

**AP US GOVERNMENT  
AND POLITICS  
FALL 2018**

**Course Activities Packet**

**Unit3 :**

**Elections and the Media**

<b>AP Government Study Guide for Unit 3 - Elections and the Media on _____ (+/- a day)</b>
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When creating the test, we will write the questions with **these exact resources** in hand. **Anything** in them is fair game. Nevertheless, we have added some study questions in case that might also be helpful for you.

### 1. Notes - Introduction to U.S. National Elections

What amendments have been ratified dealing with voting? What are some basic aspects of and differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives? What is the census, apportionment, and re-apportionment? Who are your Senators and Representatives? Who is up for election every 2 years? What pattern have we typically seen during mid-term elections? What are the 4 theories of voter choice, and what are some other factors that influence voter choice?

### 2. Guided Reading - Public Opinion

What is "public opinion?" What does good public opinion polling entail (be thorough)? What is stratified or multistage sampling? What is sampling error/margin of error? What are exit and entrance polls and why are they controversial? What is the point of the graphics in the guided reading? What kind of polls are used by politicians before they start campaigning (understand them fully)? What is a tracking poll?

**3. Outline from handout - The stages of our national elections - Be fully familiar** with the details of the 8 stages of our national elections in order for both presidential and congressional elections. What are primary and caucus elections? Which is more common? What kind of individuals typically attend primary and caucus elections (especially caucus elections)? What is the role of delegates in our primary elections? What day does the Constitution specify for our national elections? What is the Electoral College, and what role does it play in the general election? What number of electors is needed to win the presidency?

**4. PowerPoint - National Elections (Parts 1 and 2) - Why are elections (especially presidential elections) so expensive?** What is all the money needed for? What are open and closed primaries and why have a closed primary? What are the different kinds of delegates, and how is delegate allocation done for each state? What is the difference between "winner-take-all" and "proportional allocation" methods of awarding delegates, and what effect does it have on the length of the entire primary contest? Who tends to vote in primary elections and what effect does this have on: 1.) the way that nominees campaign in the primaries and 2.) the political ideology of those in our government as opposed to the political ideology of the American people in general? What is Super-Tuesday, front-loading, and the significance of Iowa and New Hampshire on the primary calendar? Explain the Electoral College system and the effect it has on how candidates campaign. Explain how the following aspects of the US election system tend to result in a 2-party system rather than a multi-party system: plurality elections, single-member winner-take-all-districts. Explain the following alternative election methods and how they would increase the likelihood of a multi-party system: Run-off elections, proportional representation. What do the two major parties sometimes do that also contributes to a 2-party system? Know and explain the following election options that some states have and others do not: Ballot initiatives, referendums, recall elections, run-off elections. How does the media tend to cover elections? What influence does the media have on what voters think is important?

**5. Notes - Winning the popular vote and losing the presidency - Understand mathematically how a candidate can win more votes but still not become president.**

### 6. Question for Debate: Should the Electoral College be replaced by direct popular election of the President?

What are the main arguments for and against changing the Electoral College system?

**7. PowerPoint Notes - Three Forms of Democracy - What are the three forms of Democracy that political scientists put forward, and what are the examples or what is the evidence for each in America?**

### 8. Unit 3 - Khan Academy Media Videos 1 & 2 - Media as a linkage institution

What are linkage institutions, and what are *the* linkage institutions in America? What drives different media outlets to pursue different strategies? What are the three strategies that media outlets may pursue? How does the media typically cover elections?

#### Impact of media evolution on politics

How has the media changed since early American history? What do people who think that these changes are good argue? What do people who think that these changes are bad argue?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Reading - Public Opinion (TB Page 156)****What is Public Opinion?**

1. In your own words, explain the point the author is making with his example of public opinion polls in the opening two paragraphs of this section? Refer to his examples in your answer.
  
2. What is **Public Opinion**?
  
3. A **Public Opinion Poll** then is simply a poll that tries to determine how people think or feel about particular things. A common public opinion poll is one that asks **respondents** (people who respond/answer your question), "Do you approve or disapprove of the way [president's name] is handling his job as president?" The poll then reports the percentage that approves and disapproves. No question here but important for the test.
  
4. From early on, who or what had a motive to determine public opinion and pioneered attempts to do so?
  
5. In your own words, explain the distressing picture that the first major academic studies of public opinion and voting from the 1940s painted about American Democracy.
  
6. **Complete the Sentence:** Nevertheless, polls also seem to show that "While most citizens are poorly informed about government and care little about most public policy issues, they are nonetheless pretty good at using limited information (or cues) to..."

**How Polling Works**

7. If properly conducted, a public opinion poll can capture the opinion of 250 million citizens with a **sample** size of just how many?
  
8. A doctor does not drain all of the blood from a patient's body to analyze. Rather, he just analyzes a small blood *sample* and extrapolates (generalizes) from it. So to, political scientists do not question the entire US population. Rather, they question a small sample of the population and then extrapolate from it to the general population. (Example: They may ask *their sample*, "Is America on the right track or on the wrong track?" If 50% of the sample says, "right track," then they would infer that 50% of the American population as a whole thinks that America is on the right track). No question here, but important for the test.
  
