

1

Jefferson won the popular vote in 1800.

(A) TRUE
)

Answer:
(A) TRUE
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(B) FALSE
)

Feedback: Jefferson earned more than 60% of the popular vote in the election.

2

Jefferson won the electoral college vote in 1800.

(A) TRUE
)

Answer:
(A) TRUE

(B) FALSE
)

Feedback: Ultimately, Jefferson won 73 votes to Adams' 65. However, Jefferson also tied with his running mate, Aaron Burr, which thrust the election into the House of Representatives to determine who should win the tie. After three dozen ballots, Jefferson prevailed and became president with Burr his vice-president.

3

Eligible male turnout never dropped below 70% from 1840 to 1896.

(A) TRUE
)

Answer:
(A) TRUE

(B) FALSE
)

Feedback: On the strength of significant voter mobilization efforts, turnout rocketed to 80% of eligible adult males in 1840 and stayed high throughout the rest of the century, averaging about 77% and never dropping below 70% in each presidential election through 1896.

4

Did delegates to the Constitutional Convention consider presidential term limits?

(A) No, the delegates did not consider term limits.

(B) Yes, delegates chose to limit the president to one seven-year term.

(C) Yes, delegates chose to limit the president to two four-year terms.

(D) Yes, but they decided against term limits because they worried that a term limited president might seek to maintain power through military force.

Answer:

Yes, but they decided against term limits because they worried that a term limited president might seek to maintain power through military force.
(D)

Feedback:

The delegates initially considered having an executive selected by the national legislature who would serve a single seven-year term and be ineligible for reelection. Several delegates disliked this option, though, for fear that they would be unable to retain a good leader and that a president determined to hold onto his office after year seven might do so by force.

5

The King Caucus was:

- (A) The Republican congressional caucus that had defacto control over presidential selection from 1808 to 1824.

Answer:

The Republican congressional (A caucus that had defacto control) over presidential selection from 1808 to 1824.

- (B) An organization of loyalists to the British Crown that sought to restore British rule.

- (C) A pejorative term for Andrew Jackson's supporters in Congress.

Feedback:

King Caucus was an informal name for the congressional nominating caucus that enabled a relatively small group of national politicians to handpick the presidential candidate.

- (D) A group of southern Democrats who defended the institution of slavery.

6

Who was the first sitting president to actively campaign for reelection?

- (A) Franklin D. Roosevelt

Answer:

(D Herbert) Hoover

- (B) Theodore Roosevelt

- (C) William McKinley

Feedback:

In contrast to his passive involvement in the 1928 election, Hoover campaigned vigorously for reelection in 1932, marking the first time in the nation's history that the incumbent campaigned as hard as the challenger.

- (D) Herbert Hoover

7

From 1836 to 1936, Democratic nominating conventions were longer and more contentious because:

- (A) As the dominant political party, their nomination was more important.

- (B) The Democratic Party allowed voters to elect the convention delegates, preventing party insiders from selecting a unifying candidate .

Answer:

The Democratic nominee was (C required to garner at least two-) thirds of convention delegates to secure the nomination.

- (C) The Democratic nominee was required to garner at least two-thirds of convention delegates to secure the nomination.

Feedback:

The two-thirds requirement made for lengthy contests over nominations several times, including a 49-ballot vote in 1852 and a 46-ballot vote in 1912.

- (D) This statement is false: Democratic conventions were actually less contentious because they were based on majority rule.

8

What kind of impact do Superdelegates have on the selection of the

Democratic presidential nominee?

- (A) None: they are allowed to attend the convention but cannot vote.

- (B) Superdelegates would lose legitimacy if they decided a nomination at the convention, but their endorsements still have a large impact in the "invisible primary."

- (C) Superdelegates make up 20% of all delegates and have decided the Democratic nominee at the convention in several nomination contests.

- (D) Superdelegates have little influence because they are unwilling to go against the primary winner.

Answer:

- (B) Superdelegates would lose legitimacy if they decided a nomination at the convention, but their endorsements still have a large impact in the "invisible primary."

Feedback:

Superdelegates are intended to moderate the popular primary vote, making sure the candidate most popular with the rank-and-file is also acceptable to the party elite. Generally, however, they have not conflicted with the regularly selected delegates.

9

Which of the following is NOT a barrier to reforming the current nomination sequence?

- (A) The public supports the present system and is opposed to change.

- (B) It is difficult for political parties to impose sanctions on state parties that disobey party primary rules.

- (C) If Congress imposed a national primary system, states would challenge its constitutionality.

- (D) States, not parties, control when primaries are held.

Answer:

- (A) The public supports the present system and is opposed to change.

Feedback:

The absence of a clearly superior plan that clears the barriers identified means that the nomination process as it currently exists is likely to become even more frontloaded.

10

Which of the following is NOT a barrier to reforming the electoral college?

- (A) There is strong public support for the electoral college.

- (B) The electoral college typically selects the popular vote winner.

- (C) Small states have an incentive to maintain their current overrepresentation.

- (D) Three-quarters of states must approve a constitutional

Answer:

- (A) There is strong public support for the electoral college.

Feedback:

Although there is no indication that the public prefers the electoral college, the relative obscurity of the issue and the barriers identified means it is unlikely to be reformed any time soon.

amendment.