

FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONSSection II

Time – 100 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. Political participation in the United States can take place in various forms.
 - a) Other than voting, identify two ways that Americans participate politically.
 - b) Explain one impact that the first type of political participation you identified in (a) might have on the political system.
 - c) Explain one impact that the second type of political participation you identified in (a) might have on the political system.
 - d) Explain one reason why voter turnout among young people is traditionally lower than voter turnout among older people.

2. The delegates that attended the Constitutional Convention held many different views about what government structure and functions should be included in the Constitution.
 - a) Identify and explain two different issues that caused disagreement among delegates to the Constitutional Convention.
 - b) For each of the issues you identified in (a), identify and describe a compromise made by the delegates at the Constitutional Convention.
 - c) Describe one Constitutional provision that resulted from a compromise at the Convention that was amended later in history and explain why it was amended.

3. Once elected presidents have found that it is difficult to fulfill campaign promises and policy preferences.
 - a) Identify and explain two formal checks that other branches may use to challenge presidential goals.
 - b) Explain two methods (formal or informal) that the president may use to overcome opposition to his policy goals.
 - c) Explain one reason that modern presidents (since 1945) have often found it easier to reach their goals than have presidents of the past.

AMERICAN VIEWS REGARDING THE NEED FOR A THIRD PARTY

	Parties Adequate	Third Party Needed
June, 2008	47	47
January, 2008	40	55
June, 2007	33	58
January, 2007	40	51
January, 2006	48	48
January, 2005	50	43
January, 2004	56	40

Number in percentages

Source: Gallup.com

Question: In your view, do the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?

4. a) Using the data in the chart above, describe the changes in the attitudes of American citizens toward the need for a third party in the American political system.
- b) Identify and explain two formal impediments to the development of third parties in the United States.
- c) Describe two contributions that third parties have made to the American political system.