9. What are two keys to good polling (include the parts in parentheses)?
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
10. A good poll also uses a random sample. What is a **random sample**?

11. For example, creating your sample by questioning people as they enter and exit the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street would not provide you with a random sample. People at the stock exchange are only a small subgroup of the entire population. To achieve random sampling, pollsters often use **random-digit dialing** to call both listed and unlisted phone numbers to create a sample. No question here, but important for the test.

12. Read the description of stratified or multistage area sampling. Let us say that a pollster wanted to sample the following very small state with the following 3 counties in it and determined that a sample of **2%** of the total population would be sufficient. How many individuals from each county would have to be randomly selected and included in his sample?

Counties	Total Population	Number of randomly selected individuals to include in the sample
County X	10,000 (20% of the total pop.)	
County Y	20,000 (40% of the total pop.)	
County Z	20,000 (40% of the total pop.)	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>50,000 (100% of the total pop.)</b>	<b>1000 (2% of the population)</b>

13. Even polls that are done properly using the same procedure will still show some sampling error between the two of them. What is **sampling error**?

14. If one poll shows that the president has an approval rating of 52% and another shows an approval rating of 55%, what is the sampling error between them?

15. Sampling error is often report as a '**margin of error**' of +/- a certain percent. For example, if a poll finds that the president's approval rating is 50%, because of sampling error, the poll may report its findings as 50% +/- 2. This would mean that there is a high likelihood (usually a 95% chance) that the president's approval rating is somewhere between 48% and 52%. No question here.

16. What are **exit polls**?

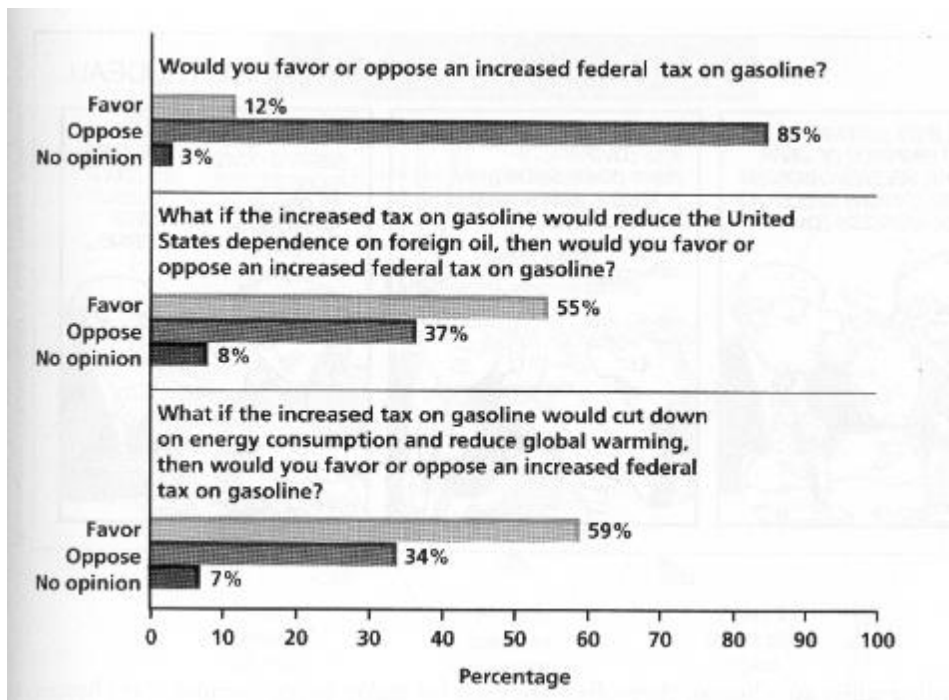
17. Exit polls question people when they are leaving their polling location. When do you think **entrance polls** are question people?

18. Polls such as these are a bit controversial because they sometimes allow media outlets to report the winner of the presidential election long before the polls have closed out west. This may discourage some people from showing up and voting, possibly effecting the outcome of other races which are also on the ballot like senate and governors' races. No question here.

19. Although exit polls of randomly selected voters have been quite accurate in predicting the winners of elections, obviously it is still hard for pollsters to do what?

20. As more people try to avoid telemarketers posing as pollsters, what effect can this have on the results of a poll?

21. Look at the survey and read the political cartoon. Then, at the bottom of this page, explain the point that is being made by both of them.



21. The point of these graphics?

22. One more exciting page! Read the following text and answer the questions that follow.

### Other Poll Vocabulary:

I. There are two types of polls that are used by politicians before they actually begin their political campaigns.

**A. Benchmark Poll:** A comprehensive poll done by a political campaign in order to develop a successful campaign message strategy. It is done before the campaign begins to present itself. The poll attempts to determine things such as:

1. What issues or concerns are most important to the public.
2. What is the general mood of the public (angry, distrustful, confident, optimistic)
3. What, if any, view does the public already have of the candidate?
4. What kind of information makes the public more or less favorable to the candidate and his or her positions?

**B. A focus group:** Unlike polls which are **mass surveys** (surveys of a large number of respondents), A focus group is an interview with a small group of people in which a moderator asks questions on a pre-determined set of issues. Members of the campaign watch the session behind a one-way mirror and receive a transcript, or recording.

