CollegeBoard
Advanced Placement
Program

AP® United States Government and Politics

Practice Exam

The questions contained in this AP® United States Government and Politics Practice Exam are written to the content specifications of AP Exams for this subject. Taking this practice exam should provide students with an idea of their general areas of strengths and weaknesses in preparing for the actual AP Exam. Because this AP United States Government and Politics Practice Exam has never been administered as an operational AP Exam, statistical data are not available for calculating potential raw scores or conversions into AP grades.

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AP® United States Government and Politics
Directions for Administration

The AP United States Government and Politics Exam is 2 hours and 25 minutes in length and consists of a multiple-choice section and a free-response section.

- The 45-minute multiple-choice section contains 60 questions and accounts for 50 percent of the final grade.

- The 100-minute free-response section contains 4 questions and accounts for 50 percent of the final grade.

Students should be given a 10-minute warning prior to the end of each section of the exam. A 10-minute break should be provided after Section I is completed.

The actual AP Exam is administered in one session. Students will have the most realistic experience if a complete morning or afternoon is available to administer this practice exam. If a schedule does not permit one time period for the entire practice exam administration, it would be acceptable to administer Section I one day and Section II on a subsequent day.

Many students wonder whether or not to guess the answers to the multiple-choice questions about which they are not certain. It is improbable that mere guessing will improve a score. However, if a student has some knowledge of the question and is able to eliminate one or more answer choices as wrong, it may be to the student's advantage to answer such a question.

- The use of calculators, or any other electronic devices, is not permitted during the exam.

- It is suggested that the practice exam be completed using a pencil for Section I and a pen for Section II to simulate an actual administration.

- Teachers will need to provide paper for the students to write their free-response answers. Teachers should provide directions to the students indicating how they wish the responses to be labeled so the teacher will be able to associate the student's response with the question the student intended to answer.

- Remember that students are not allowed to remove any materials, including scratch work, from the testing site.

Section I

Multiple-Choice Questions

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 them. 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 place the letter of your choice in the corresponding box on the answer sheet.

1. When a child's parents both identify strongly with the same political party, the child will most likely

   (A) identify with the opposing party
   (B) identify with the parents' party
   (C) have a low sense of political efficacy
   (D) become an independent rather than a party identifier
   (E) become alienated from the political system

2. The Connecticut (Great) Compromise provided for

   (A) all revenue bills to originate in the Senate
   (B) all judicial appointments to be nominated by the president
   (C) the elimination of the importation of slaves
   (D) an electoral college and rules for the removal of the president
   (E) a bicameral legislature with one house's composition based upon state population and another's on equal state representation

3. The term "party machine" usually refers to a

   (A) large national party organization that is hierarchically structured
   (B) local party organization that relies heavily on the voluntary labor of all its members
   (C) local party organization that is tightly disciplined and well staffed and relies on patronage to create party loyalty
   (D) party organization in which political favors are distributed by national leaders in repayment for large contributions
   (E) party organization in which major platform decisions are made behind closed doors rather than at national conventions

4. Which of the following demographic groups has voted most consistently for the Democratic Party in national elections over the last three decades?

   (A) African Americans
   (B) Hispanics
   (C) Protestants
   (D) Wealthy White males
   (E) Southern White males

5. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an example of

   (A) a regulatory agency
   (B) an independent agency
   (C) a government corporation
   (D) a government department
   (E) a federal board

6. Which of the following best describes gerrymandering?

   (A) The party in power wins four or five surrounding districts by very small margins.
   (B) The Supreme Court requires that state legislatures must adopt the doctrine of one person, one vote.
   (C) The party in control of the state legislature draws district boundaries in such a way as to favor its own candidates in subsequent elections.
   (D) By polling voters, party officials are able to determine how citizens will vote.
   (E) The public decides which issues are most important and tells the elected officials how to vote on specific bills.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

7. Which of the following has authority over the printing of currency?

   (A) The Office of Management and Budget
   (B) The Council of Economic Advisors
   (C) The Department of the Treasury
   (D) The Federal Reserve Board
   (E) The House Appropriations Committee

8. A nonlitigant group or individual that wants to attempt to influence the court in a particular case can file

   (A) an *amicus curiae* brief
   (B) *a writ of error* Coram Nobis
   (C) a *habeas corpus* petition
   (D) a writ of *certiorari*
   (E) a writ of *mandamus*

