

Chapter 5 Worksheet – Political Parties

Section 1- Parties and What They Do

Identify the major function of political parties that are exemplified in each of the following statements:

The functions are: a) Nominating b) Informing and Activating Supporters c) Bonding Agent
d) Governing e) Watchdog

- 1) organize and conduct business of Congress on basis of party
- 2) take some kind of stand on public issues
- 3) monitor the conduct of the public's business
- 4) organize rallies, conventions, and media events
- 5) prompt successful candidates to perform well in office
- 6) present prospective officeholders to the voters
- 7) recruit members who will win elections for the party
- 8) serve as the "loyal opposition"
- 9) make appointments to executive offices based on party
- 10) ensure the good performance of its candidates and officeholders

Section 2- The Two-Party System

- 1) Explain why the US party system is considered a two-party system
- 2) Explain why the following comments are false:
 - a) The two major parties tend to take up extreme positions on most issues.
 - b) The framers anticipated the rise of political parties
 - c) Single-member districts tend to encourage third-party efforts.
- 3) Explain why multiparty systems tend to be unstable and explain how Italy is an example of multiparty instability.
- 4) Explain why a one-party system can be considered a "no-party" system.
- 5) Identify the major factor in determining one's party affiliation.

Section 3- The Two-Party System in American History

- 1) Identify the circumstances that led to the rise of the nation's first two political parties led by Hamilton and Jefferson
- 2) Explain why the Whigs opposed Jacksonian democracy and identify what led to their decline.
- 3) Identify the groups and the major issue that led to the formation of the Republicans.
- 4) Identify where Democrats maintained support during the "Era of the Republicans."
- 5) Identify the event that led to the "Return of the Democrats" and identify the groups that supported the Democrats
- 6) Identify the unusual feature that has occurred often during the "New Era."

Section 4- The Minor Parties

- 1) Explain the four distinct types of minor parties that have existed in the United States.
- 2) Identify which type of minor party would describe the following:
 - a) A minor party formed around a strong individual (like Mr. Matthews).
 - b) A minor party built on a regional basis.
 - c) A minor party that tends to be long-lived.
 - d) A minor party that only wants to reinstate Prohibition.
 - e) A minor party that blames the wealthy for all of the nation's problems.
 - f) Describes why the Libertarian party was formed.
 - g) Describes how the Progressive Party was formed.
- 3) Identify and explain the three major roles that minor parties play in American politics.

Section 5- The Organization of Political Parties

- 1) Explain why the following has led to the decentralization of American political parties:
 - a) The role of the presidency affects the opposing party.
 - b) The impact of federalism.
 - c) The role of the nominating process can split a political party.
- 2) Identify what increasing numbers of voters consider themselves.
- 3) Identify the term that describes that practice of voting for candidates of both parties.