COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT Name

CHAPTER 5 Per

Section 1:

1. One definition for that can be used to describe most political parties is “a group of persons, joined together on the basis of certain common principles, who seek to control government in order to secure the adoption of certain public policies and programs.” Why does this definition not fit the two major American political parties?
2. The two major parties are made up of three elements. Summarize.
3. Party organization:
4. Party in government:
5. Party in the electorate:
6. Describe the following functions of political parties.
7. Nominating:
8. Informing/Activating:
9. Bonding agent:
10. Governing:
11. Watchdog:
12. Analyze the Political Cartoon on page 129. Why is the cartoon ironic?

Section 2:

1. Define spoils system.
2. Analyze the Timeline on 134-135. What issues or events had an impact on elections on the first three eras?

Section 3:

1. What type of minor party is likely to develop around the following:
2. A strong personality:
3. The collapse of the stock market:
4. A specific theory about government:
5. Growing concern about climate change:
6. Explain the three important roles of minor parties in American elections.
7. Spoiler:
8. Critic:
9. Innovator:

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT Name

CHAPTER 6 Per

Section 1:

1. Define the following:
2. Suffrage:
3. Franchise:
4. Disenfranchised:
5. Electorate:
6. What were the first two restrictions on voting by states to be dropped in American history?
7. What five restrictions does the US Constitution place on states concerning voting qualifications?

Section 2:

1. What are the three restrictions that states still impose on voters?
2. How have 18 – 20 years responded to the 26th Amendment?
3. What are the arguments (for/against) for “voter ID laws?”
4. What are three reasons why a state may deny the vote to certain persons?

Section 3:

1. In what key way did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 differ from earlier civil rights laws?

Section 4:

1. What is a “nonvoting voter?” What trend is indicated by the chart on page 171?
2. What are some reasons why someone would fall into the category of “Cannot-Voters”?
3. The text says that actual nonvoters don’t vote because they “have no sense of political efficacy.” What is meant by that statement?
4. List 6 characteristics of people who are most likely to vote.
5. Why is it important not to give too much weigh to any one of the “sociological factors” that affect voting behavior?
6. In some democracies, voters are required to vote. Do you think such mandatory voting would work in the US? Why or why not?

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT Name

CHAPTER 7 Per

Section 1:

1. Nominations are made in five different ways. Summarize/define each.
2. Self-announcement:
3. Caucus:
4. Convention:
5. Direct primary:
6. Petition:
7. What are the three forms of direct primary elections and how is each different? Which one is unconstitutional according to the Supreme Court?
8. Describe Washington State’s (and California’s) open election primary (aka “top two”).

Section 2:

1. How many state and local elected offices are there in the whole country?
2. How many federal elected offices are there? (Hint – they are all in the legislative and executive branches.)
3. What powers does the US Constitution give Congress in Federal elections?
4. What is “absentee voting?”
5. What is the “coattail effect?”
6. Why are some skeptics against online voting?

Section 3:

1. What are the 5 sources of campaign funding for candidates seeking office?
2. Why do people contribute to political campaigns?

1. According to the chart at the top of 202, what has happened to the amount of money spent on presidential campaigns between 1964 and 2008? What has happened to the cost per vote?
2. Why was the Supreme Court’s 2010 decision (*Citizens United v Federal Election Commission*) controversial?
3. What does PAC mean? What are the two types? What is their role in the political process?
4. What is the difference between hard money and soft money?