9. Which of the following best defines civil liberties?

   (A) The freedom to refuse to obey laws an individual considers to be immoral violations of civil rights
   (B) Provisions in the Bill of Rights that provide guarantees against arbitrary interference by government
   (C) Precedents pertaining to criminal procedure that are set by the Supreme Court that are upheld in the lower courts
   (D) Those features of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution that pertain to the actions of individuals and groups
   (E) Laws passed by Congress to define the powers and privileges of individuals

10. The theory that all interests are and should be free to compete for influence in government, resulting in healthy democratic compromise and balance, is called

    (A) elite power politics
    (B) socialism
    (C) pluralism
    (D) rational choice
    (E) institutionalism

11. A tax whereby poor citizens pay a higher percentage of their incomes compared with wealthier citizens is known as a

    (A) regressive tax
    (B) progressive tax
    (C) proportional tax
    (D) graduated income tax
    (E) flat tax

12. "Just as the Fourth Amendment's right to privacy has been declared enforceable against the states through the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth, it is enforceable by the same sanction . . . as is used against the federal government. Were it otherwise, . . . the assurance against unreasonable searches and seizures would be 'a form of words,' valueless . . . 'in the concept of ordered liberty."

    Justice Tom Clark, *Mapp* v. *Ohio* (1961)

    Which two principles are addressed in the excerpt above?

    I. The incorporation doctrine
    II. The concept of eminent domain
    III. The exclusionary rule
    IV. The "wall of separation" doctrine

    (A) I and II
    (B) I and III
    (C) I and IV
    (D) II and III
    (E) II and IV

13. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (McCain-Feingold) did which of the following?

    (A) It created interest groups known as 527s.
    (B) It made it illegal for unions to donate to presidential campaigns.
    (C) It banned soft money donations to national parties.
    (D) It banned candidates from running negative advertisements.
    (E) It banned third-parties from federal funding.

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14. Which of the following best describes pork barrel politics?

(A) The Office of Management and Budget negotiates with Congress to get the president's budget proposal passed.
(B) Senators from states with agricultural economies promote farm price supports.
(C) Voters in rural areas support different issue positions than do voters in metropolitan areas.
(D) Members of Congress negotiate bills so that individual districts get money for projects that do not benefit the nation as a whole.
(E) Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee refuse to endorse the president's nominees to the federal courts.

15. Citizens who believe that their votes will have no effect on the outcome of an election have a

(A) high level of trust in elected officials
(B) high level of political participation
(C) high level of political interest
(D) low level of political efficacy
(E) low level of political cynicism

16. The United States Supreme Court has used which of the following to incorporate the Bill of Rights into state law?

(A) The necessary and proper clause
(B) The Fourteenth Amendment
(C) The Judiciary Act of 1789
(D) The Civil Rights Act of 1964
(E) The Voting Rights Act of 1965

17. Enumerated powers of the federal government include all of the following EXCEPT the power to

(A) coin money
(B) declare war
(C) regulate interstate commerce
(D) regulate intrastate commerce
(E) tax

18. Which of the following did the Supreme Court establish in *Marbury* v. *Madison* ?

(A) The Supreme Court can declare federal legislation invalid if the legislation violates the Constitution.
(B) Each state has the right to set up and run its own court system.
(C) All the powers that are not explicitly given by the Constitution to Congress belong to the states.
(D) Any president who commits treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors can be impeached.
(E) The Constitution can only be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the House of Representatives.

19. The process known as front-loading refers to

(A) presidential candidates raising funds far in advance of the first presidential primary
(B) a presidential candidate seeking endorsements before officially declaring candidacy
(C) the tendency of states to choose an early date on the primary calendar
(D) political action committees (PACs) contributing money to candidates at least one year before the first presidential primary or caucus
(E) the winner-take-all principle of the electoral college

20. Which of the following is true of both members of the House of Representatives and senators?

(A) They must be citizens of the United States.
(B) They serve two-year terms of office.
(C) They can have their election chances directly affected by reapportionment.
(D) They must be at least thirty years of age.
(E) They must have statewide appeal in order to get elected.

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21. Fiscal policies refer to the government's power to

(A) regulate specific industries
(B) tax and spend
(C) reapportion congressional seats
(D) control the supply of money
(E) enforce treaties

22. The franking privilege is one example of

(A) logrolling
(B) soft money
(C) a legislative privilege
(D) an election law violation
(E) an incumbency advantage

23. Which of the following is a type of primary election that requires registration as a party affiliate to vote?

(A) Blanket
(B) Closed
(C) General
(D) Open
(E) Plebiscite

24. Which of the following is filed when an imprisoned person wants to be brought before a judge so that the judge can determine whether his or her imprisonment is legal?

