Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AP US Government**

**Unit 3: Political Parties, Interest Groups and the Media**

**Period 1 and 2**

**Objective:** Becoming a participating citizen is at the foundation of students understanding the party process. Effective suffrage is a fundamental principle of a democracy and the political party provides the access. The development of parties, the campaign road to Election Day and the overwhelming financial structures that have infiltrated the political process are necessary to defining party involvement. The two-party system will be scrutinized along with the importance of third party development. This unit will include:

The functions and structures of the mass media as it impacts politics; including alternative sources of the media.

2. The functions, development and organization of political parties

3. Parties impact on the political process.

4. Rationale behind voting behavior.

5. Interest group development outlining the range of interests, activities, their effects on the political process, and the unique role of PACS.

**Chapter 7 Study Guide – Mass Media and the Political Agenda**

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. High-tech politics 2. Mass media 3. Media event 4. Press conferences 5. Investigative journalism | 1. \*\*\*FCC 2. Narrowcasting 3. \*\*\*Selective Exposure 4. Chains 5. Beats | 1. Trial balloons 2. Sound bites 3. Talking head 4. Policy agenda 5. Policy entrepreneurs |

1. Explain the purpose of a media event.
2. Explain two media techniques used most effectively by President Franklin Roosevelt.
3. Explain the significance of the “yellow journalism” era to the print media.
4. Explain how television affected the political career of Richard Nixon.
5. What effect did television have on the war in Vietnam?
6. Explain the three ways in which the Federal Communications Commission has regulated the airways.
7. What impact has cable TV had on news reporting?
8. What makes news reporting on the Internet particularly different from news reporting on television?
9. Explain two consequences of private control of the media in the United States.
10. Where does most news come from?
11. What is meant by a “sound bite” and what does it tell us about news coverage?
12. Explain how the news media tend to be biased.
13. List five items in the policy entrepreneur’s “arsenal of weapons.”
14. How does the media act as a “watchdog”?
15. What is the difference between the “information society” and the “informed society”?

**Chapter 8 Study Guide – Political Parties**

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Party competition 2. Political party 3. Linkage institutions 4. Rational-choice theory 5. Party image 6. Party identification 7. Ticket splitting 8. Party machines 9. Patronage | 1. Closed primaries 2. Open primaries 3. National party convention 4. National committee 5. National chairperson 6. Coalition 7. Party eras 8. Critical election | 1. Party realignment 2. New Deal coalition 3. Party dealignment 4. Third parties 5. Winner-take-all system 6. Proportional representation 7. Coalition government 8. Responsible party model |

1. Explain the three heads of the political party in the expression “a three-headed political giant.”
2. What are the five tasks political parties should perform if they are to serve as effective linkage institutions?
3. What two clear patterns regarding party identification have been evident in recent elections?
4. What are the differences between the following types of party primaries?
   1. Closed primaries:
   2. Open primaries:
5. What is the function of each of the following national party organizations?
   1. National convention:
   2. National committee:
   3. National chairperson:
6. What is the relationship between party promises and party performance?
7. List four elections that might be considered “critical” or “realigning.” Explain why.
8. What are the three basic varieties of third parties?
9. What are two ways in which third parties can have an impact on American politics?
10. What is the most important consequence of two-party governance in the United States?
11. List the four conditions that advocates of the responsible party model believe the parties should meet.

**Chapter 11 Study Guide – Interest Groups**

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Interest group 2. \*Pluralism 3. \*Elitism 4. \*Hyperpluralism 5. Iron Triangles 6. Potential group 7. Actual group 8. Free-rider problem | 1. Selective benefits 2. Single-issue groups 3. Lobbying 4. Electioneering 5. \*\*\*Amicus Curiae Briefs 6. PACs 7. Union Shop 8. Right to Work Laws |  |

1. Name two factors that distinguish interest groups from political parties.
2. List five essential arguments of group theory of politics.
3. List four major points made by the elitist view of the interest group system.
4. List the three major points of the hyperpluralist position on group politics.
5. What is the difference between a potential group and an actual group?
6. Give an example of a single-issue group.
7. List the four general strategies used by interest groups to shape public policy.
8. What are the two basic types of lobbyists?
9. List four important ways lobbyists can help a member of Congress.
10. What are the five most common answers from PAC directors as to why they give money to certain candidates?
11. List three issues that trade and product associations seek when lobbying Capitol Hill.
12. Name two important organizations involved in promoting equality and summarize their major goals.
13. What is meant by a public interest lobby?
14. How do interest groups affect the scope of government?