Interest groups seek to influence political processes in ways that benefit their members. In doing so, however, they may not act in the overall public interest.

   (a) Describe two techniques interest groups use to influence elections.

   (b) Explain how interest groups use each of the following to influence government decision making.

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   - Pluralism

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ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 4.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 4.

STOP

END OF EXAM

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS APPLY TO THE COVERS OF THE SECTION II BOOKLET.

- **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION AS REQUESTED ON THE FRONT AND BACK COVERS OF THE SECTION II BOOKLET.**
- **CHECK TO SEE THAT YOUR AP NUMBER LABEL APPEARS IN THE BOX(ES) ON THE COVER(S).**
- **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE USED THE SAME SET OF AP NUMBER LABELS ON ALL AP EXAMS YOU HAVE TAKEN THIS YEAR.**

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Multiple-Choice Answer Key

The following contains the answers to the multiple-choice questions in this exam.

Answer Key for AP United States Government and Politics Practice Exam, Section I

Multiple-Choice Questions	
Question #	**Key**
1	E
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	B
7	A
8	D
9	E
10	E
11	C
12	C
13	E
14	C
15	E
16	E
17	A
18	E
19	B
20	A
21	C
22	C
23	E
24	C
25	A
26	B
27	B
28	C
29	E
30	C
31	D
32	C
33	A
34	A
35	C
36	E
37	C
38	C
39	B
40	D
41	B
42	B
43	D
44	A
45	A
46*	—
47	B
48	E
49	C
50	A
51	C
52	B
53	E
54	C
55	A
56	C
57	B
58	A
59	D
60	D

*Item 46 was not used in scoring.

Free-Response Scoring Guidelines

The following contains the scoring guidelines for the free-response questions in this exam.

AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

5 points

Part (a): 3 points

Describe the **role** of each of the following in lawmaking (3 points total, 1 point per role):

- Senate filibuster allows a senator on the floor to:
  - Prevent/delay action on a particular bill.
  - Prevent/delay other business from being conducted.
- Rules Committee schedules or manages the flow of legislation on the floor to:
  - Make it easier or more difficult for a bill to pass.
  - Make the process more efficient/orderly/manageable.
- Conference Committee reconciles differences in House and Senate versions of a bill.

Must describe the role in lawmaking explicitly.

Part (b): 1 point

Describe one **method** by which Congress exercises oversight of the federal bureaucracy (1 point):

- Budgetary process (power of the purse)
- Committee hearings
- Confirmation or rejection of political appointments to the bureaucracy
- Investigations
- New legislation
- Legislative veto

Must describe the context in which Congress uses the method to oversee the bureaucracy.

Part (c): 1 point

Explain **how** casework affects members' attention to legislation (1 point):

- Diverts time, resources, and staff, thus reducing members' ability to focus on legislation.
- Develops awareness of problems, thus focusing more time and resources on related legislation.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is completely off task or is on task but earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is assigned to an answer that is blank.

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Question 2

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for demonstrating an increase in minority representation between 1960 and 2010.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for an explanation of **how** the Voting Rights Act of 1965 assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting:

- Eliminating voter registration requirements (e.g., literacy tests, residency requirements) that prevented minorities from voting led to increased access for minority voters.
- Creating federal oversight of elections helped eliminate discriminatory mechanisms (e.g., voter intimidation, ballot fraud) that were used to prevent minority voters from voting, which led to increased access for minority voters.
- Eliminating the use of English-only ballots that prevented non-English-speaking minorities from voting led to increased access for minority voters.

A second point is earned for an explanation of **how** the Twenty-fourth Amendment assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting: Eliminating poll taxes that limited voting by lower-income people led to an increase in minority voting because minorities are often overrepresented among poor people.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for identifying one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. The barrier may affect either minority candidates running for Congress **or** minority voters attempting to vote for minority candidates.

