AP US Government & Politics

Exam Review

**Unit 2: American Political Culture, Ideology, & Participation**

**Enduring Understanding: Citizen beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change.**

Different interpretations of core values, including individualism, equality of opportunity, free enterprise, rule of law, and limited government, affect the relationship between citizens and the federal government and the relationships citizens have with one another.

Family, schools, peers, media, and social environments (including civic and religious organizations) contribute to the development of an individual’s political attitudes and values through the process of political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The most likely influencer of these is one’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

As a result of globalization, U.S. political culture has both influenced and been influenced by the values of other countries.

Generational and lifecycle effects also contribute to the political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that influences an **individual’s** political attitudes.

The relative importance of major political events to the development of individual political attitudes is an example of political socialization.

**Enduring Understanding: Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results  
of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions.**

Public opinion data that can impact elections and policy debates is affected by such scientific polling types and methods as:

* Type of poll (opinion polls, benchmark or tracking polls, entrance and exit polls)
* Sampling techniques, identification of respondents, mass survey or focus group, sampling error
* Type and format of questions

The relationship between scientific polling and elections and policy debates is affected by the:

* Importance of public opinion as a source of political influence in a given election or policy debate
* Reliability and veracity of public opinion data

**Enduring Understanding: Widely held political ideologies shape policy debates and choices in American policies.**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Party (D or DEM) platforms generally align more closely to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ideological positions, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Party (R or GOP) platforms generally align more closely to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ideological positions.

Because the U.S. is a democracy with a diverse society, public policies generated at any given time reflect the attitudes and beliefs of citizens who choose to participate in politics at that time.

The balancing dynamic of individual liberty and government efforts to promote stability and order has been reflected in policy debates and their outcomes over time.

Liberal ideologies favor more governmental regulation of the marketplace and more emphasis on equality, conservative ideologies favor fewer regulations and more emphasis on order, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ideologies favor little or no regulation of the marketplace beyond the protection of property rights and voluntary trade.

**Enduring Understanding: Widely held political ideologies shape policy debates and choices in American policies.**

Ideological differences on marketplace regulation are based on different theoretical support, including Keynesian and supply-side positions on monetary and fiscal policies promoted by the president, Congress, and the Federal Reserve.

Liberal ideologies tend to think that personal privacy—areas of behavior where government should not intrude—extends further than conservative ideologies do (except in arenas involving religious and educational freedom); conservative ideologies favor less government involvement to ensure social and economic equality; and libertarian ideologies disfavor any governmental intervention beyond the protection of private property and individual liberty.

Policy trends concerning the level of government involvement in social issues reflect the success of conservative or liberal perspectives in political parties.

List and describe the five functions of **political parties**.

Define **partisanship** in six words or less.

Describe how and why third parties begin.

Explain how the American political system limits the influence of third parties.

Describe how third parties can act as “spoilers” in elections. Provide a recent example.

**Enduring Understanding: Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation.**

Legal protections found in federal legislation and the **Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments** relate to the expansion of opportunities for political participation.

* 15th:
* 17th:
* 19th:
* 24th:
* 26th:

Examples of political models explaining voting behavior include: w Rational-choice voting–Voting based on what is perceived to be in the

citizen’s individual interest

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ voting–Voting to decide whether the party or candidate in power should be re-elected based on the recent past
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ voting–Voting based on predictions of how a party or candidate will perform in the future
* Party-line voting–Supporting a party by voting for candidates from one political party for all public offices across the ballot

In addition to the impact that demographics and political efficacy can have on voter choice and turnout, structural barriers and type of election also affect voter turnout in the U.S., as represented by:

* State voter registration law
* Procedures on how, when, and where to vote
* Mid-term (congressional) or general presidential elections

Demographic characteristics and political efficacy or engagement are used to predict the likelihood of whether an individual will vote.

Describe the trends of party identification when it comes to religion, education, age, and economic.

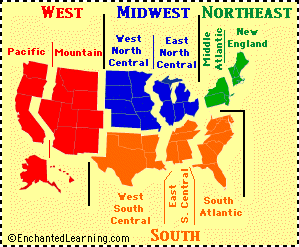
What happens during **party realignment**? Provide some examples of realignment occurring.

What happens during **party dealignment**? Why do many political scientists feel that the US is in a period of party dealignment—how does “**divided government**” play a role?

Using the most recent data from this [chart](http://www.montereyinstitute.org/courses/AP%20Government%20and%20Politics/course%20files/multimedia/lesson12/explore/l12_t01_xp1.htm), put a mark identifying how each group tends to vote.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Demographics** | Trends towards the Democrats? | Trends towards the Republicans? | Inconclusive Trends? |
| Gender: Men |  |  |  |
| Gender: Women |  |  |  |
| Race: White |  |  |  |
| Race: Non-White |  |  |  |
| Education: College |  |  |  |
| Education: High School |  |  |  |
| Occupation: Professional/Business |  |  |  |
| Occupation: White Collar |  |  |  |
| Occupation: Manual Labor |  |  |  |
| Occupation: Union Members |  |  |  |
| Age:Under 30 |  |  |  |
| Age: 30-49 |  |  |  |
| Age: 50 and over |  |  |  |
| Religion: Protestant |  |  |  |
| Religion: Catholic |  |  |  |
| **Demographics** | Trends towards the Democrats? | Trends towards the Republicans? | Inconclusive Trends? |
| Region: East |  |  |  |
| Region: Midwest |  |  |  |
| Region: South |  |  |  |
| Region: West |  |  |  |

Identify each region by ideology. Explain the reasoning behind that ideology.



