

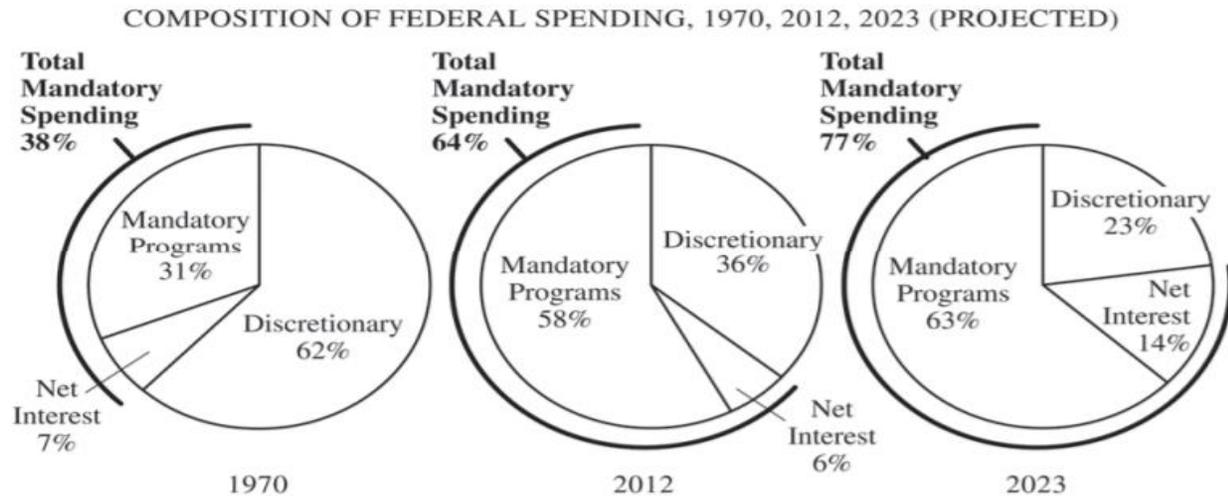
UNIT 7 AP® UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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.



Source: The Congressional Budget Office, *An Analysis of the President's 2014 Budget*, May 2013, and the Office of Management and Budget, *FY 2014 Budget, Historical Tables*, April 2013.

NOTE: Mandatory programs include Social Security, major federal health programs, other entitlement programs, and offsetting receipts.

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3. Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare are all mandatory spending programs, also known as entitlement programs.
- Identify a change in federal spending between 1970 and 2023 (projected) based on the chart above.
 - Describe the difference between entitlement programs and discretionary programs.
 - Describe one demographic trend that has contributed to changes in entitlement spending.
 - Explain why changes in entitlement spending make balancing the federal budget difficult.
 - Explain how deficit spending affects the projected trend in net interest.
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Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. -Henry Ford
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Question 3

5 Points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for identifying a change in federal spending between 1970 and 2023 (projected) based on the chart.

- Increase in mandatory spending
- Decrease in discretionary spending
- Increase in spending on net interest

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for describing the difference between entitlement programs and discretionary programs.

- Congress is required to fund entitlement programs whereas spending on discretionary programs may change from year to year.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for describing a demographic trend that has contributed to changes in entitlement spending.

- Aging population increases spending on entitlement programs.
- Rising poverty rates increase spending on entitlement programs.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for explaining why changes in entitlement spending make balancing the federal budget difficult.

- Reducing discretionary spending requires prioritizing.
- Cutting programs with popular support/differing party positions is challenging.
- Increasing revenue/taxes is difficult.

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for explaining how deficit spending affects the projected trend in net interest.

- Borrowing money increases the debt, which increases spending on net interest.

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.