

# Unit 2 Take-Home Test – Part 1 (AP GaP)

Please complete these test items on the GradeCam form provided by your teacher. These are designed to be practice test items in preparation for the Midterm exam and for the AP exam. It is most beneficial if you use these as a true test of your understanding of the content. In other words, don't cheat (it doesn't count towards your grade!) and don't look up the answers (this won't test your learning or understanding of the content).

**Part 2 is the set of FRQ's that need to be turned into your class turnitin.com account for scoring and evaluation.**

---

1. Why does the United States have a relatively restrained scope of government compared to most European nations?
  - a. the predominance of conservatives in the United States
  - b. the predominance of liberals in the United States
  - c. the absence of moderates in the United States
  - d. the absence of pluralist thinking in the United States
2. Of the following, which form of participation are Americans most likely to engage in?
  - a. volunteering with a campaign
  - b. protesting
  - c. writing letters to the editor
  - d. contacting government officials
3. According to Ronald Reagan, what was the cause of society's problems?
  - a. urban decay
  - b. tax evasion
  - c. government
  - d. scofflaws and miscreants
4. Why is participation in the census so important?
  - a. participation indicates the legitimacy of government and of laws passed by Congress
  - b. changes in the U.S. population affect membership in political parties
  - c. information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funding is spent each year
  - d. information from the census determines tax rates
5. What is the effect of aging on political participation?
  - a. Aging decreases political participation until the need for government services among the very old causes an uptick in participation.
  - b. Aging decreases political participation among women, but not men.
  - c. Aging increases political participation until the infirmities of old age make it harder to participate.
  - d. Aging has no discernible effect on political participation.
6. How does lower voter turnout among young citizens affect the composition of those who show up at the polls?
  - a. Conservatives are overrepresented at the polls.
  - b. Young citizens are overrepresented at the polls.
  - c. Democrats are overrepresented at the polls.
  - d. Liberals are overrepresented at the polls.

7. Which of the following is considered conventional political participation?
  - a. running for office as a third-party candidate
  - b. burning the American flag
  - c. blocking the entrance to a military installation
  - d. staging a sit-in on campus
8. What is the typical aim of protests in the United States?
  - a. making the government listen to specific demands
  - b. overthrowing the government
  - c. influencing voting behavior
  - d. informing the public about the candidates
9. Which of the following generally increase with age?
  - a. liberalism and political tolerance
  - b. candidate loyalty and authoritarianism
  - c. political participation and suspicion of out-groups
  - d. political participation and strength of party attachment
10. Which of the following viewpoints is more likely to be held by a political liberal than by a political conservative?
  - a. The United States should stop letting criminals hide behind the law.
  - b. Prayer belongs in school.
  - c. Taxes and spending should be kept low.
  - d. Government should regulate the economy in the public interest.
11. Which of the following is unconventional political participation?
  - a. running for an unopposed office
  - b. signing a petition in a school parking lot
  - c. gathering signatures for a proposed ballot measure
  - d. staging a sit-in
12. Assume that Howard and Javier used proper sampling techniques to draw two samples of Hispanic Floridians. Each sample will be interviewed about proposed immigration policy reform and its impact on Hispanics living in the state. The samples were selected identically, but one includes 1,000 respondents and the other consists of 2,000 respondents. Given the information presented in this scenario, which of the following statements is true?
  - a. Howard and Javier will likely underestimate the impact of immigration reform on Florida's Hispanic population, given the size of their samples.
  - b. Howard and Javier will likely overestimate the impact of immigration reform on Florida's Hispanic population, given the size of their samples.
  - c. Howard and Javier can correctly assume that the sampling error for both surveyed samples will be the same.
  - d. Howard and Javier can be more confident of the results of the 2,000-person sample.
13. How do liberals differ from conservatives?
  - a. Liberals are more likely than conservatives to envision a wide scope for the central government, often involving policies that aim to promote military intervention.
  - b. Liberals are more likely than conservatives to envision a wide scope for the central government, often involving policies that aim to promote equality.
  - c. Among people over the age of 30, slightly more are liberal than conservative.
  - d. Conservatives are more likely than liberals to want to tax our way out of debt and deficit problems.

