

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

Guided Reading

Section 13.2: The Right to Vote and Exercising that Right

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 how individual choice and state and federal laws influence voter turnout in elections.

AP® Key Concepts

franchise (or suffrage)

poll tax

Twenty-Fourth Amendment

Twenty-Sixth Amendment

voter turnout

demographic characteristics

socioeconomic status (SES)

political efficacy

political mobilization

registration requirements

absentee ballot

 **While you read**

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

Influences on voter turnout	Trends in voter turnout	Impact on politics

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 **After you read**

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

1. Which statement BEST describes suffrage?
 - A. the right to vote
 - B. the right of African American males to vote
 - C. the elimination of the property requirement to vote
 - D. the right of women to vote

2. Imposing a poll tax as a condition for voting in a federal election was prohibited by the ratification of which amendment?
 - A. the Fifteenth Amendment
 - B. the Nineteenth Amendment
 - C. the Twenty-Fourth Amendment
 - D. the Twenty-Sixth Amendment

3. Voter turnout can be BEST described as:
 - A. the number of voters who participate in elections as a percentage of total eligible voters.
 - B. the number of voters who participate in elections as a percentage of total citizens.
 - C. the number of eligible voters who say they will participate in an election.
 - D. the percentage of voters who voted for the winning candidate.

4. Demographic characteristics are:
 - A. the measurable characteristics of a population.
 - B. the level of education of a certain population.
 - C. the average age of a certain population.
 - D. the ethnic composition of a certain population.

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5. Why is socioeconomic status an important factor in voter turnout?
 - A. Voting is only available to those who have a higher socioeconomic status.
 - B. Voting is not a good use of time for those who have a lower socioeconomic status.
 - C. Voting takes time and intellectual engagement, which is determined by socioeconomic status.
 - D. A competency exam is required to be able to vote, and those with a higher socioeconomic status pass more frequently.

6. Which statement BEST describes political efficacy?
 - A. the confidence someone has that they voted for the best candidate
 - B. the confidence someone has that they can make effective political change
 - C. the confidence someone has in their decision as a voter
 - D. the confidence someone has that they know enough about a particular candidate

7. In general, younger Americans tend to vote at _____ rates than older Americans.

8. Which statement BEST describes political mobilization?
 - A. efforts by interest groups to encourage citizens to vote
 - B. efforts by a candidate's campaign to encourage citizens to vote for that candidate
 - C. efforts by a political action committee to encourage citizens to vote
 - D. efforts by a political party to encourage members to vote

9. Registration requirements are:
 - A. the set of characteristics that are required to make someone eligible to register to vote.
 - B. the set of rules that dictate who can and who cannot vote based on demographics.
 - C. the set of rules that govern who can vote and how, when, and where they vote.
 - D. the set of questions that someone must answer correctly to be given the ability to vote.

10. What is the significance of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993?
 - A. It established a process for felons to gain back their right to vote.
 - B. It created a simple voter registration process for those at low socioeconomic statuses.
 - C. It allowed those who were applying for or renewing a driver's license to register to vote at the same time.
 - D. It provided new requirements for registering to vote that could be met by anyone.

11. Which statement BEST describes the purpose of an absentee ballot?
 - A. to allow someone to vote on behalf of another person
 - B. to allow someone to vote before election day without having to go to the polls
 - C. to allow someone to vote after election day if they were unable to make it to the polls
 - D. to allow someone to vote only if they are living out of state