

**UNIT 6 AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**SECTION II**

**Time – 25 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.

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3. The public policy process involves interactions between Congress and the bureaucracy.
- (a) Identify the primary role of Congress in the policy process.
  - (b) Explain how divided party control of Congress can make the policy process difficult.
  - (c) Identify the primary role of the bureaucracy in the policy process.
  - (d) Explain how one of the following increases the power of the bureaucracy in the policy process.
    - Rule making
    - Bureaucratic discretion
  - (e) Explain how each of the following enables Congress to limit the power of the bureaucracy.
    - Oversight hearings
    - Power of the purse
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**AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**UNIT 6 SCORING GUIDELINES**  
**Question 3 (2016)**

**6 POINTS**

**Part (a): 1 point**

One point is earned for a correct identification of the primary role of Congress in the policy process:  
Congress makes, writes, and passes legislation/policy.

**Part (b): 1 point**

One point is earned for the correct explanation of how divided party control of Congress makes the policy process difficult:  
Legislation is more difficult to pass when one party controls the House and the other controls the Senate.

**Part (c): 1 point**

One point is earned for the correct identification of the bureaucracy's primary role in the policy process:  
Implementation of policy

**Part (d): 1 point**

One point is earned for the correct explanation of how one of the following increases the power of the bureaucracy in the policy process:

- Rule-making: Bureaucrats write the specific regulations that determine the implementation of public policy, which enhances bureaucratic power
- Bureaucratic discretion: Individual bureaucrats/agencies have to make choices about how to implement existing laws, which enhances bureaucratic power

**Part (e): 2 points**

One point is earned for each of two correct explanations of how Congress can limit the power of the bureaucracy through:

- Oversight hearings: monitor through hearings, investigations, accounting
- Power of the purse: increase/decrease budgets; shift spending; punish/reward agencies; kill a program

A score of zero (0) is assigned to an answer that is off-task or is attempted but earns no points.  
A score of dash (—) is earned for an answer that is blank.