Minority Candidates	Minority Voters
• Incumbency advantage • Gerrymandered districts • Majority-minority districts • Prejudice, racism, sexism • Electoral resources • Electoral qualifications • Single-member districts/winner-take-all	• I.D. requirements • English-only ballots • Felony disenfranchisement • Purging voter rolls • Voter intimidation

A second point is earned for explaining **how** the barrier identified above inhibits minority representation in Congress:

- A minority candidate barrier must explain **how** the barrier identified above limits minority representation.
- A minority voter barrier must explain **how** the barrier limits minority participation and **how** that directly affects minority representation in Congress.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is completely off task or is on task but earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is assigned to an answer that is blank.

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Question 3

8 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of political factors that affect presidential appointment decisions.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- campaign promises
- gender
- geographic diversity
- home-state senator (if lower courts)
- ideology
- interest group input
- issue positions
- party
- potential for confirmation success
- professional background, experience, education
- race
- religion
- scandal

Part (b): 4 points

One point is earned for each of two identifications of political factors that affect the confirmation process for presidential nominees. One point is earned for each of two explanations for **how** the political factor complicates the confirmation of judicial appointees.

Acceptable factors include:

- advice and consent
- campaign promises
- filibuster
- gender
- geographic diversity
- holds
- home-state senator (if lower courts)
- ideology
- interest group input
- issue positions
- the media (televising Judiciary Committee hearings)
- party
- professional background, experience, education
- race
- religion
- safe/weak nominee
- scandal
- senatorial courtesy

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining **how** a legislative power serves as a check on court decisions.

Acceptable legislative powers include:

- amendments
- confirmation
- congressional funding
- impeachment
- jurisdiction stripping
- legislation

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Question 3 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining **how** an executive power serves as a check on court decisions.

Acceptable executive powers include:
- power of appointment
- executive enforcement

A score of dash (—) is assigned to an answer that is blank.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is completely off task or is on task but earns no points.

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Question 4

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of a technique used by interest groups to influence elections.

Techniques include:

- campaign contributions
- candidate ratings
- endorsements
- 501(c)4
- 527
- funneling volunteers to campaigns
- GOTV efforts
- independent expenditures
- issue ads
- PACs
- providing information on issue and candidates

Notes: Must describe a technique, not merely identify it. No double dipping on PACs and Super PACs.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for an acceptable explanation that demonstrates **how** interest groups use issue networks (iron triangles). One point is also earned for an acceptable explanation that demonstrates **how** interest groups use amicus briefs:

- Interest groups participate in issue networks by providing money, information, and resources in hopes of obtaining political support from Congress, the bureaucracy, or the White House.
- Interest groups use amicus briefs to inform the Court in hopes of influencing the acceptance of cases, Court reasoning, or decisions.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of **how** the media acts to limit interest group influence. An additional point is earned for a correct explanation of **how** pluralism acts to limit interest group influence:

- Media can act as a gatekeeper of information or a watchdog of interest group behavior.
- Pluralism limits interest group influence because of the competition among a vast number of groups.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is completely off-task or is on-task but earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is assigned to an answer that is blank.

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Scoring Worksheet

The following provides a worksheet and conversion table used for calculating a composite score of the exam.

2012 AP United States Government and Politics Scoring Worksheet

Section I: Multiple Choice

_____ × 1.0169 = _____
Number Correct (out of 59*) — Weighted Section I Score (Do not round)

Section II: Free Response

Question 1 _____ (out of 5) × 3.0000 = _____ (Do not round)

Question 2 _____ (out of 5) × 3.0000 = _____ (Do not round)

Question 3 _____ (out of 8) × 1.8750 = _____ (Do not round)

Question 4 _____ (out of 6) × 2.5000 = _____ (Do not round)

Sum = _____
Weighted Section II Score (Do not round)

Composite Score

_____ + _____ = _____
Weighted Section I Score — Weighted Section II Score — Composite Score (Round to nearest whole number)

AP Score Conversion Chart
US Government and Politics

Composite Score Range	AP Score
90-120	5
81-89	4
66-80	3
47-65	2
0-46	1

*Although 60 multiple-choice items were administered in Section I, item 46 was not used in scoring.

AP United States Government and Politics

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