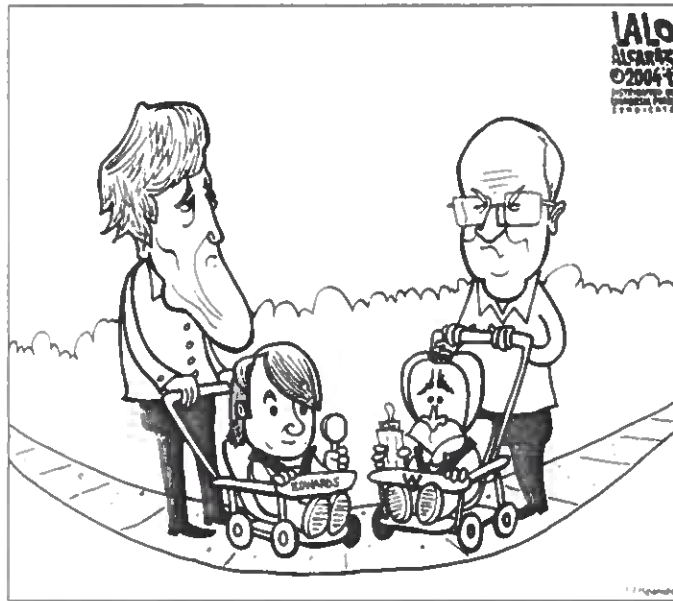


UNIT THREE QUESTIONS



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- X 1. Which of the following best illustrates the point being made in the cartoon above?
- (A) Candidates for public office generally are either too young or too old to successfully hold their positions.
 - (B) Democrats are young and immature candidates for office; Republicans tend to be old and grumpy.
 - (C) Both political parties claim to advocate family values.
 - (D) Both political parties had inequalities in political experience/savvy on their tickets in 2004.
 - (E) Neither political party had good candidates in the presidential/vice-presidential race in 2004.
- 4 2. Which of the following is the best single reason why the United States has a two-party system?
- (A) an election system characterized by proportional representation
 - (B) a winner-take-all plurality election system
 - (C) a consensual political culture
 - (D) long standing culture wars
 - (E) the system is modeled after the British two-party design



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- X 3. Which political phenomenon best explains President Bush's ability to "tame" Senator John McCain, as illustrated in the cartoon above?
- (A) the relative insignificance of McCain's home state, Arizona, in terms of political influence
 - (B) the need for same party opponents to cooperate for the sake of winning elections
 - (C) President Bush's charisma and stronger personality, as compared to McCain
 - (D) the political dominance of the Republican Party over the Democrats
 - (E) Bush's ability to get popular opinion to support him, in contrast to McCain's abrasiveness
- 4 4. Which of the following is the best description of the power of the national committees of the Republican and Democratic parties?
- (A) The power of both parties' national committees is limited by their grass roots organizational style.
 - (B) The Republican National Committee (RNC) is a powerful organization that directs party activities; the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is weak.
 - (C) The Democratic National Committee (DNC) is a powerful organization that directs party activities; the Republic National Committee (RNC) is weak.
 - (D) The national committees control the presidential campaign, but other races are directed by state and local party organizations.
 - (E) Both parties' national committees have a great deal of power to direct party activities on the state and local levels.

- 4 5. Which of the following has been most characteristic of party politics throughout American history?
- (A) Most often Congress has been controlled by Democrats and the presidency by Republicans.
 - (B) Most often Congress has been controlled by Republicans, and the presidency by Democrats.
 - (C) Republicans have generally controlled both branches.
 - (D) Divided government was the norm until the 1960s.
 - (E) Most of U.S. history may be divided into eras in which one party or the other controlled both branches.
- 4 6. The tradition of holding a national convention to nominate a presidential candidate began with
- (A) the Democratic Republicans under Thomas Jefferson
 - (B) the Democrats under Andrew Jackson
 - (C) the Republicans under Abraham Lincoln
 - (D) the Republicans under Theodore Roosevelt
 - (E) the Democrats under Franklin Roosevelt
- 4 7. The main goal of the McGovern-Fraser Commission of 1969 was to
- (A) bring unity to the Republican Party
 - (B) restore power to superdelegates to the Democratic convention
 - (C) increase the representation of minorities, women, young, and poor at the Democratic convention
 - (D) come up with effective strategies to help Republican candidates win the presidency
 - (E) restructure the bureaucracy so that the President's war powers would be limited
- 4 8. Which one of the following was president during an era of divided government?
- (A) Andrew Jackson
 - (B) Abraham Lincoln
 - (C) Theodore Roosevelt
 - (D) Franklin Roosevelt
 - (E) George H. Bush

