

The New Deal coalition voted for Democratic presidential candidates from 1932 to 1966 and made the Democratic Party the majority party due to support from all the following groups EXCEPT

- A) labor unions B) Catholics and Jews
C) African Americans D) Southerners
E) business leaders

All of the following support the claim that political parties are declining EXCEPT

- A) a decline in straight tickets
B) candidate-run campaigns
C) increase in ticket splitting
D) increase in the importance of primaries
E) a decline in voter turnout

Political parties do all of the following EXCEPT

- A) nominate candidates
B) influence public opinion.
C) propose alternate government policies
D) organize the actions of government officials
E) work to promote electoral dealignment

Which of the following best describes the historical tendency of third-party movements?

- A) They often replace one of the two dominant parties.
B) They are often ignored or abandoned by the public as too radical.
C) Their positions are integrated into the major parties, and the party then often dissolves.
D) They are fleeting social movements that disappear once their goals have been achieved.
E) Their members become disenchanted with the political process, and the party falls apart.

Which of the following was NOT a major element of the New Deal coalition?

- A) Urban dwellers B) Labor unions
C) Southerners D) The upper class
E) African-Americans

excellent!

Which of the following years is considered to have contained a realigning election?

- I. 1860 } "critical"
II. 1932 }
III. 1964 - maintaining

no key

- A) I only
B) II only
C) I and II only
D) I and III only
E) I, II, and III

Which of the following statements about political parties is correct?

- A) Americans are more attached to their political parties than European citizens are.
B) Loyalty to political parties has strengthened in the United States since 1900.
C) In a presidential election, political parties are typically more powerful than the candidates they back.
D) The 1932 presidential election essentially established the Democratic Party as we know it.
E) Party conventions are more important today than they were in 1924.

Which of the following situations resulted in a party realignment?

- I. The collapse of the Whig Party
II. The rise of the "FDR Democrats"
III. Bill Clinton's wide defeat of George H.W. Bush
A) I only
B) I and II only
C) I and III only
D) II and III only
E) I, II, and III

Which of the following statements is most accurate concerning the current state of party politics?

- A) Political parties are strengthening as a label with which voters identify, despite a rise in independents.
B) As organizations that nominate and elect candidates, parties have lost much of the power they previously held.
C) Parties remain effective at influencing leaders in government.
D) Presidential primary elections have strengthened the political party system.
E) Split-ticket voting has had no effect on party identification.

- ⑨ The two leading American political parties
- originated in the early twentieth century.
 - are the Whigs and the Federalists.
 - are equal in size.
 - have a legal monopoly on political power.
 - are pragmatic rather than ideological.

*willing to change
their positions in order
to win*

- ⑩ Which of the following statements most accurately compares political parties in the United States with those in other Western democracies?

- ☒ (1) Parties in the United States exert a greater influence over which candidates run for office.
- ☒ (2) Parties are much more centralized in the United States.
- ☒ (3) There are usually more political parties in other Western democracies.
- ☒ (4) Party members in the national legislature are much freer to vote against the party line in other Western democracies.
- ☒ (5) Party label is the principal criterion for voting for a candidate in the United States, whereas it is relatively unimportant in other Western democracies.

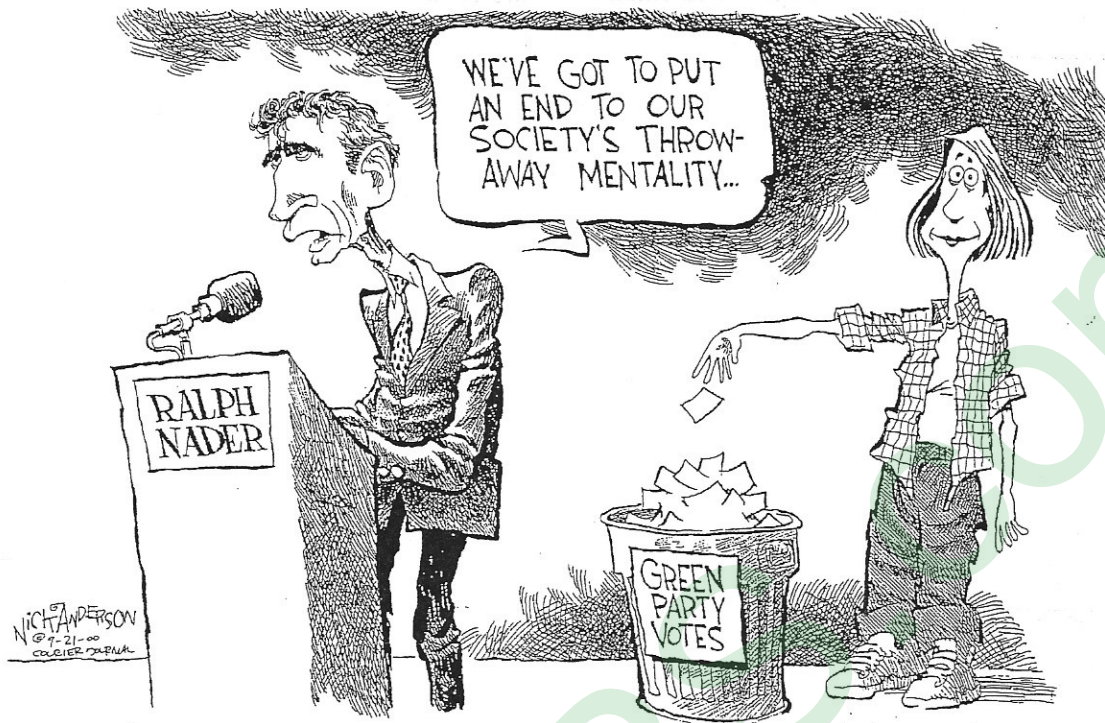
In a single member district, plurality vote system - *"winner take all"*

