American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course Guided Reading

Section 1.3: Competing Theories of Democracy

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

	Name	
	Date	Class
Before you read		
Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.		
Learning Target: Explain and compare n	models of American democracy.	
AP® Key Concepts		
participatory democracy	pluralist theo	ry
civil society groups	elitist theory	
While you read		

Participatory democracy theory Pluralist theory Elitist theory

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After you read

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

- 1. The key concept that differentiates participatory democratic theory, pluralist theory, and elitist theory is how:
 - A. two are conceptual and one has been proven conclusively.
 - B. government and the economy interact.
 - C. power and influences are distributed in American democracy.
 - D. many people vote in a given election or a series of elections.
- 2. Participatory democracy theory is defined as a theory that:
 - A. the elites have a disproportionate amount of influence in the policymaking process.
 - B. emphasizes the role of groups in the policymaking process.
 - C. government's right to rule comes from the people.
 - D. widespread political participation is essential for democratic government.
- 3. Which of the following is a civil society group?
 - A. Texas Department of Transportation
 - B. U.S. Treasury Department
 - C. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
 - D. Habitat for Humanity
- 4. Pluralist theory is defined as a theory that:
 - A. widespread political participation is essential for democratic government.
 - B. emphasizes the role of groups in the policymaking process.
 - C. government's right to rule comes from the people.
 - D. the elites have a disproportionate amount of influence in the policymaking process.
- 5. Members of Occupy Wall Street, who protested the 1 percent of people who they argued controlled a disproportionate amount of wealth and thus political power, would MOST likely advocate which theory of democracy?
 - A. popular sovereignty theory
 - B. elitist theory
 - C. participatory democracy theory
 - D. pluralist theory