(A) Bill of attainder
(B) *Ex post facto* petition
(C) *Writ of certiorari*
(D) *Habeas corpus* petition
(E) *Amicus curiae* brief

25. In *The Federalist* papers, James Madison argues that political liberty is best protected by

(A) a written constitution
(B) a small republic with a parliamentary system
(C) a small democracy with a unitary government
(D) well-regulated militias controlled by state governments
(E) the fragmentation of political power in a large republic

26. The committee that resolves differences between House and Senate versions of a bill is called a

(A) joint committee
(B) select committee
(C) special committee
(D) conference committee
(E) standing committee

27. A bill of attainder is a

(A) bill passed by Congress that applies to only one individual
(B) compromise bill passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate
(C) decision by an executive branch official that does not need to be approved by Congress
(D) law that declares that an action of an individual can be punished without a trial
(E) law that guarantees benefits to individuals who meet certain criteria

28. The number of justices on the United States Supreme Court is set by

(A) national convention
(B) Congress
(C) the president
(D) the United States Constitution
(E) the American Bar Association

29. The president's role as chief diplomat is derived from

(A) informal powers
(B) delegated powers
(C) concurrent powers
(D) reserved powers
(E) expressed powers

30. Which of the following is true of the seniority system of Congress in relation to committee leadership and committee staffing?

(A) Members of Congress with the longest continuous service are assured the chairmanship of major congressional committees.
(B) Members of Congress must be elected from safe seats to accrue committee seniority.
(C) Members of congressional committees are the most senior members of the body's majority party.
(D) The oldest members of Congress have the most seniority.
(E) The chairs of congressional committees tend to be senior members of the body's majority party.

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31. Jim Crow laws, still in place in the early 1960s in the South, were outlawed by the

(A) incorporation of the Bill of Rights
(B) 1963 march on Washington
(C) passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act
(D) Supreme Court decision in *Brown* v. *Board of Education of Topeka*
(E) Supreme Court decision in *Dred Scott* v. *Sandford*

HYPOTHETICAL GOVERNMENT

President	Republican	
Senate	49 Republicans	51 Democrats
House	220 Republicans	215 Democrats

32. The government depicted above is best described by which of the following terms?

(A) Nonpartisan government
(B) Unicameral government
(C) Unitary government
(D) Divided government
(E) Dealigned government

33. An election in which there is a significant shift in the bases of electoral support from one political party to another is called a

(A) deviating election
(B) maintaining election
(C) dealigning election
(D) primary election
(E) realigning election

34. The primary function of the White House staff is to

(A) initiate policy
(B) advise the president
(C) represent the bureaucratic agencies
(D) provide information to the Office of Management and Budget
(E) act as liaison with members of Congress

35. In *Gideon* v. *Wainwright*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the

(A) Bible could be distributed at public schools under the free exercise clause of the First Amendment
(B) exclusionary rule prevented the introduction of evidence seized in violation of the Fourth Amendment from being introduced in court
(C) eminent domain clause of the Fifth Amendment prevents government from taking religious property for public purposes
(D) Sixth Amendment right-to-counsel provision applies to those accused of major crimes under state laws
(E) Eighth Amendment cruel-and-unusual-punishment provision cannot be applied in a discriminatory manner

36. One example of constitutional checks and balances is

(A) the president declares war, but Congress appropriates military funds
(B) the president nominates cabinet members, and the House holds confirmation hearings
(C) the House can impeach federal judges and the president, and the Senate holds the impeachment trial
(D) Congress can override United States Supreme Court decisions on the constitutionality of laws
(E) presidential vetoes of laws can be overridden by a simple majority vote in both the House and the Senate

37. The War Powers Resolution does which of the following?

(A) Gives the president the power to declare war
(B) Requires that Congress report to the president before it cuts military appropriations
(C) Requires that the president notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying troops
(D) Allows the National Security Council to conduct military operations if the president is incapacitated
(E) Shifts military command responsibility from the president to the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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38. Which of the following describes the result in a winner-take-all, single-member-district plurality system?

