Name: Score:

8 Multiple choice questions

Term 1 of 8

What arguments are there that there is not a two-party system?

- There are two main reasons why the USA has a two-party system:
  1) The first-past-the-post, winner-takes-all electoral system.
  2) The all-embracing nature of the two major parties, which allows little room for third parties.
- Yet another analysis suggests that, because of the decline in the importance of political parties, the USA might be said to have a no-party system.
- There are three main arguments that there is no longer a two-party system:
  1) There is a 50-party system.
  2) There is a one-party system.
  3) There is a no-party system.
- That the USA does have a two-party system is almost indisputable, but it could be argued that the USA does not have a two-party system, or that at least the picture is rather more complex than the statistics would lead us to believe.

Term 2 of 8

What evidence is there to support this assertion?

- 1) Every president since 1856 has been either a Democrat or a Republican.
  2) In every presidential election since 1916, the combined Democrat and Republican vote has exceeded 80% of the total votes cast.
  3) In 21 of those last 25 presidential elections, the combined Democrat and Republican vote has exceeded 90% of the total votes cast, reaching 99% in both 1984 and 1988.
  4) In January 2011, every member of the US Senate belonged to one of the two major parties, except Senator Bernie Sanders (Independent) of Vermont, and Senator Joe Lieberman (Independent Democrat) of Connecticut.
  5) At the same time, all of the 435 members of the House of Representatives are either Democrats or Republicans.
  6) Of the 50 state governors, 49 were either Democrats or Republicans and the one Independent governor - Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island - is a former Republican senator.
- Some commentators have suggested that the USA does not have two-party system but a 50-party system. Each individual state has its own party system.
- Another analysis suggests that some states appear to have a one-party system. In such states, one party dominates to such an extent that the other seems hardly to exist. For example, the Democratic Party dominates Massachusetts. The Republicans have won the state in only one presidential election in the last 50 years, Reagan winning it by just 3,000 votes out of 2.5 million in 1980. In Wyoming, it is the Republicans who, in that same period, have won all bar one presidential election (1964) and dominate the state at all levels.
- Yet another analysis suggests that, because of the decline in the importance of political parties, the USA might be said to have a no-party system.

Term 3 of 8

Does the USA have a two-party system?

- There are two main reasons why the USA has a two-party system:
  1) The first-past-the-post, winner-takes-all electoral system.
  2) The all-embracing nature of the two major parties, which allows little room for third parties.
- Yet another analysis suggests that, because of the decline in the importance of political parties, the USA might be said to have a no-party system.
- That the USA does have a two-party system is almost indisputable, but it could be argued that the USA does not have a two-party system, or that at least the picture is rather more complex than the statistics would lead us to believe.
- There are three main arguments that there is no longer a two-party system:
  1) There is a 50-party system.
  2) There is a one-party system.
  3) There is a no-party system.

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Term 4 of 8

What is a two-party system?

- Another analysis suggests that some states appear to have a one-party system. In such states, one party dominates to such an extent that the other seems hardly to exist. For example, the Democratic Party dominates Massachusetts. The Republicans have won the state in only one presidential election in the last 50 years, Reagan winning it by just 3,000 votes out of 2.5 million in 1980. In Wyoming, it is the Republicans who, in that same period, have won all bar one presidential election (1964) and dominate the state at all levels.
- A party system in which two major parties regularly win the vast majority of votes in general elections, regularly capture nearly all of the seats in the legislature, and alternately control the executive branch of government.
- Yet another analysis suggests that, because of the decline in the importance of political parties, the USA might be said to have a no-party system.
- Some commentators have suggested that the USA does not have two-party system but a 50-party system. Each individual state has its own party system.

Term 5 of 8

Why has this happened?

- That the USA does have a two-party system is almost indisputable, but it could be argued that the USA does not have a two-party system, or that at least the picture is rather more complex than the statistics would lead us to believe.
- Some commentators have suggested that the USA does not have two-party system but a 50-party system. Each individual state has its own party system.
- There are three main arguments that there is no longer a two-party system:
  1) There is a 50-party system.
  2) There is a one-party system.
  3) There is a no-party system.
- There are two main reasons why the USA has a two-party system:
  1) The first-past-the-post, winner-takes-all electoral system.
  2) The all-embracing nature of the two major parties, which allows little room for third parties.

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Another analysis suggests that some states appear to have a one-party system. In such states, one party dominates to such an extent that the other seems hardly to exist. For example, the Democratic Party dominates Massachusetts. The Republicans have won the state in only one presidential election in the last 50 years, Reagan winning it by just 3,000 votes out of 2.5 million in 1980. In Wyoming, it is the Republicans who, in that same period, have won all bar one presidential election (1964) and dominate the state at all levels.

- What is the no-party system theory?
- What is the 50-party system theory?
- What evidence is there to support this assertion?
- What is the one-party system theory?

Term 7 of 8

What is the no-party system theory?

- Yet another analysis suggests the USA has a coalition-party system due to party alliances.
- Another analysis claims the USA has a dominant-party system because of party influence.
- Yet another analysis suggests that, because of the decline in the importance of political parties, the USA might be said to have a no-party system.
- An analysis suggests that the USA has a multi-party system due to party growth.

Term 8 of 8

What is the 50-party system theory?

- Some suggest the USA has a three-party system with federal oversight.
- Some commentators believe the USA has a single-party system with a national consensus.
- Others argue the USA has a bipartisan system with unified state parties.
- Some commentators have suggested that the USA does not have two-party system but a 50-party system. Each individual state has its own party system.

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