

# Answering the Multiple-Choice Questions

## Chapter 3

### OVERVIEW

- Practice plan
- Basic information about Section I
- Pacing
- Analyzing questions
- Educated guessing
- Practicing
- Summing it up

This chapter provides some basic information about the AP U.S. Government & Politics test as well as strategies for answering the different types of questions that you will find on it. During your time in school, you have answered hundreds, probably thousands, of multiple-choice items. This AP test is not that different, and like other tests, if you have studied and know some test-taking techniques, you can do well.

### PRACTICE PLAN

Use the Practice Test 1: Diagnostic as a tool to improve your objective test-taking skills. Use the techniques explained in this chapter to practice answering the questions. Then correct your responses with the answer key provided for each practice test. If you do not understand why an answer is correct, refer to the explanations given after the answer key. It is a good idea to read the answer explanations to all of the questions anyway, because you may find ideas or tips that will help you better analyze the answer choices to questions on the next practice test you take and on the real test. The answer explanations often have additional information about the topic that could come in handy in answering other questions.

**TIP**

Be sure to take a watch with you on test day so you can pace yourself, but don't use the alarm.

**BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT SECTION I**

- Section I consists of 60 questions. There are five possible answer choices for each question.
- You will have 45 minutes to answer the questions in Section I.
- You will receive 1 point for each correct answer. Points are not deducted for questions that you leave blank. If you answer incorrectly, a quarter of a point is subtracted. This is the guessing penalty.
- Section I counts for 50 percent of your score.
- Of the five areas of skills and abilities that the College Board says this AP test measures, three relate directly to the multiple-choice section:
  - Factual knowledge: facts, concepts, and theories of U.S. government
  - Comprehension of the typical patterns of political processes and behaviors and their effects
  - Analysis and interpretation of governmental and political data and of relationships in government and politics
- Both the essay questions and the multiple-choice questions are based on content from the following six areas of study dealing with U.S. government and politics:
  - Constitutional Basis of the Government
    - Influences on the Framers of the Constitution
    - Separation of powers and checks and balances
    - Concept of federalism
    - Theories of democratic government
  - Political Beliefs and Behaviors of Individuals
    - Basic political beliefs that individuals hold
    - Ways people acquire political knowledge and attitudes
    - Public opinion
    - Factors that influence how and why people develop different political beliefs and behaviors
    - Methods of political participation, including voting
  - Political Behavior of Groups: Functions, Activities, Sources of Power, Influences
    - Political parties
    - Elections
    - Interest groups, including PACs
    - The mass media

- National Government: Organization, Functions, Activities, Interrelationships
  - Presidency
  - Congress
  - Federal judiciary
  - Federal bureaucracy
  - Role of voters, nongovernmental groups, and public opinion
  - Linkages between government institutions and voters, public opinion, interest groups, political parties, mass media, and subnational governments
- Public Policy
  - How policy is made and by whom
  - How policy is implemented: the role of the bureaucracy and the courts
  - Influences: political parties, interest groups, voters, and public opinion
  - Linkages between public policies and political parties, interest groups, voters, and public opinion
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
  - Constitutional guarantees
  - Role of judicial interpretation
  - Impact of the Fourteenth Amendment
- The College Board breaks down the categories to show approximate percentages of questions in each broad area of study. The following list shows the range of questions that might appear on an AP U.S. Government & Politics Test. The largest number of questions—between 21 and 27—deal with the national government, so spending time studying the four institutions of the national government would be time well spent.
  - Constitutional Basis of the Government—5 to 15 percent
  - Political Beliefs and Behaviors of Individuals—10 to 20 percent
  - Political Behavior of Groups: Functions, Activities, Sources of Power, Influences—10 to 20 percent
  - National Government: Organization, Functions, Activities, Interrelationships—35 to 45 percent
  - Public Policy—5 to 15 percent
  - Civil Rights and Civil Liberties—5 to 15 percent

- The majority of questions are statements to complete or questions to answer. Some questions are based on visuals, such as cartoons or tables, or on brief quotations and are known as stimulus-response questions. The graphics questions are usually straightforward read-and-interpret questions. Occasionally, you may find an additional question related to the visual that asks for an answer requiring knowledge other than what is shown in the graphic.
- Generally, the questions in the beginning of the test tend to be easier, and questions become more difficult as you progress through the test.
- You can answer some combination of answers correctly, leave some questions blank, and write four acceptable essays and still get a score of 3. The more multiple-choice questions you answer correctly, the greater your chance of a higher score and the less pressure on you for writing exceptional essays.