- 3 9. Which of the following is a provision in the original Constitution that affects how elections are structured?
- (A) All U.S. citizens have the right to vote.
 - (B) National elections must be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
 - (C) Senators must go up for election every six years.
 - (D) Representatives must go up for election every two years.
 - (E) Presidents may only be reelected once.
- 3 10. Which of the following is the best description of changes in elections and campaigns during the late 20th century?
- (A) Candidates took more and more control of their campaigns from the political parties.
 - (B) Primary elections became less and less important in selecting candidates.
 - (C) Party bosses gained more power in determining candidates for office.
 - (D) Party conventions gained more power in determining presidential candidates for office.
 - (E) Races for congressional seats became more competitive than they had been in previous years.
- 3 11. Which of the following is most commonly used by states in selecting delegates to party conventions?
- (A) the electoral college
 - (B) open primaries
 - (C) closed primaries
 - (D) blanket primaries
 - (E) caucuses
- 3 12. Which of the following was declared unconstitutional by *Buckley v. Valeo* in 1976?
- (A) overall campaign spending limits on what candidates may spend on their own behalf
 - (B) PAC contributions over \$5000 per candidate
 - (C) Individual contributions to parties for get-out-the-vote efforts
 - (D) Soft money
 - (E) Restrictions on campaign contributions from foreigners

- 3 13. Which long accepted tradition in American politics came under serious question after the election of 2000?
- (A) direct election of senators
 - (B) judicial interference in determining election results
 - (C) selection of a vice presidential candidate from a different part of the country from the presidential candidate
 - (D) restrictions on voting taxes
 - (E) local control of the voting process
- 3 14. “America Coming Together,” “the Media Fund,” “Swift Vets and POWs for Truth,” and “Progress for America Voter Fund” are examples of
- (A) PACs
 - (B) Interest groups that supported the Republicans in the election of 2004
 - (C) Interest groups that supported the Democrats in the election of 2004
 - (D) 527s
 - (E) Public interest groups that do not take sides in an election
- 3 15. The “coattail effect” is a description of the power of
- (A) a dominant party to sweep across a state
 - (B) the party convention’s enthusiasm to boost their candidate in the polls
 - (C) presidential popularity to affect congressional elections
 - (D) the president to determine the makeup of judges that sit on federal courts
 - (E) state party officials to influence who sits on the party’s national convention
- 4 16. Critical realigning elections are said to occur when
- (A) one party has dominated the presidency for four straight elections
 - (B) one party has controlled both the legislative and executive branches of government for at least twenty years
 - (C) voters start supporting one party or the other by voting a straight ticket
 - (D) voters begin to vote for third parties
 - (E) voting blocks rearrange themselves in a different alignment of support for the major parties
- 3 17. Frontloading occurs in a political campaign when
- (A) one candidate gets more money than the others
 - (B) party bosses make the decisions regarding candidates to run for office
 - (C) early primaries tend to be more important than later ones
 - (D) one party gets way ahead of the other one in raising campaign money
 - (E) a candidate convinces convention delegates to ignore the results of primary elections in their states

4 18. Which of the following statements is most likely to be made by a political scientist that supports hyperpluralist theory?

- (A) The political system is inefficient and ineffective because the government tries to please every interest, resulting in watered down laws.
- (B) Groups usually follow the rules, and those that don't get bad publicity that helps to keep them in line.
- (C) Groups provide linkage between people and government. They allow people's voices to be heard in ways that otherwise would be lost.
- (D) The government is run by a few big groups trying to preserve their own interests.
- (E) Although many groups exist, most of them have no real power.

4 19. Which of the following interest groups is composed primarily of institutional memberships?

- (A) AFL-CIO
- (B) National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- (C) National Association of Counties
- (D) American Association of Retired Persons
- (E) The Sierra Club

4 20. Which of the following is most likely to be supported by a labor union?

- (A) right-to-work laws
- (B) environmental restrictions on industries
- (C) consolidation of major unions into one
- (D) the union shop
- (E) laws that restrict total amounts given to congressional candidates

X 21. Ralph Nader is generally associated with the organization of

- (A) labor unions
- (B) professional groups
- (C) agricultural groups
- (D) equality groups
- (E) public interest groups

4 22. In which of the following activities is a lobbyist most likely to participate?

