

2021

AP[®]

 CollegeBoard

AP[®] United States Government and Politics

Free-Response Questions Set 2

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

Time — 1 hour and 40 minutes

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

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1. In October of 2018, musician Taylor Swift used the social media site Instagram to endorse candidates for the United States Congress in the upcoming election. The post was a rare political statement from the pop star, who noted that “I’ve been reluctant to publicly voice my political opinions, but . . . I feel very differently about that now. I always have and always will cast my vote based on which candidate will protect and fight for the human rights I believe we all deserve in this country. . . . So many intelligent, thoughtful, self-possessed people have turned 18 in the past two years and now have the right and privilege to make their vote count. But first you need to register, which is quick and easy to do.”

Immediately following Swift’s Instagram post, thousands of 18– 24 year olds signed up to vote. Swift added a link to the website vote.org in her bio, which lists voting procedures in various states.

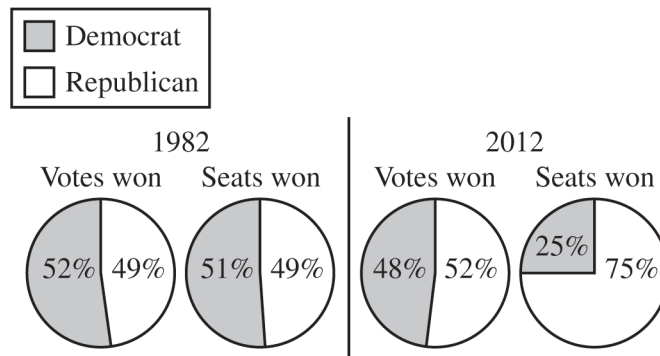
After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below.

- A. Referencing the scenario, describe the structural barrier to voting that is discussed above.
- B. Explain why the structural barrier described in part A may be more of an obstacle in some states than in others.
- C. If youth voter turnout increases as a result of the actions in the scenario, explain how this could affect the way candidates run campaigns in the future.

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

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United States House of Representatives Elections for Ohio: Votes Won versus Seats Won, 1982 and 2012



Note: Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Source: Rich Exner and James Owens, *The Plain Dealer*

2. Use the pie charts to answer the following questions.
- Identify the party that won the highest percentage of votes and seats in 1982.
 - Describe a change between the percentage of seats won by Republicans in 1982 and 2012.
 - Draw a conclusion about the difference in percentage of votes won and seats won in Ohio in the 2012 election as shown in the charts.
 - Explain why the information in the charts could pose a challenge to participatory democracy.

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

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This question requires you to compare a Supreme Court case you studied in class with one you have not studied in class. A summary of the Supreme Court case you did not study in class is presented below and provides all of the information you need to know about this case to answer the prompt.

Betts v. Brady (1942)

3. In 1941, Smith Betts was arrested for robbery in the state of Maryland. Unable to afford a lawyer, he was denied a public defender by a judge and forced to represent himself. He was found guilty and given an eight-year sentence.

In the ensuing case, *Betts v. Brady* (1942), the Supreme Court ruled against Mr. Betts, who claimed his constitutional right to a fair trial was denied. In a 6-3 decision, the Court held that the right to counsel applied to only criminal cases in federal courts and that he did not have a right to counsel in a state court, except in death penalty cases.

Justice Black, in his dissenting opinion, reasoned, “This case can be determined by a resolution of a narrower question: whether, in view of the nature of the offense and the circumstances of his trial and conviction, this petitioner was denied the procedural protection which is his right under the federal Constitution. I think he was.”

- A. Identify the constitutional amendment in the Bill of Rights that is common to both *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963) and *Betts v. Brady* (1942).
- B. Explain how the decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright* relates to the reasoning in Justice Black’s dissenting opinion in *Betts v. Brady*.
- C. Explain how the decision in *Betts v. Brady* demonstrates the principle of federalism.

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

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4. The power of the executive branch in relation to the legislative branch has varied over time. Develop an argument that takes a position on the appropriate balance of power between the president and Congress.

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

- Declaration of Independence
- *The Federalist* 51
- *The Federalist* 70

In your response you should do the following:

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

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

STOP

END OF EXAM