**ALERT!**

When skipping questions, be sure to skip their answer ovals on the answer sheet.

These last two facts mean that you should try to answer as many of the questions at the beginning of the test as possible and that you do not have to answer all of the questions.

**TIP**

Working out a plan to pace yourself is important.

**PACING**

Answering 60 questions in 45 minutes may seem like running a marathon in record time. It is important to remember that you may not be able to answer all the questions, even with educated guessing. But you should pace yourself so you can read all of the questions, answer the easier ones, and leave the harder ones to return to later.

Because the questions at the beginning of the test tend to be easier, you might plan to spend more time on those questions and less time on the final questions. For example, rather than allotting yourself 45 seconds to read and answer each question, think about dividing your 45 minutes into 15-minute segments. Then divide up the questions so that you tackle more in the first 15 minutes, when you are fresh, than in the last 15 minutes, when you are tired and the questions are more difficult. Or, if you start slowly, surge in the middle, and lag at the end, you might try to pace yourself to answer more questions in the middle of the test. One of the benefits of taking the practice tests in this book is that you can devise a pacing schedule that best fits how you work.

In developing your plan, however, understand that when we say you may be working on 15 questions in the final 15 minutes, we do not necessarily mean that you are doing the *last* 15 questions on the test in those final 15 minutes. We mean that the last questions you work on should be the ones that are the most difficult for you to answer. You should skip truly difficult questions on your first pass through the test rather than spend time trying to figure them out. Even the College Board suggests this.

Here are some other suggestions to help you pace yourself:

- Don't spend too much time on a difficult question.
- If you read a question and the content and answer choices don't seem familiar, skip the question. Put an "X" next to it in the test booklet and be sure you skip the answer oval.
- If you read a question and don't know the answer immediately but at least one of the answer choices seems wrong, try the suggestions listed on page 8 for making an educated guess. If you can't immediately eliminate any other answer choices, don't spend any more time. Put a check (✓) next to the question and move on, skipping the answer oval for the question.
- When you have read through the entire test and have answered what you can immediately or with a few seconds' thought, go back first to the questions marked with a check and try those again. If you still have time, try the questions you marked with an X.

One word of advice: Don't worry if a question at the beginning of the test seems too difficult for you. Although we say the earlier questions tend to be easier, all things are relative. What may be a snap question for some students because the subject was their teacher's favorite may be a blank to other students because they only spent one class period on it.

## ANALYZING QUESTIONS

As you now know, the test assesses three types of skills and abilities and uses several question types to do this. The following examples illustrate how the test writers mix and match question types and content to assess what you know and can do.

### Questions and Sentence Completions

Some questions simply ask for straight recall of information. They want to know what facts, terms, concepts, and generalizations you know. These questions may be in the form of a straightforward question or a sentence completion, such as:



*Marbury v. Madison* established

- (A) the scope of presidential war powers.
- (B) the principle of judicial review.
- (C) the principle of implied powers in the Constitution.
- (D) Congress's right to regulate interstate commerce.
- (E) the principle of separate but equal.

# ALERT!

Don't make marks on the answer sheet except to fill in answer ovals. Stray marks confuse the machine that scores the tests.

**A** The correct answer is (B). If you did not know the answer immediately, you could eliminate at least one possible answer, choice (E). Madison served both as secretary of state and president before cases began to come to the Supreme Court about the rights of African Americans, the most logical topic for a “separate but equal” court case.

A question may also use a qualifier such as NOT or EXCEPT, such as:

**Q** All of the following were provisions of the Constitution as originally ratified EXCEPT

- (A) indirect election of senators.
- (B) the counting of three fifths of slaves for purposes of determining representation in the House.
- (C) abolition of the internal slave trade.
- (D) enumerated powers.
- (E) the elastic clause.

**A** The correct answer is (C). The Constitution forbade the importation of slaves after 1808 but said nothing about the internal slave trade, which grew dramatically in the following decades with the spread of cotton agriculture.

## TIP

Always read all of the answers before making your choice.

Both of these questions ask you to recall certain information that you have learned. The second question has a twist. It wants the wrong answer—that is, it wants you to select the choice that was not a part of the Constitution as it was originally ratified. To answer questions that ask you to find the answer choice that does not belong, read each answer and ask yourself if the answer choice is correct in relation to the content. If it is, cross it off and try the next response. Keep going until you find a response that is *not* true in relation to the content of the question. Similar questions may use key words such as NOT and LEAST.

## NOTE

As you read the questions, circle, underline, or bracket key words. Be sure you understand what the question is asking before you choose your answer.

