

2019

AP[®] CollegeBoard

AP[®] United States Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

4 points

Part A: 1 point

One point is earned for identifying the political affiliation of people who are most likely to believe elected officials should compromise.

- Democrats

Part B: 1 point

One point is earned for describing the difference between Democrats and Republicans on their attitudes of whether government officials should stick to their principles, based on the data in the bar graph.

- More Republicans compared to Democrats think that government officials should stick to their principles.
- 55% of Republicans compared to 34% of Democrats think that government officials should stick to their principles.

Part C: 1 point

One point is earned for explaining how the data in the bar graph could influence how a Republican candidate would shift his or her campaign positions after securing the Republican nomination for president.

- The Republican candidate will likely promise to stick to conservative principles in the primary, but then decide to shift toward compromise in the general election.

Part D: 1 point

One point is earned for explaining how the data in the bar graph could affect policy making interactions between the president and Congress.

- Policy making is easier when the president and Congress are from the same political party/unified government.
- Policy making is more difficult when the president and Congress are from different political parties/divided government.
- The president or Congress is likely to compromise when making policy to appeal to Democrats/Independents.

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

A score of NR is assigned to an answer that is blank.

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page. Do not skip lines.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Most people's political affiliation with the idea that elected officials should compromise are Democrats. The Graph shows that 66% of democrats believe government officials should compromise compared to the 57% of independents and the 45% of Republicans. Republicans generally feel as if officials in government should stick to their principles and not give into compromise. Democrats on the contrary, generally believe that sticking to principles is not as important as compromise is. ~~A democrat is~~ The data in the graph shows that if an official wins the republican nomination, he should be willing to compromise as to appease the independent and democratic political party. Appeasing the other parties will grant the nominee with more chances of getting voted into office. Since democrats will be more likely to favor individuals ~~with~~ who support compromise and republicans more favorable to support individuals who stick to ~~the~~ principles, after securing the republican nomination the individual should focus on winning democratic and independent votes. The effects of this data could affect interactions of policy making between the president and congress because if all parties present (executive & legislative) agree to compromise, legislation can be passed easier. However, if both parties choose to stick to morals and there is a divided government, the legislation will drastically be harder to pass and policy will come to a standstill creating deadlocks.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page. Do not skip lines.

Question 1



Question 2



Question 3



Question 4



- A) Democrats are more likely to believe that elected officials should compromise.
- B) ~~Democrats~~ The majority of Democrats prefer government officials to compromise, whereas the majority of Republicans prefer government officials to stick to principles.
- C) Since most Republicans support government officials to stick to principles the Republican candidate may influence Congress and the Supreme Court to follow the established principles, but with the majority of Independents and Democrats opposing that idea, he/she may take upon an activist approach with policies while in office if he/she were to win the election.
- D) The president should follow the majority of the population's wishes to achieve a high approval rating. With ^{the president's} high approval rating, Congress is more willing to pass laws similar with his/her policies and beliefs. If the president's approval rating is low, Congress is more hesitant to ~~not~~ pass laws similar with his/her policies.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page. Do not skip lines.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



The political affiliation of believed elected officials that should compromise are mainly the democrats with 66%. Democrats want change in most things like economy, and republicans want to stay the same because that stuff could affect them. Republicans want to stay the same because they already have a good economy. The bar graph could influence the republicans attitudes because the amount of republicans that stay the same and want to stick to the principles; is close to the amount that want to compromise, so they might take that into account and vote on the compromise side. The data in the graph could affect policy making interactions because it's not a clear vote. The data is close and it might change the way republicans and democrats opinion. The president might think theres no clear representation and congress will have the odds of a sides, so it would be hard to get a clear agreement on policy making, because some will want certain policies to stay the same and some will favor change.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

This question expected students to identify data presented in a quantitative stimulus. Responses needed to describe similarities and/or differences from the stimulus and connect how that data would shape a presidential candidate's message when moving from the primary to the general election. Responses also needed to explain how the data from the stimulus would influence the policy-making process. Since this task involved the integration of the skill of analysis of quantitative data and content knowledge, responses were expected to use the data in their responses. Students were also expected to demonstrate understanding of how the legislative and executive branches interact and how partisan differences can affect that interaction.

Sample: 2A

Score: 4

The response earned 1 point in part A for identifying the political affiliation of people most likely to believe elected officials should compromise as "Democrats."

The response earned 1 point in part B for describing the difference between Democrats and Republicans on their attitudes of whether governmental officials should stick to their principles: "Republicans generally feel as if officials in government should stick to their principals and not give into comprmise. Democrats on the contry, generally believe that sticking to principles is not as important as compromise is."

The response earned 1 point in part C for explaining how the data in the bar graph could influence how a Republican candidate would shift their campaign positions after securing the nomination: "The data in the graph shows that if an official wins the republican nomination, he should be willing to comprise as to appease the indepent and democratic political party."

The response earned 1 point in part D for explaining how the data in the graph could affect policy making interactions between the president and Congress: "The effects of this data could affect interactions of policy making between the president and congress because if all parties present (executive & legislative) agree to comprimes, legislation can be passed easier. However, if both parties choose to stick to morals and there is a divided government, the legislation will drastically be harder to pass and policy will come to a standstill creating deadlock."

Sample: 2B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point in part A for identifying the political affiliation of people most likely to believe elected officials should compromise: "Democrats are more likely to believe that elected officials should compromise."

The response earned 1 point in part B for describing the difference between Democrats and Republicans on their attitudes on whether governmental officials should stick to their principles: "The majority of Democrats prefer government officials to compromise, whereas the majority of Republicans prefer government officials to stick to principles."

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Question 2 (continued)

The response did not earn a point in part C because the response does not discuss the Republican candidate shifting from sticking to their principles in the primary to compromising in the general election. Instead the response is discussing influencing Congress and the Supreme Court.

The response did earn a point in part D because it does not explain a policy making interaction between the two branches. It incorrectly identifies the data, describing the “majority of the population's wishes” instead of explaining that the president or Congress is likely to compromise on policy making to appeal to Independents/Democrats. Rather, it discusses the effect of approval ratings, which is off-topic.

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point in part A for identifying the political affiliation of people most likely to believe elected officials should compromise as “Democrats.”

The response did not earn a point in part B because it does not identify 55% of Republicans who think officials should stick to their principles and/or identify 34% of Democrats who should stick to their principles. In addition, the response did not earn a point because it does not state more Republicans stick to their principles as compared to Democrats.

The response did not earn a point in part C because there is no attempt to explain how a Republican would shift their campaign positions after becoming the nominee.

The response did not earn a point in part D because although it mentions policy making, it fails to explain the effect of an interaction between the president and Congress.