

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.

3. In the United States Congress, the majority party exerts a substantial influence over lawmaking. However, even when one party has a numerical majority in each chamber of the United States Congress, there is no guarantee that legislation supported by that majority party will be passed by both chambers. Rules of each chamber independently influence the likelihood that legislation will pass in that chamber; legislation passed by one chamber is not always passed by the other.
 - (a) Describe two advantages the majority party in the United States House of Representatives has in lawmaking, above and beyond the numerical advantage that that majority party enjoys in floor voting.
 - (b) Describe two differences between House and Senate rules that may make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not in the other.
 - (c) Explain how the differences identified in (b) can lead to the passage of a bill in one chamber but not in the other.
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AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS UNIT 5 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3 (2009)

6 POINTS POSSIBLE

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of majority party advantage in the House of Representatives.

The description must include three components:

- Majority party
- Advantage
- Factual statement about the advantage

Acceptable answers may include:

- Holds committee chairs
- Controls Rules Committee
- Sets the agenda
- Controls debate
- Chooses Speaker of the House
- Holds majority on each committee
- Assigns bills to committees

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of rules differences between the House and Senate.
Acceptable answers may include:

	House	Senate
Procedures and rules	More formal	Less formal
Filibuster	no	yes
Holds	no	yes
Unanimous consent agreements	no	yes
Germaneness requirement	yes	no
Rules Committee	yes	no

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of how a rules difference identified in part (b) affects passage of a bill in one chamber as opposed to the other. Acceptable answers may include:

- **Filibuster** — even though the House may pass a bill, the Senate can kill the bill with a filibuster.
- **Holds** — even though the House may pass a bill, the Senate can delay or stop it with a hold.
- **Unanimous consent agreements** — the Senate can ease passage of a bill with unanimous consent agreements, while the House has no such mechanism.
- **Germaneness** — the Senate can add unrelated content that members of the House might find objectionable.
- **Rules Committee** — even though the Senate may pass a bill, the House Rules Committee can hinder passage of that bill in the House.

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points
Score of dash (-) for blank or off-task answer