(A) The candidate who receives the most votes in the election wins.
(B) The candidate must receive at least 51% of the votes to win.
(C) The top two vote-getters compete in a run-off election.
(D) A political party must receive 51% of the votes to win all of the seats in the district.
(E) The party that receives the most votes in the election wins the seat and selects the party member who will fill the seat.

39. The three points of an iron triangle include

(A) an independent agency, a state, and a member of Congress
(B) an administrative agency, an interest group, and a congressional committee
(C) a cabinet department, an interest group, and the House majority leader
(D) a regulatory commission, a corporation, and the White House Office
(E) the Executive Office of the President, an interest group, and a Senate committee

40. The free rider problem occurs when

(A) interest groups seek public funding to advance their special interests
(B) people benefit from an interest group's efforts without making any contribution
(C) elected officials provide government services for those who have helped their campaigns
(D) political campaigns manipulate the news media in order to obtain free advertising
(E) congressional candidates win elections because they belong to the party of a popular president

41. Which of the following policies involves more state spending than federal spending?

(A) Military policy
(B) Social security
(C) Education
(D) Medicare
(E) Veterans affairs

42. All of the following United States Supreme Court decisions strengthened the power of the federal government EXCEPT

(A) *Gibbons* v. *Ogden*
(B) *Marbury* v. *Madison*
(C) *Dred Scott* v. *Sandford*
(D) *McCullough* v. *Maryland*
(E) *Korematsu* v. *United States*

43. According to the clear and present danger test, speech may be restricted

(A) when it incites violent action
(B) when it lacks a political purpose
(C) whenever the United States is at war
(D) if it is deemed offensive to religious organizations
(E) if the writer or speaker is not a citizen of the United States

44. The constitutional powers of the president include all of the following EXCEPT

(A) acting as head of military
(B) vetoing legislation
(C) declaring war
(D) granting pardons
(E) appointing ambassadors

45. A major difference between political parties and interest groups is that

(A) interest groups typically shift their positions on issues over time, while political parties tend to keep the same position on issues over time
(B) interest groups usually recruit candidates for office, while political parties usually limit themselves to making campaign contributions to candidates
(C) political parties seek to gain control of government, while interest groups seek to influence public policy
(D) political parties tend to have narrow coalitions of support, and interest groups tend to have broad coalitions of support
(E) political parties usually focus on one issue, while interest groups focus mainly on many issues

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46. A referendum can best be described as a vote to

(A) choose party nominees
(B) choose a candidate if no single candidate has a majority after the initial election
(C) determine whether citizens support an action by their state legislature
(D) remove elected officials from office
(E) confirm political appointees

47. Which of the following most accurately describes media coverage of elections?

(A) Coverage of presidential primaries gives relatively equal power to states regardless of when they hold their primaries.
(B) Coverage tends to focus on issues rather than on which candidate is ahead in public opinion polls.
(C) Reporters who use secret sources in their campaign coverage are shielded by federal law from having to reveal those sources.
(D) Radio and television stations must provide on their news broadcasts equal time for and equal coverage of major party candidates.
(E) Network news coverage is usually dominated by reporters who offer relatively short sound bites from the candidates.

48. The Senate must confirm all of the following presidential appointments EXCEPT

(A) United States attorneys
(B) United States Supreme Court justices
(C) White House staff
(D) heads of executive agencies
(E) federal judges

49. When none of the presidential candidates receives a majority of the votes in the electoral college, the winner is chosen by the

(A) Federal Elections Commision
(B) Supreme Court
(C) House of Representatives only
(D) Senate only
(E) majority of the House and Senate combined

50. Which of the following forms of financial aid from the national government gives the states the broadest discretion in the spending of money?

(A) Categorical grants-in-aid
(B) Foreign aid
(C) Unfunded mandates
(D) Block grants
(E) Military funding

51. Congressional legislative powers include all of the following EXCEPT

(A) legislating federal appropriations
(B) approval of treaties
(C) establishing a lower-court system
(D) passing federal laws
(E) pardoning felons

52. A prominent example of the process of returning more of the responsibilities of governing from the national level to the state level is

(A) immigration reform
(B) trade reform
(C) welfare reform
(D) campaign finance reform
(E) national security reform

53. The term “split-ticket voting” is most accurately described as

(A) turning in a spoiled or mutilated ballot as a form of protest
(B) using separate ballots for candidates at the state and national levels
(C) voting Republican in one election cycle and Democratic in the next
(D) voting for candidates of different parties on the same ballot
(E) voting for one party in the primary election and for another party in the general election

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54. Members of Congress who have adopted the delegate role of representation normally cast their votes based on which of the following?

