

**UNIT 1 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.

2. The framers of the Constitution devised a federal system of government that affected the relationship between the national and state governments.
- (a) Compare state sovereignty under the Articles of Confederation and under the Constitution.
- (b) Explain how each of the following has been used to expand the power of the federal government over the states.
- Commerce clause
 - Mandates
- (c) Explain how each of the following has played a role in the devolution of power from the national government to the states.
- Block grants
 - Supreme Court decisions
-

Copyright © 2015 by College Examination Board.

Two things will define you – your patience when you have nothing, and your attitude when you have everything.

Visit the College Board on the Web: www.collegeboard.org.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
UNIT 1 SCORING GUIDELINES
Question 2 (2015)

5 POINTS TOTAL

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for an accurate comparison of state sovereignty under the Articles of Confederation and state sovereignty under the Constitution. Correct comparisons will state that:

States were sovereign under the Articles of Confederation **but** under the Constitution they have shared power/limited power.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two accurate explanations of how each of the following has been used to expand the power of the federal government over the states:

- Commerce Clause
 - Federal Government/Congress controls interstate commerce (transportation, civil rights, etc.) and the states cannot/it is exclusive federal authority
 - Federal Government/U.S. Supreme Court increases power of the federal government through decisions (such as *Gibbons*, *Heart of Atlanta*, etc.) and the states cannot/it is an exclusive federal authority
- Mandates
 - Federal government directs the states to implement policies (such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), school integration, busing, etc.) thus reducing state discretion/increasing federal discretion

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of how each of the following has played a role in the devolution of power from the national government to the states.

- Block grants
 - Broad federal funding that allows states to have more discretion in how funding is spent, thus states have greater flexibility in policy implementation.
- Supreme Court decisions
 - Struck down encroachments of national government attempts to take states' power, thereby protecting states' power
 - Through the use of judicial review, state power is protected

A score of zero (0) is earned for an answer that is off-task or is attempted but earns no points.

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