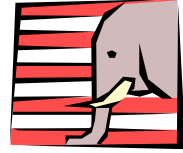




The American Citizen

Chapter 10 Study Guide

Political Parties



Section One: Political Parties Play Many Roles

Parties in Government

1. Political parties are unlike interest groups – they are organized with three main goals that make them necessary to our society. What are the three main goals of political parties? (268)

2. While interest groups may endorse (support) or oppose political candidates during campaigns, they are not political parties. What roles do political parties play in our system of government? (268)

3. What are three important tasks for the "loyal opposition" in our democratic political system?

4. What are "coalitions"? (269) Why do political parties often put together coalitions? (269)

Parties and the People

5. What are the three main roles that parties play in our democratic political system? (269-270)

Section Two: Two Parties Dominate American Politics

Party Systems

6. Through its history, the U.S. has had a "two-party system." What does this mean?

7. What are the four main characteristics of “one-party” government systems? (271)

8. There are at least 8 examples your instructor has given you to describe authoritarian-style one-party systems from the past or the present. What are these 8 examples?

9. What are the 4 main characteristics of “multi-party” political systems? (271)

10. What are the two major characteristics of “two-party” political systems?

America's Two-Party System

11. What are the major reasons for the stability of the two-party system in the United States? (272-273)

The Role of Third Parties

12. What are three major legal barriers that make it difficult for “minor parties” to succeed in the U.S.?

13. What is a “single member district”? How is this pattern of voting more favorable to the two major parties in the U.S. political system?

14. In some political systems, the method of electing public officials is through “proportional representation,” and electing officials on an “at large” basis. (This is very rare in the U.S.) How would “proportional representation” and electing officials on an “at large” basis help “third parties” to find more success in the U.S. political system?

15. In spite of their political handicaps in a two-party system, minor ("third") political parties play important roles in our democratic system. What are those important political roles? (273-274)

16. What are six major accomplishments of third party political movements in the U.S.?

17. When "third parties" do make a strong showing at the presidential ballot box, what are often the two reasons behind that success? (274)

18. There have been several instances when members of a single political party "split the vote" between two presidential candidates, causing the candidate from the opposition party to win the presidency. Fill in the correct information in the following table, using the information supplied by your instructor during classroom lecture/discussion.

THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES WHO "SPLIT THE VOTE"				
Election Year	Name of Candidate	Name of 3rd Party	Winning Candidate	Winning Party
1912				
1968				
2000				

Most minor parties in U.S. political history have formed as a result of their support for social, moral, or economic crusades or issues. Identify the major "driving issue" behind each of the following "third parties." (273-275)

19. Liberty Party and Free Soil Party -

20. American Party/Know-Nothings -

21. Prohibition Party -

22. Greenback Party -
23. Populist Party -
24. Socialist Party -
25. American Communist Party -
26. American Nazi Party -
27. Libertarian Party -
28. What is an “ideological party”?
29. What are two examples of ideological parties on the “left” side of politics?
30. What are two examples of ideological parties on the “right” side of politics?
31. What is a “splinter party”? Give one example of a splinter party from the “left,” and one example from the “right” in recent U.S. history and give the name of the “heroes” who led each party.

Section Three: Politics Are Part of American History

Early Political Rivalries

32. The coalition of political interests that Alexander Hamilton built during the debates over ratification of the Constitution became the first political party in the U.S. What was its name? (276)
33. What were the main groups in society that supported Hamilton's coalition?

34. Opponents of Hamilton's political plans found a natural leader in Thomas Jefferson, whose supporters eventually became the nation's second political party. What was its name? (276)
35. What were the main groups in society that supported Jefferson's coalition?
36. Two other political parties formed during the period before the U.S. Civil War. What were their names? (hint: one of them was NOT the Democratic Party – it began clear back in 1800, as the “Democratic-Republican” party) (277)

Modern Political Parties

37. The Republican Party tried to elect its first presidential candidate – John C. Fremont (unsuccessfully) – in 1856. Who was its first successful presidential candidate (in 1860)? (279)

During the period from 1865 until the late 1960s, the two major political parties reflected sectional (geographical) differences that were left over from the Civil War. (279) Describe which section of the U.S. was the home of - -

38. the people who joined with the Republicans during this period -
39. the people who joined with the Democrats during this period -

Using the table of Presidents of the U.S. beginning on page 810, find the answers to the following two questions:

40. How many Republicans were elected to the office of President of the United States between the beginning of the Civil War in 1860 until the end of Herbert Hoover's presidential term of office?
41. How many Democrats were elected to the office of President of the United States between the beginning of the Civil War in 1860 until the end of Herbert Hoover's presidential term of office (not counting FDR)?
42. How did the election of Franklin Roosevelt in 1932 change the balance between parties for several decades? (279)
43. Beginning with which U.S. President did the Republicans begin a modern political "recovery"? What region or section of the U.S. did he “win over” in 1968 in order to win sufficient Electoral College votes to become President? What major social issue was at the heart of his success with these voters? (280)

Be able to recognize definitions of the following terms:

44. "Solid South" - (279)

45. "GOP" - (279)

46. Politically, what has been the result of the growth in population in the "Sun Belt" since the end of World War Two?

Section Four: How Do Democrats and Republicans Differ?

Party Similarities

47. What are the main ways in which the two major U.S. political parties are similar? (281)

Be able to recognize definitions of the following terms:

48. "centrist" - (281)

49. "broker parties" - (281)

50. "missionary parties" - (281-282)

51. The two major U.S. political parties have been described as highly "decentralized." What does this mean?

52. The Democratic and Republican parties are organized into three main "levels" of authority or responsibility. What are these three levels?

53. What is a "party platform"? (284)

Party Differences

54. What major demographic groups (traditionally) have continued to strongly support the Democratic Party? (283)
55. What major demographic groups (traditionally) have continued to strongly support the Republican Party? (283)

There are a couple of generalizations that can be made regarding *policy differences* between Democrats and Republicans. In the statements below, fill in the appropriate term (as supplied by your instructor during lecture/discussion in class – and it's in your textbook as well).

56. Democrats would often say that our nation's problems can be most effectively solved through the activities of
57. Republicans would often say that our nation's problems can be most effectively solved through the activities of

Trends in Party Politics

58. Fewer voters are choosing to vote a "straight ticket" today. What does this mean?
59. Most voters are choosing to vote a "split ticket" today. What does this mean?
60. Polls indicate a shift among voters away from allegiance to a single party, increasing the number of "independents." What are independents? (285)?
61. There has been a significant decline in the number of government jobs awarded to persons because of their support of a candidate or political party that wins an election. What is this (very traditional) practice of awarding employment called? (There are two vocabulary terms to be recognized, here.) (285-286)
62. Most government jobs are awarded, today, on the basis of "merit employment." What does this mean? (286)

63. How does the existence of direct presidential primary elections threaten the power of national political parties? (286)
64. In the past, candidates for state and national office had to rely on support from their political party organizations for funds, skills, and information in order to run an effective campaign. How has this changed, threatening the power of national political parties? (286)
65. How has the tremendous growth of interest groups and PACs further threatened the power of national political parties? (286-287)