

Free-Response Questions

1. Nominating a presidential candidate occurs through an indirect process.
 - a. Describe the role of delegates in the nomination process.
 - b. Define winner-take-all and proportional representation and identify where each system is used in the nomination process.
 - c. Explain a campaign strategy that results from the indirect election process.
2. Despite the Supreme Court's decisions to uphold much of the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), the fight to reverse this reform has continued.
 - a. Define each of the following:
 - Issue advocacy
 - Independent expenditures
 - Super PACs
 - b. Explain how each of these is being used to attempt to reverse the reforms established in FECA and BCRA.

Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. A caucus is
 - (a) is incorrect because a caucus is not held to select a nominee.
 - (b) is correct because in a caucus only members who are registered with the party can participate.**
 - (c) is incorrect because a caucus is not open to all who wish to participate.
 - (d) is incorrect because a caucus is not a meeting of members of Congress.
 - (e) is incorrect because a caucus is not a court hearing.

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2. A primary is
- (a) is incorrect because a primary is not held at the national level.
 - (b) is incorrect because a primary is not a closed door meeting of party regulars.
 - (c) is correct because primaries can be open to any citizen or they can be restricted to members who are registered with the party.**
 - (d) is incorrect because a primary is not a meeting of members of Congress.
 - (e) is incorrect because a primary is not a court hearing.

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3. When the Democrats select delegates to their national convention, they
- (a) is incorrect because delegates are not required to vote.
 - (b) is incorrect because they do not use a winner-take-all system.
 - (c) is correct because in most states, Democrats use proportional representation to select delegates. However, a large percentage of delegates to the national convention for the Democratic Party are unpledged delegates.**
 - (d) is incorrect because they do not hold a series of primaries.
 - (e) is incorrect because the convention is not open to all.

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4. Superdelegates are
- (a) is incorrect because superdelegates are not used more often by Republicans.
 - (b) is correct because superdelegates were instituted as part of a compromise between party regulars and those who wanted primaries to be the determinant of the nomination.**
 - (c) is incorrect because superdelegates are able to vote.
 - (d) is incorrect because superdelegates are not staff.
 - (e) is incorrect because superdelegates are not used to maintain party discipline.

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5. The main loophole to the McCain-Feingold legislation is
- (a) is correct because 527 groups are able to advertise for an issue and thus enable some to thwart the goal of the McCain-Feingold legislation.
 - (b) is incorrect because soft money is not the main loophole to the McCain-Feingold legislation.
 - (c) is incorrect because hard money is not the main loophole to the McCain-Feingold legislation.
 - (d) is incorrect because bundling is not the main loophole to the McCain-Feingold legislation.
 - (e) is incorrect because *Buckley v. Valeo* is not the main loophole to the McCain-Feingold legislation.

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6. The goal of the Federal Election Campaign Act was to
- (a) is incorrect; the Federal Election Campaign Act does not make delegate selection easier.
 - (b) is correct because the goal of the Federal Election Campaign Act was to make campaigns more fair and transparent.
 - (c) is incorrect; the Federal Election Campaign Act does not enforce party discipline.
 - (d) is incorrect; the Federal Election Campaign Act does not cause realignment.
 - (e) is incorrect; the Federal Election Campaign Act does not limit the impact of the media.

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7. PAC money gives the greatest advantage to
- (a) is incorrect because PAC money does not give the greatest advantage to the president's party.
 - (b) is correct because PAC money benefits incumbents.
 - (c) is incorrect because PAC money does not give money to Supreme Court Justices.
 - (d) is incorrect because PAC money does not give the greatest advantage to cabinet nominees.
 - (e) is incorrect because PAC money does not give the greatest advantage to challengers.

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8. Federal matching funds are available to
- (a) is incorrect because matching funds are not available to governors.
 - (b) is incorrect because matching funds are not available to members of the House.
 - (c) is incorrect because matching funds are not available to senators.
 - (d) is correct because federal matching funds are available for presidential candidates who meet certain rules.**
 - (e) is incorrect because matching funds are not available to judges.

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9. Where is the first caucus held?
- (a) is correct because the first caucus is held in Iowa.**
 - (b) is incorrect because the first caucus is not held in New Hampshire.
 - (c) is incorrect because the first caucus is not held in Washington, D.C.
 - (d) is incorrect because the first caucus is not held in Florida.
 - (e) is incorrect because the first caucus is not held in South Carolina.

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10. All of the following are criticisms raised against the primary system EXCEPT
- (a) is correct because Democrats mandate minority participation at the national convention and Republicans have made efforts to include minorities.**
 - (b) is incorrect because it is a criticism of the primary system and therefore an inaccurate choice for the question.
 - (c) is incorrect because it is a criticism of the primary system and therefore an inaccurate choice for the question.
 - (d) is incorrect because it is a criticism of the primary system and therefore an inaccurate choice for the question.
 - (e) is incorrect because it is a criticism of the primary system and therefore an inaccurate choice for the question.

Page reference: 295–297, AP Topic: Linkages between party processes and elections

11. For a candidate to gain office in a winner-take-all election, the candidate must
- (a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of a winner-take-all election.
 - (b) is correct because a winner-take-all system is an electoral system in which the party that receives at least one more vote than any other party wins the election.**
 - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of a winner-take-all election.
 - (d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of a winner-take-all election.
 - (e) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of a winner-take-all election.