- (A) selecting Congressional candidates who favor their interest
- (B) contacting government officials by phone, e-mail, or letter
- (C) raising money from members for election campaigns
- (D) organizing recruitment efforts for new members to support the interest group
- (E) planning efforts to influence decisions made by federal judges

- 3 23. A linkage institution that is primarily responsible for electioneering and whose contributions to election campaigns are restricted by federal law is called a
- (A) 527
 - (B) PAC
 - (C) interest group
 - (D) political party
 - (E) PIRG
- 4 24. *Amicus curiae* briefs are used by interest groups to influence decisions made by
- (A) bureaucrats in the executive branch
 - (B) candidates for public office
 - (C) the president
 - (D) court judges
 - (E) members of Congress
- 4 25. "Ratings games" are played by interest groups to
- (A) identify members of Congress favorable to their causes
 - (B) successfully compete with other groups for federal dollars
 - (C) rank order legislation that they support
 - (D) influence discretionary decisions made by bureaucrats
 - (E) identify people who would be successful lobbyists
- 3 26. The linkage institution sometimes called the "fourth branch" of government is
- (A) a political party
 - (B) an interest group
 - (C) a PAC
 - (D) a 527
 - (E) the media
- 3 27. Which of the following is the best example of agenda setting by the media?
- (A) agreeing to run negative ads for election campaigns
 - (B) competing with other media outlets by doing almost anything to be the first to get a story
 - (C) deliberately ignoring an issue important to the president and focusing on one less important to him
 - (D) opposing a policy supported by one political party in order to receive a favor from another party
 - (E) reporting the news in very brief summaries so that no stories receive in-depth coverage

- 3 28. Which type of media outlet is subject to the most controls and regulations by government?
- (A) internet
 - (B) local newspapers
 - (C) magazines
 - (D) television station
 - (E) national newspapers
- 3 29. With regard to the media, which of the following rights is most likely to be protected from government intervention?
- (A) freedom from prior restraint
 - (B) libel
 - (C) pornography
 - (D) confidentiality of sources
 - (E) suspension of the equal time rule
- 3 30. The major responsibility of the “spin doctor” is to
- (A) be sure that candidates create big news events
 - (B) prepare presidential candidates for debates
 - (C) craft effective ads for television
 - (D) write effective speeches for candidates
 - (E) influence how journalists and the public interpret news events

UNIT THREE – ANSWERS

1. **(D)** – The cartoonist depicts President George W. Bush and Vice-Presidential Candidate John Edwards being pushed in baby carriages – Bush by his Vice President, Dick Cheney, and Edwards by the Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry. Even though Bush and Edwards were not as young as many other candidates for office, Edwards’ youthful appearance and limited experience in government made him have been a target for criticism. On the Republican side, President Bush was often criticized for allowing Dick Cheney (who is also older than Bush) to make political decisions.
2. **(B)** – Two party systems are much less usual than multi-party systems among modern democracies, so the United States is somewhat unusual in its party configuration. Although one might argue that we have less diversity of political opinions within our boundaries, it is also possible to argue that the country is split down the middle through “culture wars.” The clearest, most consistent reason is our “winner-take-all” plurality election system that does not reward smaller parties with representation in the legislature, as happens with proportional representation. In most elections, a majority is not required, so we do not have run-offs among top candidates that might allow smaller parties to bargain with the larger parties for favors. Instead, the parties spread their “umbrellas” as far as they can, so that they have enough support to win a plurality.
3. **(B)** – Republicans George W. Bush and John McCain were bitter foes in the Republican primaries of 2000, and the two men often disagree on policy. Senator McCain is often described as a “maverick” that speaks his mind and does not hesitate to disagree with other members of his party. However, when it comes to winning elections, McCain has stepped in line to support the President, first in 2000 after he dropped out as a candidate, and again in 2004 when President Bush was running for reelection.
4. **(A)** – Although the RNC is generally considered to be more centrally organized than the DNC, both national committees are limited by their grass roots organizational style. The parties are usually strongest at the local and state levels, where activists work to gain support for their candidates through organizing elections and getting out the vote. Part of the reason for this style is that elections traditionally are controlled by local and state governments, and most candidates for public office run at those levels. The national committees have some power, but generally are controlled by the presidential candidates’ campaign staff. The chairmen of the committees are traditionally chosen by the presidential candidates.

