

2021

AP[®]

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AP[®] United States Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Question 2: Quantitative Analysis**4 points**

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- A.** Identify the president that had the highest percentage of women and racial/ethnic minorities serving in the Cabinet. **1 point**
- President Obama had the highest percentage of women and racial/ethnic minorities serving in his Cabinet.
-
- B.** Describe a pattern in the percentage of racial and ethnic minorities serving in Cabinet positions. **1 point**
- Acceptable descriptions include:**
- Democratic presidents tend to appoint more racial and ethnic minorities to Cabinet positions than Republican presidents.
 - Recent presidents are appointing more racial and ethnic minorities to Cabinet positions, regardless of party.
-
- C.** Draw a conclusion about the political parties and the diversity of Cabinet appointments as shown in the bar graphs. **1 point**
- Acceptable conclusions include:**
- Democratic presidents have appointed more women and minorities because that reflects the demographics of their voters.
 - Republican presidents in the future could appoint more women and minorities to Cabinet level positions in an attempt to appeal to a wider group of voters.
-
- D.** Explain how interest groups can influence presidential Cabinet appointments as shown in the bar graphs. **1 point**
- Acceptable explanations include:**
- Interest groups can use media campaigns to pressure the president to make Cabinet appointments that reflect the interests of the group.
 - Interest groups can use media campaigns to pressure the Senate to confirm or not confirm appointments based on how they reflect the interests of the group.
 - Interest groups can lobby members of the Senate to vote for or against a presidential Cabinet nominee.

Total for question 2 4 points



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

A.) President Obama had the highest percentage of women and minorities serving in the cabinet. He had 36% of his cabinet consisting of women ~~and~~ and 41% of his cabinet consisting of racial/ethnic minorities.

B.) ~~As time progressed closer to the present, more of the~~ the percentage of racial/ethnic minorities in the cabinet steadily increased. ~~Though each~~ The democratic presidents tended to have ~~more~~ a higher percentage of racial/ethnic minorities in the cabinet. Obama had a 41% of ethnic/racial minorities as a democrat, which was the highest ~~percentage~~ percentage of any president listed. The second highest percentage was president Clinton who had 29% racial/ethnic minorities. The two democratic presidents listed had the highest percentage of ~~minority~~ minorities out of all the presidents listed.

C.) Democrats have minorities as a large part of their coalition and ~~also~~ supporters, and their cabinet appointments by president reflect that. A president who is democratic will appoint more diverse members to cabinet to ~~appeal~~ appeal to their supporters. Supporters who are diverse and support minorities in office will see the presidential appointments and have more support for their democratic candidate because of that. The Republican party does not have as large of ~~a~~ support from minorities as the democrats do, so they do not

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.

have incentive to appeal to these voters by having the president appoint ~~more~~ as many diverse candidates as the democrats. ~~However, as time progresses, both parties~~

D.) Interest groups that are focused on getting certain groups or types of people appointed can use their ability as linkage institutions to promote public support to assist their agenda. For example, if there is an interest group focused on getting women into the cabinet, they ~~can~~ can use their ability to endorse and demonstrate support for candidates presidential advocate for their issue and make it an important issue for the public and their own members of the interest group. The president is influenced and held accountable to public opinion because he is the unitary executive as described in the document federalist no. 70. As the public rallies for more female appointments (as started by the interest group) the president listens and responds to the public's opinion. As time progresses and the public continues to want women appointments, presidents make more and more as time continues, demonstrated in the bar graph as the most recent president Obama, has the highest percentage of women in the cabinet that is listed.

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.) Obama had the highest percentage of women and racial/ethnic minorities serving in the cabinet.
- B.) Throughout the years the percentage of racial and ethnic minorities has increased.
- C.) Republican presidents have lower levels of diversity compared to democratic presidents who have higher percentages of women and minorities in their cabinets.
- D.) Interest groups can show desire for certain cabinet appointments that have higher diversity and cause percentages of women and minorities in the cabinet to increase

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.) ~~Clinton~~ Obama-D had the highest percentage of women and racial/ethnic minorities serving in the cabinet positions.

b.) The pattern in the percentage of racial & ethnic minorities serving in the cabinet decreases over time.

c.) The political parties who are Democratic are most likely to have more women than those are with Republicans. The Diversity has gotten significantly increased but there are still more white ~~male~~ males.

d.) Interest groups can influence presidential cabinet appointments by trying to get their goal influenced by Congress and lobby - that there should be more diversity in Congress, rather than having one specific ~~race~~ Race & Gender.

Question 2

Overview

This question expected students to identify data and describe a trend or pattern from a quantitative graph. Responses also needed to draw a conclusion about the political parties that helps explain the changing diversity in Cabinet appointments as illustrated in the graph. Finally, since this task involved integrating the skill of quantitative analysis and content knowledge, responses were expected to demonstrate understanding of how interest groups interact with the executive or legislative branches in the appointment and/or confirmation process.

Sample: 2A

Score: 4

The response earned 1 point in part A because it correctly identifies Obama as the president with the highest percentage of women and racial and ethnic minorities serving in the Cabinet.

The response earned 1 point in part B because it correctly describes the pattern that Democrats had a higher percentage of racial and ethnic minorities in the Cabinet.

The response earned 1 point in part C because it correctly draws a conclusion about political parties and Cabinet diversity by stating, “Democrats have minorities as a large part of their coalition and supporters, and their cabinet appointments by president reflect that. A president who is democratic will appoint more diverse members to cabinet to appeal to their supporters.”

The response earned 1 point in part D because it correctly explains how interest groups can influence presidential Cabinet appointments by stating, “they can advocate for their issue and make it an important issue for the public ... [a]s the public rallies for more female appointments (as started by the interest group) the presidents listen and respond to the public’s opinions.”

Sample: 2B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point in part A because it correctly identifies Obama as the president with the highest percentage of women and racial/ethnic minorities serving in the Cabinet.

The response earned 1 point in part B because it correctly describes the pattern of a general increase in the percentage of racial/ethnic minorities serving in the Cabinet over time.

The response did not earn a point in part C because it does not draw a conclusion about political parties and Cabinet diversity. The response only restates a pattern.

The response did not earn a point in part D because it does not explain how interest groups can influence presidential Cabinet appointments.

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point in part A because it correctly identifies Obama as the president with the highest percentage of women and racial/ethnic minorities serving in the Cabinet.

Question 2 (continued)

The response did not earn a point in part B because it incorrectly describes a pattern of change over time for racial/ethnic minorities as decreasing rather than increasing.

The response did not earn a point in part C because it does not draw a conclusion about political parties and Cabinet diversity as depicted in the graph.

The response did not earn a point in part D because it does not explain how interest groups can influence presidential Cabinet appointments.