

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

Guided Reading

Section 14.4: Third 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: Explain why it is difficult for third parties and independent candidates to win elections.

AP® Key Concepts

two-party system

proportional representation system

single-member plurality system

third party

 **While you read**

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

Third party obstacles	Impact on elections

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

Guided Reading

Section 14.4: Third Parties

--	--

 **After you read**

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

1. Which scenario BEST represents an event that would occur in a proportional representation system?
 - A. Arthur votes for Andrew Kennedy, a man who has represented his electoral district for ten years in parliament.
 - B. Terrell goes to the voting booth knowing that whichever party has a plurality of votes will control the entire legislature.
 - C. The National Worker's Alliance wins 33 percent of the national vote and thus gets one-third of the seats in parliament.
 - D. Veronika lives in a communist country. While she can legally vote, her ballot has one party listed on it. All other parties are outlawed.
2. Which two are MOST likely to occur in the same political system?
 - A. a two-party system and a single-member plurality system
 - B. a winner-take-all system and a proportional representation system
 - C. a proportional representation system and a two-party system
 - D. a single-party dominant system and a two-party system
3. Why does the United States generally have a two-party system?
 - A. It employs a proportional representation system.
 - B. It has a winner-take-all electoral system.
 - C. Third parties have never challenged here.
 - D. There is a law requiring it.
4. Why don't third-party candidates win votes in the U.S. Electoral College?
 - A. No third-party candidate has even been popular enough to do so.
 - B. The winner-take-all system skews power toward the major parties.
 - C. Legally, they are not allowed to do so.
 - D. Their role is to influence, not to win, elections.
5. Who was the last third-party candidate to win votes in the Electoral College?
 - A. George Wallace in 1968
 - B. H. Ross Perot in 1992
 - C. John Anderson in 1980
 - D. Ralph Nader in 2000

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

Guided Reading

Section 14.4: Third Parties

6. You're a Democrat in late 2000. Why are you MOST likely mad at Ralph Nader?
 - A. He ran on a segregation platform, reintroducing that topic to U.S. political discourse.
 - B. He and his Green Party supported environmentalist causes.
 - C. He won enough electoral votes to swing the election to the Republican candidate.
 - D. He won enough of the popular vote that it may have lost Al Gore vital states.

7. Local officials may restrict third-party candidates by:
 - A. refusing them air time on major networks.
 - B. restricting their access to nationally televised debates.
 - C. requiring they achieve a certain number of signatures before they can appear on the ballot.
 - D. limiting the availability of their websites.

8. The larger story about the election of 2016 might be about how:
 - A. the Democratic Party can once again become a liberal bastion.
 - B. the Republican Party can once again become a conservative bastion.
 - C. third parties can continue to influence campaigns as they did in 2016.
 - D. political parties will adapt to the changing nature of political campaigns.