1. Unlike polls which use **quantitative analysis** (like the number of *yes* and *no* responses), focus groups use **qualitative analysis** (i.e. the campaign watches the interview and makes subjective judgments)
2. When focus-grouping, campaigns look for "**switchers**" and "**stabilizers**"—information that will make a voter likely to switch his or her vote or remain committed to a candidate.

**C. Tracking polls:** Just like they sound, these are polls that are repeated periodically to 'track' how public opinion is changing on a subject.

1. Media outlets often publish a tracking poll of the president's approval rating to show if they are improving or worsening.
2. Political campaigns use tracking polls to monitor how effective their message and advertising is and to decide whether or not to make changes.

**Directions:** The bolded word(s) makes the sentence false. Write the word that should go there below each sentence.

23. The campaign decided on a message, but after watching their **benchmark** poll over time, they decided to change it.

24. (3 words) During the **tracking poll**, the interviewer asked members of the group how they felt about the candidates military and business experience. His military service was an **accentuator** which made people more likely to support him, but his business experience was an **insulator** which had the opposite effect.

25. The benchmark poll was a **group** survey with a sample size of 2,000 from across the country.

26. Before they began advertising, the campaign conducted a **tracking poll** of thousands of respondents to determine what would be an effective message.

27. After the focus group, the campaign conducted a **quantitative analysis** of the groups' responses.

28. Do a search for "real clear politics presidential approval rating." Below the top table is a tracking poll. What is the president's approval rating now? Over the last 6 months, has it risen, fallen, or been pretty flat?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes - Introduction to U.S. National Elections**

**I. Amendments that expanded Suffrage (the right to vote)**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment: Extended suffrage to \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment: Established the \_\_\_\_\_  
by the people. Previously, \_\_\_\_\_ selected the state's senators.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment: Extended suffrage to \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment: Declared \_\_\_\_\_ void in federal elections.
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment: Extended suffrage by lowering the voting age from \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Elections to Congress**

<b>A.</b>	<b>B.</b>
<p>1.</p> <p>2. Each State gets ...</p> <p>3. Each Senator is elected by the state "at large;" that is, ...</p> <p>4. Each Senator serves ...</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2, Each state is " _____ " a certain share of the 435 total Representatives based on its ...</p> <p>3. The US Census is done every _____ years to determine which states populations have grown or shrunk relative to each other.</p> <p>4. Each state is then " _____ " a certain number of representatives in accordance with the results of the census. Some states gain Representatives Some states lose Representatives</p> <p>5. Since Michigan's state population is currently about 3.5% of the total population of the United States, Michigan is apportioned 3.5% of the total 435 Representatives; that is, _____.</p> <p>6. Each Representative is elected _____ _____</p> <p>That is, voters in Michigan's 14th district cannot vote for the Representative who will serve in Michigan's 15th District or vice versa.</p> <p>7. Each Representative serves the citizens of his district and not the entire state.</p>

Go to: <a href="http://www.govtrack.us/">http://www.govtrack.us/</a> and fill in the following information	
Michigan's Senior Senator:	Michigan's Junior Senator:
Your District:	Your Representative:

<b>III. Who is up for election when?</b>					
<b>Year 0</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 10</b>

**IV. The voter turn-out pattern**

A. Historically, in a mid-term election, the President's party ...

1. That is, if the President is a Democrat, there are currently 55 seats in the Senate are occupied by Democrats, and it is a mid-term election; then the Democrats will likely end up with ...
2. The same thing happens in the House of Representatives in a mid-term election



**V. Theories of voter choice** - Political scientists put forward 4 theories that (possibly) explain why people vote the way they do:

A. \_\_\_\_\_:

Voting based on what is perceived to be in the citizen's individual \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Example: "I depend on social security payments. Candidate A is going to increase social security payments. I'm voting for candidate A."

B. \_\_\_\_\_:

Voting based on which candidate seems best prepared to handle \_\_\_\_\_ for the country.

1. "America will soon be facing great military challenges. Candidate B has much better military experience than Candidate C. I'm voting for Candidate B."

C. \_\_\_\_\_:

Voting based on a politician's or political party's \_\_\_\_\_.

1. "The country has done well since Mr. C. became President. I'm voting for Mr. C."

D. \_\_\_\_\_:

Voting for candidates from one \_\_\_\_\_ for all races.

1. "I'm a lifelong Democrat. Mr. D, and E, and F are Democrats. I'm voting for Mr. D, E, and F.
2. The alternative is split-ticket voting - Voting for some Republicans and Some Democrats on the same ballot.

E. Political scientists believe that each of these theories explain the voting behavior of most people.

F. However, people may act in accordance with different theories at different times (switch from a party-line to a prospective voter) or in accordance with multiple theories \_\_\_\_\_.

G. Other factors that influence voter choice:

1. Candidate Characteristics.

- a. People supported George W. Bush because he seemed approachable and familiar.

- b. People supported Barak Obama because he was an electrifying public speaker.

2. Contemporary issues-

- a. The loss of American jobs overseas and concerns over illegal immigration led many to support Donald Trump.

H. Religious Beliefs -

1. Evangelical Christians overwhelmingly support republican candidates.

2. Some Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ voters. They will vote for whichever candidate is against abortions being legal.