(A) The preferences of the majority of their constituents
(B) Their judgment of what is best for their constituency
(C) The instructions of their political party's leadership
(D) Their political party's most recent policy platform
(E) The advice of congressional staffers and political consultants

55. Under the Articles of Confederation, which of the following were true?

I. Congress could not tax the states directly.
II. The executive branch of government exercised more power than Congress.
III. Congress was a unicameral body.
IV. States were represented in Congress proportionally according to population.

(A) I and II
(B) I and III
(C) I and IV
(D) II and III
(E) II and IV

56. When contributing to congressional campaigns, political action committees (PACs) are most likely to contribute to

(A) incumbents of both major parties
(B) third-party challengers
(C) Republican challengers
(D) state party organizations
(E) national party organizations

57. Which of the following best explains why cabinet secretaries might not aggressively pursue the president's policy agenda?

(A) Cabinet secretaries are unlikely to be members of the president's party.
(B) Cabinet secretaries may develop strong loyalty to their departments.
(C) Cabinet secretaries are likely to compete with the president in a subsequent election.
(D) Under the Hatch Act, cabinet secretaries are prohibited from campaigning on behalf of the president.
(E) The Freedom of Information Act compels cabinet secretaries to divulge confidential information to the media.

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58. When the effects of income and education are eliminated, which of the following statements about voting rates is true?

(A) Black citizens vote at a higher rate than White citizens.
(B) Black citizens vote at a rate about half of White citizens.
(C) Individuals from all races vote at about the same rate.
(D) Asian American voters have the highest voting rates.
(E) There is no change in voting rates.

59. Which of the following is a unique power held by members of the Senate?

(A) Control of the veto
(B) Control of the appropriations process
(C) The ability to filibuster
(D) The ability to impeach the president
(E) The ability to work with a clearly defined constituency

60. If Congress adjourns during the ten days the president has to consider a bill passed by both houses of Congress, but which the president has not yet signed, what is the result?

(A) Line-item veto
(B) Legislative veto
(C) Executive veto
(D) Judicial review
(E) Pocket veto

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.

Section II

Free-Response Questions

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. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. Voter participation and voter behavior in elections are affected by a number of factors.
   a. Describe the effect of each of the following on the level of voter participation in elections.
      - The voter registration requirement
      - Lack of penalties for not voting
      - Ballot fatigue
   b. Describe the effect of each of the following on voter behavior in elections.
      - Race
      - Party identification
      - Geographic regions

2. Each policy-making institution in the United States federal government is subject to restrictions on its power.
   a. Explain how each of the following can restrict presidential power.
      - "Power of the purse"
      - The appointment confirmation process
   b. Explain how each of the following can restrict congressional power.
      - Presidential power as commander-in-chief
      - Executive privilege
   c. Explain how each of the following can restrict judicial power.
      - Enforcement of judicial rulings
      - Constitutional amendments

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3. Several characteristics of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress. Because of the perception that interest groups exert undue influence, Congress has regulated the influence of these groups.
   a. Describe how each of these characteristics of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress.
      - Financial resources
      - Expertise
      - Size
   b. Identify two ways in which Congress has regulated the influence of interest groups.

4. Many people are concerned about large deficits in the federal budget. Rarely does the federal government balance its budget.
   a. Define balanced budget.
   b. Define federal entitlements.
   c. Identify an entitlement and explain how entitlements are a barrier to the federal government achieving a balanced budget.
   d. Describe a consequence of large budget deficits.

STOP

END OF EXAM

Name: _____

AP® United States Government and Politics
Student Answer Sheet for Multiple-Choice Section

No.	Answer
1	
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No.	Answer
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AP® United States Government and Politics
Multiple-Choice Answer Key

No.	Correct Answer
1	B
2	E
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	B
10	C
11	A
12	B
13	C
14	D
15	D
16	B
17	D
18	A
19	C
20	A
21	B
22	E
23	B
24	D
25	E
26	D
27	D
28	B
29	B
30	E

No.	Correct Answer
31	C
32	D
33	E
34	B
35	D
36	C
37	C
38	A
39	B
40	B
41	C
42	C
43	A
44	C
45	C
46	C
47	E
48	C
49	C
50	D
51	E
52	C
53	D
54	A
55	B
56	A
57	B
58	A
59	C
60	E

AP® United States Government and Politics
Free-Response Scoring Guidelines

Question 1

6 points

Part (a): 3 points

One point is earned for each correct description of a factor affecting voter participation in elections.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The voter registration requirement diminishes voter participation by requiring citizens to register prior to an election.
- Lack of penalties for not voting diminishes voter participation because there are no legal consequences for failing to vote.
- Long ballots dissuade voters from voting for all offices. Frequent elections dissuade voters from going to the polls.

