

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

Guided Reading

Section 4.2: Politics of Congressional Elections

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 congressional elections.

AP® Key Concepts

constituency
apportionment
redistricting
gerrymandering
partisan gerrymandering

majority-minority district
malapportionment
incumbency
incumbency advantage

 **While you read**

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

Factors that influence congressional elections	Characteristics of congressional elections	Effects on government

--	--	--

 **After you read**

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

1. A body of voters that are represented by members of Congress is a:
 - A. constituency.
 - B. district.
 - C. region.
 - D. division.

2. Apportionment is a term used when deciding:
 - A. constituency.
 - B. population allocation.
 - C. how many districts are needed.
 - D. how many representatives a state needs.

3. Gerrymandering is when:
 - A. district lines are redrawn for the benefit of a specific group of people or a special interest.
 - B. districts are redrawn based on population sizes.
 - C. populations are counted to determine how many representatives are needed for a district.
 - D. district lines are redrawn and have unequal population sizes.

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

Guided Reading

Section 4.2: Politics of Congressional Elections

4. Partisan gerrymandering is an attempt by one party to:
 - A. consolidate the votes for another party.
 - B. lessen the votes for another party.
 - C. stop the votes for another party.
 - D. waste the votes for another party.

5. Majority-minority districts were created in the hope of:
 - A. uniting multiple minority groups.
 - B. electing more African American representatives.
 - C. creating poor districts.
 - D. highlighting minority issues.

6. The *Baker vs. Carr* decision:
 - A. ended the practice of gerrymandering.
 - B. established the separate but equal clause.
 - C. ended the practice of drawing district lines by race.
 - D. required the creation of districts with equal populations.

7. The Supreme Court ruled in _____ that districts drawn along racial lines were unconstitutional.
 - A. *Plessy vs. Ferguson*
 - B. *Shaw vs. Reno*
 - C. *Marbury vs. Madison*
 - D. *McCulloch vs. Maryland*

8. _____ refers to already being in office instead of running for the first time.
 - A. Incumbency
 - B. Seniority
 - C. Superiority
 - D. Obligatory

9. Congressional incumbents enjoy a larger amount of _____ than non-incumbents.
 - A. facetime
 - B. protection
 - C. name recognition
 - D. pollsters

10. Most candidates work with _____ to gain experience before running for Congress.
 - A. political parties
 - B. student governments
 - C. local governments
 - D. social circles

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

Guided Reading

Section 4.2: Politics of Congressional Elections

11. Money is a huge advantage for Congressional candidates as it can buy more _____, advertising, and campaign events.

- A. airtime
- B. sound bites
- C. billboards
- D. staff members

12. Strong candidates that are not incumbents will typically wait for which type of election?

- A. presidential
- B. open-seat
- C. midterm
- D. runoff