### The Stages of US National Elections

Steps	Presidential Elections (More than a year long process)	Congressional Elections (a few month process)
<b>1. The Announcement</b>	Usually more than a year before the general election, each candidate gives a speech and announces his or her intention to run for president	This step is the same, but not done so early before the election.
<b>2. Campaigning within the parties</b>	At this time, candidates from the same political party compete with each other to become the one winner (nominee) from their party. They travel the country raising money, giving speeches, and running advertisements promoting themselves and criticizing their opponents. Debates are held which include either all Democratic candidates or all Republican candidates. Republican and Democratic candidates do not debate each other at this time.	This step is pretty much the same but much smaller in scale. Of course, people running for Congress do not campaign outside of their own state or congressional district.
<b>3. Primaries (Actually, Primaries and Caucuses)</b>	Under the old "convention" nomination system, party insiders called delegates would choose the party's nominee at the national nomination convention (next step). All that the voters could do is eventually vote for either the nominee that the Republican insiders chose or the nominee that the Democratic insiders chose. Under the new "primary" system, political parties have much less control over the nomination process. Now, from January to June, each party holds an election in each state to allow the voters to vote for most of the delegates that each party sends to the national convention. By selecting delegates who are "pledged" to vote for a particular candidate, the voters largely decide which candidate will be the parties' nominee. These 50 Republican and 50 Democratic elections (1 in each state) are either primaries or caucuses (and a few states have a combination of both). In Primary elections, which are more common, citizens in each state simply go to their polling location (voting location), vote, and leave. Caucuses are less commonly used. These all-day affairs involve voters taking turns giving speeches to try to convince other voters to support the candidate that they prefer. The voters do not actually vote for their preferred candidate until the end of the day. Only political activists tend to take the time to attend either of these kinds of elections, especially caucuses.	In congressional primaries, there are no delegates involved. Voters vote directly for the candidates, and whoever wins the most votes wins the primary and becomes their parties' nominee for the House or Senate.
<b>4. National Party Conventions</b>	After all of the primaries and caucuses have been held, each political party holds a huge meeting called the National Convention. The delegates that were selected by the voters in the primaries and caucuses all go to this convention to officially cast their votes for a candidate on behalf of their state and to vote on changes to the party platform. The person who has won a majority of the delegates becomes the party's official nominee. Once this is done, none of the other candidates will be running for president any longer. There is now just one Republican and one Democratic nominee (and one nominee from whatever independent parties ran campaigns). Although no one is officially the nominee until the delegates cast their votes at the convention, it is always known well in advance who has won the majority of delegates in the primaries and caucuses. The official delegate voting and announcement at the convention are really just formalities. The convention serves as a ceremonial "coming out party" for the winner, and consists of a week of speeches and music which culminates in the acceptance speech of the winning candidate. Then, the contest between the two parties officially begins.	The National Party Conventions have nothing to do with Congressional elections.

<p><b>5. Campaigning for the General Election</b></p>	<p>Now it is finally a campaign between only two individuals, the official Democratic and Republican nominees. Each of these nominees travels the country making speeches and attends debates against each other, trying to win the support of the American people. Because political parties are not as in control under the primary system as they were under the convention system, campaigns have become 'candidate centered' rather than 'party centered.' The signs say 'Vote Trump' and 'Vote Hillary' rather than vote republican or democrat, and each candidate decides how best to campaign. The parties do little more than provide financial support.</p>	<p>Congressional nominees campaign and may or may not debate each other. Since incumbents win congressional elections so often, especially in the House of Representatives, incumbents will often spend a minimal amount of time campaigning unless polls show that the challenger is actually a serious threat.</p>
<p><b>6. The General Election ("General" meaning the whole nation votes on the same day, unlike during the primaries)</b></p>	<p>Finally it is election day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November every four years according to the Constitution (Know that for the test, though it's actually every two years. Remember the mid-terms). Although voters will see a choice between different presidential and vice presidential candidates on the voting ballot, they will not actually vote for either of these candidates directly. They actually vote for a group of people, called electors, who will vote for the president for them. If a candidate wins a majority of the popular vote (the vote of the public) in a state, then all of the electors in that state who are designated to vote for that candidate will get to go and vote for him. The losing candidate's electors do not get to vote. Whichever candidate is able to win 270 of the possible 538 elector's votes, called electoral votes, will become president. After all of the states have voted on election day (and usually even before all have voted), the math is done, and the winner is identified who gives an acceptance speech. The losing candidate gives a concession speech.</p>	<p>Both the President and members of Congress are elected at the same time on the day of the general election. For members of Congress, the Electoral College is not involved. Whoever wins the most votes wins the election.</p>
<p><b>7. The Electoral Vote</b></p>	<p>On the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, the electors that each state voted for now go and cast their electoral votes for president. Since the electors almost always vote for the candidate that they are pledged to vote for, and in many states are legally required to, this step is largely a formality. The winner has long since been determined mathematically on the night of the general election. In any case, it is now official. The winner of the electoral vote is henceforth referred to as the "President Elect" until he or she becomes the actual president next month</p>	<p>The electoral vote has nothing to do with congressional elections.</p>
<p><b>8. The Inauguration</b></p>	<p>On January 20th, a formal ceremony, called the inauguration, is held in front of the US Capital (where Congress does its business) in which the President Elect becomes the official President of the United States. The Oath of office is administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, [so help me God]."</p>	<p>Each house swears in its new members when Congress convenes.</p>

**Outline Guide – The Stages of US National Elections**

**Directions:** Use the outline guide along with the handout to create your outline of the Stages of US National Elections.

