

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

Guided Reading

Section 14.1: Functions of Political Parties

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: Describe the functions and impacts of political parties on the government and its citizens.

AP® Key Concepts

political party

party identification

straight-ticket voting

split-ticket voting

party platform

recruitment

 **While you read**

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

Functions of political parties	Impact on government	Impact on citizens

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 **After you read**

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

1. Which scenario describes a challenge MOST likely to be encountered by a political party leader?
 - A. He needs to figure out how to craft a party platform that both supports lower taxes and increased military spending.
 - B. She has to decide for whom to cast her vote in the upcoming presidential election.
 - C. He has to determine how to include language in a bill to get more funding for Medicaid.
 - D. She has to figure out how to win enough delegates at the party convention to win the party's nomination.
2. MOST often, a political party is challenged by:
 - A. the U.S. government.
 - B. oppositional political parties.
 - C. a foreign government.
 - D. insurgents within its own ranks.
3. Donald Trump was the first U.S. president:
 - A. to support universal healthcare.
 - B. from the Republican Party.
 - C. without prior military or political experience.
 - D. from New York.
4. Cory was a mainstream Democratic politician in 2016, one who knew the value of not disrupting the entrenched power of the Democratic Party. A senator from New Jersey, he was MOST likely to support which candidate in the 2016 election?
 - A. Ted Cruz
 - B. Bernie Sanders
 - C. Hillary Clinton
 - D. Donald Trump
5. Which did Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders NOT share in common during the 2016 presidential election?
 - A. their concern with candidates' being bought
 - B. their styles and messages
 - C. their support among those anxious about the economy
 - D. their distance from their parties' foreign policy ideas

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6. According to political scientist V. O. Key Jr., which is NOT a role political parties play in a representative democracy?

- A. They provide labels to voters to use as shortcuts in elections.
- B. They recruit, nominate, and support candidates for political office.
- C. They supply soldiers to the American armed services.
- D. They enact the policy positions of its members when in office.

7. A political party unites people with shared goals of all the following types EXCEPT _____ goals.

- A. economic
- B. ideological
- C. social
- D. financial

8. In which voter is party identification strongest?

- A. Bob, who voted for a Democrat in five of the last ten presidential elections
- B. Jane, who voted for a Democrat in eight of the last ten presidential elections
- C. Roberto, who voted for a Republican in six of the last ten presidential elections
- D. Juana, who voted for a Republican in nine of the last ten presidential elections

9. In a given election area (a county, a congressional district, a state, etc.), a high amount of _____ directly correlates with high degrees of _____.

- A. split-ticket voting, party identification
- B. split-ticket voting, straight-ticket voting
- C. straight-ticket voting, party identification
- D. straight-ticket voting, split-ticket voting

10. Voting for candidates from different parties in the same election is known as

_____.

11. A party platform is best described as:

- A. a set of positions and policy objectives that members of a political party agree to.
- B. the process through which political parties identify potential candidates.
- C. the degree to which a voter is connected to and influenced by a party.
- D. voting for candidates from different parties at the same time.

12. In 2016, the Republicans took back the White House and Donald Trump was elected president. The House continued to be controlled by Republicans and Paul Ryan was speaker of the House. Vice President Mike Pence was not the president of the senate, officially, but Majority Leader Mitch McConnell really had the power in that Republican-controlled body. You've been a loyal servant to the Republican Party and now want to be party chairperson. With whom do you cozy up the most?

- A. Donald Trump
- B. Paul Ryan
- C. Mike Pence
- D. Mitch McConnell

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13. Recruitment is best described as:

- A. a set of positions and policy objectives that members of a political party agree to.
- B. the process through which political parties identify potential candidates.
- C. the degree to which a voter is connected to and influenced by a party.
- D. voting for candidates from different parties at the same time.

14. Parties help their candidates by doing all the following EXCEPT:

- A. hire political consultants.
- B. raise money.
- C. coordinate strategy.
- D. manage polling places.