

AP Free Response Questions

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2008 AP Exam

1. **Congressional reapportionment and redistricting** - politicians often engage in gerrymandering
 - a) Define congressional reapportionment, explain one reason why it is important to states.
 - b) Define congressional redistricting.
 - c) Explain two goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting.
 - d) Describe two limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting.
2. **Checks & Balances** – president influences Congress on domestic policy, Congress limits president on domestic policy.
 - a) President has enumerated powers, describe two that enable the president to exert influence over domestic policy.
 - b) For two, define and explain how each limits the president’s ability to influence domestic policymaking in Congress.
 - Mandatory spending; Party polarization; Lame-duck period
3. **Fiscal policy & Monetary policy** – Executive and Legislative branches set fiscal policy, Federal Reserve Board sets monetary policy.
 - a) Define fiscal policy
 - b) Describe executive branch’s influence over fiscal policy
 - c) Describe legislative branch’s influence over fiscal policy
 - d) Define monetary policy
 - e) Two reasons why Federal Reserve Board is given independence in establishing monetary policy.
4. QUOTE - **Civil Rights**

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”
Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, 1870

Despite the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, voter turnout among African American citizens was very low throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Over the past 50 years, civil rights policies have changes substantially, along with a significant increase in African American voter turnout.

 - a) Explain two state measures prior to 1960 that affected African American turnout
 - b) Describe two alternative forms of political participation African Americans chose at this time to bring about electoral change.
 - c) Choose one from (b), explain why effective in changing civil rights policies