14. Which of the following is a disadvantage of conducting a public opinion survey over the phone?
- Unlisted numbers cannot be reached by telephone polls.
  - Federal law prohibits the use of automated random-digit-dialing programs to unlisted numbers.
  - People are substantially less willing to participate in polls over the telephone than in person.
  - Independents are less willing to participate in polls over the telephone than are partisans.
15. Women are more likely than men to cast their ballots for which type of candidate?
- Democratic candidates who support higher levels of spending on the military as opposed to spending on social services
  - Republican candidates who support higher levels of spending on the military as opposed to spending on social services
  - Democratic candidates who support higher levels of spending on social services as opposed to spending on the military
  - Republican candidates who support higher levels of spending on social services as opposed to spending on the military
16. If the poor participated at higher levels in the political process, what might happen?
- government workers would likely unionize
  - government-run services would likely be privatized
  - government programs to help individuals invest their Social Security income would likely be higher on the political agenda
  - government programs to alleviate economic inequality would likely be higher on the political agenda
17. How does civil disobedience differ from a protest?
- Civil disobedience involves violence; a protest is peaceful.
  - Civil disobedience is involuntary; a protest is voluntary.
  - Civil disobedience involves intentionally breaking a law; a protest involves getting attention from the media.
  - Civil disobedience involves unintentionally breaking a law; a protest involves intentionally breaking a law.
18. Many of the commercials that air during the nightly news broadcasts of ABC, CBS, and NBC seem to be for various prescription drugs. What is the most plausible explanation for this fact?
- Today's generation of young adults is significantly less likely to read newspapers than their elders.
  - Political socialization is more important to governments than to individuals.
  - The median age of viewers of nightly news broadcasts is 63.
  - Children who develop positive feelings toward political authorities grow into adults who are not easily disenchanted with politics.
19. Conservatives generally favor the \_\_\_\_\_ sector.
- service
  - government
  - private
  - public

20. Prior to being banned in 2002 by the McCain-Feingold Act, unlimited monetary contributions that were earmarked for party-building expenses at the grassroots level or for generic party advertising were known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. hard money  
b. soft money  
c. matching funds  
d. support funds
21. Because there is barely any time between the end of one campaign and the beginning of the next, some people have called the American electoral process \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. "the endless commercial"  
b. "the permanent campaign"  
c. "the road to nowhere"  
d. "quadruple overtime"
22. Which of the following was one of the requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act?  
a. All campaign funds must be spent within the state where the candidate is running for election (or in any state for presidential candidates).  
b. Candidates for Congress must contribute at least 10 percent of their net worth to the campaign.  
c. Congressional campaigns cannot accept contributions of more than \$100 from individual citizens.  
d. All candidates for federal office must disclose who contributed money to their campaigns.
23. The Electoral College introduces a bias into the campaign and electoral process because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. all states get the same number of electoral votes  
b. each state has as many electoral votes as it has representatives  
c. less populated states are overrepresented  
d. more populous states are overrepresented
24. Which of the following helps to explain why voter turnout is lower in the United States than in other democracies?  
a. The United States hold fewer elections.  
b. The United States elects fewer officeholders.  
c. The United States hold elections midweek.  
d. The United States has a partisan election system.
25. The Founders created the Electoral College because they wanted the president to be selected by \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. white, male, property-owning voters  
b. ordinary Americans  
c. elites  
d. the states
26. Research suggests that political campaigns are most likely to successfully convert voters when they \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. use "wedge" issues on which the other party is divided  
b. make appeals based on party affiliation  
c. make unrealistic promises  
d. buy radio and Internet advertisements