How does **political efficacy** affect voter intensity?

What is the difference between **internal efficacy** and **external efficacy**?

Based on what you have learned this year, what is the most important factor that determines if a person votes? What demographic groups tend to vote less often? (You will need to use past notes to answer this question)

Other factors influencing voter choice include: w Party identification and ideological orientation

* Candidate characteristics
* Contemporary political issues
* Religious beliefs or affiliation, gender, race and ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics

**Enduring Understanding: Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government and policy- makers.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ institutions are channels, such as the following, that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The functions and impact of political parties on the electorate and government are represented by:

* Mobilization and education of voters
* Party platforms
* Candidate recruitment
* Campaign management, including fundraising and media strategy
* The committee and party leadership systems in legislatures

**Enduring Understanding: Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government and policy- makers.**

Parties have adapted to candidate-centered campaigns, and their role in nominating candidates has been weakened.

Parties modify their policies and messaging to appeal to various demographic coalitions.

The structure of parties has been influenced by:

* Critical elections and regional realignments
* Campaign finance law
* Changes in communication and data-management technology

Parties use communication technology and voter-data management to disseminate, control, and clarify political messages and enhance outreach and mobilization efforts.

Interest groups may represent very specific or more general interests, and can educate voters and office holders, draft legislation, and mobilize membership to apply pressure on and work with legislators and government agencies.

Why do political interest groups participate in **electioneering**?

Why did **Political Action Committees** (PACs) begin? What do PACs do?

Even though interest groups often have a negative reputation, how do interest groups positively influence the USA?

What is an iron triangle?

Interest group influence may be impacted by: w Inequality of political and economic resources

* Unequal access to decision makers
* “Free rider” problem – Explain:

Largest interest group:

Largest labor union:

Single-issue groups, ideological/social movements, and protest movements form with the goal of impacting society and policy making.

Competing actors such as interest groups, professional organizations, social movements, the military, and bureaucratic agencies influence policy making, such as the federal budget process, at key stages and to varying degrees.

Elections and political parties are related to major policy shifts or initiatives, occasionally leading to political realignments of voting constituencies.

**Enduring Understanding: The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum.**

The process and outcomes in U.S. presidential elections are impacted by:

* Incumbency advantage phenomenon – Provide at least 4 incumbency advantages:

* Open primaries (define, provide example):
* Caucuses (define, provide example):
* Party conventions:

* Congressional and state elections
* The Electoral College

Discuss why the Framers were hesitant to allow a popular vote to determine who would become president.

Briefly explain how the **Electoral College** works. How does the **winner-take-all** feature affect elections?

List the pros and cons of using the **Electoral College**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros of the Electoral College** | **Cons of the Electoral College** |
|  |  |

The winner-take-all allocation of votes per state (except \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) under the setup of the Electoral College compared with the national popular vote for president raises questions about whether the Electoral College facilitates or impedes democracy.

The process and outcomes in U.S. Congressional elections are impacted by:

* Incumbency advantage phenomenon
* Open and closed primaries
* Caucuses
* General (presidential and mid-term) elections

The benefits and drawbacks of modern campaigns are represented by:

* Dependence on professional consultants
* Rising campaign costs and intensive fundraising efforts
* Duration of election cycles
* Impact of and reliance on social media for campaign communication and fundraising

Federal legislation and case law pertaining to campaign finance demonstrate the ongoing debate over the role of money in political and free speech, as set forth in:

* *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976):
* Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002:
* ***Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*** (2010):

Define hard money:

Define soft money:

Debates have increased over free speech and competitive and fair elections related to money and campaign funding (including contributions from individuals, political action committees, and political parties).

Different types of political action committees (PACs) influence elections and policy making through fundraising and spending.

Describe the job of the Federal Elections Commission (FEC).

**Enduring Understanding: The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically.**

Traditional news media, new communication technologies, and advances in social media have profoundly influenced how citizens routinely acquire political information, including new events, investigative journalism, election coverage, and political commentary.

The media’s use of polling results to convey popular levels of trust and confidence in government can impact elections by turning such events into “horse races” based more on popularity and factors other than qualifications and platforms of candidates.

Political participation is influenced by a variety of media coverage, analysis, and commentary on political events.

Hard news (define; provide examples):

Soft news (define; provide examples):

Commentary (define; provide examples):

The rapidly increasing demand for media and political communications outlets from an ideologically diverse audience have led to debates over media bias and the impact of media ownership and partisan news sites.

The nature of democratic debate and the level of political knowledge among citizens is impacted by:

* Increased media choices
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ oriented programming
* Consumer-driven media outlets and emerging technologies that reinforce existing beliefs
* Uncertainty over the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of news sources and information