

- The weak party structure of the United States makes it harder to pass legislation.
- Political parties have declined in strength.
- The political party is no longer the major source of information for citizens.

## **For Additional Review**

Design a pyramid diagram depicting the top-down leadership structure within a political party (national level, state level, local level). Place the various party members on the pyramid along with a description of the role played by each. Use this pyramid diagram when reviewing and studying for the unit test and the AP Government and Politics exam.

Create a timeline depicting the evolution of political parties in the United States. Place the major eras of political party development on the timeline along with a description of each era, including the political parties, their platforms, and accomplishments. Use this timeline when reviewing and studying for the unit test and the AP Government and Politics exam.

## **□ Review Questions**

### **Multiple-Choice Questions**

1. All of the following are functions of political parties EXCEPT
  - a. dictating policies.
  - b. choosing candidates.
  - c. running campaigns.
  - d. giving cues to voters.
  - e. coordinating policymaking.
  
2. Which of the following is true of the Southern states?
  - a. They have always leaned Republican.
  - b. They have always leaned Democratic.
  - c. They have no political leaning.
  - d. They were once loyal to the Democratic Party but now are loyal to the Republican Party.
  - e. They were once loyal to the Republican Party but now are loyal to the Democratic Party.
  
3. All of the following are true of the party machine EXCEPT
  - a. they were successful in creating party loyalists.
  - b. they provided jobs and favors for voters.
  - c. they were corrupt.
  - d. legislation has largely dismantled them.
  - e. they relied on the merit principle when hiring employees.

3. All of the following are true of the party machine EXCEPT
- (a) is incorrect because party machines were successful in creating party loyalists.
  - (b) is incorrect because party machines provided jobs and favors.
  - (c) is incorrect because party machines were corrupt.
  - (d) is incorrect because party machines have been limited by legislation.
  - (e) is correct because the party machines relied on the patronage system.**

*Page reference: 266, AP Topic: Political parties*

4. Which of the following is true of an open primary?
- (a) is correct because open primaries allow citizens of either party to participate in the primary and this allows crossover voting, or a person of one party voting in another party's primary.**
  - (b) is incorrect because open primaries do not necessarily receive a high turnout.
  - (c) is incorrect because open primaries are not the only means of selecting presidential candidates.
  - (d) is incorrect because open primaries do not require voters to be registered with the party.
  - (e) is incorrect because open primaries do not require voters to attend meetings in order to participate.

*Page reference: 267, AP Topic: Political parties*

5. Which of the following is the best definition of "realignment"?
- (a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of realignment.
  - (b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of realignment.
  - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of realignment.
  - (d) is correct because realignments are major changes within a party. Change occurs both in the type of voters who are attracted to the party and the issues the party supports.**
  - (e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of realignment.

*Page reference: 272, AP Topic: Political parties*

6. Which of the following was least likely to join the New Deal coalition?
- (a) is incorrect because the New Deal attracted minorities.
  - (b) is incorrect because the New Deal attracted blue-collar voters.
  - (c) is incorrect because the New Deal attracted lower-educated voters.
  - (d) is correct because the New Deal coalition did not attract wealthy voters.**
  - (e) is incorrect because the New Deal attracted liberal voters.

*Page reference: 273–275, AP Topic: Political parties*

7. Obstacles to third parties' success include all of the following EXCEPT
- (a) is incorrect because the winner-take-all rule is an obstacle to third parties.
  - (b) is incorrect because lack of funding from interest groups is an obstacle to third parties.
  - (c) is incorrect because televised debates are an obstacle to third parties.
  - (d) is incorrect because lack of ballot access is an obstacle to third parties.
  - (e) is correct because the inability to get media attention is not an obstacle to third parties.**

*Page reference: 277–278, AP Topic: Political parties*

8. A two-party system differs from a multiparty system in that it
- (a) is correct because two-party systems encourage candidates to be more moderate and thereby discourage change.**
  - (b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of how a two-party system differs from a multiparty system.
  - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of how a two-party system differs from a multiparty system.
  - (d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of how a two-party system differs from a multiparty system.
  - (e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of how a two-party system differs from a multiparty system.