Part (b): 3 points

One point is earned for each correct description of a factor affecting voter behavior in presidential elections.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Race: Whites are more likely to vote Republican; African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos are more likely to vote Democratic.
- Party identification: Voters generally vote with the party with which they are identified.
- Geographic regions: Several patterns exist; for example, the South tends to vote Republican, the Pacific Coast tends to vote Democratic, and the Rocky Mountain region tends to vote Republican.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

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Question 2

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct explanation of how the "power of the purse" and the appointment confirmation process can restrict presidential power.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Power of the purse: Congress controls appropriations. The president may request funding, but Congress can deny such requests.
- Appointment confirmation: The president can appoint officials, but the Senate can reject those appointments.

Note: In each case above, the student must explain how or why each limits the power of the institution in question.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct explanation of how the president's power as commander-in-chief and executive privilege can restrict congressional power.

Acceptable explanations include:

- President's power as commander-in-chief: Congress may have the power to declare war, but the president is commander-in-chief and can therefore deploy troops as he or she sees fit.
- Executive privilege: Congress has the powers of oversight and investigation, but the president can refuse to disclose conversations that he or she had with the White House staff.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct explanation of how enforcement of judicial rulings and constitutional amendments can restrict congressional power.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Enforcement of judicial rulings: Courts can issue rulings, but they have no enforcement mechanism to ensure that the rulings are carried out. The courts depend upon others for enforcement.
- Constitutional amendments: Courts can interpret the Constitution, but Congress and the states can pass constitutional amendments that the courts are obligated to follow.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

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Question 3

5 points

Part (a): 3 points

One point is earned for explaining how each specified characteristic of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Financial resources can enhance the influence of an interest group because money enables interest groups to campaign, make monetary contributions, buy independent television time, and employ a large staff.
- Expertise enhances influence because members of Congress will pay attention to and respect what members of the interest group have to say.
- Size enhances influence because the larger the group, the greater the ability to deliver votes and other resources. The larger the group, the greater the potential for fundraising and campaign contributions to influence members of Congress.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two identifications of the ways in which Congress has attempted to limit the influence of interest groups.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Registration requirement for lobbyists.
- Limitations on campaign contributions.
- Disclosure of campaign contributions.
- Limitations on independent expenditures: for example, an issue advocacy ad cannot explicitly endorse a candidate.
- Restrictions on former members of Congress: for example, a two-year "cooling-off" period before the former member can lobby Congress.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

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Question 4

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for defining a balanced budget, noting the salient point that a budget is balanced when federal spending equals federal income.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for defining federal entitlements.

An acceptable definition includes:

- A federal entitlement is a federal program that guarantees a specific level of benefits to persons (or other entities) who meet requirements set by law, such as Social Security, farm price supports, or unemployment benefits.
- Reference may also be made to "eligibility" (a person receives an entitlement if he or she meets certain requirements) and "mandate" (spending that is required by law).

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for identifying a federal entitlement.

Federal entitlements include:

- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Social Security
- Veteran's Administration programs
- Unemployment programs
- Food stamps
- Federal employee and military retirement plans

Note: This list is not exhaustive.

One point is earned for explaining how entitlements are a barrier to the federal government achieving a balanced budget.

Acceptable explanations for impediments:

- Congress has no discretion on how much money to appropriate.
- Since Congress must spend money on entitlement programs, it has insufficient discretion to bring about a balanced budget.
- Since entitlements account for more than two-thirds of the federal budget, Congress is not left with much to cut in order to bring about a balanced budget.

Question 4 (continued)

Note: The two parts of this question are independent of each other. The student may get the first part correct but miss the second part (or vice versa). The student may also "double dip" by identifying an entitlement and then explaining how that entitlement may be a barrier to the federal government achieving a balanced budget.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for describing a consequence of large budget deficits.

Acceptable descriptions include:
- There is a large amount of interest paid on the debt.
- Deferring payment puts a burden on future generations.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.