### Key Words

Although most questions follow the questioning format or the sentence completion format, not all ask for straightforward recall. Some require analysis and interpretation.

- Look for words that signal cause-and-effect relationships, such as *because of*, *direct result of*, *consequence of*, *primary reason*, and *primary purpose*.
- Look for words that ask you to analyze or interpret, such as *most significant*, *significance of*, *most characteristic of*, *most accurately describes*, *best describes*, *best known for*, *primarily*, and *most influential*.

A word like *significant* means you should be looking for why something is important in the larger context of U.S. government and politics, possibly an underlying concept or a generalization. Words such as *best describes* or *least likely* are asking you to analyze the information and come up with an opinion based on facts. In both instances, one or more of the

answer choices may be correct; you need to look for the one that is most inclusive, giving the broadest view of the subject.

### Two-Step Questions

Two-step or tiered questions require you to decide which point or points are correct and then to determine which answer choice corresponds to your determination.

- Q** Medicaid is a
- I. federally funded program.
  - II. private insurance program.
  - III. state-funded program.
- (A) I and II  
(B) I, II, and III  
(C) I and III  
(D) II and III  
(E) I only

**A** **The correct answer is (C).** To answer this question, you first need to read each item and decide whether Medicaid is a federally funded program (item I), a private insurance program (item II), and/or a state-funded program (item III). Medicaid, which pays for medical assistance for the poor—those who are under 65 and are eligible for welfare as well as poor children, poor pregnant women, and the elderly who are not eligible for welfare—is financed by both the federal government and state governments, so items I and III are correct. Then you need to determine which answer choice matches your response. Only choice (C) includes items I and III.

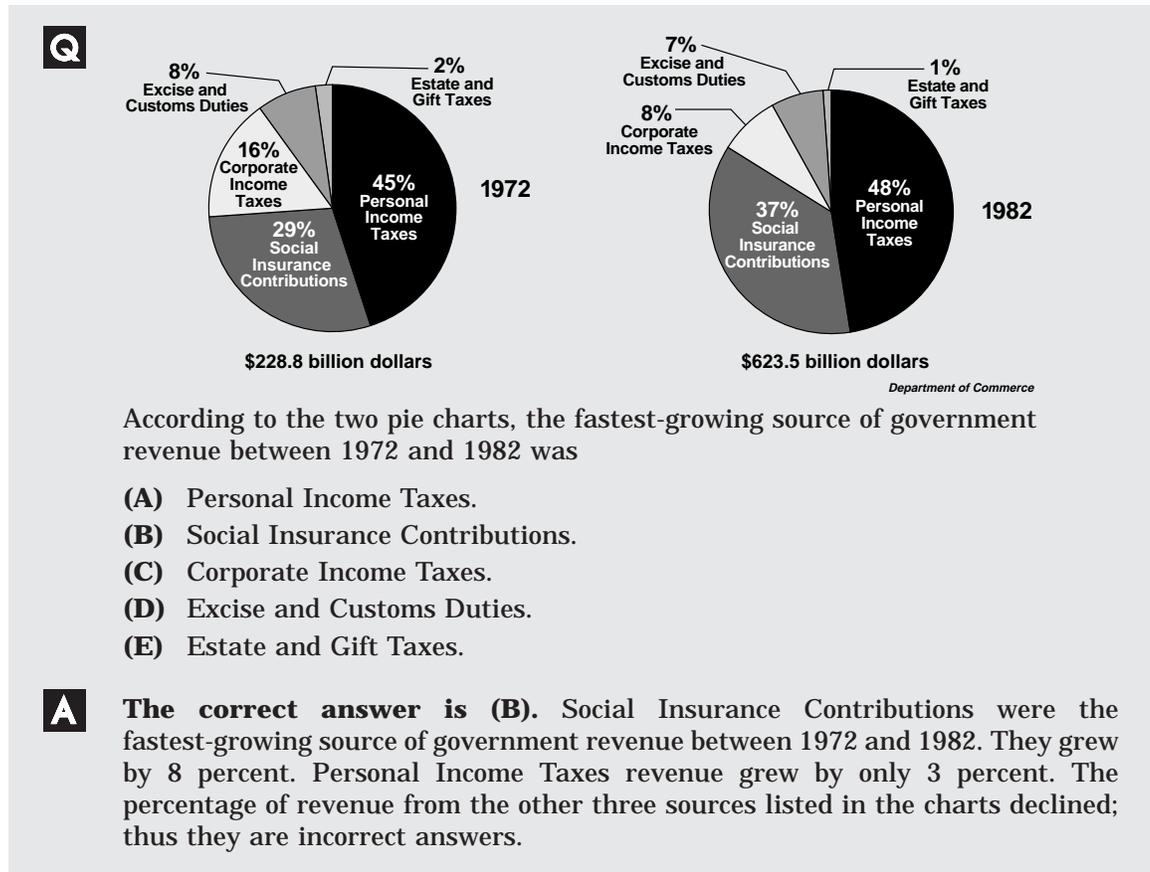
This question format is often used to ask you to put events in sequential order, such as how a bill becomes a law or what the steps are in the appeals process.

