

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for demonstrating an increase in minority representation between 1960 and 2010.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for an explanation of **how** the Voting Rights Act of 1965 assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting:

- Eliminating voter registration requirements (e.g., literacy tests, residency requirements) that prevented minorities from voting led to increased access for minority voters.
- Creating federal oversight of elections helped eliminate discriminatory mechanisms (e.g., voter intimidation, ballot fraud) that were used to prevent minority voters from voting, which led to increased access for minority voters.
- Eliminating the use of English-only ballots that prevented non-English-speaking minorities from voting led to increased access for minority voters.

A second point is earned for an explanation of **how** the Twenty-fourth Amendment assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting: Eliminating poll taxes that limited voting by lower-income people led to an increase in minority voting because minorities are often overrepresented among poor people.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for identifying one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. The barrier may affect either minority candidates running for Congress **or** minority voters attempting to vote for minority candidates.

Minority Candidates	Minority Voters
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incumbency advantage• Gerrymandered districts• Majority-minority districts• Prejudice, racism, sexism• Electoral resources• Electoral qualifications• Single-member districts/winner-take-all	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I.D. requirements• English-only ballots• Felony disenfranchisement• Purging voter rolls• Voter intimidation

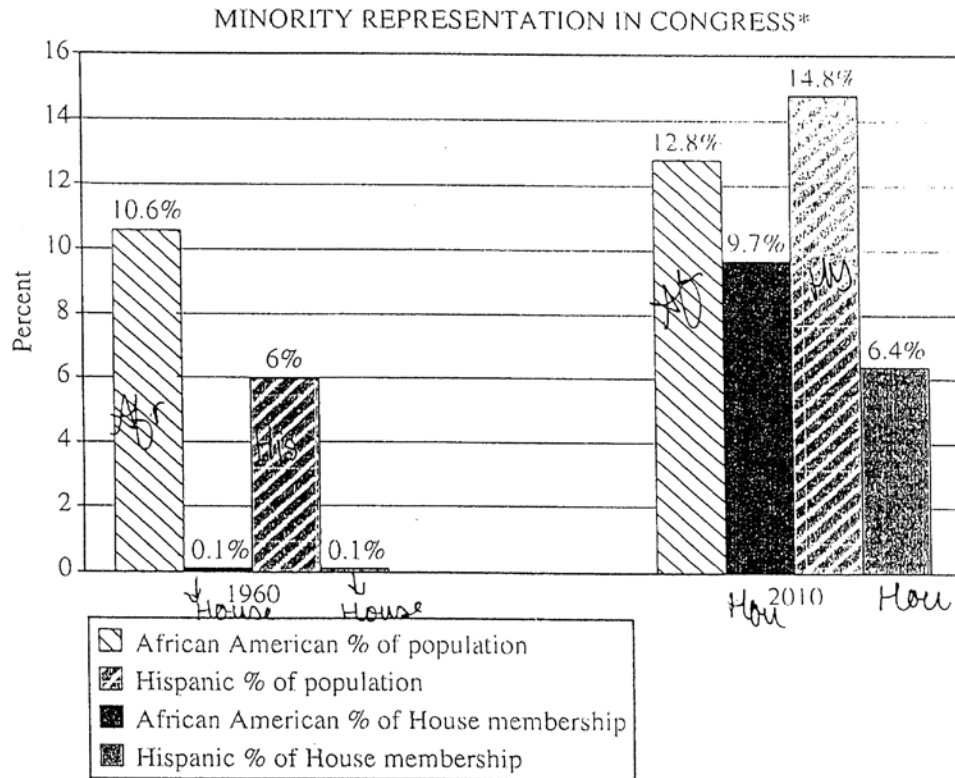
A second point is earned for explaining **how** the barrier identified above inhibits minority representation in Congress:

- A minority candidate barrier must explain **how** the barrier identified above limits minority representation.
- A minority voter barrier must explain **how** the barrier limits minority participation and **how** that directly affects minority representation in Congress.

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

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

2



*Figure does not include all minority groups in Congress.