5. **(E)** – Despite the prevalence of “divided government” since the late 1960s, most of American history may be divided into “party eras,” in which one party controlled both Congress and the presidency. For example, Democrats controlled from the days of Andrew Jackson (1829-1837) until Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865), who started a long Republican era that ended in 1933. Then the Democrats took over until the late 1960s. Some political observers believe that another Republican era began in the early 21st century, but it is too soon to know.
6. **(B)** – The tradition of holding a national convention to nominate a presidential candidate was started by the Democratic Party under Andrew Jackson. The convention replaced the party caucus, or a private meeting of party leaders, who chose the earliest candidates. The convention was seen as more representative of ordinary voters, since delegates were chosen from all states in proportion to party support. Conventions actually chose the candidates until that function was replaced by state primaries that began to be instituted in states during the early to mid-20th century.
7. **(C)** – The Democratic Party was widely criticized during the presidential campaign of 1968 for not representing the general will of the party members. The Chicago convention was a disaster, with protestors camping outside the convention hall and clashing with police and reporters. When candidate Hubert Humphrey narrowly lost the election to Republican Richard Nixon, the Democratic Party decided that reform was in order, and the McGovern-Fraser Commission was charged to restructure delegate representation. As a result, the delegates in 1972 included many more minorities, women, young, and poor than ever before. They nominated George McGovern (from the commission) as their candidate, who lost the election by a landslide to Richard Nixon.
8. **(E)** – The era of divided government began in the late 1960s and continued at least until the end of the 20th century. During this time period, Congress was controlled by one party, and the presidency by the other. Arguably, the era might have begun in 1953 under Eisenhower, but John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson returned power to the Democratic Party during the 1960s. Most of the time the Republicans held the presidency and the Democrats held Congress, but the process reversed itself under Democratic President Bill Clinton. George H. Bush was President from 1989-1993, a Republican who worked with a Democratic Congress.
9. **(D)** – The only choice that was a provision in the original Constitution is that representatives must go up for election every two years. Congress sets the date for national elections, and senators were selected by state legislatures until the early 20th century, when the Constitution was amended to provide for their direct election. Presidential terms were not limited until the 1950s, when the 22nd Amendment was passed. Whereas most U.S. citizens have the right to vote today, most states have some restrictions. No one under 18 is allowed to vote.

10. (A) – Candidates who campaign for national office still depend on their parties for support, but parties no longer have the same amount of control that they had previously. Part of the reason for this is the importance of mass media in campaigning, with candidates now able to contact the voters through media messages. Their faces become familiar, so that they can get support on their own. Money is raised by candidates' campaigns directly, and staff are hired directly, and not through the party.
11. (C) – Although candidates' names are on the ballots in both Democratic and Republican primaries, voters are actually selecting delegates to party conventions that are pledged to a candidate. Most states select these delegates through a closed primary in which party members vote for their candidate of choice. Delegates may be allocated according to proportional representation, with the Democrats mandating this system. The Republicans endorse in some states a winner-take-all system for its delegates. In several states, the delegates are not pledged to any certain delegate. No matter what the system, however, the process is most likely to take place within the structure of a closed primary.
12. (A) – In 1976 the Supreme Court ruled in *Buckley vs. Valeo* that limiting the amount that a candidate could spend on his or her own campaign was unconstitutional. "The candidate, no less than any other person, has a First Amendment right to engage in the discussion of public issues and vigorously and tirelessly to advocate his own election." The ruling came in response to demands for campaign finance reform that limited many types of donations from individuals and PACs. The Court's ruling put an end to attempts to restrict overall limits on candidates' spending.
13. (E) – From the beginning, American electoral processes have been controlled at the local level by both governments and parties. They have made decisions about where polls are placed, who works them, the methods of voting, and how the votes are counted and reported. In the close presidential race of 2000 many flaws in local processes were exposed, leaving open the question of how fair the election process is, particularly in terms of accurate vote counting.
14. (D) – 527 groups, named after a section of the United States Internal Revenue Code, are tax-exempt organizations created primarily to influence the nomination, election, appointment, or defeat of candidates for public office. During the 2004 election 527s, such as "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth," "Texans for Truth," "The Media Fund," "America Coming Together," and "Moveon.org Voter Fund," raised large sums of money for both parties.