### Stimulus-Response Questions

Stimulus-response questions are based on visuals or on short quotations. Most often, the visuals are political cartoons, tables, or graphs. The quotations may be taken from court decisions, from the Constitution, or from the writings of famous people. You cannot read and know every word in the Constitution or in relevant court cases, but when taking the test you can remember to:

- Read the quotation and highlight the key words in it.
- Restate the quotation to be sure you understand it.
- Read the question and highlight the key words in it.
- Relate the question to the quotation.
- Keep this restatement in mind as you read the answer choices.

Questions based on visuals usually ask you to choose the answer that is best supported by the data.



In this question, as in most questions on the test, the relationship is usually clear. The problem comes when you try to read too much into the data and choose an answer that may be true but which the given data does not support. When confronted with a question based on a table or graph, follow these helpful hints:

- Read the question stem first and highlight key words.
- Read the title of the graphic.
- Read the categories on the  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes of line graphs or bar graphs.
- Read all the labels identifying the data.
- Look for trends in the data.
- Read the question again and then read the answer choices.

In the end, knowing the type of question you are being asked is less important than paying attention to what the question is asking you. Circle, underline, or bracket the key words in the question. Use them to guide you to the correct answer.

## EDUCATED GUESSING

Remember what we said about educated guessing. As you practice taking the practice tests and exercises in this book, use the strategies for making educated guesses when you know something about a question but are not sure of the answer. Once you see how educated guessing can help raise your score, you will feel more confident using the strategies during the real test.

## PRACTICING

Read and answer the exercises on the next page. Jot down your answers to the questions in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper. If you do not understand a question, you may check the explanation immediately. You may refer to the answers question by question, or you may wish to score the entire set at one time. Either is acceptable.

Follow the same procedure with Exercises 2 and 3. You might want to complete Exercise 2 and correct the answers before you try Exercise 3. That way you will have another chance to work on any specific areas of weakness in your test-taking skills.

## NOTE

Once you have finished an exercise, read all the explanations. The reasoning involved and the additional information may help with questions on the real test.

## EXERCISE 1

**Directions:** Each question or incomplete sentence is followed by five suggested responses. Select the best answer.

1. Social Insurance Contributions (FICA) include
  - I. Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance.
  - II. Medicare.
  - III. Worker's Compensation.
  - (A) I
  - (B) II
  - (C) III
  - (D) I and II only
  - (E) II and III only
  
2. Which of the following was adopted to resolve the issue of representation in the House and Senate?
  - (A) Three-Fifths Compromise
  - (B) New Jersey Plan
  - (C) Direct election of senators
  - (D) Great Compromise
  - (E) Virginia Plan
  
3. Why was the presidential election of 1980 of major significance?
  - (A) It demonstrated the importance of the economy in presidential elections.
  - (B) It signaled a shift among voters to conservatism.
  - (C) It reawakened interest in party politics.
  - (D) It was the first time a movie star was elected president.
  - (E) It showed a weariness with Jimmy Carter's leadership style.

QUESTIONS 4–5 REFER TO THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT FROM THE CONSTITUTION.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

4. All of the following types of cases are prosecuted under this amendment EXCEPT
  - (A) sexual harassment.
  - (B) blocking access to public places.
  - (C) obstructing the right to vote.
  - (D) burning the U.S. flag.
  - (E) refusing college admission to students based on race.
  
5. Which of the following Supreme Court decisions was based on this amendment?
  - (A) *Gideon v. Wainwright*
  - (B) *Wesberry v. Sanders*
  - (C) *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*
  - (D) *Schechter Poultry v. the United States*
  - (E) *Mapp v. Ohio*

6. An iron triangle refers to the cooperative relationship found
- (A) among the three levels of the federal judiciary.
  - (B) in the separation of powers.
  - (C) between a congressional committee, a government agency, and their client interest groups.
  - (D) in the system of checks and balances.
  - (E) between a federal department, a regulatory agency, and a congressional committee.
7. The bully pulpit is a tool for shaping public opinion used by the
- (A) media.
  - (B) president.
  - (C) Speaker of the House.
  - (D) interest groups.
  - (E) Senate majority leader.
8. The Miranda rule is an example of
- (A) procedural due process.
  - (B) equal protection under the law.
  - (C) police power.
  - (D) substantive due process.
  - (E) habeas corpus.