*Page reference: 258–278, AP Topic: Political parties*

9. Which of the following has led to ticket splitting in recent elections?
- (a) is correct because ticket splitting occurs because there are more citizens who are not loyal to one party over another.
  - (b) is incorrect because open primaries do not lead to ticket splitting.
  - (c) is incorrect because party realignment does not lead to ticket splitting.
  - (d) is incorrect because the patronage system does not lead to ticket splitting.
  - (e) is incorrect because closed primaries do not lead to ticket splitting.

*Page reference: 264, AP Topic: Political parties*

10. The event in which the parties formally nominate their candidate for the presidency is called
- (a) is incorrect because presidential candidates are not selected in a critical election.
  - (b) is correct because candidates for the presidency are formally selected at a national convention.**
  - (c) is incorrect because presidential candidates are not selected in an open primary.
  - (d) is incorrect because presidential candidates are not selected in a closed primary.
  - (e) is incorrect because presidential candidates are not selected by a national committee.

*Page reference: 268, AP Topic: Political parties*

11. The U.S. has a "single member, plurality" system, often referred to as
- (a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the definition provided.
  - (b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the definition provided.
  - (c) is correct because national level elections in the U.S. use a system in which the party that receives at least one more vote than any other party wins the seat in question, which is known as winner-take-all.**
  - (d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the definition provided.
  - (e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the definition provided.

*Page reference: 278, AP Topic: Political parties*

12. Which of the following groups is likely to be Democratic?

- I. white-collar workers
- II. blue-collar workers

III. trial lawyers

IV. women who do not work outside the home

(a) is incorrect because white-collar workers and women who do not work outside the home tend to favor Republicans.

**(b) is correct because blue-collar workers and trial lawyers favor Democrats.**

(c) is incorrect because white collar workers do not tend to be Democratic.

(d) is incorrect because I is an inaccurate choice.

(e) is incorrect because I and IV are inaccurate choices.

*Page reference: 263–268, AP Topic: Political parties*

13. A citizen's personal affinity for a political party, which results in the citizen voting for candidates of that political party, is known as party

**(a) is correct because a citizen's personal affinity for a political party, usually expressed by a tendency to vote for the candidates of that party, is called the citizen's party identification.**

(b) is incorrect because registration is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.

(c) is incorrect because alignment is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.

(d) is incorrect because coalition is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.

(e) is incorrect because representation is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.

*Page reference: 263–264, AP Topic: Political parties*

14. Which of the following statements about political parties is accurate?

(a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of third parties.

(b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of third parties.

(c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of third parties.

(d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of third parties.

**(e) is correct because although third-party candidates rarely win elections, several have appeared on the ballot over the years and have had some effect on the political debate, and possibly the outcome of elections.**

*Page reference: 277–278, AP Topic: Political parties*

15. Many Americans do not associate with either major political party and instead claim to “vote for the \_\_\_ and not the \_\_\_.”

(a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

**(b) is correct because with the decline in party identification, the plurality of voters considered themselves Independent rather than Democratic or Republican, and many Americans insist that they vote for “the person, not the party.”**

(c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

(d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

(e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

*Page reference: 263–264, AP Topic: Political parties*

16. A superdelegate is

**(a) is correct because a superdelegate is a delegate to the Democratic Party’s national convention that is reserved for an elected party official, whose vote at the convention is not pledged to individual candidates.**

(b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of a superdelegate.

(c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of a superdelegate.

(d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of a superdelegate.

(e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of a superdelegate.

*Page reference: 292, AP Topic: Political parties*

17. Even though the United States has many minor political parties, it remains

(a) is incorrect because the United States is not predominately a multiparty system.

**(b) is correct because the United States still remains predominately a two-party system despite the existence of minor parties.**

(c) is incorrect because the United States is not predominately a third party system.

(d) is incorrect because the United States is not a parliamentary system.

(e) is incorrect because the United States is not a confederate system.

