

AP U.S. Government and Politics
Unit 2: Public Opinion, Campaigns and Voting Behavior
Ch 10 Elections and Voting
Due Thursday November 15, 2018

Chapter 10: Elections and Voting Behavior

Answer the following questions after reading Chapter 10: *Voting Behavior* in your textbook.

1. Compare and contrast the three types of elections in the U.S.: **primary**, **general** and **special/citizen initiative** elections.
2. Do special elections happen at the state level, national level or both? Explain.
3. (a) What is the difference between a **referendum** and **initiative** petition? (b) In what way is the initiative petition process considered a form of direct democracy? (c) How many states have this process? (d) What are the problems with the initiative process?
4. (a) What is **suffrage**? (b) What THREE amendments expanded suffrage and when did each occur?
5. What conclusions would you make to explain the following from the text: "Interestingly, as the right to vote has been extended, proportionately fewer of those eligible have chosen to exercise that right?"
6. Describe why citizens who are eligible decide not to vote by explaining the terms **political efficacy** and **civic duty** in your answer.
7. Why is **turnout** in the U.S. so low compared to other democracies? Support your answer by citing THREE reasons.
8. (a) What is **voter registration**? (b) Why is it necessary and why is it significant in studying voter turnout?
9. What is the **Motor Voter Act** and why is it significant?
10. (a) What effects do education, age, race, gender, marital status and union membership have on your likelihood to vote? (b) What is the cumulative effect of possessing these traits or not on one's political efficacy?
11. (a) What is the **mandate theory of elections**? (b) What are the differing views of politicians and political scientists about this theory?
12. (a) What is the role of **party identification** in explaining how a person may vote? (b) Who are likely to be Republicans and who Democrats?
13. What conditions must be met for true **policy voting**? How is it significant in understanding voting?
14. What are THREE weaknesses and THREE strengths of the **Electoral College** system?
15. In what two key ways does the **Electoral College** influence presidential campaigning?