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**ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS**

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1. D	3. B	5. C	7. B
2. D	4. D	6. C	8. A

- 1. The correct answer is (D).** After you read the question stem, read through the items and decide which ones complete the sentence correctly. FICA includes Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (item I) and Medicare (item II), but not Worker’s Compensation (item III). Then check which of the five answer choices include items I and II. Only choice (D) lists both and is, therefore, the correct answer.
- 2. The correct answer is (D).** According to the Great or Connecticut Compromise, there would be two legislative houses. In the lower house, each state would have representation based on population, whereas in the upper house each state would have two representatives. Choice (A) refers to the compromise about counting slaves as part of the population, and choice (B) refers to a plan for allotting the same number of representatives for each state. Choice (E) was a plan to base representation on state population.
- 3. The correct answer is (B).** Choices (A), (D), and (E) were all factors in the election of 1980, but the election’s significance lay in the turn of many voters toward more limited government. Ronald Reagan was the first conservative president elected since Calvin Coolidge. Reagan campaigned on a platform of lower taxes, reduced government spending, and a strengthened military. Choice (C) is incorrect.
- 4. The correct answer is (D).** The amendment quoted is the Fourteenth Amendment, which is used to prosecute cases that violate a person’s civil rights or civil liberties. Choices (A), (B), (C), and (E) all relate to these areas of the law. Choice (D) relates to the First Amendment’s guarantee of freedom of speech. Do not be confused by choice (E). While the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *Hopwood v. State of Texas* that a state college or university cannot use race as a factor in granting admissions or scholarships, a person still cannot be denied admission because of his or her race. (The *Hopwood* decision relates only to the jurisdiction of the Fifth Circuit—Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.)
- 5. The correct answer is (C).** The decision in choice (C), *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, was based on the equal protection clause of the **Fourteenth Amendment**. The decision in choice (A), *Gideon v. Wainwright*, continued the nationalization of the guarantees of the Bill of Rights, in this instance, the **Sixth Amendment’s** guarantee of the right of the poor to an attorney in felony cases. The Supreme Court decision in choice (B), *Wesberry v. Sanders*, cited Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution as the basis for overturning the case, one in the series of “one man, one vote” cases the Court has heard. The law that authorized the National Recovery Administration (NRA) was overturned in *Schechter Poultry v. United States*, choice (D), on the basis that it violated the commerce clause of Article I. The Supreme Court ruled in *Mapp v. Ohio*, choice (E), that evidence obtained through unreasonable search and seizure violated the Fourth Amendment and could not be used in a trial.

6. **The correct answer is (C).** Although there are three levels of the federal judiciary, choice (A), this answer is incorrect. Choices (B) and (D) are good distracters but are the wrong answers. Choice (E) is illogical because a regulatory agency is part of the federal bureaucracy.
7. **The correct answer is (B).** The term *bully pulpit* was coined by President Theodore Roosevelt and refers to the use of the president's position to rally public support for issues. By virtue of his office, the president's words and actions are newsworthy. No other public official has the same ability to focus national attention, thus making choices (C), (D), and (E) incorrect. Choice (A) is illogical since the media are the tools the president uses.
8. **The correct answer is (A).** Procedural due process, choice (A), means that the police may not violate a person's rights in the enforcement of the law. Reading a suspect his or her rights under the Miranda decision is an example of procedural due process. Substantive due process, choice (D), refers to the finding of the courts that a law is unreasonable. Choices (B), (C), and (E) are incorrect. Choice (E) refers to the order to bring an accused person before a court of law to determine whether he or she is being held lawfully.