- I. The Announcement
  - A. Presidential
    - 1 numbered statement minimum
  - B. Congressional
    - 1 numbered statement minimum
- II. Campaigning within the parties
  - A. Presidential
    - 2 numbered statements minimum
  - B. Congressional
    - 1 numbered statement minimum
- III. Primaries
  - A. Presidential
    - 6 numbered statements minimum
  - B. Congressional
    - 1 numbered statement minimum
- IV. National Party Conventions
  - A. Presidential
    - 3 numbered statements minimum
  - B. Congressional
    - 1 numbered statement minimum
- V. Campaigning for the General Election
  - A. Presidential
    - 3 numbered statements minimum
  - B. Congressional
    - 2 numbered statement minimum
- VI. The General Election
  - A. Presidential
    - 5 numbered statements minimum
  - B. Congressional
    - 2 numbered statement minimum
- VII. The Electoral Vote
  - A. Presidential
    - 2 numbered statements minimum
  - B. Congressional
    - 1 numbered statement minimum
- VIII. The Inauguration
  - A. Presidential
    - 2 numbered statements minimum
  - B. Congressional
    - 1 numbered statement minimum



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Unit 3: PowerPoint Notes National Elections</b>
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**I. Modern American Political Campaigns**

A. American political campaigns (especially presidential campaigns) are...

1. From the first presidential caucus election until the general election is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ months.
2. But presidential candidates often begin raising money and building name recognition for \_\_\_\_\_ prior to the general election.
3. Because American elections are so long, they are \_\_\_\_\_ and becoming \_\_\_\_\_ expensive (Trump and Clinton spent well over 1 billion dollars combined on their campaigns in 2016).

B. What is the money spent on?

1. \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. A Campaign Manager - Coordinates the entire campaign.
  - b. A Finance Chair - Oversees fund raising and spending
  - c. Professional Consultants - For a variety of tasks like polling, internet outreach, speech writing, etc.
  - d. Volunteers (so free) - Make phone calls, participate in 'get out the vote' activities. etc.
  - e. Other staff
2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Expensive \_\_\_\_\_ has long been the primary means of reaching voters
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now major vehicles through which politicians reach voters.
    - 1.) All candidates now have their own websites.
    - 2.) The internet and email has made fund-raising much \_\_\_\_\_ and more effective.
  - c. Politicians must also travel constantly and make speeches.
3. All of this money needed to run for office leads to concerns that those who contribute to political campaigns end up having \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Primaries and Caucuses

### A. Types

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Any voter in the district may participate.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Only voters who have registered as a member of a particular political party may participate in that party's primary/caucus.
  - a. Why have a closed primary?

To prevent " \_\_\_\_\_ " by the opposition - voting for a candidate who you think will be easy for your candidate to defeat.

### B. \_\_\_\_\_ - Those from each state who will cast votes for their party at the national convention for President.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Delegates who are chosen by the \_\_\_\_\_ in the primaries/caucuses and are obligated to vote for a particular candidate.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Party insiders (members of congress, governors, party leaders, etc.) who get to cast a vote at the convention for whoever they want.

a. Democrats call theirs, " \_\_\_\_\_ "

#### 3. 2016 delegate breakdown.

a.) GOP: 2,363 pledged, 103 unpledged

b.) Dems: 4,4051 pledged, 712 unpledged "Super-delegates."

#### 4. Whoever gets a majority of overall delegates (50%+1) \_\_\_\_\_

5. The math to determine the number of delegates each state receives is COMPLICATED, but it is largely based on state population.

### C. Delegate allocation

1. Democratic Primaries: **All** Democratic primaries/caucuses allocate delegates \_\_\_\_\_

**(proportional allocation)** - if you win 50% of the vote, you get ~ \_\_\_\_\_ of the pledged delegates.

#### 2. Republican Primaries:

a. **Most** Republican primaries/caucuses are also **proportional allocation**.

b. Some Republican primaries/caucuses use a \_\_\_\_\_

- Whoever wins the most votes gets \_\_\_\_\_ of that states pledged delegates.

c. A few states use slightly modified versions or combinations of these two methods.



## 3. Results of the different Allocation Systems

- a. If there are many winner-take-all states, a winner is determined more \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. If there are many proportional allocation states, it takes longer to determine a winner.
  - 1.) In 2008, the Republican Party allowed many winner-take-all states.
    - 2.) Republican John McCain won the party's nomination very quickly.
      - a.) Once McCain won a few early "winner-take-all" states, he had so many delegates so quickly, the others dropped out.
    - 3.) Democrats Barak Obama and Hillary Clinton were still competing until almost the last primary. (the longest primary contest in US history).
      - a.) both kept winning about 50% of the delegates.

