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# AP<sup>®</sup> United States Government and Politics

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

### **Inside:**

#### **Free-Response Question 1**

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
- ☒ **Student Samples**
- ☒ **Scoring Commentary**

**Question 1: Concept Application****3 points**

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**A.** Describe the implied power of Congress being exercised in the scenario. **1 point****Acceptable descriptions include:**

- Congress is reviewing the actions of the bureaucracy.
- Congress is using oversight by requesting information from the bureaucracy.
- The power of oversight is being exercised when Secretary Ross is testifying under oath in front of the House committee.

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**B.** Explain how the media can influence the use of the power described in part A. **1 point****Acceptable explanations include:**

- The media informs voters of an issue, who could then urge Congress to investigate the bureaucracy.
- Congress can learn about the Census's problems through the media and use its oversight powers to resolve them.

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**C.** Explain how the chairperson's actions in the scenario might influence someone engaged in retrospective voting. **1 point****Acceptable explanations include:**

- The retrospective voter model predicts that voters who approve of Maloney's actions will be more likely to vote for her in the next election.
- Voters who disagree with Maloney's decision may vote against her in the future, based on the predictions of the retrospective voter model.
- A citizen may choose to vote for Maloney's party in an upcoming congressional election based on Maloney's behavior.
- Voters might choose to not vote for the incumbent president because they were dissatisfied with the performance of the Commerce Secretary, who was nominated by the president.

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**Total for question 1 3 points**

**Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A) Congress has the implied power to hold congressional oversight hearings as a way to check the power of the ~~the~~ bureaucratic agencies - in this case, to check the power and hold accountable the Census Bureau under the Department of Commerce.

B) The media can influence the power to hold congressional oversight hearings because if Congress is made aware of issues through the media, they will likely take that knowledge and issue an oversight hearing to address the issues. Essentially, the media can directly influence Congress' power by providing them information on issues that ~~need~~ should be addressed/checked.

C) The chairperson, by sending letters to Secretary Ross, yet not getting truthful answers or solutions, could use this to influence a retrospective voter. Retrospective voting is when someone votes for a candidate based on what they've done ~~in~~ in the past. The actions taken by the chair person may show a retrospective voter that the candidate is/was unreliable and not transparent. This may cause the retrospective voter to not vote for the candidate in the future ~~or~~ running due to past failures, and ~~inefficiency~~ inefficiency in their role.

A) an implied power is one not specifically expressed in the Constitution but implied through the necessary ~~and~~ and proper clause.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- A. Congress is exercising its implied power of congressional oversight. This allows congress to overlook the Bureaucracy's actions, such as the Department of commerce, and have them testify before ~~the~~ the court for a congressional hearing where the Department would explain its actions.
- B. The media can enhance the use of congressional oversight because many agencies actions are easily exposed through the media. The media outlets, such as social media or the news, allows the public and the government to see the exposure around the bureaucracy's actions. For example, in this case, because of the New York Times report, congress discovered the issues surrounding the Census Bureau's actions. From the exposure of media, congress is becoming increasingly aware of the Bureau's actions, which in turn is increasing the use of congressional oversight to correct these actions, such as failing to submit key documents.
- C. Someone engaged in retrospective voting means that they look upon a person's ~~past actions~~ past actions in their role

Page 2

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.



- **Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

to decide whether to re-elect or not elect them for that role. Chairperson Maloney held a townhall meeting and sent a letter to Secretary Ross, arguing that Ross, by not being transparent and providing documents ~~with~~<sup>to</sup> the committee, was stopping Congress from fulfilling its duty. Since it is shown that Secretary Ross's past actions were questionable, a retrospective voter will not trust him as they once have. Since this voter does not history to repeat itself and more mistakes to be made, ~~the~~ the retrospective voter will not elect Senator Ross in the upcoming election.

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A.) The implied power of congress being ~~exercised~~ exercised in this scenario is the power to coin money. Congress has the power to tax. This power is not clearly labeled in the constitution.

