

**AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2008 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 1

7 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of congressional reapportionment. One point is earned for a correct explanation of why reapportionment is important to states.

An acceptable definition of congressional reapportionment is:

- The reallocation of the number of representatives each state has in the House of Representatives.

Acceptable explanations of why congressional reapportionment is important to states are:

- Reapportionment increases or decreases the number of seats a state has in the House/Congress (not the Senate).
- More representatives mean that a state has more influence.
- Reapportionment increases or decreases a state's number of electoral votes.

NOTE: The explanation point must be tied to an appropriate definition of reapportionment.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of congressional redistricting. An acceptable definition is:

- The drawing/redrawing of House/congressional (not Senate) district lines.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two explanations of the goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting. Acceptable explanations may include:

- To enhance political party strength/to minimize the strength of the opposition party.
- To protect incumbents/to discourage challengers.
- To increase minority representation/to decrease minority representation.
- To punish foes/to reward friends.

NOTE: "Cracking" or "packing" must be tied to one of the above in order to earn the explanation point.

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Question 1 (continued)

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Districts must be equally populated.
- Lines must be contiguous or connected.
- Redistricting cannot dilute minority voting strength.
- District lines cannot be drawn solely based upon race.
- Districts must be compact.
- Communities of interest must be protected.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

D

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1 US

/A

a) Congressional reapportionment is when a states population is re-totaled, and based on growth or loss of state citizens, the number of representatives in the House could change. This is important to the states because they don't want to lose seats in the House of Representatives.

b) Redistricting is the act of redrawing the lines of congressional districts to give one party a better chance of winning over the other.

c) Gerrymandering can occur when politicians want to: give a minority a majority in a district or create a district that favors their party. Giving minority the majority would help congressional leaders make legislation to help minorities. Creating a district that is more populated with one party over another can insure a politician's chance of winning.

d) The supreme court has outlawed racial gerrymandering, ~~as a form of~~ which was found to happen often in the south to prevent African Americans from voting or having a majority. They also shot down majority-minority districts.

Reapportionment

And Congress Redistricting

is watched by the court

b)

Congressional redistricting is the changing of state/~~districts~~ county districts, which relates to which congressman controls or is responsible for whichever district.

c)

During redistricting, the goals of a politician when gerrymandering (drawing the new district lines) is to get an area ~~where~~ that consists of people who ~~vote~~ will most likely vote in his/her favor and to get as many of those people as possible. There are even ways to draw the new district lines so the politician gets a certain percentage of whatever type of voters he/she wants. It is all about votes.

d)

When redistricting, gerrymandering cannot be made upon the basis of race solely.

a) congressional reapportionment is the change of a states congressmen to the states districts, ~~of~~ involving redistricting. important to the states because as the population changes, the voters ~~way~~ the population votes changes as well, giving need for the change in a states congress.

~~##~~



10

- a) Congressional reapportionment is important to the States because it allows for equal representation in the House based on the population of the states.
- b) Congressional redistricting is the method of changing district lines within states in order to politically balance the state.
- c) When politicians gerrymander during redistricting, they attempt to create districts with like minded and political ideological people in order to increase their chances of reelection. They also gerrymander to gain funding from Congress in the form of a grant to complete projects that their platform is based on.
- d) The Supreme Court has said that it is illegal to redistrict in order to gain an unfair advantage in the election process.

AP[®] UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

Overview

The overall intent of this question was to examine congressional reapportionment, redistricting, and gerrymandering. The question asked students to (a) define congressional reapportionment and explain one reason why it is important to the states; (b) define congressional redistricting; (c) explain two goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting; and (d) describe two limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting.

Sample: 1A

Score: 6

In part (a) the student earned 1 point for the statement, “Congressional reapportionment is when a states [*sic*] population is re-totaled, and based on growth or loss of state citizens, the number of representatives in the House could change.” The student earned 1 point for explaining that, “This is important to the states because they don’t want to lose seats in the House of Representatives.”

In part (b) the student earned 1 point for defining congressional redistricting as “the act of redrawing the lines of congressional districts.”

In part (c) the student earned 1 point for explaining a goal of politicians when they gerrymander during congressional redistricting: “give a minority a majority in a district. . . . Giving minority the majority would help congressional leaders make legislation to help minorities.” The student earned an additional point for explaining a second goal: “Creating a district that is more populated with one party over another can insure a politician’s chance of winning.”

In part (d) the student earned 1 point for describing a limit that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting: “The Supreme Court has outlawed racial gerrymandering.” The student does not include a correct description of a second limit and therefore did not earn a second point.

Sample: 1B

Score: 3

In part (a) the student does not include a correct definition of congressional reapportionment and therefore did not earn a point. The student does not include a correct explanation of why congressional reapportionment is important to the states and therefore did not earn a point.

In part (b) the student earned 1 point for stating, “Congressional redistricting is the changing of state/county districts.”

In part (c) the student earned 1 point for explaining a goal of politicians when they gerrymander during congressional redistricting: “to get an area that consists of people who will most likely vote in his/her favor and to get as many of those people as possible.” The student does not include a second goal and therefore did not earn a second point.

In part (d) the student earned 1 point for describing a limit that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting: “gerrymandering cannot be made upon the basis of race solely.” The student does not include a description of a second limit and therefore did not earn a second point.

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Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C

Score: 2

In part (a) the student does not include a definition of congressional reapportionment and therefore did not earn a point. The student does not include a correct explanation of why congressional reapportionment is important to the states and therefore did not earn a point.

In part (b) the student earned 1 point for defining congressional redistricting as “changing district lines within states.”

In part (c) the student earned 1 point for explaining a goal of politicians when they gerrymander during congressional redistricting: “they attempt to create districts with like minded and political ideological people in order to increase their chances of reelection.” The student does not include a second correct goal and therefore did not earn a second point.

In part (d) the student does not include two correct descriptions of limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting and therefore did not earn any points.