

know terms and answer questions Test Next Week

Voter turnout

Motor Voter Bill

Expanding voter suffrage over time (amendments)

Factors affecting voting behavior: ages, socioeconomic status, residence, ethnicity, education

Factors affecting voting decisions: income, occupation, education, gender, age, Religion, ethnicity, geography, family, party affiliation, perception of Candidates and policies, feeling of efficacy

Presidential nominating process

Caucus vs. primary

Primaries: open, closed and blanket

McGovern- Fraser commission

Super delegates (DLC)

Campaign finance reform

PACs

Soft money/ hard money

Presidential Matching funds

FEC acts

Buckley v. Valeo

McCain Feingold Bill

Candidate-centered campaigns vs. party-centered campaigns

Electoral College

Party in government

Party in electorate

Party in organization

Gender-gap

Functions of Political Parties vs. Interest Groups

Reasons for 2 party domination

Party dealingment/ realignment

Divided Government: split ticket voting

Party Machines- straight ticket voting

Conventional/ Non-conventional participation

Presidential primary process- impact on party strength

Impact of Third parties: George Wallace; Teddy Roosevelt; Ross Perot

Causes of low voter turnout (Europe v. US)

Decline in party strength;

Geographic differences concerning party loyalty

Party conventions- purpose of and changes

Incumbency effect: House and Senate races

Reapportionment; Redistricting; Gerrymandering

Major differences between Democrats and Republicans

Evolution of the major party systems (the five party systems)

- Differences and reasons for: referendum, recall, and initiative
- 26th Amendment?
- What are some demographic factors behind why people vote?
- What are some reasons why voter turnout is so low in the US?
- What (if anything) can be done to increase voter turn out in the US?
- What are some functions that parties perform?
- What factors contributed to the decline of political parties?
- Why do parties still exist?
- What demographic factors are behind Democratic or Republican voter bases?
- What factors account for the 2 party system?
- What factors work against the ability of third parties to succeed in American politics?
- Should the political system be changed to make it easier for third parties to exist?
- Explain the influence of parties as they exist in Congress/Presidency.
- What are some functions that elections serve?
- What are some differences between primaries and caucuses? Why is front loading seen as a problem?
- What functions do conventions serve? Why are they not as important as in past years?
- Why was the Electoral College created/ Should it be abolished?
- Explain what party realignment is and what factors contributed to this in critical elections.
- How do parties and congressional incumbents ensure their reelection?
- How can individual donors and PACs influence the election process financially?
- Why is soft money such a roadblock to campaign finance reform?
- Are PACs good/bad for the American political process?
- What was the McCain-Feingold reform law?
- What is a lobbyist and what are the different types?
- Why do lobbyists have a negative image?