

## UNIT THREE QUESTIONS

1. The origins of political parties in the United States can first be found in the

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- (A) Constitution, in Article I
- (B) Revolutionary War, when colonists sided with either Whigs or Tories
- (C) first cabinet, when Jefferson and Hamilton argued opposing points of view in guiding the new nation
- (D) era before the Civil War, when the Republicans opposed slavery and the Democrats did not
- (E) era after the Civil War, when the southern states formed the Democratic party in opposition to the Radical Republicans

C

2. All of the following are purposes of political parties in the United States EXCEPT:

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- (A) to provide alternate interpretations of constitutional law, as it applies to political campaigns
- (B) to serve as linkage institutions between the people and their government
- (C) to pick policymakers and run campaigns
- (D) to articulate policies and give cues to voters
- (E) to coordinate governmental policymaking that would be more fragmented otherwise.

A

3. All of the following are true about the two-party system in the United States EXCEPT:

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- (A) The system has been characterized by long periods of dominance by one party followed by a long period of dominance by the other.
- (B) Until the past 30 or 40 years, the government tended to be "divided"; that is, when the executive branch was one party, the Congress was the other. Since the 1960s the trend has been broken.
- (C) A two-party system is relatively rare in the world today with only about fifteen countries having it.
- (D) Even though third party challengers have appeared in American history, the country always seems to go back to a two-party system.
- (E) Both major parties today, the Democrats and the Republicans, emerged during the nineteenth century.

B

4. All of the following were major players in the two-party system in American history EXCEPT:

X

- (A) Federalists
- (B) Democratic Republicans
- (C) Whigs
- (D) Democrats
- (E) Progressives

4 5. During which period in history did the Democrats first advocate a strong central government control of the economy?

- C
- (A) the era of Jacksonian Democracy
  - (B) during the Progressive era of the early 20th century
  - (C) during the 1930s, with Roosevelt's New Deal
  - (D) during the 1960s, with Lyndon Johnson's Great Society
  - (E) never; Democrats have never supported a strong central government

4 6. All of the following were a part of the Republicans' new campaign tactics starting in the late 1960s EXCEPT:

- C
- (A) paying more attention to electronic media
  - (B) raising more campaign money more efficiently
  - (C) appealing to all ideological elements of the electorate
  - (D) hiring of more professional advisors
  - (E) using computerized mailings to raise money and communicate with voters

4 7. After the election of 1968 the McGovern-Fraser Commission recommended to the Democratic party that they should

- D
- (A) increase the number of superdelegates to conventions
  - (B) imitate the Republicans and become more sensitive to electronic media
  - (C) decrease the number of extremely liberal delegates that were attending conventions.
  - (D) get back to their "grass roots" and bring delegates from underrepresented groups to the convention.
  - (E) control the demonstrations at the convention so voters would not get the impression that Democrats were factionalized.

4 8. All of the following are reasons for the decline in the importance of political parties EXCEPT:

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- (A) loss of power of party machines to give out patronage jobs
  - (B) establishment of primary elections to choose party candidates
  - (C) the growth of the "personalized campaign", specific to individual candidates
  - (D) the increasing influence of electronic media in determining voter choices
  - (E) the tendency of parties to avoid new campaign techniques resulting in a lack of adequate campaign funds

3 9. All of the following are important functions of elections in the United States EXCEPT:

- A
- (A) They provide a means for expressing ideologically extreme positions.
  - (B) They provide the means for selecting political leaders.
  - (C) They make elected officials accountable for their actions.
  - (D) They are an important part of political participation for citizens.
  - (E) They legitimize positions of power in the political system.

- 4 10. Which of the following best describes an important role of political parties in American elections?
- (A) Parties in the U.S. generally play a more important role in elections than they do in most other democracies.
  - (B) Running for the presidency requires candidates to take little initiative; the party does most of the work.
  - C (C) American parties raise money for campaigns, but the candidate is also responsible for raising money on his or her own.
  - (D) Party leaders generally select candidates for major offices.
  - (E) The Democratic party usually gives much more financial support to its candidates than do the Republicans.
- 3 11. All of the following describe the terms of national elected officials in the U.S. EXCEPT:
- (A) The Constitution sets term limits for the presidency but not for members of Congress.
  - (B) Presidents' terms are four years, representatives are two, and senators are six.
  - (C) Terms of office are fixed for virtually all elected national political leaders.
  - E (D) Terms of office for the president, vice president, and members of Congress are set by the Constitution.
  - (E) Election dates in the United States are left open until the president sets them.
- 4 12. The most important single reason why the United States has a two-party system is
- (A) voting by proportional representation
  - (B) the winner-take-all system of voting
  - (C) the lack of different points of view within the political culture
  - B (D) the run-off system in which the top two vote getters face one another in another election
  - (E) the efficient organization of both Democratic and Republican parties
- 3 13. Which of the following is the most common method for a party today to select its candidates for office?
- (A) open primaries
  - (B) blanket primaries
  - (C) caucuses
  - D (D) closed primaries
  - (E) general elections
- 3 14. Party conventions today
- (A) formally nominate candidates for president and vice-president
  - (B) select the electors for the party to the electoral college
  - (C) nominate candidates for senatorial and representative positions
  - A (D) do almost nothing and will almost certainly be eliminated soon from the election process.
  - (E) are held state by state, but not on a national level

