

**UNIT 6 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.

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3. The United States Congress and the President together have the power to enact federal law. Federal bureaucratic agencies have the responsibility to execute federal law. However, in the carrying out of these laws, federal agencies have policy-making discretion.
- (a) Explain two reasons why Congress gives federal agencies policy-making discretion in executing federal law.
- (b) Choose one of the bureaucratic agencies listed below. Identify the policy area over which it exercises policy-making discretion AND give one specific example of how it exercises that discretion.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
  - Federal Reserve Board
- (c) Describe two ways in which Congress ensures that federal agencies follow legislative intent.
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**Question 3 (2006)**

**6 points**

**Part (a): 2 points**

One point is earned for explaining each of two reasons why Congress gives federal agencies policy-making discretion in executing federal laws.

- Congress lacks expertise/agencies have expertise.
- Congress does not want to be blamed for bad policy.
- Time-consuming.
- Easier to come to agreement.
- More efficient.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for correctly identifying the policy area identified with the agency. One point is earned for providing an example. The response must include a correct, specific example of how the agency exercises policy-making discretion in order to earn the point.

AGENCY	→	POLICY AREA
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	→	Clean air and water
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	→	TV, radio, satellite, telephone, etc.
Federal Reserve Board	→	Monetary policy

**Part (c): 2 points**

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of ways Congress ensures that agencies follow legislative intent.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Oversight.
- Budget/appropriations.
- Hearings.
- Investigations.
- Government Accountability Office (GAO).
- Change law.
- Legislative veto.
- Casework.
- Sunset laws/reauthorization/dissolve agencies/create new agencies.

Note: If one of the above is only mentioned as an example of oversight, the response gets only 1 point.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.