*Page reference: 259–278, AP Topic: Political parties*

18. The political condition in which different political parties control the presidency and the
- (a) is incorrect because gridlock is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.
  - (b) is incorrect because dual federalism is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.
  - (c) is incorrect because cooperative federalism is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.
  - (d) is correct because divided government is governance divided between the parties, as when one holds the presidency and the other controls one or both houses of Congress.**
  - (e) is incorrect because apportionment is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.

*Page reference: 275–276, AP Topic: Political parties*

19. Political party platforms can best be described as which of the following?
- (a) is incorrect because platforms are not strictly followed.
  - (b) is incorrect because platforms are not written by the president.
  - (c) is correct because party platforms are often written in vague terms to avoid controversy.**
  - (d) is incorrect because platforms are not different from state-to-state.
  - (e) is incorrect because platforms are sometimes followed by elected officials.

*Page reference: 268, 290–297, AP Topic: Political parties*

20. The gradual disengagement of people from the political parties in order to become Independents is known as
- (a) is incorrect because realignment is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.
  - (b) is incorrect because misalignment is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.
  - (c) is incorrect because party patronage is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.
  - (d) is correct because the gradual disengagement of people from parties, as seen in part by shrinking party identification is party dealignment.**
  - (e) is incorrect because ticket-splitting is an inaccurate choice for the definition provided.

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## Free-Response Questions

*This rubric provides examples of many, but not all of the possible correct responses to the free-response questions.*

1. The power of the political party has declined over the past fifty years.
  - a. Define each of the terms below:
    - Dealignment
    - Political machine
    - National party conventions
  - b. Choose two of the terms above and explain how they have contributed to the decline of political parties since 1960.
    - The power of the party has declined over the past one hundred years. This is due to a dealignment movement. Dealignment refers to the abandonment of citizen's affiliations with the two major political parties to become "independent" voters. Such independent or swing voters have hurt the power of the party because the members of the party must now battle for the ideological center rather than loyalists in order to win an election. The party can no longer depend on large numbers of citizens to vote a straight ticket, and thus the election results become a little more unpredictable. Also, presidents are less likely to staff government with all party loyalists and are more likely to turn to independents.
    - The decline of the party machine has also hurt the power of the party. The party machine can be described as a party organization with lots of power in large cities. Such a machine once guaranteed social services and jobs to new immigrants, ran conventions, and staffed city government. This created a group of party loyalists that lasted for generations. Some of these activities became illegal, causing the party to lose strength as the generations of party loyalists diminished.
    - Finally, the national party convention was once a source of party strength, but this strength has diminished greatly. The national party used to determine the nominee for the presidency, with no voter involvement at all. The progressive reforms stripped this power from the party at the state level and eventually all states began holding primaries and caucuses to determine the nominee, taking the power away from the party.



2. The Democratic and Republican parties have gone through several realignments.
  - a. Define realignment.
    - A realignment usually occurs after a critical election. A realignment marks a major change in the nature of the political party. The change occurs in both the demographic groups that once supported the party as well as the agenda of the party. In a realignment, the party that was once the majority usually becomes the minority. The change is national as well as local, and the change is not simply marked by one election but has some permanence.
  - b. Identify one realignment for the Democratic Party and one for the Republican Party.
    - Most political scientists argue that there have been four major realigning periods. Perhaps the most remembered realignment for the Republican Party took place after the election of 1860—sometimes referred to as the “birth of the Republican Party.” The new president, Abraham Lincoln, had captured a new group of voters and his party dominated politics (the party realigned several times after that). Perhaps the most remembered realignment for the Democratic Party came after the election of 1932. Franklin D. Roosevelt began a “New Deal” coalition, which would unify the Democratic Party for years to come.
  - c. Explain the significance of realignments for American politics.
    - Realignments are significant to American politics because they mark major changes in the nature of the party, and the party emerges as a completely different organization. Understanding realignments helps to explain how parties have changed. For example, it is surprising to some that Thomas Jefferson was a Democrat because he was a states’ rights advocate, and the Democratic Party today has advocated federal power in most domestic policy areas. The explanation for this is that the Democratic Party has realigned since Thomas Jefferson was a member of the party.