

2021

AP[®] CollegeBoard

AP[®] United States Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

Inside:

Free Response Question 1

- Scoring Guideline**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

© 2021 College Board. College Board, Advanced Placement, AP, AP Central, and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of College Board. Visit College Board on the web: collegeboard.org.

AP Central is the official online home for the AP Program: apcentral.collegeboard.org.

Question 1: Concept Application**3 points**

-
- A.** Referencing the scenario, describe the structural barrier to voting that is discussed above. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Taylor Swift’s Instagram post addresses voter registration procedures which are a structural barrier to voting.

-
- B.** Explain how the structural barrier described in **part A** may be more of an obstacle in some states than in others. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- The states get to determine rules for elections. Due to federalism, registration procedures vary from state to state.
- Legislators and citizens in different states have different views on what registration procedures should be in place.

-
- 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. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Candidates might recruit celebrities to campaign for them on social media.
- Candidates are likely to engage their supporters on social media to register, vote, donate money, and/or attend campaign events.
- Candidates may adopt and focus on issues that are more important to younger voters.

Total for question 1 3 points



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

- Ⓐ The structural barrier to voting that is referenced in the scenario is having to register to vote. In many states, registering to vote is a manual process that must be completed prior to election day. ~~also~~ This process is what causes many new or first time voters to not be eligible for voting on election days. The scenario references this in the end of Swift's statement when she writes "But first you need to register."
- Ⓑ Many states in the US require registration prior to election day rather than same day registration and voting. There are some states that automatically register voters once they turn 18, like Michigan. Other states allow you to walk into the polling station and register right before voting. The states that don't have either of these implemented means that prior registration is required which creates obstacles for citizens in some states.
- Ⓒ This scenario shows that ^{the} media and celebrities have substantial influence over people, especially their political opinions and voting habits. Considering youth voter turnout increases if their favorite influencer endorses the process, candidates are going to ~~also~~ seek out endorsement from popular stars. Candidates and their campaigns will target specific audiences by gaining public ~~support~~ support from these celebrities, which is the best and most effective way of reaching the youth.



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

- A. The structural barrier to voting discussed is registering to vote.
- B. Registering to vote can be an obstacle in some states rather than others because different states have different requirements on voting and registration. ID laws vary state by state for example.
- C. If voter turnout increases, in the future, candidates could spend more time relating to youth on social media platforms, where they also could give easy access and links on where to go to register to vote.



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

A. the barrier is people feeling it is not important to vote, that they don't feel the need to vote or obligated to.

B. Some states like the bigger ones like California or Texas may not believe they need to vote. This is because California is almost always Democratic while Texas is almost always Republican. This can lead to people believing their vote is not needed or that they don't feel an obligation to vote, because they aren't sure what voting is really going to do if their state is typically one-sided.

C. Voter turnout increased in age range of 18-24 year olds. This brings a much more younger demographic than usual, which ultimately could affect the way candidates run campaigns. They may appeal more to the younger audience, such as using social media to outreach more, express more concern for public education, or more concern for student loans/debts.

Question 1

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

Overview

- The Concept Application question expected students to describe course concepts using real-world scenarios. In this scenario they were given a celebrity quote from an Instagram post that was connected to the course concept of voting rights and voter turnout. Students were expected to recognize structural barriers to voting such as restrictive voter registration laws and procedures. Students were also expected to understand the course concept of federalism with regard to voting laws and procedures for states versus the federal government. Finally, students were expected to understand how candidate campaigns could be altered to impact voter behavior and the influence of media, specifically social media, on candidate campaigns.
- This question expected students to describe a structural barrier to voting. Students were expected to reference the scenario in order to derive the structural barrier. Students were also expected to explain how the voter registration process differs across states and could be impacted by federalism. Finally, students were required to explain how candidates might adjust their campaign with new media types/sources.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point in part A for stating, “The structural barrier to voting that is referenced in the scenario is having to register to vote” and “[t]he scenario references this in the end of Swift’s statement when she writes ‘But first you need to register.’”

The response earned 1 point in part B for stating, “Many states in the US require registration prior to election day rather than same day registration and voting,” and/or “[t]he states that don’t have either of these implemented means that prior registration is required which creates obstacles for citizens in some states.”

The response earned 1 point in part C for stating that “candidates are going to seek out endorsement from popular stars.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response did not earn a point in part A because it does not reference the scenario specifically, even though it states, “The structural barrier to voting discussed is registering to vote.”

The response earned 1 point in part B because it states, “Registering to vote can be an obstacle in some states rather than others because different states have different requirements on voting and registration.”

The response earned 1 point in part C because it states, “If voter turnout increases, in the future, candidates could spend more time relating to youth on social media platforms.”

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response did not earn a point in part A because it does not reference the scenario specifically and does not reference voter registration.

Question 1 (continued)

The response did not earn a point in part B because it does not discuss registration procedures varying from state to state. It only references voting behaviors/practices.

The response earned 1 point in part C for stating, “They may appeal more to the younger audience, such as using social media to outreach more, express more concern for public education, or more concern for student loans/debts.” (All three examples are not needed for the point.)