

## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## Section I

Time—45 minutes

60 Questions

**Directions:** Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and then fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

- The Constitution as ratified in 1788 most clearly reflects the Framers' commitment to
    - the idea of direct democracy
    - the principle of limited government
    - the abolition of slavery
    - protecting the rights of the accused
    - maintaining the primacy of the states
  - Which of the following most accurately describes *The Federalist Papers*?
    - The Federalist party platform during the presidency of John Adams, the first Federalist president
    - A popular anti-British booklet of the pre-Revolutionary era
    - A collection of essays arguing the merits of the Constitution
    - A series of congressional acts defining the relationship between the federal and state governments
    - The laws under which the South was governed during Reconstruction
  - A Supreme Court that demonstrates a willingness to change public policy and alter judicial precedent is said to be engaging in
    - judicial activism
    - due process
    - judicial restraint
    - ex post facto* lawmaking
    - judicial review
  - A writ of *certiorari* from the Supreme Court indicates that the Court
    - will review a lower court decision
    - has rendered a decision on a case
    - has decided not to hear an appeal
    - will recess until the end of the calendar year
    - plans to overturn one of its previous rulings
  - American foreign policy is directed primarily by the
    - House of Representatives
    - Senate
    - president
    - Supreme Court
    - federal bureaucracy
- “We conclude that in the field of education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.”
- The Supreme Court issued this opinion in its ruling on which of the following cases?
    - Gideon v. Wainwright*
    - Marbury v. Madison*
    - Engel v. Vitale*
    - Regents of University of California v. Bakke*
    - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*
  - Under which of the following circumstances is Congress LEAST likely to pass a bill the president has threatened to veto?
    - The president's public approval rating is extremely high.
    - A failed attempt has been made to develop a compromise bill with the White House.
    - The party controlling Congress is not the president's party.
    - The president has also expressed the possibility that he might not veto the bill.
    - Congressional leaders believe they have the votes necessary to override a veto.

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

8. Which of the following best describes the practice of “ticket splitting”?
- (A) A presidential nominee selects a running mate who can appeal to voter groups whose support of the nominee is weak.
  - (B) A voter chooses the presidential nominee of one major party, but chooses congressional nominees of the other major party.
  - (C) A mayor orders the local police force to hand out fewer parking violations in the weeks leading up to the general election.
  - (D) A delegate to a national party convention supports the front-runner but remains uncommitted on the party platform.
  - (E) A member of Congress votes against legislation proposed by his or her party leader.
9. The House Rules Committee is considered among the most powerful in the House of Representatives because it has great power over the
- (A) ethical conduct of House members
  - (B) selection of federal judges
  - (C) number of subcommittees that a standing committee may establish at any given time
  - (D) scheduling of votes and the conditions under which bills are debated and amended
  - (E) regulations governing federal elections
10. Compared with political parties in countries such as England and Israel, both of which have multiparty systems, American political parties are
- (A) less interested in influencing the outcome of elections
  - (B) less clearly identified with consistent political ideologies
  - (C) less effective at raising money from political supporters
  - (D) better able to reflect the goals of their entire constituencies
  - (E) more likely to organize around a single issue or goal
11. Which of the following people would most likely be accused of influence peddling?
- (A) A congressperson who retires to take a position teaching political science at a university
  - (B) A former president who advises a current president on a particular foreign policy issue
  - (C) A voter who researches the positions of all candidates in a race before choosing whom to support
  - (D) A judge who consistently hands down the maximum sentence to convicted felons
  - (E) An official who leaves the State Department to work as a paid consultant to foreign governments
12. The primary function of political action committees (PACs) is to
- (A) contribute money to candidates for election
  - (B) coordinate local get-out-the-vote campaigns
  - (C) promote the defeat of incumbents in the federal and state legislatures
  - (D) organize protest demonstrations and other acts of civil disobedience
  - (E) contact Congress to suggest legislation
13. Voters who rely exclusively on television network news coverage of national elections are most likely to be aware of
- (A) which special interest groups have endorsed which candidates
  - (B) the relative strength of each candidate’s support, as indicated by public opinion polls
  - (C) candidates’ positions on international issues
  - (D) candidates’ positions on domestic issues
  - (E) candidates’ congressional voting records

