AP Gov.

FRQ’s Congress and Interest Groups

Due Monday 3/7

40 formal points

1. Political parties play important roles in United States elections and government institutions. Over the past several decades, the influence of political parties in elections has declined while their strength in Congress has increased.

(a) Describe two important functions of political parties in United States elections.

(b) Describe one important role political parties play within Congress to promote the party’s public policy agenda.

(c) Explain how each of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process.

* Direct primaries
* Candidate-centered campaigns

(d) Explain how party polarization has strengthened party influence in Congress.

2. Different interest groups will choose different techniques to achieve their objectives based on their resources, characteristics, and goals. (2004)

(a) Describe each of the following techniques and explain why an interest group would choose each technique.

•Litigation

•Campaign contributions

•Grassroots lobbying/ mass mobilization

(b) Select one of the following groups and identify the primary technique it uses from the list in part

(a). Explain why the group you selected would employ that technique over the other two techniques.

•American Medical Association (AMA)

•Sierra Club

•National Rifle Association (NRA)

3. There are several different approaches to representation within a democratic political system. (2013)

(a) Define direct democracy.

(b) Define republican form of government.

(c) Describe one reason the framers of the United States Constitution chose a republican form of government over a direct democracy.

(d) Describe each of the models of congressional representation.

* Trustee model (attitudinal view)
* Delegate model (representational view)

(e) Explain why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate (representational view).

4. In the United States Congress, the majority party exerts a substantial influence over lawmaking. However, even when one party has a numerical majority in each chamber of the United States Congress, there is no guarantee that legislation supported by that majority party will be passed by both chambers. Rules of each chamber independently influence the likelihood that legislation will pass in that chamber; legislation passed by one chamber is not always passed by the other.

(a) Describe two advantages the majority party in the United States House of Representatives has in lawmaking, above and beyond the numerical advantage that that majority party enjoys in floor voting.

(b) Describe two differences between House and Senate rules that may make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not in the other.

(c) Explain how the differences identified in (b) can lead to the passage of a bill in one chamber but not in the other.