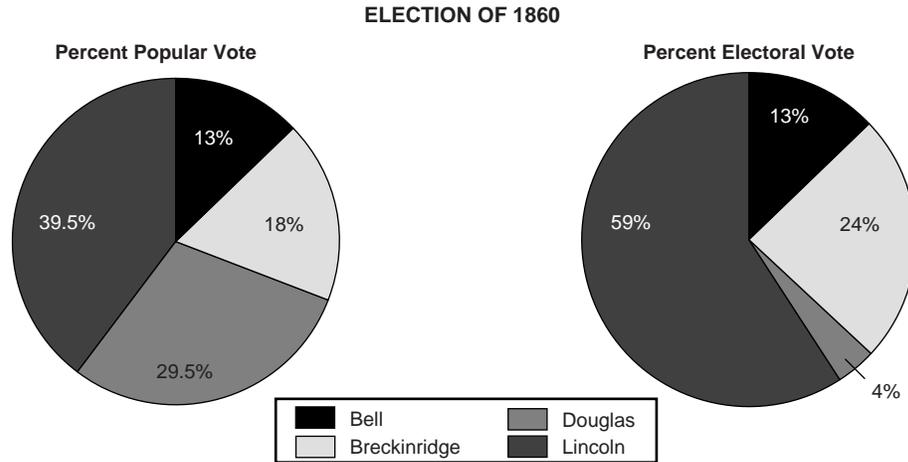
**EXERCISE 2**

**Directions:** Each question or incomplete sentence is followed by five suggested responses. Select the best answer.

1. The case against John Peter Zenger is considered a landmark case in the development of which freedom?
  - (A) Speech
  - (B) Religion
  - (C) The press
  - (D) The right to bear arms
  - (E) The right to assemble
2. The major significance of the delegated powers listed in the Constitution is that
  - (A) the powers correct areas of weakness in the Articles of Confederation.
  - (B) Congress is given the power to levy and collect taxes.
  - (C) the delegated powers relate to matters of common concern across the states.
  - (D) the states reserve some powers to themselves.
  - (E) the Tenth Amendment asserts that powers not given to the states reside with the federal government.
3. In *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, the Supreme Court ruled that
  - (A) affirmative action programs were unconstitutional.
  - (B) President Johnson had erred in issuing his executive order requiring those who received federal money to hire and promote members of minorities.
  - (C) while strict racial quotas were unconstitutional in determining admissions, race could be taken into consideration.
  - (D) bilingual education was not mandatory.
  - (E) the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination in hiring and firing, wages, and promotion based on sex, race, religion, or place of birth, was constitutional.
4. All of the following are examples of the concept that third parties often develop out of some radical approach to a problem EXCEPT the
  - (A) Populists.
  - (B) Progressives.
  - (C) Know-Nothings.
  - (D) Democrats (Andrew Jackson era).
  - (E) Republicans (founded in 1854).

5. The most significant fact about the 1960 presidential election was that
- (A) the primaries pitted two branches of the Democratic Party against each other.
  - (B) an incumbent vice president lost his bid for the presidency.
  - (C) television played a role in determining the outcome of the election.
  - (D) voters elected the first Roman Catholic president.
  - (E) in an attempt to balance the ticket, the Democrats chose a Southerner as the vice presidential nominee.
6. In the mid-twentieth century, which of the following issues would most likely have resulted in a vote along sectional lines in Congress?
- (A) Gay rights legislation
  - (B) Civil rights legislation
  - (C) Aid to education
  - (D) Equal Rights Amendment
  - (E) Social Security increases
7. Which of the following are provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986?
- I. Knowingly hiring an undocumented alien is a crime.
  - II. For one year, undocumented aliens could take advantage of an amnesty program to become legal residents of the United States.
  - III. Undocumented aliens are prohibited from receiving social security benefits.
  - IV. Undocumented aliens are prohibited from public housing.
- (A) I only
  - (B) II only
  - (C) I and II
  - (D) III and IV
  - (E) I, III, and IV

QUESTION 8 REFERS TO THE FOLLOWING PIE CHARTS AND TABLE.



	Electoral Vote by State	Popular Vote	Percent Popular Vote
Bell Constitutional Union Party	39	592,906	13%
Breckinridge Democrat (S)	72	848,356	18%
Douglas Democrat (N)	12	1,382,713	29.5%
Lincoln Republican	180	1,865,593	39.5%

- 8.** The information in these pie charts and table illustrates what problem that can occur with the emergence of third parties in presidential elections?
- (A) Most splinter parties break off from the Democratic Party.
  - (B) A strong showing by third-party candidates can throw a presidential election into the House.
  - (C) A strong showing by a third-party candidate can give that candidate leverage in bargaining with the front-runner.
  - (D) A strong showing by third-party candidates can result in a president elected by less than a majority of the voters.
  - (E) To win, a candidate must win the states with the largest populations.