27. Which of the following statements indicates a high level of political efficacy?
- "I should vote to honor those who sacrificed their lives to make America free."
  - "Voting in the United States is so easy that there is no excuse for not voting."
  - "One vote can make a difference; I want my vote to be the difference maker."
  - "Democracy is only democratic if citizens participate in the process."
28. Which of the following is consistent with the mandate theory of elections?
- the idea that voter turnout is higher when citizens are required to vote and are fined if they fail to do so
  - the belief that a functional democracy mandates electoral participation by a large number of voters
  - Mitt Romney's claim that Obama won the 2012 presidential election because he had given gifts to various constituency groups
  - Barack Obama's claim that his victory in 2012 means that the public wants to raise taxes on the wealthy
29. If the president were selected by popular vote instead of by the Electoral College, which of the following cities would a presidential campaign be least likely to visit?
- Miami, Florida
  - Green Bay, Wisconsin
  - New York, New York
  - Chicago, Illinois
30. \_\_\_\_\_ was an unintended result of changes to the Federal Election Campaign Act that allowed parties to raise and spend money on voter registration and other campaign materials without limits on spending or the size of contributions that they could accept.
- Party discretionary funding
  - Party expenditure exemption
  - Soft money
  - Walking-around money
31. How would switching to direct election of the president affect Texas?
- Texas would receive more attention from candidates trying to win votes in major population centers like Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio.
  - Texas would receive less attention from candidates because it would no longer be a battleground state.
  - Texas would receive very little attention from candidates because it is currently a safe state.
  - Texas would become a safe state for the other party.
32. Why is it sometimes difficult for citizens to engage in policy voting?
- Competing candidates usually have the same positions on issues.
  - Candidates are often intentionally vague about their issue stances.
  - The media tend to overwhelm voters with policy information.
  - Election officials prevent using policy-based voter guides in the voting booth.
33. Why do presidential candidates tend to focus their efforts on battleground states?
- Battleground states have the most Electoral College votes.
  - Battleground states have more electors than they would deserve if electors were allocated by population.
  - Candidates focus on battleground states in order to increase their media exposure.
  - The winner-take-all system makes battleground states more relevant to a campaign.

# Unit 2 Free Response Questions -- Part 2

Answer the following FRQ's in a typed set of responses. **Please submit your FRQs as individual documents to turnitin.com by 1/20/17.** Each one will be scored with a rubric and feedback on your response will be available there.

Please consider the tips for writing FRQs in the APGaP class included with this document as well. These are important in preparation for the AP exam in May.

1. Voter turnout is influenced by constitutional provisions, voting laws, and demographics.

(a) Identify the effect of one of the following amendments on the electorate.

- ...Fifteenth Amendment
- ...Nineteenth Amendment
- ...Twenty sixth Amendment

(b) Explain how each of the following factors may affect voter turnout.

- ...Motor Voter Laws
- ...Photo Identification Laws

(c) Select one of the following demographic features and describe its relationship to the likelihood of a person voting in an election.

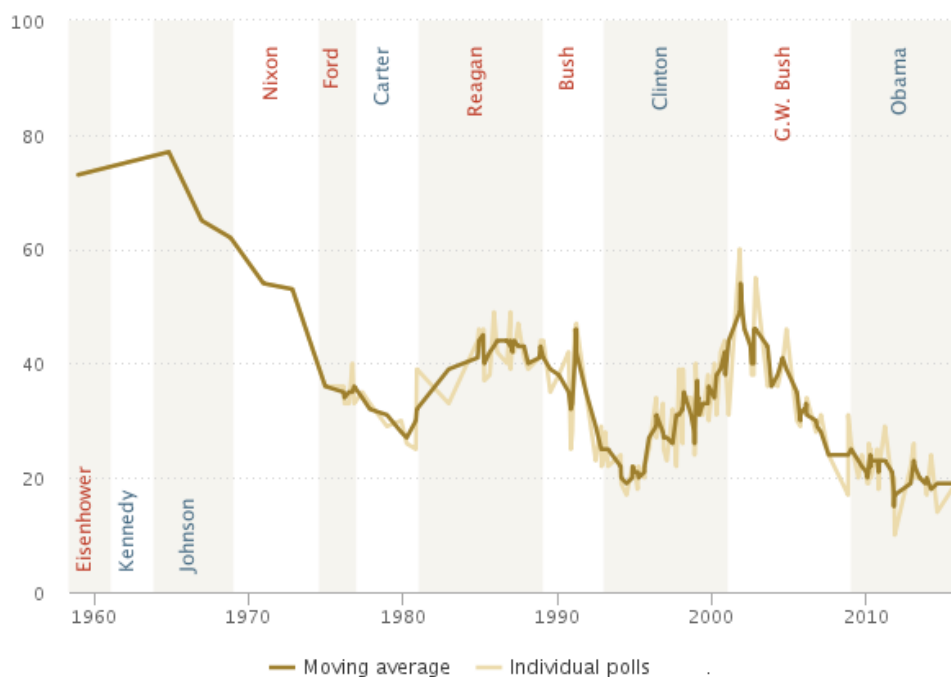
- ...Education
- ...Age

(d) Explain why voter turnout is different in each of the following.

