

2023



AP[®] United States Government and Politics

Free-Response Questions Set 2

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

4 Questions

Directions: You have 1 hour and 40 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. It is suggested that you spend approximately 20 minutes each on Questions 1, 2, and 3 and 40 minutes on Question 4. Unless directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. It is recommended that you take a few minutes to plan each answer. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. In 2003, California’s Democratic governor Gray Davis’ popularity was decreasing due to a budget shortfall and an energy crisis that received widespread coverage in the news. As a result, Republicans in the state initiated a recall election of the governor by gathering over one million signatures.

Recall is an electoral process by which citizens can vote to remove elected officials before the end of their term. There are provisions for recall elections of state officials in 19 states. In California, citizens initiate a recall election by collecting a minimum number of signatures on a petition, which puts the issue on a ballot in a subsequent election. If a majority of the voters choose to recall the elected official, then that official is removed from office. In California, the recall ballot asks voters two separate questions: Should the governor be recalled? And if so, who should be the new governor?

The front-running candidate to replace Governor Davis was action movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican. Schwarzenegger announced his candidacy on a popular late-night television program, and his celebrity status drew national media attention. During his appearance, he said of Davis, “He’s failing [Californians] terribly, and this is why he needs to be recalled.” With the understanding that California had more registered Democrats than Republicans, Schwarzenegger strategically focused his campaign on his own personal story as a self-made immigrant and distanced himself from national Republican leaders.

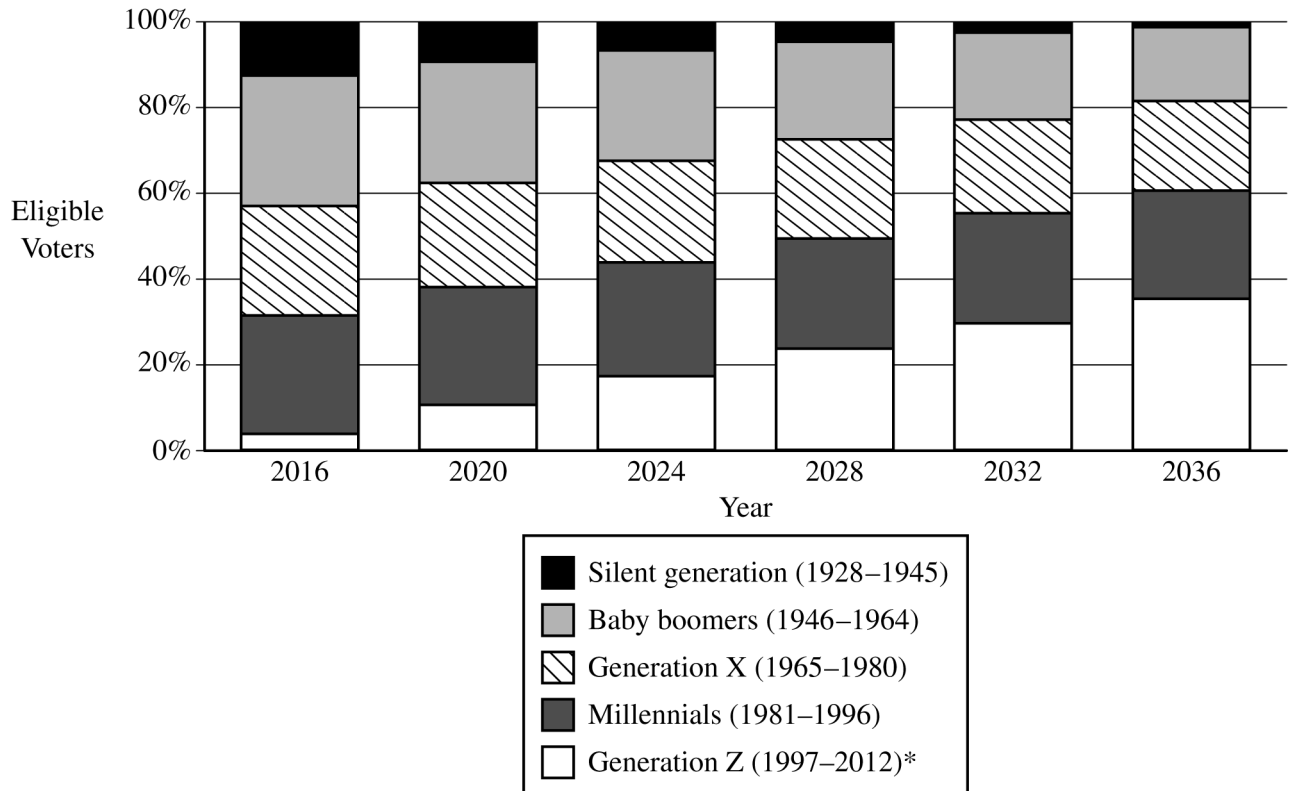
In the final vote, Californians voted to recall Governor Davis, and Schwarzenegger was elected as his replacement. Exit polls showed that most voters who favored recalling Davis cited his recent performance as the basis for their vote.

