

SAMPLE EXAMINATION ONE

SECTION II

Time—100 minutes

4 Free-Response Questions

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. Using the chart below answer the following:

Poll Results for President, 2012
with state electoral votes leaning toward a candidate

States	RCP POLL AVERAGE		ELECTORAL VOTES	
	Obama	Romney	Obama	Romney
Colo.	48.8%	47.3%	9	0
Fla.	48.2%	49.7%	0	29
Iowa	48.7%	46.3%	6	0
Nev.	50.2%	47.4%	6	0
N.H.	49.9%	47.9%	4	0
N.C.	46.2%	49.2%	0	15
Ohio	50.0%	47.1%	18	0
Va.	48.0%	47.7%	13	0
Wis.	50.4%	46.2%	10	0

Source: Politico

- Describe an electoral swing state, and explain one reason why the U.S. electoral system magnifies the importance of swing states.
- Explain one way that the voter turnout may vary in a swing state versus a non-swing state.
- Explain two ways that swing states affect campaign strategies of candidates.



2. Campaign finance reform has been a goal of some politically active groups in the United States.
 - (a) Describe two major provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974.
 - (b) Describe one campaign finance reform provision included in the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Act, 2002 (McCain—Feingold Bill).
 - (c) Explain how one of the following court cases has impacted campaign finance reform.
 - *Buckley v. Valeo*
 - *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*
 - *McCutcheon vs. Federal Election Commission*
 - (d) Explain one argument that supports additional campaign finance reform.
 - (e) Explain one argument that opposes additional campaign finance reform.

3. The founding fathers included bicameralism as a Constitutional provision in order to balance power in the new United States government.
 - (a) Define bicameralism.
 - (b) Describe a unique Constitutional power of the House of Representatives. Describe a unique Constitutional power of the Senate.
 - (c) For the power you identified in (b) explain one reason why that power was placed in the House.
 - (d) For the power you identified in (b) explain one reason why that power was placed in the Senate.
 - (e) Explain one reason why bicameralism can make it difficult for the House of Representatives and the Senate to work together.

4. An important purpose of the federal bureaucracy is to help enforce and carry out federal legislation.
 - (a) Describe the discretionary power of the federal bureaucracy.
 - (b) Explain one reason why bureaucrats are given discretionary power.
 - (c) Explain two checks that Congress has on the power of the bureaucracy.
 - (d) Explain two checks that the president has on the power of the bureaucracy.