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

**Section I**

14. Which of the following describe limitations that may constitutionally be placed on freedom of speech and freedom of the press?
- I. Under no circumstances may the government limit speech or censor the press.
  - II. The government may censor the press in the interest of national and military security.
  - III. The government may outlaw obscene publications.
  - IV. The government may prevent individuals from engaging in “offensive” speech.
- (A) I only
  - (B) II only
  - (C) II and III only
  - (D) III and IV only
  - (E) II, III, and IV only
15. The Supreme Court holds original jurisdiction in all of the following types of cases EXCEPT
- (A) if the United States is a party in the case
  - (B) in controversies in criminal law between a citizen and a state
  - (C) in controversies under the Constitution, federal laws, or treaties
  - (D) if a case is between citizens from different states
  - (E) if cases arise under admiralty and maritime laws
16. Of the following, American federalism is most clearly exemplified by the
- (A) system of checks and balances among the three branches of the national government
  - (B) process by which international treaties are completed
  - (C) special constitutional status of Washington, D.C.
  - (D) Tenth Amendment to the Constitution
  - (E) president’s power to grant reprieves and pardons
17. All of the following are specifically mentioned in the Constitution EXCEPT
- (A) judicial review
  - (B) the national census
  - (C) rules of impeachment
  - (D) the State of the Union address
  - (E) length of term of federal judgeships
18. Which of the following correctly states the relationship between the federal and state judiciaries?
- (A) Federal courts are higher courts than state courts and may overturn state decisions on any grounds.
  - (B) The two are entirely autonomous, and neither ever hears cases that originate in the other.
  - (C) The two are generally autonomous, although federal courts may rule on the constitutionality of state court decisions.
  - (D) State courts are trial courts; federal courts are appeals courts.
  - (E) State courts try all cases except those that involve conflicts between two states, which are tried in federal courts.
19. The line-item veto was found unconstitutional because
- (A) it gave executive powers to the legislature
  - (B) it gave legislative powers to the bureaucracy
  - (C) it gave legislative powers to the president
  - (D) it delegated too many powers to the states
  - (E) it permitted the Senate to use judicial review to reverse the House of Representatives
20. Among the executive branch’s checks on the legislative branch is the president’s power to
- (A) call special sessions of Congress
  - (B) introduce bills to the floor of Congress
  - (C) address Congress during its debate on bills
  - (D) vote on acts of Congress
  - (E) disband congressional committees
21. The amount of access cabinet secretaries have to the president is most likely to be controlled by the
- (A) vice president
  - (B) president’s chief of staff
  - (C) national security advisor
  - (D) chair of the Federal Reserve Board
  - (E) president’s press secretary