2. (a) Using the chart above, compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010.

(b) Explain how each of the following assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting.

- Voting Rights Act of 1965 - no
- Twenty-fourth Amendment - removal of poll tax

(c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.

2. (a) In 1960, African Americans made up 10.6% of the United States population but only .1% of the House of Representatives' membership consisted of African Americans. Hispanics made up 6% of the population and also only had .1% of the House membership. In 2010, the proportion of African Americans in the population grew to 12.8% and the proportion of Hispanics grew to 14.8%. Most significantly, the

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proportion of African Americans in the House rose to 9.7% and the proportion of Hispanics in the House also rose, to 6.4%. This trend shows that the House is increasing the accuracy of representation of minorities in The United States.

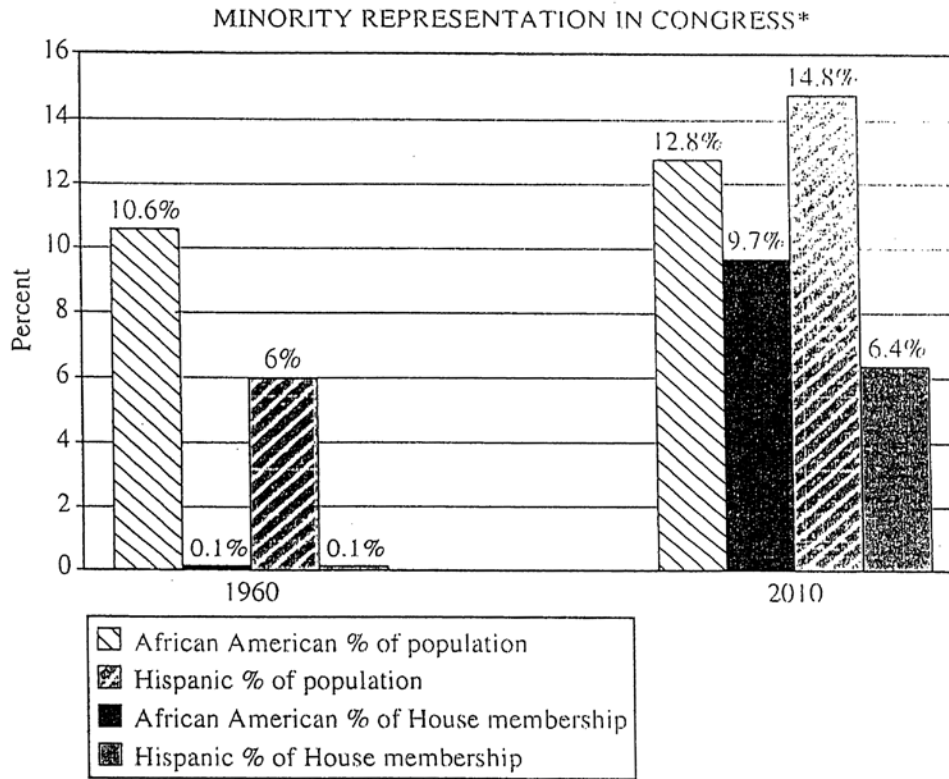
(D) Since the beginning of our country, voting for many groups has been suppressed. Both the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Twenty-fourth Amendment aided in eliminating barriers for minority voting. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned some practices by states, including literacy tests, that aimed to block minorities from voting. With this Act, minorities were no longer blocked from voting because of ~~state~~ unfair ^{discriminatory} state laws. The Twenty-fourth Amendment banned poll-taxes, which prevented many poor minorities from being able to pay and vote. This made it so minorities no longer had to be concerned about paying to vote.

(C) Gerrymandering hinders minority representation in Congress by drawing lines to pack and crack districts of states. Although with legislation and caselaw, ^{*}gerrymandering ~~has~~ still has an influence on minority representation, especially when minority parts of the state are broken apart. With that, minority voters' counts might not be strong enough to ~~also~~ successfully elect a candidate that could represent them in Congress. The support for the minority candidate may be there, but if a state is gerrymandered, the candidate's supporters may be weaker if split up,

* that try to eliminate gerrymandering

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Question 2 is reprinted for your convenience.



