

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two provisions of the Bill of Rights identified. Each provision must be identified and include a discussion of what the provision protects.

Answers may include, but are not limited to:

- Speech — allows citizens to say almost anything they want
- Press — allows citizens access to information, each other and policymakers; printed advocacy
- Assembly — allows citizens to come together
- Petition — allows citizens to address government
- Various due process/criminal justice provisions (e.g., grand jury indictment, jury of peers, search and seizure) — protects citizens from retribution/harassment from government

Part (b): 3 points

One point is earned for each of three explanations. The explanations must include a description of the interest group activity and how that activity may influence the action of a governmental body, official or policy.

- Grassroots mobilization — interest groups organize citizens, who act to influence policymakers
- Lobbying — direct contact with policymakers for the purpose of persuasion through the provision of information, political benefits, etc.
- Litigation — the use of courts to gain policy preferences through cases or amicus curiae

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for describing a regulation. The regulation does not need to be identified by its formal title.

- Disclosure of contributions, funding or activities
- Registration of lobbyists, PACs
- Campaign finance laws
- Limits on gifts
- Limits on revolving-door appointments
- Limits on honoraria
- Prohibition of bribery
- Any named law or regulation with a description of what it does to regulate interest groups

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

A score of dash (—) is assigned to an answer that is blank or off task.

A. One provision in the Bill of Rights for protection of individuals who try to influence politics is the first amendment's ~~grant~~ guarantee of Freedom of assembly, which allows for organized protests which can have a powerful influence on legislators' policy-making. Another provision is the freedom of petition, which allows individuals and groups to lobby for change in ~~among~~ ^{policy} ~~Congressmen~~ ~~in Congress~~ without fear of consequences.

B. Grassroots mobilization involves a widespread effort on an individual or community ~~to~~ level to raise awareness of a particular issue and mobilize that segment of the population in reference to said issue. This mobilization of a particular constituency can in turn affect the voting behavior of congressmen representing the mobilized constituencies. Lobbying directly influences members of Congress because lobbyists provide them with a constant flow of information in support of a particular ~~case~~ issue, offer monetary support in return for favorable legislative action, and ~~also~~ exercise a potentially significant overall power of persuasion. Litigation provides a means to directly challenge unfavorable laws by ~~taking~~ ~~th~~ arguing their unconstitutionality in court. In addition to simply

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

providing parties in a suit, interest groups can also exert their influence in the courtroom by submitting an amicus curiae brief, which provides the judges with relevant information concerning cases of interest to particular groups, and can often influence judges' rulings on the case.

- C. One government regulation of interest groups is the McCain-Feingold Act, which prohibited the contribution of "soft money" to political campaigns. This restriction essentially means that it is illegal to provide ^{political} campaigns with unlimited funding. The only funding allowed under this law is hard money, which is given directly in ~~specific~~ set amounts.

A) — The first amendment, namely the part about freedom of speech, protects individuals who try to influence politics. It does this by guaranteeing them, and all other citizens, the right to freely speak their ideas and suggestions.

— In the same amendment, the first, the right to practice one's ~~own~~ own religion is guaranteed as well. This allows, for example, a Catholic who is morally opposed to abortion to try to influence politicians to implement policy reflecting said Catholic's beliefs.

B) — Grassroots mobilization involves going to the local, community level to mobilization people to join your cause (example: vote). Causing multiple people to vote for a candidate or take a stand on a particular issue can greatly have an influence on interest groups success.

— Lobbying of government institutions refers to people presenting their particular ideas and suggestions to politicians in an effort to convince the politicians to favor the interest groups positions. If a politician is convinced taking a particular stand is beneficial, this can be a very successful activity.

1B

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

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- Litigation refers to taking up issues in Court. Interest Groups can file amicus curiae briefs in order to try to sway the outcome of the case.

c) Interest Groups have limits to how much money they can contribute to one particular candidate.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1C

Interest groups have to be careful of how they / of / handle the business of a normal day. Although the provisions and already state sections in the Bill of Rights makes it easier to ~~protect~~ protect individuals rights. Two examples of these protections would be but not limited to the freedom of press and the clear and present danger act. Interest groups use these provisions in everyday work in ^{Routines} ~~terms~~ such as Grassroots mobilization, lobbying of government institutions, and litigation.

The freedom of press is important to the interest groups because the ~~the~~ leaders of these groups could make a public announcement and ~~be~~ not be punished for the matters and terms they speak of. The Clear and present danger act is ~~also~~ in order to protect the constitution. If an interest group tries to break the constitution then not only is it protected, so are the individuals rights.

Activities of special interest groups vary from many different events daily. One of the most activities would be lobbying of government institutions, basically getting candidates recognized and gaining support. Another one is Grassroots mobilization, the public display of a candidate or idea. For example a president or even a mayor candidate sign in your yard. Litigation is the other of the big three, this is persuading people (registered voters) to pick your candidate or idea.

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2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

Overview

The intent of this question was to examine students' knowledge of how the Constitution protects the rights of individuals who try to promote their interests in a representative democracy, the methods used to accomplish this and governmental regulations restricting these attempts. The question asked students to (a) explain two provisions in the Bill of Rights that protect individuals who try to influence politics; (b) explain how interest groups use grassroots mobilization, lobbying of government institutions and litigation to exert influence over policy; and (c) describe one specific federal governmental regulation of interest groups. This question required students to demonstrate an understanding of individual protections in the Bill of Rights, interest group activity and federal governmental regulations that control or restrict interest group activity.

Sample: 1A

Score: 6

In part (a) the student earned 1 point for explaining that freedom of assembly “allows for organized protests which can have a powerful influence on legislators’ policy-making.” The student earned 1 point for explaining that freedom of petition “allows individuals and groups to lobby for change in policy without fear of consequences.”

In part (b) the student earned 1 point for providing all components of a complete explanation of how grassroots lobbying is used by interest groups to exert influence over policy. The student explains the techniques of grassroots mobilization as “a widespread effort on an individual or community level to raise awareness of a particular issue,” connects it to policymakers (“congressmen”), and explains the influence it might exert by stating that it “can in turn affect the voting behavior.” The student also earned 1 point for providing a complete explanation of lobbying by stating that the interest group “directly influences members of [C]ongress ... with a constant flow of information.” The student earned 1 additional point for explaining that litigation is used by interest groups to exert influence over policy by arguing “in court” and by filing “an amicus curiae brief, which ... can often influence judges’ rulings on the case.”

In part (c) the student earned 1 point by explaining how the McCain–Feingold Act regulates interest groups.

Sample: 1B

Score: 4

In part (a) the student earned 1 point for explaining that freedom of speech gives citizens “the right to freely speak their ideas and suggestions.” The student incorrectly explains freedom of religion as a provision in the Bill of Rights that protects individuals who try to influence politics and therefore did not earn a second point in this part.

In part (b) the student discusses grassroots mobilization but does not provide an explanation of how it is used to exert influence over policy and therefore earned no point. The student earned 1 point for explaining the techniques used by lobbyists to reach policymakers and exert influence over policy. The student earned another point for explaining litigation and its use by interest groups to reach policymakers (the court) and exert influence over policy.

In part (c) the student earned 1 point for describing the federal regulation that limits campaign contributions.

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Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

In the student earned 1 point for explaining that freedom of the press allows “these groups” to “make a public annocment [*sic*] and not be punished for the matters and terms they speak of.” The student does not provide a second provision of the Bill of the Rights and therefore did not earn a second point.

In part (b) the student does not provide an adequate explanation of grassroots mobilization, lobbying or litigation and therefore earned no points.

The student does not attempt part (c) and therefore earned no point for it.