## D. Who votes?

1. Unlike later in the general election, only \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ right or left tend to vote in presidential and congressional primaries/caucuses.
2. This explains why our political leaders are so much further to the left or the right than most of the Americans that they represent who are closer to the center. The activists who pick the nominees in the primaries/caucuses ensure that the only choice that voters will have in the general election is between someone at the far left or someone at the far right.
3. To win in the primaries/caucuses, candidates must act MORE / LESS liberal or conservative themselves.
  - a. During the primaries, Trump called for a deportation force to remove all immigrants without legal status from the country.
  - b. After winning the primaries, Trump called for the deportation of dangerous immigrants right away, and "we'll see" about the others.
  - c. Interestingly, in order to win over and keep Bernie Sanders supporters, Clinton had to **remain** further to the left on things like trade policy instead of moving toward the center as one normally would after winning the primaries.

## E. The Primary Calendar

1. The Primaries typically begin in early January and end in early \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – A Tuesday in February or March with more primary elections than any other day.
  - a. It is the closest thing we have to a national primary day
  - b. In 2016, it was March 1st with 11 states holding republican and democratic elections.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - Moving your states' primary/caucus to an early date so that you have more influence on the outcome.
4. By tradition, \_\_\_\_\_ always gets the first caucus and \_\_\_\_\_ always gets the first Primary.
  - a. If a candidate wins both of those, he or she is looking good to become the nominee.

### III. The Electoral College

- A. The group of individuals, called \_\_\_\_\_, who cast the actual votes for the president, called electoral votes, after the general election.
- B. Each state has the same number of electors as it does \_\_\_\_\_ (reps + senators).
- C. We (voters) choose which electors from our state (ex: Clinton electors or Trump electors) get to vote for the President.
- D. Originally, electors could vote any way they wished, regardless of who they claimed they would vote for.
- E. Today, many states require them to vote as they claimed they would (Trump electors must vote for Trump, etc.)
- F. **Circle One:** Whichever candidate wins the popular vote (the vote of the public) in a state wins ALL/A PERCENTAGE of the state's electoral votes (the votes of the electors of that state) except in Maine and Nebraska (they divide them up proportionately)
- G. Whoever wins \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ total electoral votes throughout the nation becomes the president
- H. If no one wins 270, the House of Representatives chooses the President (this has not happened since Thomas Jefferson - 1800)
- I. Result of this system: Presidential Candidates focus their campaigns on:
1. Competitive " \_\_\_\_\_ " that could vote either way
  2. States with many \_\_\_\_\_.

#### IV. Congressional Elections and our Two-Party System

A. In America, for elections to the US House of Representatives, we have \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_.

1. **Plurality Elections**– Whoever wins the \_\_\_\_\_ votes in a district (or in a state in if it's a senate race), \_\_\_\_\_ of votes (50% +1), wins that election.
2. **Single Member** - Each district has \_\_\_\_\_ total representative that serves it.
3. **Winner take all** - There is only one winner per district. Second place gets \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Plurality elections also determine which individual will be the entire state's 1 senator who is up for reelection that year.

C. Plurality elections determine which presidential candidate wins all of a state's electoral votes.

D. The result of these plurality all-or-nothing elections is a \_\_\_\_\_ rather than a \_\_\_\_\_ system.

1.) Third party candidates must beat both major party candidates at the same time to win any house seat, senate seat, or state's electoral votes which is very difficult.

2.) A second place finish, even with a large percentage of the vote, gets a candidate

\_\_\_\_\_, making it very difficult for third parties to win a seat in government anywhere.

3.) The problem is compounded by the fact that voters know this, so they don't "waste their vote" on long-shot third party candidates, making it even more difficult for third party candidates to win.

4.) Single Member, Winner-Take-All, Plurality Elections like we have tend to result in \_\_\_\_\_

#### E. Alternatives

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (rather than a plurality election.) - If no one wins a **majority** of the votes for Congress, another election is held between only the top two vote getters.  
a. Result: A third party candidate would not have to beat both major parties at the same time. He could come in second in the first election and first in the second election - still difficult, but not all but impossible.

b. About a dozen US states have Run-off congressional elections.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ - If a political party gets 20% of the national vote, they get \_\_\_\_\_% of the seats in the legislature.

a. Result: 3rd party voters would not feel that they are wasting their vote. Even if they add up to only 10% of the overall national vote, they still get 10% of the seats in the legislature.

3. Both of these systems would INCREASE / DECREASE the likelihood of a two-party system

F. One final obstacle to 3rd Parties - \_\_\_\_\_ by the major parties.

1. Rather than compete with 3rd parties, the two major parties sometimes ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' their supporters by adopting the 3rd party's agenda.

a. Ross Perot's Reform Party from the 90s talked about the danger of special interests and free trade agreements like NAFTA, both of which were adopted by Donald Trump in 2016.

**IV. State Variations on Elections - Some states allow for the following. Some do not.**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ - Citizens can petition to have "propositions" placed on the ballot to be voted on. Citizen law-making.

1. Ex: Michigan had 6 proposals on the ballot in 2012 dealing with taxes, collective bargaining, sustainable energy, and a new bridge to Canada.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ - Allowing citizens to directly vote to nullify a law passed by their state legislature

1. Ex: 2012's Proposal 1 on Michigan's Emergency Manager Law.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ - A vote to remove an elected official from office before his term has expired.