22. Unlike a treaty, an executive agreement
- (A) is not binding
  - (B) does not involve international relations
  - (C) does not require the Senate's approval
  - (D) can be enforced by the military
  - (E) automatically expires after one year
23. Successful candidates for the Republican presidential nomination tend to be more conservative than rank-and-file Republicans because
- (A) moderate Republicans are less likely than conservative Republicans to gain widespread support in the general election
  - (B) most moderate Republicans have approved of the Democratic presidential candidate
  - (C) most rank-and-file Republicans do not care whether their party's nominee shares their political views
  - (D) party activists, whose political participation is disproportionate to their numbers, tend to be very conservative
  - (E) the Republican Party does not allow rank-and-file members to participate in the selection of the party's nominee
24. Those who argue that the House of Representatives is the government institution most responsive to the will of the public are most likely to cite as evidence the fact that
- (A) congressional reelection campaigns are extremely costly
  - (B) term limits may soon restrict the number of years a congressperson may serve
  - (C) Congress has oversight power over many executive agencies
  - (D) average citizens may, on occasion, be called to testify before a congressional committee
  - (E) representatives must run for reelection every two years
25. Which of the following accounts for the fact that the power and prestige of the presidency have grown since 1932?
- I. America's increased prominence in international affairs
  - II. continually improved public confidence in the federal government
  - III. the New Deal and other programs that have expanded federal responsibility
  - IV. the president's increased visibility, due to the development of mass media
- (A) I only
  - (B) I and IV only
  - (C) I, III, and IV only
  - (D) II and IV only
  - (E) II, III, and IV only
26. Which of the following generally results when the Senate and House of Representatives pass different versions of the same bill?
- (A) The president signs the version he prefers.
  - (B) The bill goes back to each house's committee and restarts the legislative process.
  - (C) All amendments to the bill are invalidated, and the original version of the bill is sent to the president to sign.
  - (D) The Senate's version of the bill is sent to the president because the Senate is the higher legislative body.
  - (E) The two legislative bodies form a conference committee.

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

27. Which of the following is the most accurate statement about the voting behavior of Americans over the age of 65?
- (A) They are as, or more, likely to vote than are members of other age groups because they have received the highest level of formal education of all age groups.
  - (B) They are as, or more, likely to vote than are members of other age groups because they believe that they have a personal stake in government policy.
  - (C) They are less likely to vote than are members of other age groups because it is difficult for them to get to the polls.
  - (D) They are less likely to vote than are members of other age groups because they are less likely to be aware of election schedules.
  - (E) They are less likely to vote than are members of other age groups because very few senior citizens run for political office.
28. A member of which of the following demographic groups is most likely to support a Republican presidential candidate?
- (A) White male
  - (B) White female
  - (C) African American, male or female
  - (D) Youths under the age of 25, male or female
  - (E) Individuals earning below poverty-level wages, male or female
29. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed to reinforce the
- (A) presidential veto
  - (B) system of checks and balances
  - (C) states' power to challenge federal regulation
  - (D) Fourteenth Amendment
  - (E) Taft-Hartley Act of 1947
30. Which of the following best illustrates a use of the elastic clause?
- (A) The Supreme Court allows a lower court ruling to stand by refusing to hear an appeal.
  - (B) A congressional committee prevents the full chamber from voting on legislation by delaying its report.
  - (C) Congress passes legislation establishing a national speed limit.
  - (D) A member of the House of Representatives introduces a bill to increase federal income tax rates.
  - (E) A governor issues an executive order requiring all state employees to submit to drug testing.
31. According to the *Federalist Papers*, federalism has which of the following effects on political factions?
- (A) It provides a structured environment in which factions may flourish.
  - (B) It limits the dangers of factionalism by diluting political power.
  - (C) It allows factions to dominate on the national level while limiting their influence on state governments.
  - (D) It eliminates any opportunity for factions to form.
  - (E) It prevents factions by declaring them illegal.
32. The Constitution, as originally ratified, addressed all of the following weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation EXCEPT the
- (A) lack of a chief executive office
  - (B) national government's inability to levy taxes effectively
  - (C) absence of a central authority to regulate interstate trade
  - (D) insufficiency of the government's power to raise an army
  - (E) omission of a universal suffrage clause

