

**UNIT 4 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**SECTION II**

**Time – 25 minutes**

**Directions:** You have 25 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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2. Interest groups play an important role in the political process.
- Identify the primary goal of interest groups.
  - Describe EACH of the following strategies used by interest groups.
    - Lobbying
    - *Amicus curiae*
  - Explain how EACH of the following hinders the success of interest groups in obtaining their primary goal.
    - Separation of powers
    - Bureaucratic discretion
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## 2017 - Question 2

### 5 points total

#### Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for identifying the primary goal of interest groups.

- Influencing public policy/government actions

#### Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of the following strategy used by interest groups.

- Lobbying
  - Persuading decision makers to adopt their preferences
  - Providing information to lawmakers
  - Writing legislation/consulting
  - Offering expertise

One point is earned for a description of the following strategy used by interest groups.

- Amicus Curiae
  - Providing legal arguments to support interest group positions on court cases
  - Joining with other interest groups before courts to support common goals

#### Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for an explanation of how the following hinders the success of interest groups in obtaining their primary goal.

- Separation of powers
  - Complicates efforts/ability to influence policy
  - Each branch requires interest groups to use different strategies
  - Multiple access points

One point is earned for an explanation of how the following hinders the success of interest groups in obtaining their primary goal.

- Bureaucratic discretion
  - The bureaucracy may not follow the intentions of interest groups.
  - The bureaucracy may not implement the law in the way interest groups desire.
  - The bureaucracy may not write rules that interest groups prefer.

A score of zero (0) is assigned to 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.