



AP[®] United States Government and Politics 2010 Scoring Guidelines

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AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two provisions of the Bill of Rights identified. Each provision must be identified and include a discussion of what the provision protects.

Answers may include, but are not limited to:

- Speech — allows citizens to say almost anything they want
- Press — allows citizens access to information, each other and policymakers; printed advocacy
- Assembly — allows citizens to come together
- Petition — allows citizens to address government
- Various due process/criminal justice provisions (e.g., grand jury indictment, jury of peers, search and seizure) — protects citizens from retribution/harassment from government

Part (b): 3 points

One point is earned for each of three explanations. The explanations must include a description of the interest group activity and how that activity may influence the action of a governmental body, official or policy.

- Grassroots mobilization — interest groups organize citizens, who act to influence policymakers
- Lobbying — direct contact with policymakers for the purpose of persuasion through the provision of information, political benefits, etc.
- Litigation — the use of courts to gain policy preferences through cases or amicus curiae

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for describing a regulation. The regulation does not need to be identified by its formal title.

- Disclosure of contributions, funding or activities
- Registration of lobbyists, PACs
- Campaign finance laws
- Limits on gifts
- Limits on revolving-door appointments
- Limits on honoraria
- Prohibition of bribery
- Any named law or regulation with a description of what it does to regulate interest groups

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is attempted but earns no points.

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

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Question 2

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of a characteristic of the merit system. Answers may include:

- Hiring or promotion based on merit/experience/qualifications
- Hiring based on testing

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of factors contributing to bureaucratic independence. Answers may include:

- Structure of the bureaucracy
 - Large
 - Specialized units/expertise
 - Tenure protections/hard to fire
 - Based on merit
 - Independent agencies/independent regulatory commissions
- Complexity of public policy problems
 - Specialized units/expertise
 - Delegated authority — because Congress and the president cannot handle everything, they delegate authority to the bureaucracy
 - Discretionary authority — because legislation lacks details, the bureaucracy can fill in the gaps

Part (c): 3 points

One point is earned for each of three explanations of a constitutional provision that can check the bureaucracy. Answers may include:

- Congress
 - Appropriations — can reward or punish agency
 - Legislation — can pass legislation affecting the bureaucracy
 - Rejection of presidential appointments to the bureaucracy
 - Impeachment of executive officials
- Courts
 - Court rulings that limit bureaucratic practices
 - Judicial review — can declare **bureaucratic actions** unconstitutional
 - Injunctions against federal agencies

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Question 2 (continued)

- Interest groups
 - Use of the First Amendment
 - Lobbying
 - Protests
 - Media usage
 - Speech
 - Litigation

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is attempted but earns no points.

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

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Question 3

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for identifying one specific trend evident in the figure:

- Percentage of House seats for Democrats has trended down.
- Percentage of presidential electoral votes for Democrats has trended down.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each explanation of why, from 1948 to 2000, Southern voters elected Democratic candidates to Congress more frequently than they elected Democratic candidates to the presidency:

- Incumbency advantage — Even though Southern voters were voting for Republican presidential candidates, they continued to vote for incumbent Democratic congressional candidates because of the incumbency advantage.
- Gerrymandering — District lines created safe seats/majority–minority districts, which protected Democratic seats even though there were more Republican voters in statewide presidential elections.
- State versus national parties — Because national and state parties were largely independent of each other, to get votes Democratic congressional candidates responded to local interests, whereas Democratic presidential candidates responded to a national constituency.

Part (c): 3 points

One point is earned for each explanation of how, over the past few decades, party composition has changed with respect to three of the four groups:

- Catholics — They have become less reliable Democratic voters.
- Labor union members — They have become less reliable Democratic voters; have decreased in number and thus there are fewer Democratic supporters; have become a smaller percentage of the Democratic voting bloc.
- Women — They have become more reliable Democratic voters; have increased in number and thus there are more Democratic supporters; have become a larger percentage of the Democratic voting bloc.
- Social conservatives — They were previously nonexistent and have now crystallized to become more reliable Republican voters; previously found in the Democratic party and have moved to the Republican party.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is attempted but earns no points.

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

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Question 4

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each explanation of how each of the following limits the powers of the **national executive**.

- Federalism — divides power between national and state governments, which limits the authority of the national executive.
- Checks and balances — the response must explain how other branches of government can check (limit, restrict) what the executive can do. A correct example of a check or balance on the national executive is acceptable to earn this point.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each explanation of how each of the following limits the powers of the **national government**.

- Establishment Clause — prevents the national government from establishing a national religion or taking any action that would show preferential treatment for one religion over another.
- Guarantee of a public trial — requiring trials to be open to the public limits the government's ability to violate the rights of citizens.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how one of the following limits the power of **state governments**.

- Citizenship Clause — provides a national definition of citizenship that states cannot violate; requires states to provide citizenship guarantees to all who meet the definition of citizen.
- Selective incorporation — prohibits states from denying Bill of Rights provisions regarding freedom of expression, rights of the accused or privacy.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is attempted but earns no points.

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