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2. (a) Using the chart above, compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010.

(b) Explain how each of the following assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting.

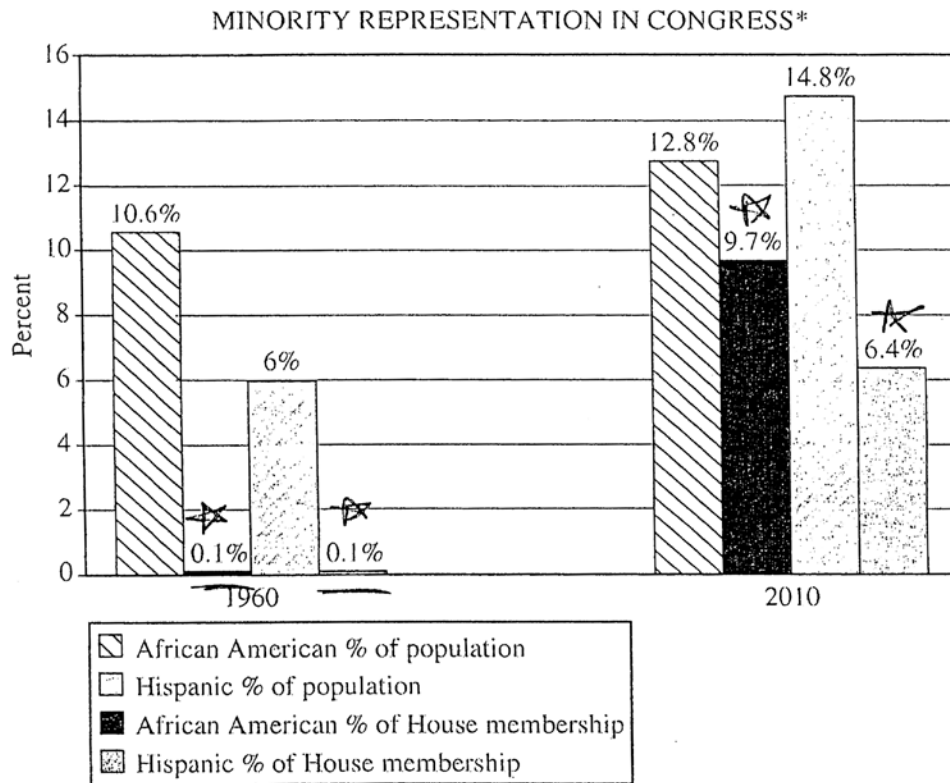
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Twenty-fourth Amendment

(c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.

causing the candidate to lose.

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*Figure does not include all minority groups in Congress.

2. (a) Using the chart above, compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010.

(b) Explain how each of the following assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting.

- Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Twenty-fourth Amendment

(c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.

a) From 1960 to 2010 the representation of minorities in congress has grown substantially. There was almost no African American or Hispanic representation in 1960, and ~~over~~ in 2010 about 16% of congress is made up of the two groups.

b) The voting rights act of 1965 greatly

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assisted the removal of barriers for minority voting. The voting rights act allowed people of minorities to vote, and even if not many of them were elected into office at the time, it was a good start. If minorities could not vote there was no way they could be elected. The voting rights act of 1965 gave way for ~~many~~ an increase in minority ~~people~~ congress members.

