

PRACTICE AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FRQ

1 Hour 40 Minutes

4 Questions

(Note: It is recommended that students spend 20 minutes each on #1, 2, 3, and 40 minutes on #4. Students may freely proceed from one question to the next whenever they finish one question.)

1. In 2010, first lady Michelle Obama initiated the Let's Move campaign to promote fitness and reduce childhood obesity rates. The campaign was funded by diverting money away from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides food stamps to low-income households. Obama claims that her campaign would encourage healthier cafeteria menus in schools, better food labeling, and increased physical exercise for children.

Obama created the Task Force on Childhood Obesity to review current health programs and to develop a national action plan. The Task Force reviews policy and programs related to childhood nutrition and exercise, and has the goals to encourage children to eat healthier and exercise more, improve access to nutritious, affordable foods, and empower parents and caregivers.

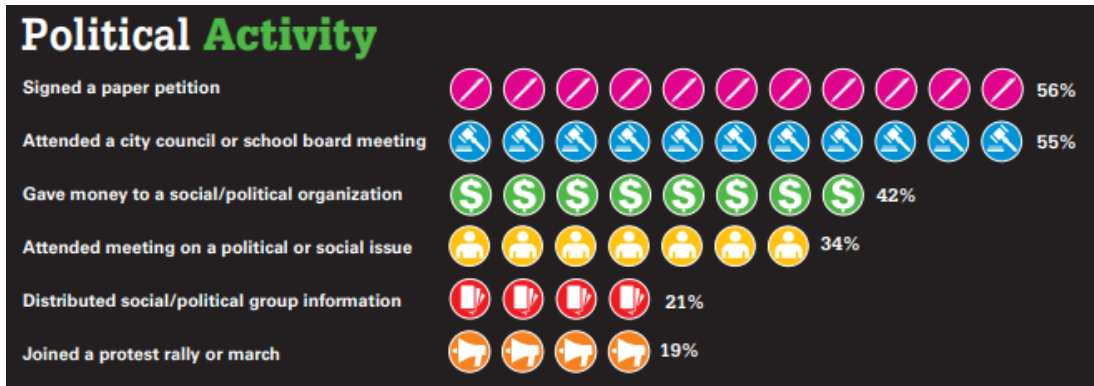
After reading the scenario, please respond to A, B, and C below.

A. Describe an action Congress could take to address one of the goals of Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign.

B. In the context of this scenario, explain how partisan divisions could prevent the action described in Part A.

C. Explain why certain interest groups might oppose the funding for the Let's Move campaign.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES



Source: 2008 American National Election Study

2. Use the infographic above to answer the following questions.

A. Identify the most popular form of political participation shown in the infographic above.

B. Describe the difference between the proportion of Americans who have donated to a social or political organization and the proportion of Americans who have distributed information about social or political groups.

C. Identify the least popular form of political participation, and explain why it may be the least popular form of political participation.

D. For any one of the methods of political participation shown in the infographic, explain how the First Amendment relates to it. Be sure to state which clause or freedom is involved.

3. This question requires you to compare a Supreme Court case you studied in class with one you have not studied in class. A summary of the Supreme Court case you did not study in class is presented below and provides all of the information you need to know about this case to answer the prompt.

The city of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, annually erected a Christmas display located in the city's shopping district. The display included objects such as a Santa Claus house, a Christmas tree, a banner reading "Seasons Greetings," and a nativity scene. The nativity scene had been included in the display for over 40 years. In 1983, Daniel Donnelly objected to the display and took action against Dennis Lynch, the Mayor of Pawtucket.

In *Lynch v. Donnelly* (1984), the Supreme Court decided that the city had not violated any amendment. The Court argued that the display, viewed under the context of the holiday season, was not a purposeful effort to advocate a particular religious message. The Court found that the display merely depicted the historical origins of the holiday and had "legitimate secular purposes."

Based on the information above, respond to the following questions.

- A. Identify the clause in the First Amendment that was the basis for the complaint in both *Lynch v. Donnelly* and *Engel v. Vitale* (1962).
- B. Explain how the facts and situation in both *Lynch v. Donnelly* and *Engel v. Vitale* led to a similar decision in both cases.
- C. Explain how an interest group could use the decision in *Lynch v. Donnelly* to advance its agenda.

4. There is considerable disagreement over whether a representative democracy or a direct democracy is a better form of governing. Develop an argument on whether a representative or direct democracy is the better vehicle for serving the needs of citizens.
 - Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning.
 - Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information.
 - At least ONE piece of evidence must be from the list below
 - Federalist 10
 - Constitution
 - Brutus 1
 - The second piece of evidence must be from a different source on the list above OR from your own knowledge.
 - Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim/thesis.
 - Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.