33. Congress's power to determine national policy
- (A) usually increases as a president's popularity decreases, and vice versa
  - (B) has declined steadily since the ratification of the Constitution
  - (C) is severely limited by the "elastic clause" of the Constitution
  - (D) increases during times of war
  - (E) stems primarily from its control over the judicial branch
34. In recent years, presidents have come to rely most heavily on the advice of
- (A) the full cabinet
  - (B) the vice president
  - (C) congressional delegations
  - (D) the White House staff
  - (E) foreign ambassadors
35. Which of the following statements about the electoral college is correct?
- (A) Each state must split its electoral votes among all the candidates that receive votes.
  - (B) Each state is equally represented in the electoral college.
  - (C) The electoral college was created by an amendment to the Constitution.
  - (D) The results of electoral college voting tend to distort the winner's margin of victory, when compared with the popular vote for president.
  - (E) Each state's delegation to the electoral college consists of that state's U.S. senators and representatives.
36. Which of the following statements is true of congressional incumbents who run for reelection?
- (A) Incumbent senators are more likely to be reelected than are incumbent members of the House of Representatives.
  - (B) Incumbents are prohibited by law from spending more on their reelection campaigns than their challengers spend.
  - (C) Incumbents have a great advantage over challengers because they are better known and can raise campaign funds more easily.
  - (D) Ever since the 1994 election, the majority of congressional incumbents have failed in their reelection attempts.
  - (E) Most incumbents who run for reelection are unopposed in the general election.
37. Before serving in the House of Representatives or Senate, the greatest number of federal legislators
- (A) own and operate small businesses
  - (B) are professional athletes
  - (C) teach political science at the college level
  - (D) work as journalists
  - (E) earn law degrees
38. A member of the House of Representatives wishing to influence tax policy would most likely try to serve on which of the following committees?
- (A) Commerce
  - (B) Ways and Means
  - (C) Education and the Workforce
  - (D) Resources
  - (E) Judiciary
39. The spoils system of awarding civil service jobs was replaced by the merit system as a result of the
- (A) Truman Doctrine
  - (B) Fair Labor Standards Act of 1961
  - (C) National Industrial Recovery Act
  - (D) Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - (E) Pendleton Act of 1883
40. The boundary lines of congressional districts must be redrawn every 10 years to
- (A) reflect population shifts indicated by the national census
  - (B) guarantee the turnover of the majority of congressional seats
  - (C) make sure each state's congressional delegation exactly mirrors its residents' party affiliations
  - (D) determine which party's leader will be named Speaker of the House
  - (E) increase the number of female and minority members of Congress

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

	Eligible voters	Registered voters	Votes cast	Turnout, registered voters	Turnout, all eligible voters
1986	178,566,000	118,399,984	64,991,128	54.89%	36.40%
1988	182,778,000	126,379,628	91,594,693	72.48%	50.11%
1990	185,812,000	121,105,630	67,859,189	56.03%	36.52%
1992	189,529,000	133,821,178	104,405,155	78.02%	55.09%
1994	193,650,000	130,292,822	75,105,860	57.64%	38.78%
1996	196,511,000	146,211,960	96,456,345	65.97%	49.08%
1998	200,929,000	141,850,558	73,117,022	70.6%	36.4%

Source: Federal Election Commission

41. The chart above best supports which of the following conclusions?
- No more than half of all eligible voters ever participate in federal elections.
  - The number of registered voters always increases between elections.
  - Voters have been more dissatisfied with their electoral choices in the 1990s than they were during the 1970s.
  - Voter turnout for midterm congressional elections is generally lower than it is for presidential elections.
  - Voter turnout for the 1996 presidential election was the lowest for any presidential election during the twentieth century.
42. Interest groups representing businesspeople and investors are often among the most successful lobbying groups in Washington, DC, for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
- Such groups have the financial resources to mount sustained campaigns on their own behalf.
  - Many such groups have been in existence for several decades or more, allowing them to master the legislative system and to develop close ties with legislators.
  - In many districts, these groups' constituents make up the majority of voters.
  - These groups' constituents contribute heavily to many legislators' campaigns, and in doing so, gain greater access to legislators.
  - Economic lobbyists often campaign for obscure or minute changes to tax law about which the public knows little, and therefore frequently meet little opposition.
43. Of the following groups that have traditionally supported the Democratic Party, which would LEAST likely be cited by someone arguing that the Democrats represented only liberal constituencies?
- White southerners
  - Labor union members
  - African Americans
  - Northern ethnic minorities
  - Environmentalists
44. The greatest number of American voters identify themselves as
- liberal
  - conservative
  - progressive
  - reactionary
  - moderate
45. People who join a political party other than the one to which their parents belong most often do so because of
- peer pressure
  - economic issues
  - religious beliefs
  - pressure from their employers
  - issues of international politics
46. Which of the following best describes the fate of most popular third-party movements?
- They displace one of the two major parties and become major parties themselves.
  - They are ultimately abandoned by the public because their politics are perceived as too radical.
  - Their supporters become frustrated and withdraw from the political process.
  - They remain active participants in the American political system indefinitely.
  - They disintegrate when one or both of the major parties adopt the third party's goals.

