

**Terms to Remember:**

political party

party organization

precinct

county

state

national

party platform

party machine

two-party system

third parties

moderates

personal politics

elections

primary/caucus

critical election

Electoral College

voting

majoritarian

plurality

party realignment

party dealignment

party-in-government

party-in-the-electorate

bipartisanship

divided government

parties in representative govt.

census

apportionment

reapportionment

redistricting

gerrymandering

safe seat

**Questions:**

1. What part do parties play in the process of selecting and electing representatives to the House?
2. How are parties organized?
3. What exactly is gerrymandering and how might this process result in safe seats?
4. Do you have to answer the census?
5. What is meant by the term proportional representation?
6. What is a political party?
7. What are moderates?

1. parties are involved in the process of redistricting, which allows for much political maneuvering; they are involved in the process of running elections from the primaries to the general election and the Electoral College; they vet candidates, put together party platforms on policy issues, they are involved at almost every step of the process and they seek to maintain power by many methods
2. generally, party organization mimics the US federal structure of layers or levels; parties have precinct (or neighborhood) level organizations; they have county leadership and organization, this continues and expands at the state and national levels; this provides numerous points of access for the public to become involved in the political process
3. gerrymandering is the party manipulation of district lines in an attempt to strengthen their power; often this process allows for drawing districts to practically assure the party's candidate in the district will win an election by a comfortable margin
4. no, but you should; not answering at least the question of how many people reside at the location may negatively affect the number of representatives the state will receive in the reapportionment process; this may hurt local communities as well
5. proportional representation is based upon population and involves the US House of Representatives; seats are apportioned to the states based upon total state population at the time of the census
6. a party is a very large group of individuals with similar interests trying to directly influence public policy through members who often seek and hold public office and participate directly in the policymaking process
7. moderates are individuals who fall in the middle of the ideological spectrum; they are sometimes referred to as independents; they can have a big impact on elections

Answers: