

**UNIT 5 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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2. A number of factors enable presidents to exert influence over Congress in the area of domestic policy. However, presidents are also limited in their influence over domestic policymaking in Congress.
- (a) The Constitution grants the president certain enumerated powers. Describe two of these formal powers that enable the president to exert influence over domestic policy.
- (b) Choose two of the following. Define each term and explain how each limits the president’s ability to influence domestic policymaking in Congress.
- mandatory spending
  - party polarization
  - lame-duck period
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**AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
UNIT 5 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 2 (2008)**

**6 POINTS**

**Part (a): 2 points**

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of formal, enumerated powers that enable the president to exert influence over domestic policy. Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Legislative powers (veto, pocket veto, signing legislation).
- State of the Union address.
- Appointment power (to a domestic office).
- Calling Congress into session.
- Chief executive role (“faithfully execute the law” clause).
- Commander-in-chief role (must connect it to domestic policy in order to earn the point).

**Part (b): 4 points**

One point is earned for each of two definitions and two explanations of limits to the president’s ability to influence domestic policymaking in Congress. Explanations must be tied to a correct, though not necessarily complete, definition.

	<b>Correct Definition</b>	<b>Examples of Acceptable Explanations</b>
Mandatory Spending	Spending not controlled by annual budget decisions (nondiscretionary spending, automatic spending, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budgetary constraints make it difficult to accomplish policy goals.</li> <li>• It is difficult to make budget cuts that might accomplish policy goals.</li> </ul>
Party Polarization	Increased interparty differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposing party may block policy goals.</li> <li>• There is a lack of moderates with whom to build coalitions.</li> </ul>
Lame-Duck Period	Period of time in which an officeholder’s term is coming to an end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President’s power is perceived as being diminished.</li> <li>• Congress is less responsive to the president.</li> </ul>

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.