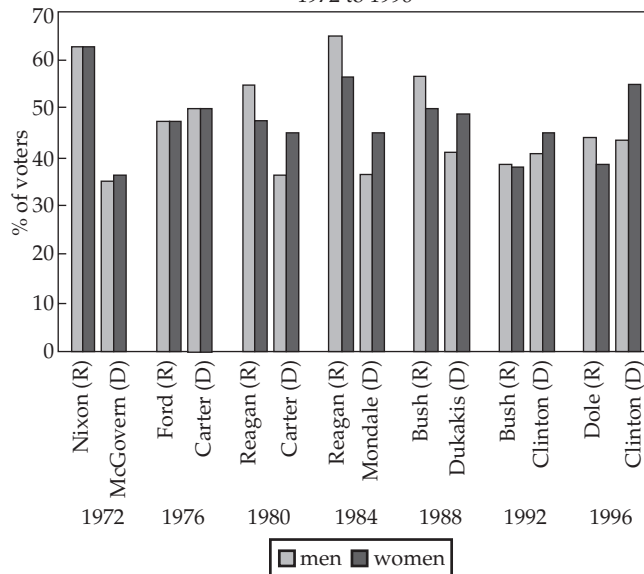
47. A constitutional amendment would be required to ban flag burning because that activity is currently protected by the right to
- (A) due process
  - (B) assembly
  - (C) free exercise of religion
  - (D) protection against confiscation of private property
  - (E) free speech
48. The Supreme Court's decision in *Miranda v. Arizona* was based mainly on the
- (A) Constitutional prohibition of *ex post facto* laws
  - (B) incorporation of the Fifth Amendment through the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
  - (C) Eighth Amendment restriction against cruel and unusual punishment
  - (D) abolition of slavery by the Thirteenth Amendment
  - (E) "full faith and credit" clause of the Constitution
49. The Supreme Court has used the practice of selective incorporation to
- (A) limit the number of appeals filed by defendants in state courts
  - (B) extend voting rights to racial minorities and women
  - (C) apply most Bill of Rights protections to state law
  - (D) hasten the integration of public schools
  - (E) prevent the states from calling a constitutional convention
50. The largest portion of the federal budget covers the costs of
- (A) national defense
  - (B) social welfare programs
  - (C) interest on the national debt
  - (D) entitlement programs
  - (E) tax collection
51. Which of the following accurately describes congressional committees?
- I. The committee chairpersons always belong to the majority party.
  - II. Seats on each committee are divided between the two major parties in exact proportion to the parties' representation in Congress.
  - III. They recommend whether Congress should pass various pieces of legislation, and those recommendations are always approved by the full congressional body.
  - IV. When a committee vote results in a tie, the vice president casts the tie-breaking vote.
- (A) I only
  - (B) II only
  - (C) I and III only
  - (D) II and III only
  - (E) I, II, and IV only
52. The primary goal of the Gramm-Rudman Acts of 1985 and 1987 was to
- (A) strengthen the military
  - (B) increase funding for social programs
  - (C) reduce the federal deficit
  - (D) limit the president's ability to conduct foreign policy
  - (E) allow citizens easier access to government records
53. The term "iron triangle" refers to the interrelationship of the
- (A) president, Congress, and the Supreme Court
  - (B) electorate, Congress, and political action committees
  - (C) local, state, and federal governments
  - (D) State Department, the Pentagon, and the National Security Council
  - (E) federal bureaucracy, congressional committees, and lobbyists