15. Campaign tactics in the general election usually require that candidates
- 3 (A) keep their appeals similar to those during the primaries
  - B (B) change their tone to become more middle-of-the-road
  - (C) be sure that their campaign appeals primarily to party loyalists
  - (D) focus on discrediting the opponent
  - (E) focus on a specific agenda and policies they will carry out if elected
16. The Federal Election Reform Act of 1974 included all of the following campaign reforms EXCEPT:
- 3 (A) creation of a Federal Election Commission
  - (B) prohibition of foreign contributions
  - C (C) elimination of all PACs and "soft money" donations
  - (D) allowance of federal matching funds for major presidential candidates in primaries
  - (E) limitation of individual contributions to \$1000 per election campaign
17. Which of the following critical, realigning elections created a coalition of farmers, urban workers, northern blacks, southern whites, and Jewish voters?
- 4 (A) 1800
  - (B) 1828
  - (C) 1860
  - E (D) 1896
  - (E) 1932
18. In which of the following ways do political parties differ from interest groups and PACs?
- 4 (A) Parties influence government primarily through the electoral process; interest groups and PACs do not.
  - (B) Parties generate and support a limited number of policies; interest groups and PACs support a broad spectrum of policies.
  - D (C) Only parties and interest groups attempt to influence the political system.
  - (D) Parties run their own slate of candidates for public office; while interest groups and PACs support but don't actually run candidates.
  - (E) Interest groups and PACs concentrate on influencing the political system; parties are interested in influencing other areas of life as well.
19. Which group(s) is most heavily represented by PACs?
- 3 (A) corporations and businesses
  - (B) labor unions
  - (C) public interest groups
  - A (D) equality and justice groups
  - (E) government-related groups

20. Pluralists support all of the following beliefs about interest groups EXCEPT:
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- (A) Interest groups provide linkage between people and government.
  - (B) The existence of many groups means that any one group can't become too powerful because it is counterbalanced by others
  - (C) Interest groups generally are dominated by a few wealthy elites who are in control of the political process.
  - C (D) Groups usually follow the rules, and those that don't get bad publicity that keeps them in line.
  - (E) Interest groups generally fit into the democratic process, providing input from the public to the government.
21. Which of the following BEST describes the role of interest groups in American politics today?
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- (A) Interest groups exist for some groups, but most citizens aren't represented by them.
  - (B) The number of interest groups has proliferated in recent years, so that today a group seems to exist for everyone.
  - B (C) Interest groups don't represent as many people as they used to because public criticism has forced interest groups to disappear.
  - (D) The influence of interest groups is more widespread than before, since many have moved away from Washington.
  - (E) The most prestigious professions and occupations are represented by interest groups, but the less prestigious ones are not.
22. Which of the following is an institutional interest group?
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- (A) the National Association of Counties
  - (B) the NAACP
  - A (C) the National Organization for Women
  - (D) the AFL-CIO
  - (E) the Sierra Club
23. Which of the following BEST describes the influence of labor unions on political policy making?
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- (A) Unions have never had much influence on the decisions of the national government.
  - (B) Unions have always been and remain today the most important single influence on policies of the U.S. government.
  - (C) Unions are more powerful today than they have been in the past because they are better organized.
  - D (D) Union membership has declined over the past 25 years, and they probably aren't as influential as they once were.
  - (E) The influence of unions has remained fairly constant over the past few years; they are only moderately influential.

24. Which of the following groups did James Madison believe form the most important and influential factions?

- (A) farming interests
- (B) business or property interests
- (C) regional interests
- (D) urban interests
- (E) labor interests

B

25. Which of the following BEST describes the influence of public interest groups?

- (A) They were very influential during the 1970s, but have lost their influence today.
- (B) They have always been important in this century, but never as important as business groups.
- (C) Their influence is limited because most people think they are fanatical.
- (D) They are the most influential type of group in Washington today.
- (E) They have been an important influence on policy making in Washington since the 1970s.

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