

2024



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

## Free-Response Questions Set 2

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**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**SECTION II**

**Time—1 hour and 40 minutes**

**4 Questions**

**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.**

1. On March 14, 2019, while testifying before a congressional committee, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross said that “The Department of Commerce is fully committed to administering as complete and accurate a decennial census as we can.” Yet, the Census Bureau (a bureaucratic agency that is part of the Department of Commerce) had not met its deadlines and had failed to submit key documents to the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform at the end of 2020.

Committee Chairperson Carolyn B. Maloney grew concerned after holding a town hall meeting and after reading a *New York Times* report that listed the census’s many issues. In December 2020, she sent a letter to Secretary Ross, urging him to provide documents and to explain the Census Bureau’s position. Maloney stressed that the secretary had not communicated any of the problems listed in the *Times* report to the committee.

The Constitution mandates a census every ten years in a manner directed by Congress. Chairperson Maloney argued that Secretary Ross, by not being transparent with the committee, was stopping Congress from fulfilling its constitutional duty.

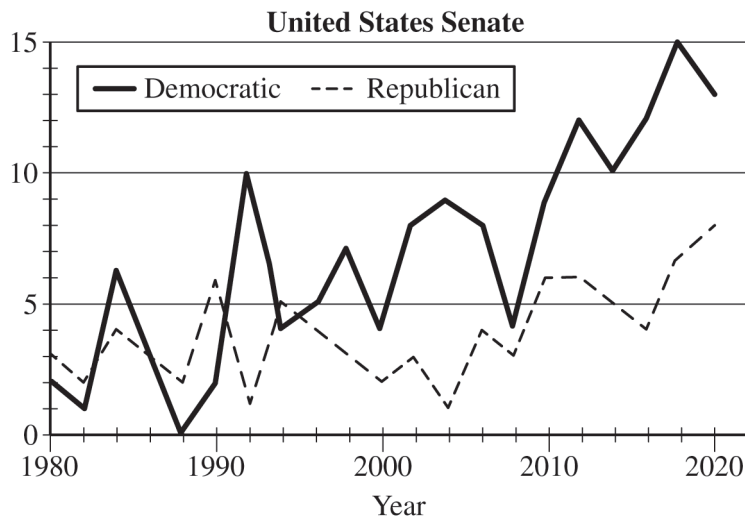
After reading the scenario, please respond to A, B, and C below.

- A. Describe the implied power of Congress being exercised in the scenario.
- B. Explain how the media can influence the use of the power described in part A.
- C. Explain how the chairperson’s actions in the scenario might influence someone engaged in retrospective voting.

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**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.**

## WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR SENATE BY PARTY, 1980–2020



Sources: Colorado Public Radio, 2018; Ballotpedia, 2022

NOTE: Data are for candidates in general elections.

2. Use the line graph to answer the questions.

- Identify the year with the fewest number of Democratic women candidates for the Senate.
- Describe the difference in an overall trend in Democratic and Republican women candidates for the Senate as illustrated in the graph.
- Draw a conclusion that explains an overall trend shown in the graph.
- Explain how the data in the graph might affect political participation.

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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 prompts.**

*Cohen v. California* (1971)

3. In 1968 Paul Cohen wore a jacket displaying an obscene anti-war statement while entering a Los Angeles courthouse. Cohen was arrested and charged under a California statute that prohibited “maliciously and willfully disturb[ing] the peace and quiet of any neighborhood or person [by] offensive conduct.” Cohen asserted that he wore the jacket in protest of the Vietnam War. Cohen was convicted in a Los Angeles court and sentenced to 30 days in jail.

In the subsequent case *Cohen v. California* (1971), the Court ruled in a 5–4 decision in favor of Cohen, overturning his conviction. In the majority opinion, Justice John Marshall Harlan rejected the argument that the state could restrict the words on Cohen’s jacket as offensive conduct. Harlan reasoned that “[O]ne man’s vulgarity is another’s lyric,” warning that “government might soon seize upon the censorship of particular words as a convenient guise for banning the expression of unpopular views.”

- A. Identify the civil liberty that is common to both *Schenck v. United States* (1919) and *Cohen v. California* (1971).
- B. Explain how the facts in *Schenck v. United States* and *Cohen v. California* resulted in different holdings.
- C. Explain how the decision in *Cohen v. California* reflects the democratic ideal of limited government.

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4. Both interest groups and social movements provide avenues for political participation. Develop an argument as to whether interest groups or social movements better reflect the participatory model of democracy.

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

- *Federalist No. 10*
- The First Amendment of the United States Constitution
- “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

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.

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**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**