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

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

### **Inside:**

#### **Free-Response Question 2**

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

**Question 2: Quantitative Analysis****4 points**

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- A.** Identify the year with the fewest number of Democratic women candidates for the Senate. **1 point**

**Acceptable identifications include:**

- 1988

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- B.** Describe the difference in an overall trend in Democratic and Republican women candidates for the Senate as illustrated in the graph. **1 point**

**Acceptable descriptions include:**

- There is an overall increase in female Senate candidates for both Democrats and Republicans, but the increase for Democrats is larger than it is for Republicans.
- There are more female Democratic candidates than female Republican candidates in every election since 1996.

- 
- C.** Draw a conclusion that explains an overall trend shown in the graph. **1 point**

**Acceptable conclusions include:**

- The total number of female Senate candidates increased over time because both parties are responding to voters who want to vote for women.
- The number of women candidates for the Senate increases over time, which might be due to how political parties have changed their messaging over time.
- A broader recognition of the role of women in society has led to more women choosing to run for the Senate.
- Democrats have been more successful in recruiting female Senate candidates to run for office than Republicans.

- 
- D.** Explain how the data in the graph might affect political participation. **1 point**

**Acceptable explanations include:**

- Women may be more encouraged to vote when they see female candidates on the ballot.
- Since there are more women candidates for the Senate than before, political participation might increase because different demographic groups will feel more empowered by the political process.
- Participation may decline among individuals who prefer male candidates for office.

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**Total for question 2 4 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.

The year with the fewest number of democratic women candidates for ~~senate~~ <sup>senate</sup> was 1988.

While from 1980 - 1994, the number of democratic women candidates fluctuated a lot, from roughly 1995 and on, the <sup>number of</sup> democratic women candidates was consistently higher than the number of republican women candidates.

Over the last 40 years, there has been an overall increase in both democratic and republican women candidates for Senate which is a product of increasing gender equality movements. With the increase in support for women's participation in government, it encourages more women to run, ~~hence the~~ <sup>hence</sup> the increase in candidacy.

The data in the graph might <sup>positively</sup> affect political participation by encouraging more people, specifically women, to get involved and interested in politics. Having women in government, and running for power positions, sets an inspirational tone for other women, potentially affecting political turnout.

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) The year with the fewest number of Democratic women candidates for the senate is 1988.
- B) The difference in an overall trend for Democratic and Republican women candidates for the senate is that there have been typically more Democratic women candidates than Republican women candidates over time.
- C) Women tend to vote more liberally, which, in recent times, aligns them with the Democratic party. They tend to care about abortion issues more (pro-choice) and implementing more gun control.
- D) Political participation can be affected ~~by~~ ~~have~~ because having more female candidates to vote for might inspire more women to come out and vote, especially if they see issues that matter to them are being represented. It could also bring new ideas to party agendas, having more women, meaning new groups of voters could become active.

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**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- In 1988 there 0 Democratic Women ~~there~~ was between 1980-2020. B- For most of the years Democrats were on top. C- Over the years women have chosen Democrats because that is more of what they believe in. D- The data might effect Political Participation because women are voting Democratic rather than ~~Reb~~ Republican.

Page 3

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## Question 2

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

### Overview

The Quantitative Analysis question expects responses that interpret data related to women candidates for the U.S. Senate, categorized by party, between 1980–2020. In part A responses were expected to identify the year with the fewest number of Democratic women candidates for the Senate. In part B responses were required to describe a difference in an overall trend in the graph. Additionally, in part C responses were expected to draw a conclusion that explains an overall trend shown in the graph. Finally, in part D responses were expected to explain how the data in the graph might affect political participation.

### Sample: 2A

#### Score: 4

The response earned 1 point in part A. The response identifies “1988” as the year with the fewest number of Democratic women candidates.

The response earned 1 point in part B. The response states “the number of democratic women candidates was consistently higher than the number of republican women candidates” which is an accurate description of an overall trend in the graph.

The response earned 1 point in part C. The response states “there has been an overall increase in both democratic and republican women candidates ... which is a product of increasing gender equality movements,” which is an accurate explanation of a conclusion of an overall trend in the graph.

The response earned 1 point in part D. The response states “The data in the graph might positively affect political participation by encouraging more people, specifically women, to get involved and interested in politics,” which is an accurate explanation of how the data in the graph might affect political participation.

### Sample: 2B

#### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point in part A. The response correctly identifies “1988” as the year with the fewest number of Democratic women candidates.

The response earned 1 point in part B. The response states “there have been typically more Democratic women candidates than Republican women candidates” which correctly describes the difference in the overall trend in the graph.

The response earned 0 points in part C. The response fails to draw an accurate conclusion that explains the overall trend shown in the graph.

## Question 2 (continued)

The response earned 1 point in part D. The response states “because having more female candidates ... might inspire more women to come out and vote” which is a sufficient explanation of how the data in the graph might affect political participation.

### **Sample: 2C**

#### **Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point in part A. The response correctly identifies “1988” as the year with the fewest number of Democratic women candidates.

The response earned 0 points in part B. The response does not sufficiently describe an overall trend in the graph. Stating “For most of the years Democrats were on top” does not provide enough accurate information to describe a difference in an overall trend in Democratic and Republican women candidates for the Senate.

The response earned 0 points in part C. While the response states “over the years women have chosen Democrats because that is more of what they believe in” this does not provide enough information to explain a conclusion about the overall trend in the graph.

The response earned 0 points in part D. While the response states “because women are voting Democratic rather than Republican” this does not provide an explanation for how the data in the graph about women candidates for Senate might affect political participation.