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

Section 6.1: Judicial Independence from Money and Politics

	Name Date	Class
Before you read Before reading this section, take	a moment to read the Learning Targe	t and vocabulary terms you will
encounter.		
Learning Target: Explain why fede	ral court justices are appointed, rather the	han elected.
AP® Key Concepts		
federal judiciary	Supreme Cour	t
While you read		
Use the following table to take no	otes as you read the section.	

Steps in appointment	Branch of government	Impact on judiciary
process	responsible	

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After you read

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

- 1. Why, according to Alexander Hamilton in Federalist No. 78, was an independent judiciary necessary?
 - A. To represent the United States abroad
 - B. To preserve checks and balances of the constitution
 - C. To express the will of the people
 - D. To execute the laws of the nation
- 2. Unlike federal judges, state judges in a majority of the United States are _____.
 - A. appointed.
 - B. elected.
 - C. conservative.
 - D. liberal.
- 3. In the case Caperton v. Massey Coal Co. (2009), the Supreme Court weighed in on the question of
 - A. campaign contributions and undue influence in state judicial elections.
 - B. the legality of the Supreme Court to issue writs of mandamus.
 - C. segregation in public schooling.
 - D. coal mining in West Virginia.
- 4. Based on the background of the case *Caperton v. Massey Coal Co.* (2009), with which statement would Don Blankenship MOST likely agree?
 - A. Judges need to be freed from partisanship.
 - B. The people need to be heard.
 - C. Money is power.
 - D. Equality for all in the eyes of the law.
- 5. Which explains the controversy that led to the Supreme Court hearing the case *Caperton v. Massey Coal Co.* (2009)?
 - A. A justice would not recuse himself from a case involving a company that donated massively to his campaign.
 - B. A coal mining company was accused of placing its rights to profit above community rights to clean air.
 - C. A judicial appointee asked to be given his commission even if it was not delivered formally.
 - D. A state judge was impeached and removed for accepting a campaign contribution.
- 6. The Constitution's confirmation process of federal judges was designed to insulate them from
 - A. politics.
 - B. Senatorial scrutiny.
 - C. presidential opinion.
 - D. public criticism.

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- 7. Why was President Obama's 2009 Supreme Court nomination NOT as controversial as it could have been?
 - A. The ideological balance of the court was not changing.
 - B. The ethnic balance of the court was not changing.
 - C. The potential nominee had no experience on the federal bench.
 - D. Obama decided not to make a lifetime appointment.
- 8. Why were Republicans unlikely to block Sonia Sotomayor's Supreme Court nomination in 2009, regardless of any misgivings about her?
 - A. The public universally adored Sotomayor.
 - B. They were concerned about losing the African American vote.
 - C. A Republican president nominated her.
 - D. Democrats controlled the Senate.
- 9. Given the political risks involved in voting against a Latina Supreme Court nominee, a Republican senator from which state MOST LIKELY thought twice before voting against Sonia Sotomayor in 2009?
 - A. Wisconsin
 - B. Texas
 - C. Maine
 - D. Delaware