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

1. C	3. C	5. C	7. C
2. C	4. D	6. B	8. D

- The correct answer is (C).** Zenger published articles in his newspaper accusing the colonial governor of New York of election fraud, misappropriating public funds, and bribery. According to British libel law, it did not matter if the accusations were true, but Zenger's lawyer argued that the truth did matter and won Zenger's acquittal. Although British libel laws did not change, this case emboldened colonial newspapers to express opinions unpopular with the government and laid the foundation for freedom of the press as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. The **First Amendment** guarantees choice (C) as well as choice (A), freedom of speech; choice (B), freedom of religion; and choice (E), the right to assemble. Choice (D), the right to bear arms, is guaranteed by the Second Amendment.
- The correct answer is (C).** Choices (A), (B), (C), and (D) are true statements, but choice (D) does not relate to the delegated powers, so it can be eliminated. Of the other three choices, choices (A) and (B) are very specific. Choice (C) is a general view of delegated powers and thus a better answer. Choice (E) is the opposite of what the **Tenth Amendment** states. All powers not specifically delegated to the federal government reside with the states.
- The correct answer is (C).** The *Bakke* decision had a limited application and was not applied to all affirmative action programs, so choice (A) is incorrect. Choice (B) is incorrect; the decision did not overrule Johnson's executive order. Choice (D) is incorrect and does not relate to affirmative action. Choice (E) is incorrect; the constitutionality of the law was not questioned.
- The correct answer is (D).** The Democrats who formed to support Andrew Jackson were something of an anomaly in the history of American third parties. Their purpose was to elect Jackson; there was no particular single driving social, political, or economic issue they wished to solve. The Populists, choice (A), were interested in reforms aimed at helping farmers, such as coinage of silver. Choice (B) advocated a number of reforms at all levels of society: government, business, social mores, and politics. Choice (C) formed to limit immigration and to keep Catholics and naturalized citizens out of government. Choice (E) formed from the Whig and Free-Soil Parties and abolitionists.
- The correct answer is (C).** In a series of televised debates between Vice President Richard Nixon, the Republican nominee, and John F. Kennedy, the Democratic nominee, Kennedy showed that he had the experience and ability to handle himself that Nixon claimed Kennedy lacked. The television camera was also more flattering to Kennedy, who was more handsome and more at ease than the heavy-jowled and perspiring Nixon. Choices (A), (B), (D), and (E) are all true statements about the election of 1960 but are not particularly significant in terms of contributing principles or generalizations to the study of U.S. government and politics. The 1960 election, however, marked the arrival of television as an important medium for the communication—and manipulation—of political messages.
- The correct answer is (B).** In the mid-twentieth century, civil rights legislation still caused Southerners to vote as a bloc in Congress. Choice (A), gay rights legislation, was not an acknowledged political issue at that time. Choices (C), (D), and (E) are incorrect.

7. **The correct answer is (C).** The Immigration and Reform Act of 1986 established a one-year amnesty program that allowed undocumented aliens in certain circumstances to become legal residents (item II). Conversely, the law also punished those who knowingly hired undocumented aliens (item I). Items III and IV are part of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Restrictions Act and are, therefore, incorrect responses to the question. Only choice (C) includes both items I and II.
8. **The correct answer is (D).** The only answer supported by the data is choice (D). When more than two candidates are in a presidential election, the person who wins the presidency may be elected by less than a majority of the voters. Choice (A) is not related to the data. Choices (B), (C), and (E) are true statements but are not related to the data. The number of electors each state has is the sum of its senators and members of the House; states with larger populations have more members of the House.

## EXERCISE 3

**Directions:** Each question or incomplete sentence is followed by five suggested responses. Select the best answer.

1. In the elections of 1932 and 1936, which of the following groups was new to the Democratic coalition?
  - (A) Northern political machines
  - (B) Southern whites who were small farmers
  - (C) African Americans
  - (D) Southern political machines
  - (E) First- and second-generation immigrants
  
2. The Twelfth Amendment deals with
  - (A) presidential disability.
  - (B) the election of the president and vice president.
  - (C) the direct election of senators.
  - (D) the inauguration of the president and vice president.
  - (E) limits on presidential terms of office.
  
3. The two-party political system in the United States was primarily the result of
  - I. the fight over ratification of the Constitution waged by the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.
  - II. conflicts in Congress over Hamilton's financial proposals.
  - III. conflicts within Washington's Cabinet over Hamilton's financial proposals.
  - (A) I only
  - (B) II only
  - (C) III only
  - (D) I and II
  - (E) II and III
  
4. The right to privacy was expanded in
  - (A) *Heart of Atlanta v. United States*.
  - (B) *Roe v. Wade*.
  - (C) the Fourteenth Amendment.
  - (D) the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
  - (E) the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970.
  
