RLP-GOV · RLP American Government — Principles of American Democracy

Unit 4: Elections, Media and Democracy in the World

Practice Workbook. The same problems, in the same order, as the Practice sections of the online lessons.

Name _____ Period _____

Lesson 4.1 — Parties, Nominations, Polls and Money

FLUENCY

1. Put these party systems or periods in order: the Republican Party emerges over slavery; Federalists and Democratic-Republicans; the Era of Good Feelings; Jackson's Democrats and the Whigs.

2. Explain how a Missouri primary ballot works under section 115.397, and what a voter who does not want to take part in a party primary can still vote on.

3. Define *margin of error*, *super PAC* and *disclosure*.

APPLICATION

4. A poll (illustrative) shows Candidate A at 48% and Candidate B at 45%, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4 points. Is A leading? Explain, and name two questions you would ask about the poll's method.

5. Washington warned that the spirit of party "agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another." Yet two parties formed within a decade. Using the lesson, explain why, and identify Washington's point of view.

6. State what *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) and *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010) held, and give the main argument of supporters and of critics. Do not choose a side.

REVIEW

7. Review from Unit 3: Article III, section 49 of the Missouri Constitution reserves two powers to the people. What is the process by which voters propose and pass a law or constitutional amendment themselves, and what is the process by which they approve or reject an act of the General Assembly?

Lesson 4.2 — Turnout, Reapportionment and Redistricting

FLUENCY

1. Distinguish *reapportionment* from *redistricting*, and say what triggers each.

2. Name the amendment or law: (a) barred denying the vote on account of race (1870); (b) extended the vote to women (1920); (c) lowered the voting age to 18 (1971); (d) the 1965 federal law that targeted the barriers, such as literacy tests, that had kept most Black Southerners from voting.

3. Define *packing* and *cracking*, and explain where the word *gerrymander* comes from.

APPLICATION

4. An illustrative state has 5 districts of 100 voters each: 250 Party X voters and 250 Party Y voters. Show a map plan (vote counts per district) in which Party X wins 4 of 5 seats, and name the technique.

5. Explain what *Rucho v. Common Cause* (2019) decided about partisan gerrymandering, and say who draws Missouri's congressional districts and who draws its state House and Senate districts.

6. Describe the membership and approval rule of a Missouri legislative redistricting commission, name three of its ranked criteria, and say what happens if a commission does not file a plan in time.

7. Using the Secretary of State's official figures, Missouri turnout was 70.07% in the 2020 presidential election and 48.39% in the 2022 midterm; in the City of St. Louis it was 60.69% and 39.94%. Find each drop in percentage points and say which drop was larger.

REVIEW

8. Review from Unit 2: after the 2020 census Missouri has 8 House seats. How many electoral votes does that give the state, and why?

Lesson 4.3 — Deliberation Lab — A Free and Responsible Press in a New Media Age

FLUENCY

1. Define *prior restraint* and give the lesson's example of the Court refusing it.

2. Match each medium to the change the lesson credits it with: print newspapers; broadcast radio and television; cable news; digital platforms and social media.

3. Name four ways public officials use the media to communicate with citizens and shape opinion.

APPLICATION

4. *New York Times v. Sullivan* describes "a profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open." Explain how the "actual malice" rule serves that commitment.

5. Apply *Brandenburg v. Ohio*. Scenario A: a speaker at a rally says the government is corrupt and "someday the people will rise up." Scenario B: a speaker urges a crowd to break into a building across the street immediately, and the crowd begins to move. Which speech may the state punish?

6. A classmate says, "A social-media company deleting my post violated my First Amendment rights." Evaluate the claim using the lesson.

7. Apply *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* (1988). A high school journalism class publishes a school-sponsored newspaper as part of its curriculum, and the principal removes an article before printing. Using the Court's rule, what must be true for the removal to be consistent with the First Amendment, and how is this different from the school punishing a student for wearing an armband?

REVIEW

8. Review from Unit 2: which 1969 case held that students do not shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gate, and what was the students' speech?

9. Review from Unit 1: which Tocqueville concern does the lesson's worry about social pressure online echo?

Lesson 4.4 — Workshop — Comparing Political Systems: Democracy, Tyranny and Transition

FLUENCY

1. Match each system to its description: feudalism; mercantilism; fascism; communism (twentieth-century form); democratic socialism.

2. Compare presidential and parliamentary systems: where the executive comes from and how it can be removed.

3. Name the movements the lesson credits with bringing down Communist governments in Poland and Czechoslovakia, and the year of the Velvet Revolution.

APPLICATION

4. Scenario: in a parliamentary country the governing party holds a firm majority and passes a major reform in two weeks. In the United States, a similar reform stalls for a year. Using the lesson, explain the difference and one trade-off.

5. Using the lesson's case studies, identify three conditions that recurred where tyrannies arose, and one method used to gain or hold power.

6. Connect one lesson from new democracies to a principle from Unit 1. Model the connection in two sentences.

REVIEW

7. Review from Unit 3: the Articles of Confederation are the lesson's example of which system, and why did that system fail?

Unit 4 checkpoint

1. True or false: The Constitution establishes the Democratic and Republican parties.
2. After the contested 1968 Democratic convention, what became decisive in choosing presidential nominees?
   A. Party leaders at conventions
   B. Primaries and caucuses
   C. State legislatures
   D. The Electoral College
3. A poll result that falls within the _____ of error is a statistical tie.

4. Which case held that corporations and unions may spend unlimited amounts on independent political advertising?
   A. Buckley v. Valeo
   B. Citizens United v. FEC
   C. Rucho v. Common Cause
   D. New York Times v. Sullivan
5. Drawing district lines to advantage a party or group is called _____.
6. True or false: Missouri was apportioned eight U.S. House seats after both the 2010 and the 2020 censuses.
7. How many members does Missouri's Constitution give each legislative redistricting commission?
   A. Seven
   B. Ten
   C. Twenty
   D. Thirty-four
8. True or false: Missouri law lets a citizen who is seventeen years and six months old register to vote.
9. Under New York Times v. Sullivan, what must a public official prove to win a libel suit?
   A. That the statement was unkind
   B. Actual malice: the publisher knew it was false or recklessly disregarded whether it was
   C. That the statement was about official duties
   D. That the publisher refused to print a reply
10. True or false: The First Amendment limits private social-media companies in the same way it limits government.
11. In a parliamentary system, how can the government be removed between elections?
    A. By impeachment only
    B. By a vote of no confidence
    C. By the courts
    D. By a national referendum
12. Czechoslovakia's largely nonviolent _____ Revolution of 1989 ended Communist rule.