

2023



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# AP<sup>®</sup> United States Government and Politics

## Free-Response Questions Set 1

**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 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act. It established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as an independent agency within the federal bureaucracy responsible for aeronautics, space research, and exploration.

On September 12, 1962, President John F. Kennedy addressed a stadium crowd of 40,000 people at Rice University. The speech, officially titled “We Choose to Go to the Moon,” came just one year after the Soviet Union launched the first person into space and five years after the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first satellite into space. The purpose of the speech was to increase support for Kennedy’s proposal to launch a mission to the Moon and explain why this program needed to be a high budget priority. The event was the lead story in *The New York Times* and was covered in newspapers around the country.

President Kennedy talked about scientific progress and how the space mission represented a major step forward for humankind:

“We choose to go to the Moon in this decade . . . not because [it is] easy, but because [it is] hard. . . .”

Landing a person on the Moon represented an enormous challenge, and many doubted it could be done within a decade. But on July 20, 1969, NASA astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to step foot on the Moon’s surface.

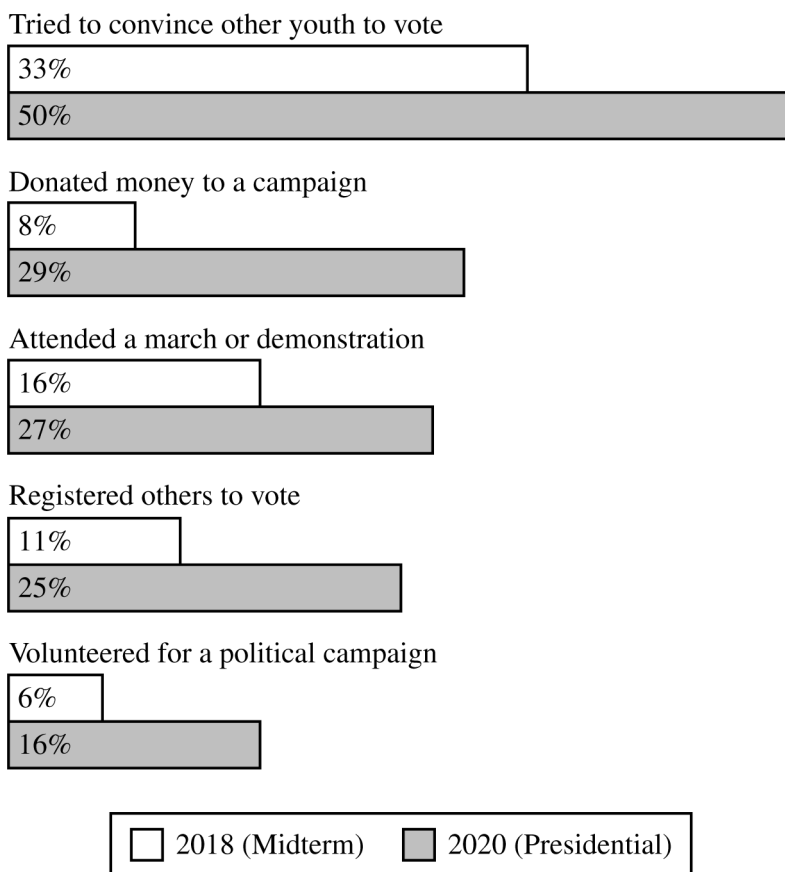
After reading the scenario, please respond to A, B, and C below.

- A. Describe the informal power used by the president in the scenario.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the power described in part A could have impacted Congressional oversight.
- C. Explain how NASA could have impacted the implementation of the president’s agenda described in the scenario.

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**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.**

## POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF 18–24 YEAR OLDS, 2018 AND 2020 ELECTION CYCLE



Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College, 2020

2. Use the bar graph to answer the following questions.
- Identify the form of political participation that saw the largest change between the 2018 and 2020 elections, as shown in the bar graph.
  - Describe the difference in overall participation between the midterm and presidential elections, as shown in the bar graph.
  - Draw a conclusion about how linkage institutions might have contributed to the difference in political participation between the midterm and presidential elections, as shown in the bar graph.
  - Explain how the different levels of political participation, as shown in the bar graph, might demonstrate the concept of political efficacy.

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**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.**

*Cantwell v. Connecticut* (1940)

3. Newton Cantwell and his sons, who were Jehovah’s Witnesses, went door-to-door in a New Haven, Connecticut, neighborhood to distribute pamphlets about their religion and encouraged people to join their church. The men did not have a permit to solicit door-to-door. A Connecticut state court convicted the Cantwells of violating an ordinance that stated “[n]o person shall solicit money, services, subscriptions or any valuable thing for any alleged religious, charitable or philanthropic cause. . . unless such cause shall have been approved by the secretary of the public welfare council.”

Cantwell and his sons challenged the conviction, arguing that they did not need to obtain a permit because their activities were protected by the United States Constitution. The Connecticut Supreme Court upheld the conviction, finding that the statute was in the public interest and that it protected against fraud. The Cantwells appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled in the Cantwells’ favor, holding that the United States Constitution prohibited states from making laws like the one in question in New Haven. The Court reasoned that the First Amendment gives citizens the right to believe, as well as the right to act on those beliefs, and regarding the right to act, laws may not deny or limit the right to preach or disseminate religious views.

- A. Identify the First Amendment clause that is common to both *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972) and *Cantwell v. Connecticut* (1940).
- B. Explain how the facts in *Wisconsin v. Yoder* and *Cantwell v. Connecticut* resulted in the Supreme Court issuing similar holdings in both cases.
- C. Explain how the facts of *Cantwell v. Connecticut* (1940) illustrate the Court’s need to balance government power and the rights of citizens.

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**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. The federal government and the states each play an important role in public education. Take a position on whether the federal government or the states are more effective in ensuring educational opportunities for all students.

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

- Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution
- Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution
- Article I of the United States Constitution

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 preceding foundational documents.
  - 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.

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**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**