5. All of the following are true of Congressional oversight EXCEPT
  - (A) by law, legislative oversight is the responsibility of congressional committees and subcommittees.
  - (B) in reality, legislative oversight is not done systematically.
  - (C) legislative oversight involves reviewing how well the executive branch is carrying out the programs and laws passed by Congress.
  - (D) because members of congressional committees work so closely with members of federal agencies, oversight is easy to do.
  - (E) oversight is often reserved for those programs or situations that will garner publicity for the congressional committee.
  
6. PACs most often support
  - (A) controversial issues.
  - (B) federal judges.
  - (C) organized labor.
  - (D) officeholders seeking reelection.
  - (E) corporate clients.

7. A New Democrat is more likely to favor all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) gun control.
  - (B) abortion rights.
  - (C) welfare reform.
  - (D) tax cuts.
  - (E) protection of Social Security.
8. Federal personal income taxes are
- (A) proportional.
  - (B) regressive.
  - (C) progressive.
  - (D) proportional and regressive.
  - (E) progressive and proportional.

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

1. C	3. E	5. D	7. D
2. B	4. B	6. D	8. C

- The correct answer is (C).** From Reconstruction until Roosevelt, African Americans had traditionally voted the Republican ticket, the party of Lincoln. Southern small farmers, choice (B), had voted for Hoover in 1928 but returned to the Democratic Party under Roosevelt. Southern political machines were also Democratic, choice (D). Since the late 1800s, immigrants, choice (E), had traditionally voted for the Democrats who ran the Northern big city political machines, choice (A).
- The correct answer is (B).** The **Twenty-Fifth Amendment** deals with presidential disability, choice (A). The direct election of senators, choice (C), is stated in the **Seventeenth Amendment**. The **Twentieth Amendment**, referred to as the “lame duck” amendment, details the beginning of terms of office of the president and vice president, choice (D). The **Twenty-Second Amendment** limits the number of years a person may hold office as president, choice (E).
- The correct answer is (E).** Although people began to group themselves as Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the campaign to ratify the Constitution (item I), real party lines were not drawn until the government was inaugurated (items II and III). Choices (A) and (D) are incorrect because they both include item I. Choices (B) and (C) are incorrect because they contain only half the correct answer.
- The correct answer is (B).** Choice (A) upheld Congress’s use of the commerce clause as the basis for civil rights legislation. Choice (C) defines the rights of citizens. Choice (D) prohibits discrimination in employment and created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Choice (E) regulates the collection and dissemination of information about people’s credit history, but it does not relate to the question.
- The correct answer is (D).** Choice (D) is the opposite of what happens. The friendly relationship between the committees and the agencies whose actions they are supposed to oversee is a reason why it is difficult to provide meaningful oversight. Choices (A), (B), (C), and (E) are all true about legislative oversight.
- The correct answer is (D).** Choice (A) is incorrect because PACs support the whole spectrum of political interests. Choice (B) is illogical because federal judges are appointed, not elected. Choices (C) and (E) are illogical because there are PACs that lobby for the interests of labor and PACs that support the interests of business; the question stem uses the phrase *most often*. Typically, PACs support incumbents in reelection campaigns.
- The correct answer is (D).** The New Democrat or Centrist position supports all of the choices except choice (D), tax cuts. Moneys lost in tax cuts could be used to shore up Social Security.
- The correct answer is (C).** Federal personal income taxes take a larger share of higher incomes than lower ones. Federal corporate income taxes are also progressive. Choice (A) takes the same percentage of all incomes. State or local sales taxes are regressive, choice (B), in that they take a larger proportion of lower incomes than higher ones. FICA is both proportional, because it takes the same percentage of tax out of everyone’s income up to a maximum wage, and regressive, because it takes a larger percentage out of smaller incomes. Choice (E) is incorrect.

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## SUMMING IT UP

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- Of the five areas of skills and abilities that the College Board says this AP test measures, these relate directly to the multiple-choice section:
  - Factual knowledge: facts, concepts, and theories of U.S. government
  - Comprehension of the typical patterns of political processes and behaviors and their effects
  - Analysis and interpretation of governmental and political data and of relationships in government and politics
- Because the questions at the beginning of the test tend to be easier, you might plan to spend more time on those questions and less time on the final questions. This means that the last questions you work on should be the ones that are the most difficult for you to answer.
- Although most questions follow the questioning format or the sentence completion format, not all ask for straightforward recall. Some require analysis and interpretation.
- Two-step or tiered questions require you to decide which point or points are correct and then to determine which answer choice corresponds to your determination. This question format is often used to ask you to put events in sequential order, such as how a bill becomes a law or what the steps are in the appeals process.
- Stimulus-response questions are based on visuals or short quotations. Most often, the visuals are political cartoons, tables, or graphs.