- ...Presidential v. Midterm Elections
- ...Primary v. General Elections

2. As noted in this data from the Pew Research group, trust and confidence in government have declined in recent decades.

*% who trust the govt in Washington always or most of the time*



(a) Explain how divided government has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government. Be sure to include a definition of divided government in your response.

(b) Explain how the increased cost of election campaigns has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.

(c) Explain two specific consequences of the decline in trust and confidence in government for individual political behavior.

CLICK LEGEND ITEMS TO REMOVE THEM FROM CHART

# Strategies for Free-Response Questions

---

Here is a list of strategies that you can use to increase your chance of excelling on the free-response section of the exam. Some frequently used directives are listed below, along with descriptions of what you need to do in writing your answer.

- **compare:** address similarities and differences between two or more things
- **describe:** give a detailed account
- **identify:** give a brief definition or listing
- **explain:** communicate how or why

## Read the Questions Carefully

This applies to both multiple-choice and free-response questions. For multiple-choice questions it is important for students to read the question carefully to look for words such as "NOT" and "EXCEPT." For free-response questions it is important that students respond to ALL PARTS of the question being asked. Understanding what is being asked and responding with specific evidence is a very useful skill. Long, involved descriptions full of random facts about a specific concept or political phenomenon are neither encouraged nor rewarded in the grading process; students must be taught to "read for the guidelines" in order to make sure both their information and presentation clearly and completely answer the actual question that is being asked.

## Understand the Instructions and Action Verbs

Students may be asked to list, discuss, describe, explain, analyze, etc.; these are not all identical tasks. Also, the question may call for more than one task, such as both to identify and explain. Students should understand that some tasks are more complex than others. For example, composing a list may not even require a complete sentence, but students may need to write several paragraphs for a satisfactory discussion, including well-developed examples as support, in order to adequately explain some phenomenon. Here are some of the most common action words used in past free-response questions:

- **List/Identify:** Listing or identifying is a task that requires no more than a simple enumeration of some factors or characteristics. A list does not require any causal explanations. For example, a student might be asked to list or identify three factors that increase political legitimacy. Such a list could be bulleted or numbered, and might include such factors as a written constitution, competitive elections, and transparent institutions.
- **Define:** A definition requires a student to provide a meaning for a word or concept. Examples may help to demonstrate understanding of the definition. Students may be instructed to note the term's significance as part of the definition.
- **Describe:** A description involves providing a depiction or portrayal of a phenomenon or its most significant characteristics. Descriptions most often address "what" questions. For example, if students are asked to describe a political cleavage in Mexico, they must demonstrate knowledge that the cleavage has at least two sides by describing what the two sides are.
- **Discuss:** Discussions generally require that students explore relationships between different concepts or phenomena. Identifying, describing, and explaining could be required tasks involved in writing a satisfactory discussion.
- **Explain:** An explanation involves the exploration of possible causal relationships. When providing explanations, students should identify and discuss logical connections or causal patterns that exist between or among various political phenomena.
- **Compare/Contrast:** This task requires students to make specific links between two or more concepts, occurrences, or countries. Thus, students cannot simply have a one-paragraph description of how women participate in Iranian politics and a one-paragraph description of how they participate in Nigeria with no connections between the two paragraphs. To correctly compare participation of women in Nigeria and Iran there must be cross paragraph references and development of a comparative structure. The students must provide the connective tissue. They should understand that it is important to note similarities AND differences.
- **Evaluate/Assess:** An evaluation or assessment involves considering how well something meets a certain standard, and as such generally requires a thesis. It is important to identify the criteria used in the evaluation. If no criteria are explicitly given in the question, students should take care to clearly identify the ones that they choose to employ. Specific examples may be applied to the criteria to support the student's thesis. Evaluation or assessment requires explicit connections between the thesis or argument and the supporting evidence.
- **Analyze:** This task usually requires separating a phenomenon into its component parts or characteristics as a way of understanding the whole. An analysis should yield explicit conclusions that are explained or supported by specific evidence and/or well-reasoned arguments.