

Unit 4 Test: The Presidency, Bureaucracy, and Congress

Potential Essay Questions

Directions: I will select one of these questions for you to answer on the Unit 4 Test!

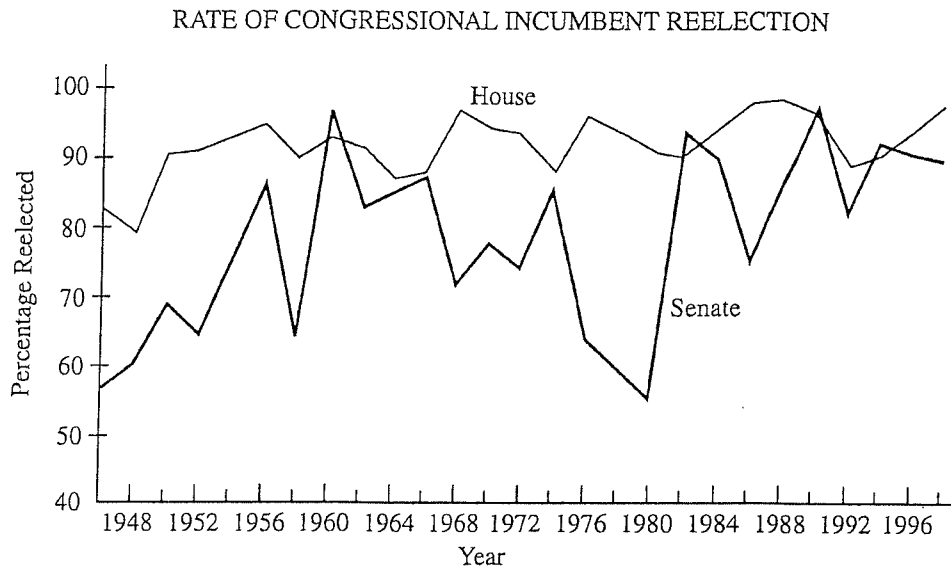
I recommend writing rough drafts for each of them using your textbook, reader, notes, or possibly some independent research to arrive at your answers. Again, your essays will be written and graded according to AP standards as reviewed in class.

1. Presidents are generally thought to have advantages over Congress in conducting foreign policy because of the formal and informal powers of the presidency.
 - a. Identify two formal constitutional powers of the President in making foreign policy.
 - b. Identify two formal constitutional powers of Congress in making foreign policy.
 - c. Identify ~~two~~ informal powers of the President that contribute to the President's advantage over Congress in conducting foreign policy.
 - d. Explain how each of the informal powers identified in Part C contributes to the President's advantage over Congress in conducting foreign policy.

2. The United States Congress and the President together have the power to enact federal law. Federal bureaucratic agencies have the responsibility to execute federal law. However, in the carrying out of these laws, federal agencies have policy-making discretion.
 - a. Explain two reasons why Congress gives federal agencies policy-making discretion in executing federal laws.
 - b. Choose one of the agencies listed below. Identify the policy area over which it exercises policy-making discretion and explain one specific example of how it exercises that discretion.
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Federal Communication Commission (FCC)
 - Federal Reserve Board

3. Both party leadership and committees in Congress play key roles in the legislative process.
 - a. Define two of the following elements of the congressional committee system and explain how each influences the legislative process.
 - Policy specialization
 - Reciprocity/"logrolling"
 - Party representation on committees
 - b. Identify two ways party leadership in Congress can influence the legislative process and explain how each way influences the process.

4. Congressional reapportionment and redistricting are conducted every ten years. When redistricting is conducted, politicians often engage in gerrymandering.
 - a. Define congressional reapportionment and explain one reason why it is important to states.
 - b. Define congressional redistricting.
 - c. Explain two goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting.
 - d. Describe two limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting.



5. The graph above shows reelection rates for incumbents in the House and Senate. From this information and your knowledge of United States politics, perform the following tasks.
 - a. Identify two patterns displayed in the graph.
 - b. Identify two factors that contribute to incumbency advantage. Explain how each factor contributes to incumbency advantage.
 - c. Discuss one consequence of incumbency advantage for the United States political process.