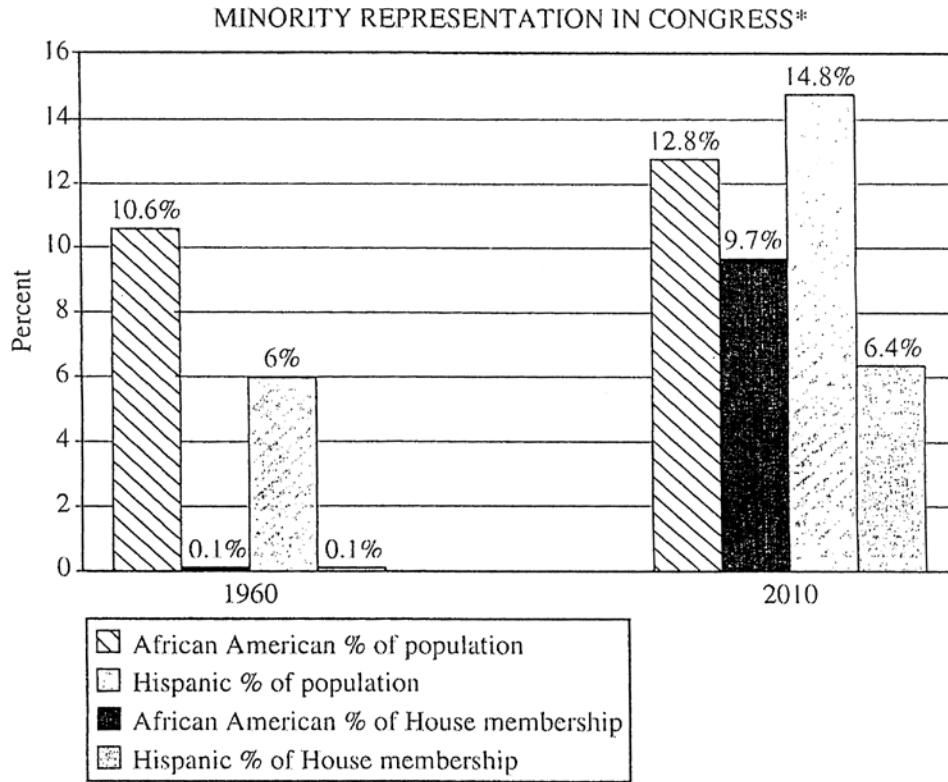
The 24th amendment also helped when it came to increasing the amount of majority members in congress. An increase in civil rights and more people being open and accepting to all groups really assisted in minorities being elected to congress.

c.) One barrier that impedes minority members to be elected in congress is the fact that there are less minority college graduates. Most voters would not even consider electing someone to congress who is not a college graduate. There are tons of minority college graduates, but white to minority ratio of college graduates favors whites that means there are more white men who are considered "qualified" for the position. The statistics of this impedement go back to the civil rights movement, and as the graph shows us, with time as more minorities are seen as "qualified," the number of

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2B3
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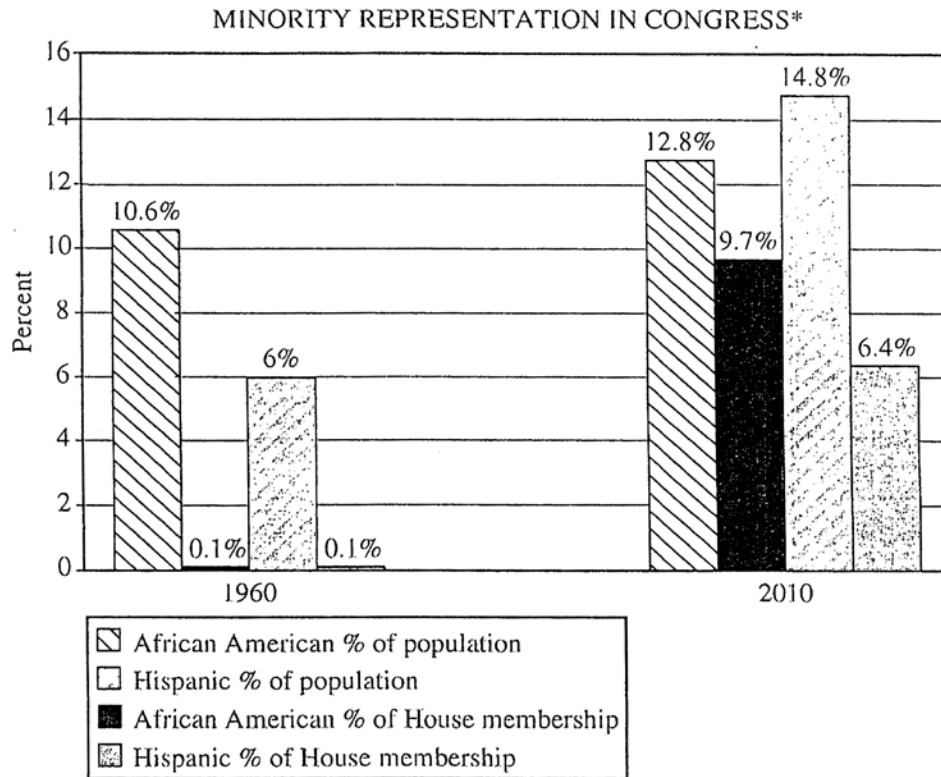
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- (c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.

