**Unit 6 – Guided Reading Questions Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Directions:*** Using your notes, textbook, and maybe a Google search here and there, please answer the following questions. This assignment is due on the day of the test. Use these questions, text, & your notes to study for the test.

1. Describe the media role and the impact of the media on the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Impact** | **Media Role (3 types)** | **Explanation/Analysis** |
| Public Opinion |  |  |
| Voter’s Perceptions |  |  |
| Campaign Strategies & Outcomes |  |  |
| National Agenda |  |  |
| Governance |  |  |
| Images of Public Officials |  |  |

1. Who is the primary source of information on candidates today? What linkage institution did they replace?
2. How does the media limit interest group influence?
3. Explain how candidates and elected officials use the media, especially television, to get their message out to voters.
4. Discuss the effect of media on each of the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Explanation/Analysis of Effect** |
| The Presidency |  |
| Congress |  |
| Supreme Court |  |
| Bureaucracy |  |
| Local Politics |  |

1. List and describe the five functions of political parties.
2. Define partisanship in six words or less.
3. Describe how and why third parties begin.
4. Explain how the American political system limits the influence of third parties.
5. Describe how third parties can act as “spoilers” in elections. Provide a recent example.
6. Describe the organization of American political parties in respect to the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition/Role/Analysis** |
| Federalism |  |
| National Committees |  |
| National Chairpersons |  |
| National Conventions |  |
| State Committees |  |

1. What were the founders attitudes towards political parties?
2. Explain the purpose of primary elections.
3. List the pros and cons of political machines.
4. What group of people has lost power in choosing presidential nominees over the last few decades?
5. How does the use of superdelegates/un-committed delegates increase the influence of party leaders in the presidential nomination process?
6. Explain ticket-splitting.
7. How do delegates to party conventions compare to the average voter?
8. Describe the trends of party identification when it comes to religion, education, age and economics.
9. What happens during party realignment? Provide two examples of realignment occurring.
10. What happens during party dealignment?
11. Why do many political scientists feel that the US is in a period of dealignment? How does divided government play a role in this?
12. Explain why campaigns for office cost so much money.
13. Explain a candidate centered campaign.
14. Why do political interest groups participate in electioneering?
15. Why did Political Action Committees (PACs) begin?
16. What do PACs do?
17. How are PACs regulated by the FEC (be general)?
18. Explain the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Explanation/Definition/Analysis** |
| Soft Money |  |
| Hard Money |  |
| McCain-Feingold Act (2002) |  |
| *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) |  |
| Federal Election Campaign Act (1971) |  |
| Federal Elections Commission |  |
| *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010) |  |
| SuperPACs |  |
| 527 Group |  |
| *McCutcheon v. FEC* (2014) |  |
| Independent expenditures |  |

1. How do caucuses differ from primaries?
2. How do closed primaries differ from open primaries?
3. Why do many states try to hold their primaries/caucuses as early as possible (frontloading)?
4. Who turns out in primary elections vs. general elections?
5. What happens in our system if a candidate receives less than a majority of the vote, but still more votes than anyone else?
6. Describe what occurs at a party convention.
7. Describe the pros and cons of being an incumbent presidential candidate.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros of being an Incumbent President** | **Cons of being an Incumbent President** |
|  |  |

1. Describe the pros and cons of being a challenger in a presidential election.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros of being a Challenger** | **Cons of being a Challenger** |
|  |  |

1. Explain the difference between issue advocacy and candidate support for interest groups.
2. Describe how Madison’s concerns about the mischief of factions is played out in the influence of interest groups in the formulation of policy.
3. List an example of an interest group of each of the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Interest Group Name** |
| Economic |  |
| Labor |  |
| Public Interest |  |
| Foreign Policy |  |
| Single interest (ideological) |  |
| Government |  |
| Professional Association |  |

1. Describe techniques used by interest groups to affect public policy.
2. What strategies do interest groups use to win/influence elections?
3. Explain what lobbyists do to affect public policymaking.
4. How can interest groups get legislation passed for their members? What type of legislation does it have to be?
5. What is coalition building?
6. What are the differences between political parties and interest groups?
7. Describe the free rider problem.
8. What do interest groups and political parties both do for the average citizen?
9. What is the revolving door?
10. Even though interest groups often have a negative reputation, how do interest groups positively influence the USA?
11. How do interest groups and political parties work together to achieve their goals?
12. What are some regulations that the government has imposed on interest groups?
13. Describe how it may be said that interest groups limit representative democracy.
14. Why do we call interest groups, media, parties, and campaigns/elections “linkage institutions”?