**REGENTS BREAK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT**

Complete an extensive outline for the following FREE RESPONSE QUESTION that appeared in a previous AP government exam. You should provide ACCURATE and CONCISE information for each aspect of the task. Remember, the rater for your exam is almost entirely making sure that you ACCURATELY complete EVERY TASK. And, the rater will either give you ONE point for each task, or NO points.

**#1 Representation in Democracy**

1. There are several different approaches to representation within a democratic political system.

(a) Define direct democracy.

(b) Define republican form of government.

(c) Describe one reason the framers of the United States Constitution chose a republican form of government over a direct democracy.

(d) Describe each of the models of congressional representation.

* Trustee model (attitudinal view)
* Delegate model (representational view)

(e) Explain why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate

(representational view).

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| **TASK** | **Complete with ACCURATE and CONCISE details. Use indicators to be clear!** | **PT** |
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**WINTER BREAK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT**

Complete an extensive outline for the following FREE RESPONSE QUESTION that appeared in a previous AP government exam. You should provide ACCURATE and CONCISE information for each aspect of the task. Remember, the rater for your exam is almost entirely making sure that you ACCURATELY complete EVERY TASK. And, the rater will either give you ONE point for each task, or NO points.

**#2 Federalism**

The framers of the Constitution devised a federal system of government that affected the relationship between the national and state governments.

(a) Compare state **sovereignty** under the **Articles of Confederation** and under the **Constitution.**

(b) Explain how each of the following has been used to expand the power of the federal government over the states.

• **Commerce clause**

• **Mandates**

(c) Explain how each of the following has played a role in the devolution of power from the national government to the states.

• **Block grants**

• Supreme Court decisions

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| **TASK** | **Complete with ACCURATE and CONCISE details. Use indicators to be clear!** | **PT** |
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**#3 Political Parties**

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 while their strength in Congress has increased.

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

(b) Describe one important **role political parties** play within **Congress** to **promote the party**’s public policy agenda.

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

• **Direct primaries**

• **Candidate-centered campaigns**

(d) Explain how **party polarization** has strengthened party influence in Congress.

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| **TASK** | **Complete with ACCURATE and CONCISE details. Use indicators to be clear!** | **PT** |
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**#4 Interest Groups**

Interest groups seek to influence political processes in ways that benefit their members. In doing so, however, they may not act in the overall public interest.

(a) Describe **two techniques interest groups** use to influence **elections.**

(b) Explain how interest groups use each of the following to influence government decision-making.

**• Issue networks** (also known as iron triangles)

• **Amicus curiae briefs**

(c) Explain how each of the following serves to limit interest group influence.

• The media

• **Pluralism**

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**#5 Polls and Congress**

Public opinion polls are a way to link the public with elected officials. Members of Congress often use polls to understand the views of their constituents, but they must also pay attention to other political considerations.

a. Identify **two characteristics of a valid, scientific, public opinion poll**.

b. Explain why each of the **following enhances the influence of public opinion** on the voting decisions of members of Congress.

• Strong public opinion as expressed in polling results

• **Competitive re-elections**

c. Explain why each of the following **limits the influence of public opinion** on the voting decisions of members of Congress.

• Legislators’ voting records

• **Party leadership**

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**#6 Elections**

Nominees for the presidency of the two major parties are chosen by delegates at national conventions. How these delegates are chosen varies across states and between the political parties.

1. Define each of the following methods used by states to choose delegates to party conventions.

• **Open primary**

**• Caucus**

b. Republican Party rules permit **winner-take-all primaries**. Describe one consequence of this rule for the Republican nomination process.

c. The Democratic Party has used **superdelegates** in the presidential nominating process since 1984. Explain why the use of superdelegates increases the influence of party leaders in the Democratic nomination process.

d. Explain why a candidate’s strategy to win the **party nomination** is often different from the strategy developed to **win the general election**

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| **TASK** | **Complete with ACCURATE and CONCISE details.** | **PT** |
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