

**UNIT 4 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. Several characteristics of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress. Because of the perception that interest groups exert undue influence, Congress has regulated the influence of these groups.
- (a) Describe how each of these characteristics of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress.
- Financial resources
  - Expertise
  - Size
- (b) Identify two ways in which Congress has regulated the influence of interest groups.
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UNIT 4 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 3 (2008 practice)**

**5 POINTS POSSIBLE**

**Part (a): 3 points**

One point is earned for explaining how each specified characteristic of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Financial resources can enhance the influence of an interest group because money enables interest groups to campaign, make monetary contributions, buy independent television time, and employ a large staff.
- Expertise enhances influence because members of Congress will pay attention to and respect what members of the interest group have to say.
- Size enhances influence because the larger the group, the greater the ability to deliver votes and other resources. The larger the group, the greater the potential for fundraising and campaign contributions to influence members of Congress.

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for each of two identifications of the ways in which Congress has attempted to limit the influence of interest groups.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Registration requirement for lobbyists.
- Limitations on campaign contributions.
- Disclosure of campaign contributions.
- Limitations on independent expenditures: for example, an issue advocacy ad cannot explicitly endorse a candidate.
- Restrictions on former members of Congress: for example, a two-year “cooling-off” period before the former member can lobby Congress.

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.