

**UNIT 2 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. “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 changed substantially, along with a significant increase in African American voter turnout.

- (a) Explain how two measures taken by some states prior to the 1960s affected voter turnout among African American citizens.
- (b) Facing discrimination at the voting booth, many African American citizens turned to alternative forms of political participation. Describe two alternative forms of participation that helped bring about changes in civil rights policies.
- (c) Choose one of the forms of participation you described in (b) and explain why it was effective in changing civil rights policies.
-

**AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
UNIT 2 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 4 (2008)

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

Part (b): 2 points

Part (c): 1 point

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of measures taken by some states that affected voter turnout among African American citizens. Acceptable explanations are:

- Literacy tests
- Poll taxes
- Grandfather clauses
- Dilution of voting strength through redistricting
- White primaries
- Election procedures (notification, access)

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of alternative forms of participation. Acceptable descriptions are:

- Demonstrations/protests/public rallies/civil disobedience
- Organized interest-group activity (e.g., NAACP)
- Courts/litigation
- Boycotts
- Election activities other than voting (campaigning, donating)

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why an alternative form of participation was effective in changing civil rights policies based on the response in (b).

The response must *explain how or why* policy outputs or outcomes result from participation, including the following three elements:

- Participation
- Linkage mechanism
- Policy output or outcome

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.