1. Ex: Arnold Schwarzenegger defeated Gray Davis in a California Recall election before Davis' term was up back in 2003.
2. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker survived a recall election in 2012.

D. \_\_\_\_\_ (a few slides ago)

**V. Media coverage of elections.**

A. The media largely reports on each campaign's \_\_\_\_\_ and who's up or down in the latest polls, called "\_\_\_\_\_."

B. News outlets seem to think that the candidates' policy positions do not hold viewers and readers interest, so they do not report on them very much.

C. What little coverage there is of policy is largely "\_\_\_\_\_ " - Broadcasting short quotes from a candidate's speech rather than a more detailed explanation of their positions.

1. Average sound bites have shrunk from about 42 seconds in the late 60s to less than \_\_ seconds today.

D. All of this make it difficult for candidates to convey more detailed messages to voters by way of the media.

E. During elections and year-round, the media "\_\_\_\_\_;" that is, it greatly influences what we, the voters, think is an important issue.

1. If the media is covering it...

## Question for Debate: Should the electoral college be replaced by direct popular election of the President?

### **Background on the Debate**

When voters go to the polls on a presidential election day in November, they do not directly select a President. Instead they choose a slate of presidential electors.

Why are there presidential electors? The Framers of the Constitution gave a great deal of thought to the method for choosing the President. It was, said James Wilson of Pennsylvania, “the most difficult of all on which we have had to decide.” It was difficult because the Framers did not want to select the President by a direct vote of the people. They were certain that that would lead “to tumult and disorder.” Nor did they believe that the people would be able to make wise, informed choices about the candidates. So they had to find another method.

After weeks of debate, the Framers agreed on a plan first put forward by Alexander Hamilton. Under the plan, the President was to be chosen by a special body of electors. Each State would have as many electors as it has members of Congress. For example, in 1992 Oklahoma had 8 electoral votes since it had 6 representatives in the House and, like all states, 2 U.S. senators. By contrast, California had 54 electoral votes because it had 52 representatives in the House and 2 in the Senate. The entire electoral college is made up of 538 electors, which is the sum of the number of members in the House (435), the total number of senators (100), and 3 electoral votes awarded to the District of Columbia through the 23rd Amendment.

How, then, is a candidate elected President? It’s simple. To win, a candidate must receive a majority of all electoral college votes—at least 270.

### **The Election of 1992**

To go back to the election of 1992, a voter in Oklahoma voting for George Bush was actually selecting 8 electors who had pledged to support the Bush-Quayle ticket. A voter choosing Bill Clinton was really selecting a different 8 electors who were pledged to support the Democratic ticket. Since Bush won the popular vote in Oklahoma, he received all of Oklahoma’s 8 votes. Clinton, however, won the popular vote in California, thereby gaining that state’s 54 electoral votes. This is known as the winner-take-all feature.

In 1992, Bill Clinton won 370 electoral votes while George Bush won 168. The popular vote totals for the two candidates were nearly 45 million votes for Clinton and more than 39 million for Bush. Meanwhile, in spite of winning almost 20 million popular votes, independent candidate Ross Perot won no electoral votes.

As almost always happens, the candidate with the biggest popular vote also won the most votes in the electoral college. Similarly, the electoral college results usually exaggerate the popular vote. Thus, Clinton won a clear majority of the electoral votes while winning only 43 percent of the popular vote.

### **Time for a Change?**

Critics of the electoral college point out that the system may someday cause a crisis, particularly when three strong candidates keep anyone from winning a majority. (In that case the House of Representatives chooses the President and the Senate the Vice President.) Also, nothing in the Constitution requires electors to cast their votes for the candidate receiving the most popular votes. Why not simply do away with the electoral college in favor of a direct popular election?

## Arguments for Change

1. **The electoral college is undemocratic. It is possible for one candidate to win a majority of the popular vote, but still lose the presidency.** This happened in 1824, 1876, and 1888. In 15 other elections, a shift of less than 1 percent of the national popular vote would have had the same result. It would have made the popular-vote loser the **President**.
2. **The reasons for creating the electoral college no longer apply.** In 1787, not everyone could read or write. It was also difficult to get information because communications were so bad. Now voters are much better informed. They do not need electors choosing the President for them.
3. **Letting Congress decide, in the event no candidate receives 270 votes, is unfair.** In 1976 a shift of a little more than 11,000 votes in Delaware and Ohio would have given the electoral votes in those States to Gerald Ford instead of Jimmy Carter. Neither candidate would have had 270 votes, thus turning the election over to the House, letting that body rather than the voters elect a President.
4. **Electors do not have to cast their votes for the candidate receiving the most popular votes.** Sometimes electors refuse to vote for the candidate who won the most popular votes in his or her state. This happened as recently as 1988. In a close vote, an elector could cause the election to result in a tie, thereby sending the election to the House?

