American Political Parties

1. Americans have had a choice between two major political parties since

a. about 1800

b. the end of the Civil War

c. about 1900

d. World War II

e. just before the Civil War

2. The “Contract with America” was a document signed by

a. Republican candidates for the House of Representatives

b. delegates to the 1992 Republican National Convention

c. Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress

d. President Clinton

e. Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole

3. The “Contract with America”

a. proposed conservative reforms of United States government policies

b. was the agreement between the United States and Japan that gave American companies unrestricted access to Japanese markets

c. was the agreement to eliminate trade barriers between the three north American nations

d. is the informal name of the new constitution being proposed for the United States

e. is an agreement among all 50 states to adopt uniform business regulations

4. A political party is

a. a team of men and women seeking to control the government by gaining office in elections

b. a narrow interest group seeking advantage through elections

c. less interested in winning elections than in particular public policy

d. a group of people who agree on everything and organize annually to win elections

5. The largest segment of an American political party is described as

a. the party-in-the-electorate

b. the party organization

c. the party-in-government

d. the party-out-of-power

e. the party volunteers

6. In the description of political parties as “three-headed political giants,” which of the following is NOT considered one of those three heads?

a. the party-in-the-electorate

b. the party as an organization

c. the party-in-government

d. the party-out-of-power

7. Which of the following is true of political parties in the United States?

a. parties require dues.

b. parties issue membership cards to all members

c. party members agree on all major issues or they will be expelled from the party

d. to be a member of a party, all you have to do is claim to be one

e. they are more powerful than their European counterparts

8. The key spokespersons for political parties come from which of its major components?

a. the party-in-the-electorate

b. the party as an organization

c. the party-in-government

d. the party-out-of power

e. the leaders-of-the-party-organization

9. A political party is best defined as

a. a group of men and women organized for the sole purpose of influencing public policy

b. an organized team of men and women with a political agenda

c. a team of men and women seeking to control the governing apparatus by gaining office in a duly constituted election

d. any group of men and women with a formal membership and a political or social purpose stated in their bylaws

e. a coalition of interests trying to influence government policies for their benefit

10. According to the “three-headed political giant” model of political parties, the largest component of an American party is the

a. party-in-the-electorate

b. party as an organization

c. party-in-government

d. party-in-the-states

e. party Congress

11. In the United States, to become a member of a political party you need to

a. register with that party at your precinct office

b. claim to be a member

c. pay annual dues

d. hold a membership card

e. officially join that party by attending a party meeting

12. The people who keep the party running between elections and make its rules are members of which “head” of the party?

a. party-in-the-electorate

b. party as an organization

c. party-in-government

d. party-in-the-states

e. permanent party

13. The “party-in-government” refers to

a. party workers who hold patronage jobs in the government and can influence policy

b. party members who perpetuate the party, make its rules, and keep it running

c. winning candidates who become the main spokespersons for the party that nominated them

d. coalitions of interests and ideologies that support a party’s candidates

e. registered party voters who hold civil service jobs in the government and are influencing policy

14. The political “party-in-the-electorate” is defined as people who

a. register as members of a party

b. identity with a party

c. vote for the candidates from one party

d. work for a party’s candidates

e. walk door-to-door to meet the voters and personally campaign for their party’s candidates

15. Almost all definitions of political parties have which of the following in common?

a. parties have formal organization

b. parties try to win elections

c. parties have a mass following

d. parties are run by elites

16. Which is a linkage institution?

a. Congress

b. Supreme Court

c. Executive Office of the President

d. All of these

e. None of these

Answers:

