

**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.

1. The United States Supreme Court has the authority to choose which cases it hears, but its authority is limited in a number of ways.
 - (a) Describe one factor that increases the likelihood for the Supreme Court to accept an appeal.
 - (b) Describe one factor that limits the Supreme Court’s authority to hear cases.
 - (c) Explain how the executive branch can check the authority of the Court.
 - (d) Explain how the legislative branch can check the authority of the Court.
 - (e) Explain how the Court checks the authority of the other branches.
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AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

UNIT 6 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1B (2013)

5 POINTS

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of one factor that increases the likelihood for the Supreme Court to accept an appeal.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Cases heard by lower federal courts/State Supreme Courts that have discrepancies/ inconsistencies in their decisions
- Cases dealing with a constitutional issue
- Cases with a pattern of concern/percolation of an issue
- Cases involving the federal government/Solicitor General

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of one factor that limits the Supreme Court's authority to hear cases.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The Supreme Court must be petitioned to hear a case
- State cases must be about a constitutional/federal issue
- Federal cases must be within appellate or original jurisdiction

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how the executive branch can check the authority of the Court.

Acceptable executive checks include:

- Appointments that forward a President's ideology or philosophy
- Lack of enforcement of court decisions
- Executive Orders that circumvent the Supreme Court

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how the legislative branch can check the authority of the Court.

Acceptable legislative checks include:

- Limit the funding of implications of the Court's decisions
- Legislation to circumvent Supreme Court decisions
- Propose an amendment to reverse Supreme Court decisions
- Impeachment of Justices (threat)
- Control the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of how the Supreme Court uses **judicial review** to check the legislative and/or executive branches.

Note: In points (c), (d), and (e), in order to receive the explanation point, the student must explain how the authority of the Supreme Court or the branches of government has been checked.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to answer that is completely off task or is on task but earns no points.

A score of dash (-) is assigned to answer that is blank.