

- 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.

4. Which of the following is true of an open primary?
 - a. They allow crossover voting.
 - b. They receive high turnout.
 - c. They are the only system used to select a presidential candidate.
 - d. They require that voters be registered with the party.
 - e. They require voters to attend meetings in order to participate.

5. Which of the following is the best definition of "realignment"?
 - a. the abandonment of citizens from the two major parties to be independent
 - b. the requirement that members of a party vote together
 - c. the party that controls the White House loses control in Congress
 - d. a major ideological and demographic shift within a party
 - e. the emergence of many third parties

6. Which of the following was least likely to join the New Deal coalition?
 - a. minority voters
 - b. blue-collar voters
 - c. voters without a college education
 - d. wealthy voters
 - e. liberal voters

7. Obstacles to third parties' success include all of the following EXCEPT
 - a. the winner-take-all rule.
 - b. lack of funding from interest groups.
 - c. inability to participate in the debate.
 - d. lack of ballot access.
 - e. inability to get media attention.

8. A two-party system differs from a multiparty system in that it
 - a. encourages moderation in policymaking and discourages change.
 - b. offers voters no choice among ideologies.
 - c. usually includes a liberal and a conservative party.
 - d. relies on popular elections to change the party in power.
 - e. allows parties to choose their own leaders in the legislature.

9. Which of the following has led to ticket splitting in recent elections?
 - a. partisan dealignment
 - b. open primaries
 - c. party realignment
 - d. patronage system
 - e. closed primaries

10. The event in which the parties formally nominate their candidate for the presidency is called
 - a. a critical election.
 - b. a national convention.
 - c. an open primary.
 - d. a closed primary.
 - e. a national committee.

11. The U.S. has a "single member, plurality" system, often referred to as
- direct representation.
 - proportional representation.
 - winner-take-all.
 - winner-take-most.
 - winner-take-some.
12. Which of the following groups is likely to be Democratic?
- white-collar workers
 - blue-collar workers
 - trial lawyers
 - women who do not work outside the home
- I and IV
 - II and III
 - I, II, and III
 - I and III
 - I, II, III, and IV
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
- identification.
 - registration.
 - alignment.
 - coalition.
 - representation.
14. Which of the following statements about political parties is accurate?
- The U.S. has never had a third party.
 - The Democratic and Republican parties have been on the presidential ballot for every election since the presidency of George Washington.
 - Third parties are prohibited by the Constitution.
 - Third parties have frequently captured the White House.
 - While the Democrats and Republicans have dominated American politics, they have also seen competition from a wide variety of third parties.
15. Many Americans do not associate with either major political party and instead claim to "vote for the ___ and not the ___."
- party; person
 - person; party
 - challenger; incumbent
 - free-rider; policy entrepreneur
 - underdog; front-runner

16. A superdelegate is
- a spokesperson and arbitrator for the party during the four years between elections.
 - 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.
 - someone elected in a winner-take-all system.
 - someone selected by a proportional representation election.
 - someone who won a seat by both proportional representation and winner-take-all district voting.
17. Even though the United States has many minor political parties, it remains
- a multiparty system.
 - a two-party system.
 - a third party system.
 - a parliamentary system.
 - a confederate system.
18. The political condition in which different political parties control the presidency and the Congress is called
- gridlock.
 - dual federalism.
 - cooperative federalism.
 - divided government.
 - apportionment.
19. Political party platforms can best be described as which of the following?
- They are strictly followed by elected officials.
 - They are written by the president.
 - They are intentionally vague.
 - They are different from state-to-state.
 - They are never followed by elected officials.
20. The gradual disengagement of people from the political parties in order to become Independents is known as
- realignment.
 - misalignment.
 - party patronage.
 - dealignment.
 - ticket splitting.

Free-Response Questions

1. The power of the political party has declined over the past fifty years.
- 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.
2. The Democratic and Republican parties have gone through several realignments.
- a. Define realignment.
 - b. Identify one realignment for the Democratic Party and one for the Republican Party.
 - c. Explain the significance of realignments for American politics.

□ Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. All of the following are functions of political parties EXCEPT
- (a) is correct because American political parties may articulate policy preferences, but they are unable to dictate policy.
 - (b) is incorrect because political parties do choose candidates.
 - (c) is incorrect because political parties do run campaigns.
 - (d) is incorrect because political parties do give cues to voters.
 - (e) is incorrect because political parties do coordinate policymaking.

Page reference: 260–262, AP Topic: Political parties

2. Which of the following is true of the Southern states?
- (a) is incorrect because the South was historically Democratic.
 - (b) is incorrect because the South now leans Republican.
 - (c) is incorrect because the South does have political leanings.
 - (d) is correct because the South was once “solidly Democratic” but now leans Republican.
 - (e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of southern party affiliation.

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