15. (C) – Presidential popularity affects congressional elections, even during off years. This tendency is known as the coattail effect. In recent years, presidential popularity does not seem to have as much effect as it used to, with the Democrats suffering a net loss of ten seats when Bill Clinton won the 1992 election. Two years later in 1994 the Republicans retook majorities in both the House and Senate, proving Bill Clinton’s coat to have no tails at all. In 2000 Republican George W. Bush narrowly won the White House, but Republicans lost seats in both House and Senate in that election year. However, in 2004, Bush’s coattails were substantial, with Republicans gaining seats in both the House and the Senate.
16. (E) – A critical realigning election marks a significant change in the way that large groups of citizens votes, shifting their political allegiance from one party to the other. Realignments usually occur because issues change, reflecting new schisms formed between groups. Political scientists see several realignments from the past, during or just after an election, with the clearest realignments taking place after the elections of 1860, 1896, and 1932.
17. (C) – The tendency for early primaries to be more important than later ones is called frontloading. Presidential candidates who win early primaries tend to pick up support along the way, and those that lose generally find it difficult to raise money, and are forced to drop out of the race. By the time primaries are over, each party’s candidate is almost certainly finalized. Traditionally, New Hampshire’s primary occurs before any others, and as a result, candidates work hard to make a good showing there.
18. (A) – Hyperpluralists emphasize the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the large number of interest groups that try to influence the political process in the United States. Like pluralists, hyperpluralists do believe that political power is spread among many different groups, but unlike pluralists, they think that the process works to the detriment of the American people. They emphasize the messiness of policy made in response to interest group conflicts (such as environmentalists vs. big industries), so that resulting bills are watered down and ineffective.
19. (C) – Institutional interest groups are composed of organizations, not individual people. They may be corporations, businesses, industries, or political units, such as “counties.” All other groups listed have individual memberships.
20. (D) – Labor unions generally focus on better working conditions and higher wages. To ensure their solidarity, unions have established the union shop, which requires new employees to join the union representing them. Employers, on the other hand, have supported right-to-work laws, which argue that union membership should be optional.

21. **(E)** – Public interest groups began during the 1960s under the leadership of consumer advocate Ralph Nader. Nader first gained national attention with his book, *Unsafe at Any Speed*, which attacked General Motors' Corvair as a dangerous and mechanically deficient automobile. Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) actively promote environmental issues, safe energy, consumer protection, and good government.
22. **(B)** – The most important task of a lobbyist is to see that government actions favor the interest group that they represent. Lobbyists work with members of Congress after they are elected, as well as with bureaucrats from the executive branch. To ensure that favorable laws are passed and beneficial actions are taken, lobbyists spend a great deal of time contacting government officials by phone, e-mail, and/or letter.
23. **(B)** – PACs are political arms of interest groups that are primarily responsible for electioneering. They raise money for candidates that support their causes or whose influence they seek. Their contributions to candidates are restricted by federal law, first in the Campaign Finance Reform of 1974, and again in the 2002 revisions. 527s also electioneer, but their contributions to candidates are not restricted by federal law.
24. **(D)** – Interest groups may influence court decisions by filing *amicus curiae* (“friends of the court”) briefs, which consist of written arguments submitted to the courts in support of one side of a case or the other. In particularly controversial cases, many briefs may be filed on both sides of the issue. For example, in the case of *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, which challenged affirmative action programs as reverse discrimination, over a hundred different groups filed *amicus curiae* briefs.
25. **(A)** – Many interest groups use rating systems to describe members' voting records to interested citizens, and other times they use them to embarrass members. The typical scheme ranges from 0 to 100 percent, reflecting the percentage of times the member supports the group's legislative agenda.
26. **(E)** – The media is often referred to as the “fourth branch” of government. This designation reflects not only the power that media holds, but also their ability to “check” the actions and decisions of the other three branches. Media make no policy decisions, but they may criticize government officials, or they may focus on particular issues and ignore others. Supporters of this view of the media believe that coverage of elections and candidates for office shapes the voting behavior of the American public.

27. **(C)** – Presidents have a great deal of power to decide which issues are the most important ones for government to tackle. However, this power is sometimes checked by media that choose to focus on issues that the president would rather ignore. Likewise, the media may ignore issues that the president wants to draw attention to. The conflict is over agenda setting, or who controls the issues put before the American people.
28. **(D)** – Print media is protected by the guarantees of freedom of the press as defined by the First Amendment. However, since its inception electronic media has been subject to more government regulation than any other type of media. This regulation is based on the belief that airwaves are public property, and as a result, the government should control anything that is “broadcast”. Although a movement toward deregulation of television and radio has occurred in recent years, electronic media is still more closely regulated than any other form of media.
29. **(A)** – The First Amendment to the Constitution has been interpreted to mean that no government, federal or state, can place “prior restraint” on the press before stories are published. Once something is published, a newspaper or magazine may be sued or prosecuted for libel or obscenity, but these charges are very difficult to prove. Most journalists value confidentiality of sources, or the right to keep the sources for their information private. However, the Supreme Court has upheld the right of the government to compel reporters to divulge information as part of a criminal investigation, so the conflict between reporters and the government is still an issue.
30. **(E)** – An important position on any campaign staff is that of spin doctor, or one who tries to influence journalists with interpretations of events that are favorable to a particular candidate. For example, after a presidential debate, the spin doctors will usually make themselves available to interviews in which they sing the praises of their candidate. The main goal is to shape the opinion of those watching and/or listening, so that the spin doctor’s opinions will become accepted as the truth.