1) A 2)A. 3)A 4) A 5)A 6)D 7)D 8)C 9)C 10) A 11)B 12) B 13)C 14)B 15) B 16) E

17) A 18) C 20) C 21) C 22) A 26) D 27) D 28) B 32) C 34) A 36) B 37) C

17) A party’s endorsement to officially run for office as the candidate of that party is called

a) a nomination

b) a ballot

c) a ticket

d) an appointment

e) a confirmation

18) Political parties perform all of the following tasks EXCEPT:

a) give cues to voters

b) pick policy makers and run campaigns

c) enforce rigid adherence to their policy positions

d) coordinate policy making

e) advocate public policies

20) Linkage institutions

a) link political parties to the government

b) are used to implement public policies

c) translate inputs from the public into outputs from policy makers

d) help link the three branches of government together to achieve coherent policies

e) link the president to members of his party in Congress, so they can coordinate their

policies in government

21) American political parties tend to take middle of the road stands on major issues,

a) while the public tends to have stronger opinions

b) only because the party’s candidates are so afraid of alienating those on different sides

of issues

c) because most of the American electorate is centrist

d) in spite of evidence that more extreme positions generate more excitement and

likelihood for electoral victory

22) Rational-choice theory asserts that

a) the wise party selects policies that are widely favored

b) more extremist party positions give the public a sense that things can really be

changed, and usually win elections

c) the wise party selects policies in which it truly believes, and gives the voters a chance

to vote them up or down on principle

d) the parties should not be expected to differentiate themselves in any way

26) Ticket splitting is best understood as

a) staying with the same party in an election, voting down the party’s line for every race

b) voting for Republican candidates for President and Democratic candidates for

Congress

c) voting for Democratic candidates for President and Republican candidates for

Congress

d) voting with one party for one office and another party for another office

e) a tactic used to commit voter fraud , which enables a voter to cast multiple ballots

27) The upsurge of partisan independence among Americans since 1952

a) has come mostly at the expense of Democrats

b) has come mostly at the expense of Republicans

c) has not harmed either party

d) has harmed both parties equally

e) has occurred mostly among minor party identifiers

28) In recent years most Americans consider themselves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, followed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in last place.

a) independents, Democrats, Republicans

b) Democrats, independents, Republicans

c) Democrats, Republicans, independents

d) Republicans, independent, Democrats

e) Republicans, Democrats, independents

32) The group that always has had the weakest party ties is

a) African American voters

b) urban voters

c) younger voters

d) poor white voters

e) immigrant citizens

34) In terms of organizational structure, American political parties are

a) decentralized and fragmented

b) centralized and hierarchical

c) organized more by regions of the country than at the state or national level

d) tightly controlled organisms that exert tremendous control over candidates

e) operated on the principle of democratic centralism: Local and state organizations

control the national organization

36) From the late 19th century through the New Deal years, many of America’s largest cities were dominated by

a) the communist party

b) corrupt but popular political machines

c) mayors who refused to allow elections

d) super delegates who controlled everything

e) the Socialists Party

37) Party machines in large cities relied on \_\_\_\_\_\_ to reward friends and punish enemies.

a) local judges

b) third parties

c) patronage

d) the civil service merit system

e) city police departments

38. In the 1880s, ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was created to establish a merit system for hiring most government workers.

1. Patronage
2. The civil service
3. The selective service
4. Affirmative action
5. The rational choice method

39. A political machine is a kind of local party organization that

1. Uses specific and material inducements to win party loyalty and power
2. Remains strong in most large American cities
3. Threatens the efficiency of state and national party organizations
4. Has recently come to depend heavily on ethnic group support
5. Specializes in computerized mass mailings both to raise funds and influence votes on behalf of their candidates

40. Patronage

1. is based on merit and competence
2. was an inducement of jobs and financial rewards given for political reasons by party machines
3. is an incentive given by national party offices
4. is commonly used by political parties today
5. is the deference that elected officials give to their campaign contributors in making policy decisions

41. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has some of the strongest parties in America.

1. Pennsylvania
2. California
3. Hawaii
4. New York
5. Texas

42. Since 1960, state party organizations

1. have become much more powerful and organized
2. have virtually disappeared as the national units have taken on their functions
3. have been established for the first time as the national organizations have weakened
4. have begun selecting candidates for state offices
5. have begun selecting candidates for Congress

43. About which state has it been said that the political parties are so weak as to be almost nonexistent?

* 1. California
  2. New York
  3. Pennsylvania
  4. Texas
  5. Alaska

44. Political parties are regulated by

* 1. Congress
  2. Local governments
  3. State governments
  4. The Federal Election Committee
  5. No government, since it would violate the right of peaceful assembly in the First Amendment

