

**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.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, 2000-2011 (IN PERCENT)						
President	African American	Hispanic	Asian American	White	Women	Men
Barack Obama	22%	11%	8%	59%	46%	54%
George W. Bush	7%	9%	1%	82%	22%	78%

3. Presidents consider many factors when nominating candidates to the federal courts, and getting their nominees confirmed is often difficult.
- (a) Using the chart above, describe ONE similarity between President Barack Obama’s judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush.
 - (b) Using the chart above, describe TWO differences between President Barack Obama’s judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush.
 - (c) Explain why a president’s party affiliation accounts for differences in presidential appointments to the judiciary.
 - (d) Describe one way a president can increase the chances of having judicial nominations to federal courts confirmed.
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**AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
UNIT 6 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 3 (2013)

5 POINTS

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a similarity between President Barack Obama’s judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush. Possible responses include:

- In both cases more than half the appointees were white. President Obama’s appointees were 59 percent white, while President Bush’s appointees were 82 percent white.
- In both cases the number of Hispanic nominees is roughly similar, within two percentage points.
- In both cases Asian Americans were the lowest demographic nominated, both under 10 percent.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two correct descriptions of a difference between President Barack Obama’s judicial appointments and those made by President George W. Bush. Possible responses include:

- Obama appointed a significantly greater percentage of women than did Bush. President Obama’s appointees were 46 percent women, while President Bush’s appointees were 22 percent women.
- Obama was more likely to appoint racial minority candidates than was Bush; for example, 22 percent of President Obama’s appointees were African American, as opposed to 7 percent of President Bush’s appointees.
- Obama appointed more than Bush in any single minority category, appointing a higher percentage of African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why a president’s party affiliation accounts for differences in presidential appointments to the judiciary. Possible responses include:

- President chooses nominees with similar views who will rule in a manner consistent with the President’s policy preferences — party ID is a rough indicator.
- President chooses nominees that cater to his party’s electoral coalition, which will help his party win future elections.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a way that a president can increase the chances of having judicial nominations confirmed. Possible responses include:

- Consulting with the Senate/using senatorial courtesy
- Choosing a moderate
- Properly vetting candidates/selecting qualified candidates

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