1. Define political party. What three functions do parties perform?

2. Explain how political system organization (federal or unitary – presidential or parliamentary) impacts political party strength.

3. Compare American and most European (parliamentary) systems in the following categories.

   candidate selection

   chief executive selection

   cabinet selection

4. Describe the founding and development to the mid-19th century of American political parties. Include outstanding personalities.
5. What are critical (realigning) elections?

List three historic such elections and state the issues involved.

6. What regional realignment seems to have been occurring in recent decades?

7. Why did split ticket voting not occur until the arrival of progressive reforms?
1. How are American National parties organized?

2. What was the organizational difference between Republicans and Democrats from the late 1960’s to the early 1980’s?

3. What is party money spent for?

4. Why are delegate selection formulas important to national nominating conventions?

5. Define super-delegates.

6. Describe traditional political machines.
1. Compare America's two-party system with the system found in most European countries.

2. Identify and discuss at least two reasons for the long endurance of the American bi-party system.

3. What impact have 3rd parties had on American politics?

4. How representative are convention delegates’ opinions of those of party voters? Why?

5. See Table 9.3. How do both parties’ delegates compare to voters in terms of:
   - Income –
   - Being African American –
   - Gender –
   - Abortion –
   - Government solving national problems –
   - Same Sex Relationships –
1. In what 3 ways are modern elections different from those of the 19th century?

2. Which voters are most influenced by emotional ads?

3. When does fund raising begin after an election to congress is won?

4. Compare presidential and congressional campaigns in at least three ways.

5. What seems to have happened to the “coattail effect” in recent elections?

6. What legal restrictions are placed on campaign money?

7. List the four strategic questions of campaigns.

8. What is the difference between malapportionment and gerrymandering?

9. What is the difference between delegate and trustee?
1. What are the constitutional qualifications for being a member of either house of Congress? Who judges whether those qualifications and elections have been met?

2. What special constitutional privilege do members of Congress enjoy? What defines when this privilege is available and when it is not?

3. Why must Democratic candidates for their party's nomination for the presidency be more liberal than in the general election and Republican candidates for their party's nomination for the presidency be more conservative than in the general election?

4. What is the difference between a presidential primary election and a caucus?

5. What is a clothespin vote?

6. Distinguish between position issues and valence issues. Modern campaigns have tended to emphasize which more? Why?

7. What impacts do political science studies say the following have on election outcomes? Be complete.
TV news coverage of campaigns and TV “spots” –

TV debates –

8. Characterize “safe” presidential campaign speeches. What pitfalls are they designed to avoid?

9. What impact have computers had on presidential campaigning?

10. How do modern technology dominated campaigns differ from campaigns of the past?
1. What requirements are placed on presidential campaign funding if the candidates take federal money?

2. Comment on the source of most money for congressional campaigns and on the difference between incumbent and challenger campaign funding.

3. How did the Federal Election Campaign Act change funding after Watergate?

4. Read “The 2008 Election" on page 243. Refer to figure 10.3 on page 244.

   Considering the pre-election circumstances, what was unusual about the outcome of the 2008 presidential election.

   Which groups voted for Obama and which voted for McCain?

   What role did Obama’s race play in the outcome?

5. What were the negative impacts of the campaign reform laws of the 1970’s?

6. List and describe the three changes in congressional finance law passed in 2002.
7. Describe the impact of the following on presidential races. Pay attention to detail.

    Independent voters –

    “pocket-book vote” –

    character –

    vice presidential nominee –

    political reporting –

    religion –

    abortion –

    new voting groups –

    money –

8. What advantages do congressional incumbents have over challengers other than money?

9. What are 527’s?
1. Compare Democrats and Republicans in terms of size and strength of support.

2. Define and discuss the relative importance of prospective voting and retrospective voting.

3. What are the best predictors of presidential election outcomes?

4. List and describe three ways that campaigns influence election outcomes.
5. According to Table 10.6 on page 253, briefly match up the preference of party (Republican or Democrat) per each demographic.

Race –

Gender –

Education Level –

Age –

Religion –

Geographic Location (regions/Urban/Rural, etc.) –
1. Cite and explain three reasons for the multitude of American interest groups.

2. What factors cause the formation of interest groups?

3. Explain the difference between institutional and membership interest groups.

4. List and describe three incentives for joining membership interest groups.

5. What type of purposive interest group is most controversial?

6. What makes a public-interest group “public”?
1. Social movements spawn many interest groups. Label and describe solidarity, purposive and material incentive interest groups formed by the environmental, feminist and union movements.

2. What types of interest groups heavily depend on foundation grants? Name three such foundations.

3. How do federal grants help interest groups?

4. What direct mailing techniques are described here?

   How costly is direct mailing? What percent of mail-outs must respond in order to make money?

5. Cite four reasons for an upper class bias in active Washington, D.C. interest groups.

6. If there is an interest group upper class bias, why do those interest groups remain relevant to middle class Americans?
1. What is the single most important commodity that interest groups supply? When is that commodity most valuable?

2. What are earmarks? Why did they increase in number since the 1970’s? Why do some people want them stopped?

3. What were two changes in financing campaigns that occurred as a result of the 1973 reform law?

4. What “outsider” techniques do lobbyists use to pressure politicians?

5. Why aren’t PAC contributions of money an effective lobbying tool?

6. How have members of Congress used the PAC technique to their own advantage?

7. Describe the “Revolving Door”?
8. Cite three ways that some interest groups hope to further their causes by using "trouble" causing tactics.

9. How is the activity of interest groups protected by the constitution?

10. What was required under the 1946 Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act and why didn't it work?
1. Compare American press freedom to that of the British and French. Cite laws to back up your position.

2. Describe the development of the American media by answering the following questions.

   - How were late 18th and early 19th century newspapers supported and who was their audience? Why?

   - How did instruction of the telegraph in the 1840's change newspapers?

   - What other techniques boosted the popular press by the turn of the 20th Century?

   - What impact did radio have on politics?

   - What issues were often topics of late 19th century magazine articles?

   - How has electronic media changed of the past 40 years?

   - See Table 12.1 (p. 292). Which decade was worst for the "big three"?

3. How has the internet changed the relationship between voters and political types?
4. How has newspaper competition in major American markets changed in recent decades?

5. Cite two ways in which the national press in America differs from the local American press.

6. How do the national media fulfill the following roles?

   Gatekeeper-

   Scorekeeper-

   Watchdog-
1. Under what circumstances may the American government censor newspapers?

2. Define libel. How are standards different for common people and a public figure?

3. Under what circumstances may reporters keep sources confidential?


5. Why does a greater portion of candidates for Senate seats spend campaign money on TV ads than do candidates for House seats?

6. See “How to read a newspaper” on page 300. What questions should readers of newspaper stories be asking concerning the following topics?
   - stories covered
   - sources of information
   - language used

7. What evidence can you cite that might be useful in labeling a news medium as liberal or conservative?
1. How did the White House press corps come to be?

2. How have the House and Senate dealt with the need to be before the media?

3. Which secret becomes public knowledge first?
   Which stories are inaccurate?
   Which stories are rosiest?
   When is bad news released?
   Who should one never argue with?

4. Cite four reasons for so many leaks in the American political system.

5. It has been established that there is an adversarial relationship between government and media reporters. What economic reason is there for the shift around 1980 to sensational stories like sex scandals involving prominent politicians?
6. What is the difference between “off the record” and "background story"?

7. In a conflict between a politician (like a president) and the media, who wins?