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**



54. Media coverage of an issue is most likely to change public opinion when
- (A) the issue directly affects few Americans and is one about which most Americans know very little
  - (B) coverage is extensive and is either overwhelmingly positive or overwhelmingly negative
  - (C) that issue is discussed in editorial columns and on broadcasts that emphasize news analysis, such as CNN's *Crossfire*
  - (D) a major newspaper runs a series of articles analyzing the issue in depth
  - (E) the media provide a diverse range of perspectives on the issue
55. Which of the following most accurately describes the right of American citizens to privacy?
- (A) The right to privacy is determined entirely by the states on a case-by-case basis.
  - (B) The right to privacy is explicitly granted in the Preamble to the Constitution.
  - (C) The Supreme Court has ruled that the right to privacy is implied by the Bill of Rights.
  - (D) Common law requires the government to respect citizens' right to privacy.
  - (E) Americans have no right to privacy, but the government rarely violates individuals' privacy because to do so is not in the government's interest.

Presidential vote for majority party candidates, by gender, 1972 to 1996



Source: *New York Times*/CBS exit polls

56. The graph above supports which of the following conclusions about presidential elections?
- (A) If only men had voted in the 1980 election, Jimmy Carter would have won.
  - (B) There is little difference in the level of support that the Republican Party receives from men and women.
  - (C) The gender gap was more prominent in the 1980s and 1990s than it was in the 1970s.
  - (D) In order for a Republican candidate to win, he or she must receive more votes from women than from men.
  - (E) The 1976 election was the closest in history.

57. Which of the following factors would most likely explain why voter registration records underestimate the number of Independent voters in the United States?
- (A) Independents are less likely than Republicans or Democrats to register to vote.
  - (B) Many Americans who consider themselves Independent do not participate in elections.
  - (C) Independents make up only a small portion of the electorate.
  - (D) Because Independents in many states are not allowed to participate in primary elections, many Independents register as either Republicans or Democrats.
  - (E) The majority of Independents are non-citizens who are not allowed to vote.
58. The difference between a pardon and a reprieve is
- (A) a pardon lasts 10 years, a reprieve lasts one year
  - (B) a reprieve grants a release from legal punishment, while a pardon postpones it
  - (C) a pardon grants a release from legal punishment while a reprieve postpones it
  - (D) only state governors can issue pardons
  - (E) only state governors can issue reprieves
59. The government promotes preferential treatment for members of groups that have historically suffered from discrimination by means of
- (A) the New Federalism
  - (B) affirmative action programs
  - (C) Social Security benefits
  - (D) bills of attainder
  - (E) gerrymandering
60. The exclusionary rule was established to
- (A) create “separate but equal” facilities to facilitate racial segregation
  - (B) allow private organizations to restrict their memberships
  - (C) limit the government’s ability to use illegally obtained evidence
  - (D) deny control of interstate commerce to the states
  - (E) provide the president with greater independence in negotiating foreign policy

**STOP**

END OF SECTION I

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION.  
DO NOT GO ON TO SECTION II UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

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. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. The advent of the internet has greatly affected politics.
  - (a) Identify two ways that candidates are using the internet in their campaigns.
  - (b) For each of the methods identified in part (a), explain the advantages to the candidates of using the internet in this way.
  - (c) Identify and explain one way that the internet can harm a candidate's campaign.