B.) Media can influence the use of the power to coin money to inform the public on the problems with congress, to influence congressmen to vote yes or no on a bill that either raises or lowers taxes. <sup>For example,</sup> The ~~metropolitan~~ New York Times which is a ~~new~~ reporting site, ~~there~~ is a form of media that can ~~criticize~~ ~~criticize~~ criticize the congressional committee for their faults. This influences policy makers <sup>because they want to</sup> seek the interests of the public and vote in their favor on coining money. Therefore, media plays an important role in ~~proving~~ urging the public's interests ~~and~~ to influence legislation.

C.) The chairpersons actions in this scenario might influence someone engaged in retrospective voting because the voter ~~may~~ ~~will~~ will think back in the past at what ~~governor~~ has this chairperson has done that might gain their vote. Moreover, Chairperson Maloney's action to point out Secretary Ross's fault with not being transparent with the committee might seem favorable to a retrospective voter to vote for the chair person. This is because the retrospective ~~for~~ voter is looking back to see the pros and cons of this chairperson to determine if they want that type of representative.

## Question 1

**Note:** Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

### Overview

The Concept Application question expected responses to apply course concepts in response to a provided real-world scenario. The focus of the scenario was on a congressional committee hearing in which the Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, failed to disclose issues with the 2020 census process. The scenario addresses several topics in the course and exam description from Unit 2 and Unit 5 that relate to Congress holding the federal bureaucracy accountable, the role of the media as an agenda setter, and models of voting behavior.

In part A responses were expected to describe the implied power of Congress to oversee bureaucratic agencies. The focus in part A was for responses to use the information in the scenario to demonstrate that Congress/the House Committee on Oversight and Reform/Chairperson Maloney were holding Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross accountable through their oversight power for the poor execution of the 2020 census. Some responses just identified checks and balances as an implied power without sufficiently demonstrating oversight within the context of that particular check on the bureaucracy.

In part B responses were expected to explain how the media’s investigations could influence congressional oversight, either by describing how the media can raise awareness and activate public pressure, or by directly influencing Chairperson Maloney’s decision to act.

In part C responses were expected to explain how someone engaged in retrospective voting would change their vote based on Chairperson Maloney’s actions from the scenario, either by recognizing her/her actions on behalf of the party and either voting or not voting for her in future elections, or by not voting for the president who appointed Secretary Ross in future elections.

### Sample: 1A

#### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point in part A. The response states “to hold Congressional oversight hearings as a way to check the power of the bureaucratic agencies,” which is an acceptable description of the implied power of Congress being exercised in the scenario.

The response earned 1 point in part B. The response states “if Congress is made aware of issues through the media, they will likely take that knowledge and issue an oversight hearing to address the issues” which sufficiently explains how the media can influence the use of the power in part A.

The response earned 1 point in part C. The response states “The actions taken by the chair person may show a retrospective voter that the candidate is/was unreliable and not transparent. This may cause the retrospective voter to not vote for the candidate in the future running due to past failures,” which sufficiently explains how the chairperson’s actions in the scenario might influence someone engaged in retrospective voting.

### Question 1 (continued)

#### **Sample: 1B**

##### **Score: 2**

The response earned 1 point in part A. The response “allows Congress to overlook the Bureaucracy’s actions” is an acceptable description of the implied power of Congress being exercised in the scenario.

The response earned 1 point in part B. The response explains that “many agencies actions are easily exposed through the media ... From the exposure of the media, Congress ... is increasing the use of congressional oversight to correct these actions.” The response accurately demonstrates how media influences the use of the power described in part A.

The response earned 0 points in part C. Even though the response says “Someone engaged in retrospective voting means that they look upon a persons past actions in their role to decide whether to re-elect or not elect them for that role,” this does not accurately explain how the chairperson’s actions in the scenario might influence someone involved in retrospective voting.

#### **Sample: 1C**

##### **Score: 1**

The response earned 0 points in part A. The response “the power to coin money,” is not an implied power of Congress being exercised in the scenario.

The response earned 0 points in part B. Even though the response states “Media can ... inform the public on problems with congress,” coining money is not an implied power being exercised in the scenario.

The response earned 1 point in part C. The response states “the voter will think back in the past at what has this chairperson has done that might gain their vote.” This is a sufficient explanation because it references how the chairperson’s actions in the scenario might influence someone engaged in retrospective voting.