- ☒ (1) a runoff election is usually necessary to determine the winner.
- ☒ (2) parties are assigned seats based on the proportion of votes they receive in a district.
- ☒ (3) the candidate with the most votes represents the district.
- ☒ (4) some votes count more than others in determining which candidate wins the election.
- ☒ (5) third parties are more likely to win seats than in proportional representation systems.

- ⑪ Each of the two major U.S. political parties can best be described as a(n)
- a. bureaucracy.
 - b. weak coalition of diverse elements.
 - c. group of strong-minded ideologues.
 - d. unchanging entity.

- ⑫ Successful candidates for the Republican presidential nomination tend to be more conservative than rank-and-file Republicans because

- (A) moderate Republicans are less likely than conservative Republicans to gain widespread support in the general election
- (B) most moderate Republicans have approved of the Democratic presidential candidate
- (C) most rank-and-file Republicans do not care whether their party's nominee shares the political views
- (D) party activists, whose political participation is disproportionate to their numbers, tend to be very conservative
- (E) the Republican party does not allow rank and file members to participate in the selection of the party's nominee



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Minor parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States politics.

- Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above.
- Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.
- Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success. Describe two of these contributions.

A) The point of the cartoon is that voting for a minor party is essentially throwing out your vote (as if you didn't vote at all), because minor parties are practically guaranteed not to win. **EXACTLY!**

B) Firstly, the Democrats and Republicans control what names are placed on the ballots, so a minor party is less likely to be placed on the ballot, which means they won't get a lot of votes. Secondly, because we have a winner-takes-all system, even if a minor party received a lot of votes, if they didn't receive the most, then they'll have no representation.

C) Firstly, they often educate and aware the public about pressing issues. As a result, the 2 major parties will often absorb those issues into their political agenda. Secondly, they "spoil" the vote, because they take away a percentage of the votes that would have otherwise voted for one of the 2 parties, which could've caused one of the parties to win in a close race.

Nice answers!

2. Political parties play important roles in United States elections and government institutions. Over the past several decades, the influence of political parties in elections has declined.

(a) Describe two important functions of political parties in United States.

(b) Explain how each of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process.

- Direct primaries
- Candidate-centered campaigns

(c) Explain how party polarization affects the political process.

- ✓ A) One of the most important functions of political parties is that they officially nominate the president at their conventions. Furthermore, they provide a sense of "linkage", as they educate the public about politics and mobilize voters.
- ✓ B) It used to be that presidential nominees were chosen directly by the party. However, once direct primaries were in place, ~~it was~~ voters had more of an influence on who the nominee is, and not the political party. Furthermore, ~~with~~ there's been a rise in candidate-centered campaigns. This means that the candidate doesn't rely on the party as much anymore (for things like money and media), so the party doesn't have much of an influence.
- ✓ C) Party polarization means that the 2 parties are distancing from the center, with the Republicans becoming increasingly conservative and Democrats increasingly liberal. This results in a gap in the center for a new party to emerge. Furthermore, it leads to gridlock ✓ and peoples' distrust in the government, as the 2 parties aren't as willing to compromise anymore.

Beautiful!

nice job listening in class!