45. In closed primaries

1. only voters who have registered in advance with the party can vote
2. voters may vote for candidates from either party
3. voters may choose on election day which party primary they want to participate in
4. none of the above

52.The supreme power within each of the parties is

* 1. The national convention
  2. The President
  3. The National Committee
  4. The state party organizations
  5. The Supreme Party Court

1. The supreme power within each of the parties is its
   1. National Convention
   2. National Committee
   3. National Chairperson
   4. Presidential candidate
   5. Executive Council

54. Between conventions, each party relies on its ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to keep the party’s official national operations going.

* 1. Elected officials
  2. Regional offices
  3. National Committee
  4. Majority or minority whip
  5. Congressional leadership

1. Following George Bush’s defeat in the 1992 presidential election, the task of attending to the daily duties of the Republican National Committee was the responsibility of
   1. The House majority whip
   2. The House minority whip
   3. The Republican party general secretary
   4. The Republican national chairperson
   5. George Bush until the party nominated its next presidential candidate
2. Every political party depends upon what the text calls a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, meaning a set of individuals or groups supporting it.
   1. Linkage institution
   2. Set of super delegates
   3. System of patronage
   4. Coalition
   5. Power base
3. The party national committees
   1. Meet once every four years
   2. Are composed of each party’s members of Congress
   3. Keep the party operating between conventions
   4. Write and approve the party’s platform
   5. Select the party’s presidential candidate

1. The day-to-day activities of the national party are the responsibility of the
   1. National convention
   2. National committee
   3. National chairperson
   4. Congressional party leaders
   5. President
2. Voters and coalitions of voters are attracted to different parties largely by
   1. Their performance and policies
   2. Tradition
   3. The charisma of their candidates
   4. Their socio-economic status
   5. Selective perception

Answers:

38. B

39. A

40. B

41. A   
42. A  
43. A

44. C  
45. A

52. A  
53. A  
54. C  
55. D  
56. D  
57. C

58. C

59. A

60) Political candidates make many promises when running for office. In electing one, the public can expect

A) few to be carried out because political promises are made to be broken

B) that for every broken promise, many more will be kept

C) specific implementation of the promise to differ from the general promise made during the campaign

D) a significant gap between party platform and political performance

61) Today, unlike the Kennedy era, which of the following is true?

A) Most Congressional candidates run on their personal record rather than their party’s record and platform

B) Presidents rely most heavily on their party machinery to get their message out

C) Members of Congress feel they owe great loyalty to presidents of their own party

D) Most members of Congress feel their re-election is strongly tied to the success or failure of presidents of their party.

E) The parties no longer censure or remove disloyal members from the Congress.

62) The American political parties fall far short of the responsible party model for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

A) they are too decentralized

B) their candidates are usually self-selected

C) their presidential candidates ignore the party platform  
 D) there is no mechanism for the parties to discipline officeholders

63) A study of major party platforms from 1944-1976 found that the parties broke their promises

A) 10% of the time

B) half the time

C) over 90% of the time

D) a third of the time

E) two-thirds of the time

64) A party era refers to

A) a period of years during which a party is born and begins to run candidates for office

B) a period of history in which there is one dominant majority party that wins most elections

C) a period of time during which there is one dominant majority party that wins all elections

D) the life span of a party from its beginning to end (e.g., the Whigs)

E) the period between two elections, during which the two parties are assessed as to how powerful they are relative to each other

65) A party era begins, or is made more certain, with

A) a critical election

B) party competition

C) the defeat of an incumbent president

D) a Congressional election

E) the founding of a new major party

66) A critical election involves and accelerates a process called

A) democratic rejuvenation

B) party realignment

C) proportional representation

D) electoral examination

E) partisan transformation

67) Party realignments in the United States

A) happen after most presidential elections, and occasionally in-between

B) are slight adjustments of political allegiance among voters in at least one region of the country

C) involve the death of one party and the birth of a brand new one

D) are rare events in the United States, usually associated with a major national crisis or trauma, in which one party’s majority domination is replaced with another’s

