

**UNIT 3 AP® 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. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

4. Trust and confidence in government have declined in recent decades.
- (a) Explain how divided government has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government. Be sure to include a definition of divided government in your response.
 - (b) Explain how the increased cost of election campaigns has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.
 - (c) Explain two specific consequences of the decline in trust and confidence in government for individual political behavior.
-

Copyright © 2004 by College Examination Board.

When your life flashes before your eyes, make sure you've got plenty to watch.

Visit apcentral.collegeboard.com (for AP professionals) and www.collegeboard.com/apstudents (for AP students and parents).

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

**AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 4 (2004)

6 POINTS TOTAL

Part a: (2 points) 1 point definition, 1 point explanation

Definition of divided government required for first point. (Essay **must** earn first point to be eligible for explanation point, below.)

Explanation point requires linkage between divided government and decline in trust/confidence. Acceptable responses may include linkage to:

- Heightened partisanship
- Decline of the middle (moderates frozen out, extremes driving legislation)
- Frustration with the governmental process
- Confirmation process slowed, stopped, or circumvented, increasing frustration/disgust
- Gridlock

Part b: (2 points) 2 point explanation

For the first point, acceptable explanations include:

- Candidates must spend more time raising money
- Role of interest groups (PACs), corporations and connections to wealthy donors
- Keeps good people from running for office
- Small contributions don't matter
- Perception that there is wasteful spending

To receive the second point, **must** provide linkage to cynicism or distrust.

Part c: (2 points) 1 point for each of two explanations

Acceptable behavioral consequences include:

- Protest
- Decline in voting
- Increase in independents or third-party identifiers
- Indications of less conventional participation, more non-conventional participation, or limitation to local nonpartisan or community action

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points

Score of dash (-) for blank or off-task answer