Political Parties & Primary System

NAME Akiva Thalheim

1 Which of the following is an accurate statement about the leadership of the two major political parties?

- (A) The national party organization controls all facets of party activity throughout the country.
- (B) Party leadership is dispersed among numerous officials at the national, state, and local level.
- (C) The highest elected official in each national party directs that party's activities and operations.
- (D) All major decisions concerning party activities are made during each party's presidential nominating conventions.
- (E) Prominent former officeholders, such as ex-presidents, lead their respective political parties.

2 Compared with political parties in countries such as England and Israel, both of which have multi-party systems, American political parties are

- (A) less interested in influencing the outcome of elections
- (B) less clearly identified with consistent political ideologies
- (C) less effective at raising money from political supporters
- (D) better able to reflect the goals of their entire constituencies
- (E) more likely to organize around a single issue or goal

3 In *Federalist No. 10*, James Madison argues that a federal system of government reduces the danger of political factions by

- (A) creating insurmountable obstacles to the creation of factions
- (B) making it difficult for one faction to gain the power necessary to govern
- (C) requiring equal representation of all factions within the government
- (D) restricting factional political activity to the state level only
- (E) allowing federal agencies to strictly regulate the activities of factions

4 Which of the following is true of most third parties in U.S. history?

- (A) They arose and succeeded during times of prosperity.
- (B) They were created to protest wars.
- (C) At some point they won a majority of seats in Congress.
- (D) They flourished during periods of widespread dissatisfaction.
- (E) They arose in response to increased government regulation.

5 Which of the following best describes the practice of "ticket splitting"?

- (A) A presidential nominee selects a running mate who can appeal to voter groups whose support of the nominee is weak.
- (B) A voter chooses the presidential nominee of one major party, but chooses Congressional nominees of the other major party.
- (C) A mayor orders the local police force to hand out fewer parking violations in the weeks leading up to the general election.
- (D) A delegate to a national party convention supports the front-runner but remains uncommitted on the party platform.
- (E) A member of Congress votes against legislation proposed by his or her party leader.

6 Which of the following statements best describes the organization of the two major political parties in the United States?

- (A) Parties have no organization except at the national level.
- (B) Parties are centrally organized to provide a smooth transition from one national campaign to the next.
- (C) Parties are organized much like a large corporation, in that decisions flow from national to state and local levels.
- (D) Local and state parties have virtually no power in the party system.
- (E) Separate and largely independent party organizations exist at national, state, and local levels.

7 Which of the following best describes the fate of most popular third-party movements?

- (A) They displace one of the two major parties and themselves become major parties.
- (B) They are ultimately abandoned by the public because their politics are perceived as too radical.
- (C) Their supporters become frustrated and withdraw from the political process.
- (D) They remain active participants in the American political system indefinitely.
- (E) They disintegrate when one or both of the major parties adopt the third party's goals.

8 The primary election system of selecting presidential candidates has had which of the following effects?

- (A) It has increased the importance of state party organizations.
- (B) It has loosened the hold of party leaders over the nomination process. *- voters more important*
- (C) It has reduced the role of citizens in the candidate selection process.
- (D) It has lowered the cost of running for office.
- (E) It has led to a decline in the importance of party voter-registration drives.

Review: Political Parties + Primary System Akiva Thalheim

- 1) Political parties have lost a lot of control over the electoral process.
- a) Define split-ticket voting

Voters split their votes among different parties (Congress vs president usually)

less control of the political process

- b) Explain two other factors that have contributed to party decline.

- The rise of minor parties
- Decentralization has made the weakening uneven
- New laws and rules
- Voters have lost a sense of commitment (more people are split-ticketing)
- Media - get info from media, not party
- Candidates raise their own \$ and hire staff, not the party
- Primary system - party leaders aren't in charge of who's the nominee

- 2) Explain 3 reasons why we have a two-party system.

- 1) Tradition
- 2) Moderation Rules
- 3) Name Brand Recognition
- 4) Controls Ballot
- 5) Single Member District
- 6) Winner-takes-all

3) Identify and explain one impact that minor parties have on the political process.

- Pushes major parties to include otherwise underrepresented concerns
- Major parties absorb their ideas
- Spoiler rule — steal percentage of votes from 2 parties in close races

4) Identify and explain the advantages of a two party system over a multi-party system.

The 2 parties can't be too extreme because they have to appeal to everyone. Also, it leads to a stable government.

←
more moderate

5) Define:

A) Open Primary - vote for either party

B) Closed Primary - register beforehand to vote

C) CAUCUS - Gathering/Meeting where voters get into groups

6) Describe the role Superdelegates in the Democratic Party nominating process

They vote last, only really matter if it's a close race - tip the scales - picks a winner if there's a tie

7) Explain why a candidate's strategy to win the nomination is often different from the strategy designed to win the general election. Appeal to his party vs appeal to public