E) occur when a party makes dramatic changes in its positions on issues

68) Realignments are typically associated with

A) a major crisis or trauma in the nation

B) changes in election laws

C) one party winning the presidency while the other controls Congress

D) a major reorganization of the executive branch

E) the creation of new states

69) The first party system in the United States consisted of the

A) Democrats and Republicans

B) Democrats and Whigs

C) Federalists and Democratic-Republicans

D) Democratic-Republicans and Whigs

E) Federalists and Whigs

70) The dominant political party in America’s first party system was the

A) Federalists

B) Democrats

C) Democratic-Republicans

D) Whigs

E) Republicans

71) The Democratic-Republicans were also known as the

A) Whigs

B) Federalists

C) Jeffersonians

D) Hamiltonians

E) Madisonians

72) The last Federalist president was

A) Abraham Lincoln

B) Andrew Jackson

C) John Adams

D) Thomas Jefferson

E) Alexander Hamilton

73) At the beginning of party development in the United States,

A) parties sought to destroy each other

B) parties tried to defeat each other in elections

C) Parties were merely the personal followings of certain charismatic individuals

D) there were many small parties, each representing a narrow interest

E) we had a one-party system where one powerful party dominated the government and blocked the creation of new parties.

74) The first American political party evolved

A) out of Alexander Hamilton’s efforts to get Congress to establish a national bank

B) out of Thomas Jefferson’s efforts to get the Declaration of Independence adopted

C) during the Constitutional Convention

D) from the supporters of George Washington’s first campaign for president

E) out of public disgust over the duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton, leading to calls to solve conflicts through peaceful party competition

75) The policy positions stated in party platforms are

A) very important because nearly three-fourths of them result in policy action when the party is in power

B) of some importance because they are unambiguous statements of where a party stands

C) of little importance because only 10 to 25% of the positions are acted upon by government

D) intended to get a candidate elected, not to be implemented

Answers (60 – 75): 60) B 61) A 62) C 63) A 64) B 65) A 66) B 67) D 68) A 69) C

70) C 71) C 72) C 73) A 74) A 75) A

93) The election of 1896 is considered a watershed because it

1. Gave Republicans control of the south
2. Entrenched western farmers and silverites in the Republican Party
3. Brought the industrial working classes and Wall Street interests together into the Democratic fold.
4. Shifted the party coalitions and entrenched the Republicans in power for another generation
5. Marked the rise of the populist party, which dominated American politics until the depression

94) The republicans lost the election of 1932 primarily due to

1. Rising political and economic instability in Europe.
2. President Herbert Hoover’s Handling of the Depression
3. The nomination of a popular war hero by the Democrats
4. The failure of the Republicans to hold onto the support of urban industrialist
5. Hitler’s election as chancellor of Germany and the Republicans’ failure to prevent it

80) The first party system (1796-1824) was characterized by

1. The dominance of the presidency by the Federalist party
2. Professional politicians running for office
3. The dominance of northern capitalist states
4. The dominance of the Democratic-Republican party
5. The dominance of the Republican party

81) Andrew Jackson was the first president identified as a (n)

1. Democratic- Republican
2. Democrat
3. Republican
4. Whig
5. Independent

82) In the second party system in the U.S. history, the election contest where between which two major parties

1. Democrats and Republicans
2. Republicans and Whigs
3. Democrats and Whigs
4. Federalist and Whigs
5. Federalist and Anti-federalist

83) During the second party system in U.S. history, the election contest were between which two major parties

1. The Whigs should be the sole party, as they were the only legitimate representatives of the people.
2. The Republicans should be the sole party, as they were the only legitimate representatives of the people
3. The Democrats should be the sole party, as they were the only legitimate representatives of the people
4. A governing party needed a loyal opposition party to represent parts of society that it could not
5. Political parties were harming the country because they promoted factionalism, petty, bickering, and disunity

84) The election of 1828 that brought Andrew Jackson to the presidency was significant because it

1. Was the first time the Republican Party controlled Congress
2. Forged a new political coalition
3. Marked the beginning of the dominance of Northern industrialist
4. Began the ascendancy of the New Deal coalition around the Democratic party
5. Marked the rise of the Whigs

85) The Whig Party

1. Dominated the second American party era between 1828 and 1856
2. Forged a coalition of westerners, southerners and new immigrants
3. Was only able to win the presidency when it nominated aging, but popular, military heroes
4. Believed in broadening political opportunity, eliminating vestiges of elitism and mobilizing the masses
5. Was named after the Whigs that the early aristocrats such as George Washington wore.