## Arguments Against Change

1. **Why tamper with a system that works?** The electoral college has been in place for more than 200 years and has worked well with few problems.
2. **A popular election system would cause new problems.** With the present system, there is never the need for a runoff election. Without the electoral college, if no candidate received 40 percent of the vote there would have to be a runoff election. That would be expensive and needlessly complex.
3. **A popular election system would weaken the two-party system.** Under the electoral system, minor party candidates might receive millions of popular votes, but no electoral votes. If that changed, minor parties would be encouraged to run, drawing votes away from major party candidates. Again, the likelihood of no candidate receiving the necessary 40 percent would be increased.
4. **The problem of uncontrollable electors is a minor one.** More than 17,000 electors' votes have been cast since 1789, but in only 10 cases have electors voted for candidates not winning the popular vote. In no case did such votes come close to changing an election outcome.

**Directions:** On a separate sheet of paper, write, "Should the Electoral College be replaced?" and answer the following Questions

1. Why did the Framers of the Constitution create the Electoral College?
2. Explain the Electoral College process. Be sure to include the terms "popular vote" and "electoral vote" in your explanation.
3. Of the 4 arguments for changing the Electoral College, which 2 are the best? Why?
4. Of the 4 arguments against changing the Electoral College, which 2 are the best? Why?
5. If it were solely up to you, would you support or oppose changing the Electoral College system in any way? Why?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit 3 - Khan Academy Media Video 1 - Media as a linkage institution**

Find the video: Search for "Khan Academy AP Government" and click on the first result. Scroll down to the unit titled "Political Participation" and click "The media." Watch the video:

**Media as a linkage institution**

1. What two things do linkage institutions (like elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media) link?
  
2. The media's role as the "fourth estate" or "watchdog" is to hold the government \_\_\_\_\_ to the people by reporting about it.
  
3. Most revenue that media outlets get come from ...
  
4. The three different strategies that media outlets may follow involve catering to what 3 groups of viewers?
  
5. Are media outlets that cater to the far left or right still acting as a linkage institution for that particular audience?
  
6. Do these partisan media outlets acknowledge or conceal that they are one-sided?
  
7. How does the need to make news exciting influence how elections are reported?
  
8. How might this coverage actually effect the outcome of an election?

Scroll down to "Changing media" and watch the video:

**Impact of media evolution on politics**

1. For much of early American history, the main form of media was...
  
2. In the 20th century, there was also radio, then broadcast television (with Walter Cronkite), then cable news then in the \_\_\_\_\_ age, it explodes.
  
3. Then, with \_\_\_\_\_ media you can directly influence followers on twitter, Facebook, Instagram.
  
4. What kind of things do people who think this is positive say?
  
5. What kind of things do people who think this is negative say (2 main points)?





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes - Three Forms of Democracy****I. Introductory Remarks:**

A. While most of us would agree that the United States is some kind of democracy, political scientists theorize that democracy can take (at least) three forms, and they debate which kind of democracy we actually are.

**II. The Three Forms of Democracy:**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ - A model of democracy in which \_\_\_\_\_ determine public policy either directly or through their elected representatives who serve their interests.

## 1. Two forms of Participatory Democracy:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Democracy - A democracy in which citizens determine policy by directly voting for the laws.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Democracy - A democracy in which citizens determine policy by voting for representatives who make the laws.

## 2. The evidence that our republic is indeed a participatory democracy.

a. It is consistent with our ordinary experience of how America works"

1.) The citizen's \_\_\_\_\_.

2.) Whoever gets the most votes wins.

3.) If they do not serve their interests, they vote for someone else who will.

4.) Besides voting, citizens sometimes directly interact with our elected officials:

a.) \_\_\_\_\_ where local citizens gather to meet with local officials.

b.) Scheduled office meetings (which are hard to get, but still...).

c.) Phone, email, or social media communication

d.) Protests

b. There are also examples of direct participatory democracy in our republic as well:

1.) Ballot initiatives and \_\_\_\_\_.

Continue→

B. \_\_\_\_\_ - A theory democracy which holds that various

\_\_\_\_\_ team up to form \_\_\_\_\_ form coalitions that control the government and public policy.

1. The theory:

a. American citizens decide which policies they want to support which leads them to support particular interest groups that are fighting for those policies.

b. Some interest groups have more \_\_\_\_\_ (like money and members) to help get politicians elected and more \_\_\_\_\_ these politicians once they are elected than other interest groups do.

c. Nevertheless, no interest group has the resources or access to control political outcomes on its own.

d. So, various interest groups pool together their resources by teaming up into huge " \_\_\_\_\_ "

e. Whichever coalition ends up amassing more resources than the others controls the government and, therefore, public policy.

2. The evidence:

a. There are thousands of interest groups in America that attempt to control public policy exactly as this theory describes.

b. There are examples of some particular interest groups that seem to have tremendous influence over politicians.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_ - The theory that a small group of powerful individuals (like the ultra-wealthy) control public policy.

1. The evidence:

a. It does cost an exorbitant amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to run for public office. Perhaps this makes our political leaders dependent on people who make large contributions to their campaigns.

b. Some consider the \_\_\_\_\_ an example of elite "democracy" as it has selected a president who did not receive the vote of the majority three times.

II. Which theory, if any, is correct?

A. Since there is evidence for all of these theories, perhaps America is a mixture of all three.

B. Still, it leaves one wondering if America is 'mostly' a participatory, pluralist, or elite democracy (or if there is some other possible theory that may explain America better ...