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increase.

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2. (a) Using the chart above, compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010.
- (b) Explain how each of the following assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting.
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - Twenty-fourth Amendment
- (c) Identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. Explain why the barrier you identified inhibits minority representation in Congress.

a) Over the 50 year span from 1960 to 2010, minority representation in Congress has risen to almost the percentage of minority population. However, African American representation is more proportional to population than is Hispanic. Compared to

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the near zero representation in 1960, the change is drastic nevertheless.

b) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 made illegal the reapportionment of districts to dilute minority votes.

This allowed minority voters to have better representation, and allowed minority figures to be elected to Congress.

c) One barrier that impedes minority representation is economic factor. Statistically, minority citizens earn less income than whites. This relates to lower education levels and lower voting rates. It is more difficult to elect minority representatives, when the minority voters themselves do not vote.

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2012 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to discuss minority representation in Congress by examining barriers that were removed to aid in minority voting and a barrier that currently exists that impedes minority representation. Students were asked to (a) use a chart to compare minority representation in 1960 and 2010; (b) explain how both the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Twenty-fourth Amendment assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting; and (c) identify one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress and explain why that barrier inhibits minority representation in Congress.

Sample: 2A Score: 5

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for correctly comparing minority representation in 1960 and 2010 by stating, “In 1960, African Americans made up1% of the House of Representatives’ membership. . . . In 2010, . . . [m]ost significantly, the proportions of African Americans in the House rose to 9.7%.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for correctly explaining how “[t]he Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned some practices by states, including literacy tests, that aimed to block minorities from voting.” The response also earned 1 point for correctly explaining how “[t]he Twenty-fourth Amendment banned poll-taxes, which prevented many poor minorities from being able to pay and vote.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for correctly identifying gerrymandering as a barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. The response also earned 1 point for correctly explaining why the identified barrier inhibits minority representation in Congress by stating that “gerrymandering still has an influence on minority representatives, especially when minority parts of the state are broken apart. With that, minority voters’ counts might not be strong enough to successfully elect a candidate that could represent them in Congress.”

Sample: 2B Score: 3

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for correctly comparing minority representation in 1960 and 2010 by stating, “From 1960 to 2010 the representation of minorities in congress has grown substantially [*sic*].”

In part (b) the response does not provide an adequate explanation of how the Voting Rights Act of 1965 assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting and therefore earned no point. The response also does not provide an adequate explanation of how the Twenty-fourth Amendment assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting and therefore earned no point.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for identifying that “voters would not even consider electing someone to congress who is not a college graduate” as a barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress. The response also earned 1 point for correctly explaining why the identified barrier inhibits minority representation in Congress by stating that “with time as more minorities are seen as ‘qualified,’ the number of minority members in congress will increase.”

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2012 SCORING COMMENTARY**

Question 2 (continued)

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for comparing minority representation in 1960 and 2010 by stating, “Over the 50 year span from 1960 to 2010, minority representation in Congress has risen.”

In part (b) the response does not provide an adequate explanation of how the Voting Rights Act of 1965 assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting and therefore earned no point. The response also does not provide an adequate explanation of how the Twenty-fourth Amendment assisted in the removal of barriers to minority voting and therefore earned no point.

In part (c) the response does not provide an identification of one barrier that currently impedes minority representation in Congress and therefore earned no points.