86) The Republicans emerged as a powerful political party in the

1. 1790’s
2. 1820’s
3. 1850’s
4. 1890’s
5. 1930’s

87) The Republican Party began as the

1. Principal anti-slavery party
2. Principal pro-slavery party
3. Party of big business interests
4. Party of the New Deal
5. Party of states’ rights and silver money

88) The Republicans had a long period as the country’s dominant majority party, which ended

1. With the Civil War
2. In 1896
3. In 1932
4. In 1980
5. In 1992

89) The Depression of the 1930s gave rise to what is called

1. The Republican resurgence
2. The New Deal coalition
3. The Era of Divided Government
4. Party Competition
5. Econopolitics

90) The New Deal coalition was responsible for electing and re-electing

1. Democrats
2. Republicans
3. Democratic- Republicans
4. Whigs
5. Socialist party candidates

91) Who was the president who brought together the original New Deal coalition in support of his candidacy?

1. Lyndon Johnson
2. Herbert Hoover
3. Woodrow Wilson
4. Franklin D. Roosevelt
5. John F. Kennedy

92) The Republican Party rose to prominence in the late 1850s as the

1. Party of the wealthy elite
2. Antislavery Party
3. Gold Standard party
4. Party of rural farmers
5. Free silver party

95) Which of the following groups was NOT a part of the New Deal coalition

1. African- Americans
2. Member of labor unions
3. Wealthy New Englanders
4. Southerners
5. Catholics and Jews

96) Between the 1930s and the 1960s people attracted to the democratic part included

1. Urban working classes and intellectuals
2. Northerners and the rich
3. Protestants and the Jews
4. Farmers and the rural dwellers

97) The New Deal coalition made the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ party the minority for decades

1. Whig
2. Republican
3. Democratic
4. Federalist
5. Socialist

Answer key

80. D 89. B

81. B 90. A

82. C 91. D

83. D 92. B

84. B 93. D

85. C 94. B

86. C 95. C

87. A 96. A

88. C 97. B

98) Since 1968, American politics has been characterized by

1. Divided government.
2. Republican control of both the Congress and Presidency.
3. Democratic control of both the Congress and Presidency.
4. The New Deal coalition.
5. Democratic control of the Presidency and Republican control of Congress.

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99) In elections since 1968

1. The Democrats have dominated the Presidency, while the Republicans have dominated Congress.
2. The Democrats have dominated both the Presidency and the Congress.
3. The Republicans have dominated the Presidency, while the Democrats have dominated the Congress.
4. The Republicans have dominated both the Presidency and the Congress.
5. Party control of both Congress and the Presidency has shifted from one party to the other at least every other election.

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100) People gradually moving away from both parties is referred to as

1. Realignment
2. Dealignment
3. Alignment
4. Coalition politics
5. Partisan drift

*Page ref: 260*

101) Party dealignment is symbolized by

1. The recent pattern of divided government.
2. The recent pattern of one-party control.
3. The 1992 election of a president and Congress of the same party.
4. A renewed commitment to America’s two major political parties.
5. The Republican takeover of Congress in 1994.

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102) Loyalty to a political party has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the past 30 years.

1. Increased significantly
2. Increased slightly
3. Remained about the same
4. Decreased
5. Virtually disappeared

*Page ref: 260*

103) Over the past 30 years, there has been a marked rise in

1. Party neutrality.
2. Support for the Democratic Party.
3. Support for minor parties.
4. Support for both the Democratic and Republican parties.
5. Support for both the major and minor parties.

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104) Which of the following is NOT true about recent political dealignment in the United States?