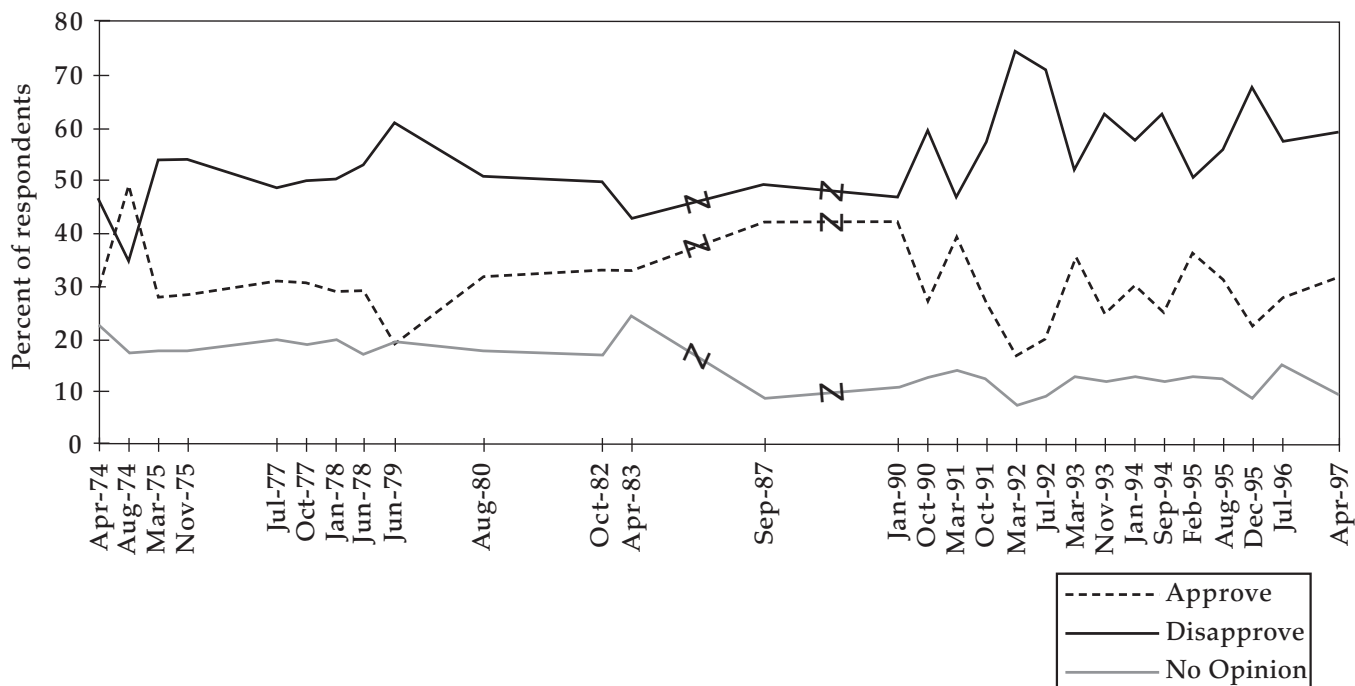


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2. The debate over soft money has been a common and important feature of American politics.
- Define "soft money."
  - Describe the opposing points of view expressed about soft money by the congressmen in this cartoon.
  - Explain the arguments for and against soft money.

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

Answers to question: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?"  
1974 to 1997



Source: CBS poll

NOTE: Data for 1984–1986 and 1988–1989 not available.

3. Using the above graph and your knowledge of U.S. politics, perform the following tasks:

- Describe the overall trend in citizens' attitudes toward Congress. Assess the degree to which public opinion has changed since 1974.
- Explain the causes and results of ONE dramatic shift in public opinion indicated in the graph.
- Explain why, despite the shifts in public approval, incumbent members of Congress usually win reelection.

4. Political scandals involve investigations, prosecutions, and possibly convictions of public officials.

- Describe two scandals that have occurred since 1960.
- Identify whether the allegations of impropriety surrounding these scandals were partisan or institutional in nature.
- Explain why scandals have been more prevalent in political life in recent years.