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12. The Electoral College was created by the framers of the Constitution because they
- (a) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of why the framers established the Electoral College.
 - (b) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of why the framers established the Electoral College.
 - (c) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of why the framers established the Electoral College.
 - (d) is incorrect because it is an inaccurate description of why the framers established the Electoral College.
 - (e) is correct because the Founders wanted the president to be elected by the nation's elite, not directly by the people, therefore they established the Electoral College.**

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13. The number of electoral votes a state has is determined by
- (a) is incorrect because electoral votes are not determined by the number of male voters.
 - (b) is incorrect because electoral votes are not determined by the number of registered voters.
 - (c) is correct because each state, according to the Constitution, has as many electoral votes as it has U.S. senators and representatives.**
 - (d) is incorrect because electoral votes are not determined by the first Congress.
 - (e) is incorrect because electoral votes are not determined by each state.

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14. Political contributions raised in unlimited amounts by political parties for party-building
- (a) is incorrect because hard money is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (b) is incorrect because independent expenditures are an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (c) is incorrect because illegal is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (d) is incorrect because loans are an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (e) is correct because soft money involves unlimited political contributions earmarked for party-building expenses at the grassroots level or for generic party advertising.**

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15. A political party's statement of its goals, policies, and beliefs for the next four years is known as the party's
- (a) is correct because a party platform is a political party's statement of its goals and policies for the next four years. The platform is drafted prior to the party convention by a committee whose members are chosen in rough proportion to each candidate's strength.**
 - (b) is incorrect because a caucus is an inaccurate choice for the description provided.
 - (c) is incorrect because political culture is an inaccurate choice for the description provided.
 - (d) is incorrect because realignment is an inaccurate choice for the description provided.
 - (e) is incorrect because efficacy is an inaccurate choice for the description provided.

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16. Spending for campaign activity that is not coordinated with a candidate's campaign is known as
- (a) is incorrect because independent expenditures are not illegal.
 - (b) is correct because independent expenditures are expenses on behalf of a political message that are made by groups that are uncoordinated with any candidate's campaign.**
 - (c) is incorrect because hard money is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (d) is incorrect because independent expenditures are not loans.
 - (e) is incorrect because soft money is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.

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17. This federal law banned soft money as a part of the election reform movement.
- (a) is incorrect because the Soft Money Reform Act is inaccurate.
 - (b) is incorrect because the Hard Money Reform Act is inaccurate.
 - (c) is incorrect because the Campaign Contributions Act is inaccurate.
 - (d) is correct because the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, also known as the McCain-Feingold Act, largely banned soft money, restored a long-standing prohibition on corporations and labor unions for using general treasury funds for electoral purposes, and narrowed the definition of issue advocacy.**
 - (e) is incorrect because the Political Action Reform Act is inaccurate.

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18. Candidates need money to do all of the following EXCEPT
- (a) is incorrect because candidates do need money to conduct polls.
 - (b) is correct because candidates do not need funds in order to ask to support from their political party.**
 - (c) is incorrect because candidates do need money to purchase television advertising.
 - (d) is incorrect because candidates do need money to hire campaign managers.
 - (e) is incorrect because candidates do need money to place advertising in newspapers.

Page reference: 300–301, AP Topic: Linkages between party processes and elections

19. Contributions given to candidates and party committees that are limited and committed to candidate-specific electoral activity are known as
- (a) is incorrect because independent expenditures is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (b) is incorrect because soft money is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (c) is incorrect because salary is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (d) is incorrect because illegal funds is an inaccurate selection for the prompt.
 - (e) is correct because hard money refers to political contributions given to a party, candidate, or interest group that are limited in amount and fully disclosed. Raising such funds is harder than raising unlimited soft money, hence the term hard money.**

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20. This system was created to reduce voter fraud and voting abuses.
- (a) is incorrect because Internet voting is an inaccurate selection for the question.
 - (b) is incorrect because mail-in-voting is an inaccurate selection for the question.
 - (c) is incorrect because the 15th Amendment is an inaccurate selection for the question.
 - (d) is incorrect because the Voting Rights Act is an inaccurate selection for the question.
 - (e) is correct because a system adopted by the states that requires voters to register prior to voting. Some states require citizens to register as much as 30 days in advance, whereas others permit Election Day registration.**

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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. Nominating a presidential candidate occurs through an indirect process.
 - a. Describe the role of delegates in the nomination process.
 - The selection of candidates for the presidency occurs through an indirect election. Voters are allowed to participate in primaries or caucuses at the state level. Their votes, however, translate into delegates that attend a national convention and cast an official vote for the nominee.
 - b. Define winner-take-all and proportional representation and identify where each system is used in the nomination process.
 - For the Democratic Party, most states allocate their delegates in proportion to voters' choices, which is proportional representation. The Republican Party mostly allocates their delegates on a winner-take-all basis, meaning that the candidate who wins the most votes in a state gets all of that state's delegates to the national convention.
 - c. Explain a campaign strategy that results from the indirect election process.
 - There are several campaign strategies that result from the rules of this contest. One is known as frontloading, in which the candidates will put all their time, money, and