1. Voters are showing greater party neutrality.
2. Party organizations have become more energetic and effective.
3. Those who belong to a party are less likely to belong to a party that matches their ideology.
4. Voters are less likely to say what they would vote for a “yellow dog” if their party nominated one for office.

*Page ref: 260*

105) In 1968 the Democratic Party was torn apart, leaving the door to the presidency open for Republican Richard Nixon primarily due to

1. The failure of President Johnson’s War on Poverty.
2. President Johnson’s Vietnam War policies.
3. The sudden evaporation of the New Deal coalition.
4. The abandonment of the Democratic Party by African Americans.
5. The severity of the mid-60’s recession.

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106) From 1968 to 1992,

1. A realignment occurred that destroyed the New Deal coalition.
2. The Republicans became the majority party.
3. The Republicans dominated the Presidency while the Democrats dominated Congress.
4. The Republicans dominated the federal government while the Democrats dominated state governments.
5. The Democrats experienced a slow, “creeping ascendance” that culminated in their gaining control of the entire government with the election of Bill Clinton.

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107) Party dealignment means the

1. Increasing inability of minority parties to win elections.
2. Decreasing influence of both parties on voters and government.
3. Lack of party Cohesion in Congress.
4. Realignment of party coalitions.
5. The inability of the parties to deal with the nations problems.

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108) Which of the following statements about third parties in the United States is false?

1. Third parties are a rare phenomena in American history.
2. Third-party candidates almost never win office in the United States.
3. Third parties have brought new groups into the electorate.
4. Third parties often bring new issues to the political agenda.

*Page ref: 262-263*

109) Ross Perot’s candidacy for president in 1992 was an example of what type of third-party campaign?

1. A splinter party.
2. A party serving as an extension of one individual’s candidacy.
3. A party espousing an extreme ideological position.
4. A split-level party.

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110) Which of the following is true about most third-party campaigns in American history?

1. They frequently are successful.
2. They occasionally succeed.
3. They almost never win office.
4. They usually become major political parties over time.
5. They have been most successful at promoting party dealignment.

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111) An example of a splinter party would be

1. The Poor Man’s party of 1952.
2. The Prohibitionist party.
3. George Wallace’s American Independents.
4. The Libertarian party.
5. Ross Perot’s United We Stand.

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112) Critically affecting the electoral college vote, bringing new issues to the public agenda, and venting popular discontent are important roles played by

1. Splinter groups in multiparty system.
2. Third parties in a two-party system.
3. The two-party system in thwarting extreme or unconventional views.
4. Parties based on a single issue in a multiple-issue society.
5. Intra-party factions.

*Page ref: 263*

113) The first true antislavery party was the

1. Republican Party.
2. Progressive party.
3. Populist Party.
4. Free Soil party.
5. Antislavery party.

*Page ref: 263*

114) In many other democracies, the system of awarding seats in the national legislature, unlike in the United States, is one of

1. Proportional representation.
2. Virtual Representation.
3. Winner-take-all.
4. Intellectual merit alone.
5. Single-member districts.

*Page ref: 265*

115) A proportional representation system for electing members to a nation’s legislature is more likely to lead to a

1. Single party holding all the seats.
2. Greater number of political parties holding seats.
3. Situation like that of the United States, with only two major parties as rivals.
4. Moderating of political conflict.
5. Centralization and unification of political forces within the nation.

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116) If the United States had a multiparty system,

1. Each party would have more distinct policy positions.
2. People would have to pay dues to belong to a party.
3. Third parties would come to dominate politics.
4. The necessity for coalitions would be eliminated.

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117) In a winner-take-all system,

1. Legislative seats are allocated according to each party’s percentage of the nationwide vote.
2. If no single party gets a majority vote, a runoff election is held between the top two parties.
3. Unless a party wins, there is now reward for the votes it gets.
4. Coalition governments are common.
5. The party winning the majority of the votes wins all the seats up for election in the legislature.

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**Answers:** **98)** A **99)** C **100)** B **101)** A **102)** D **103)** A **104)** C **105)** B **106)** C **107)** B **108)**A **109)** B **110)** C **111)** C **112)** B **113)** D **114)** A **115)** B **116)** A **117)** C