

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Free Response Questions

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Unit 4: Concept Application

The following data set is from the NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll of 1,350 U.S. adults conducted Jan. 8-10, 2018. “Overall” results reflect all respondents, and the margin of error is +/- 2.7 percentage points. Party affiliation results reflect respondents who identified as registered voters (1,092 respondents), and the margin of error is +/- 3.0 percentage points. Figures may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding. “Unsure” responses not shown. Credit: Brittany Mayes/NPR.

Do you have a great deal of confidence, quite a lot, not very much confidence or no confidence at all in _____?

Institution	A great deal of confidence	Quite a lot	Not very much	No confidence
Military	53%	34%	8%	4%
Supreme Court	22%	37%	29%	7%
FBI	24%	33%	28%	11%
The courts	16%	35%	33%	12%
The presidency	19%	24%	28%	26%
Democratic Party	13%	23%	37%	25%
Media	11%	19%	38%	30%
Republican Party	10%	19%	37%	31%
Congress	8%	17%	49%	22%

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below.

- A. Describe an action that the Democratic Party or Republican Party may take to increase public confidence in its party institution.
- B. In the context of this opinion poll, explain how the proposal to increase public confidence in a party institution described in part A would affect public confidence in a different institution identified in the data set.
- C. Explain how the compilation of this opinion poll might have affected the poll results.

Unit 4: Argument Essay

Demographic factors help explain socialization of political ideologies and beliefs. Choose a demographic factor of religious affiliation, gender, race or education and present an argument for why your choice is most responsible to explain socialization of political ideologies and beliefs.

In your essay, you must:

Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning. (Make a claim. i.e. "I think that..." then include a statement of causation that includes a word such as "because" or "therefore.")

Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information.

- At least ONE piece of evidence must be from the list of three foundational documents. (Foundational documents to be used are the Declaration of Independence, Federalist 10 and/or the U.S. Constitution)
- The second piece of evidence must be from a different source on the list above OR from your knowledge.
- Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim/thesis

(Describe evidence #1 then include a statement of support indicating that "This evidence supports my claim because...")

(Describe evidence #2 then include a statement of support indicating that "This evidence supports my claim because...")

Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

(Include a statement indicating that "On the other hand, some people think that ..." followed by a statement indicating "However, my claim is better because...")