After reading the scenario, please respond to A, B, and C below.

- A. Describe the model of voting behavior that best reflects most voters’ choice to recall the governor in the scenario.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the media’s role as a linkage institution might have affected the voting behavior described in part A.
- C. Explain how the electoral process for removing Governor Davis is different from the process for removing a sitting president of the United States.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS BY GENERATION, 2016-2036



Source: Pew Research, 2020

*Note: Generation Z data also include those born after 2012.

2. Use the data to answer the following questions.

- A. Identify the generation that is projected to have the lowest percentage of eligible voters in 2028, as shown in the bar graph.
- B. Describe the trend over time in the data, as shown in the bar graph.
- C. Draw a conclusion about how a trend in the data could affect a 2032 presidential candidate’s strategy to mobilize eligible voters.
- D. Explain how life cycle effects, as shown in the bar graph, could influence a candidate’s policy platform.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

This question requires you to compare a Supreme Court case you studied in class with one you have not studied in class. A summary of the Supreme Court case you did not study in class is presented below and provides all of the information you need to know about this case to answer the prompts.

Zelman v. Simmons-Harris (2002)

3. In response to low academic performance at public schools in lower-income sections of Cleveland, the Ohio legislature enacted a program that allowed the use of public funds for private school tuition. Parents who showed financial need could obtain vouchers of up to \$2,500 a year for tuition at participating private schools. Both religious and nonreligious private schools could participate in the program, and in the first year, 96 percent of voucher recipients opted to attend religious schools.

A group of Ohio taxpayers, which included Doris Simmons-Harris, filed a lawsuit against the public school system, claiming the use of public funds for religious institutions was unconstitutional. The local federal district court ruled in favor of Simmons-Harris. After the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit upheld the ruling, Sarah Zelman, the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Ohio, appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court.

In a 5–4 vote on the subsequent case of *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* (2002), the Supreme Court held that the public funding of a school voucher program that includes religious schools was constitutionally permitted. In the majority opinion, Chief Justice William Rehnquist reasoned that the program “. . . provides benefits directly to a wide spectrum of individuals, defined only by financial need and residence in a particular school district. It permits such individuals . . . genuine choice among options public and private, secular and religious.”

- A. Identify the clause in the First Amendment that is common to both *Engel v. Vitale* (1962) and *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* (2002).
- B. Explain how the facts in *Engel v. Vitale* and *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* led to different holdings in the two cases.
- C. Explain how the holding in *Zelman* might affect educational policy in states with legislatures that support the ruling.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

4. An important feature of a democratic republic is that it represents the will of the people. Take a position on whether constitutional checks and balances or citizen participation in social movements is more effective in ensuring the people’s will is represented.

Use at least one piece of evidence from one of the following foundational documents:

- Article I of the United States Constitution
- *The Federalist* 10
- “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

In your response you should do the following:

- ✓ Respond to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
- ✓ Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of specific and relevant evidence.
 - One piece of evidence must come from one of the foundational documents listed above.
 - A second piece of evidence can come from any other foundational document not used as your first piece of evidence, or it may be from your knowledge of course concepts.
- ✓ Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim or thesis.
- ✓ Respond to an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

STOP

END OF EXAM