

Chapter Five
Reading Guide

Name _____
Date _____ Per _____

Complete this review sheet in preparation for the unit test. (Twenty Points)

1. A _____ is a group of persons who seek to control government through the winning of elections and the holding of public office.
2. Currently, the two major parties in the United States are the _____ & _____.
3. The member of the two major parties share common principles, but there are mainly concern with _____ .
4. Political parties serve many roles in the American political system, one of the most basic of which is to _____ .
5. The parties often use _____ and the _____ to help inform and activate supporters.
6. By working to assure the good performance of its candidates and officeholders, a political party works as a _____ .
7. Both state and national government operate on a _____ basis. With each parties members strongly supporting their parties policies and standards.
8. What does it mean to say that a party is “out of power”? What does the party out of power try to convince the voters to do in the next election? Explain
9. What is defined as a minor party in the American two-party system?
10. The historical basis for the American two-party system began with the debate over the ratification of the Constitution between the _____ and the _____.
11. Nearly all election held in this country are _____ elections.
12. Democrats and Republicans work in a _____ way to ensure they remain the two dominant political parties in the United States.

13. One of the ways the Democrats and Republicans make it difficult for third party candidates to challenge for the presidency is to prevent this (2004 election as an example).
14. Americans are, on the whole an _____ people. Even though this country is clearly a _____. Becoming more diverse every year. Still there is usually a broad _____ on major issues of policy.
15. These facts have led create to major parties who are very _____, and tend to try most often to occupy the _____ politically.
16. What is the main weakness of a multi party system as opposed to our two-party system?
17. All dictatorships are _____ in which no opposition party is allowed.
18. Membership in a party in the United States is _____. People may choose to identify themselves as _____ and not choose a party affiliation of any kind.
19. Generally speaking, these groups tend to vote Democratic:
-
-
- These groups most often vote Republican:
-
-
20. The greatest influence upon a young person's political beliefs are their _____.
21. The American two party system began to emerge when
-
-
22. How has sectionalism in this country played a major role in the party politics of this country.
23. Name the four main types of minor parties in this countries history.
24. What is an ideological party? What characteristics do these parties often share?

25. Describe a “splinter party”. What is the most common causes of a splinter party?

26. A strong third party candidate can play the role of _____ in an election, resulting in a change in who is elected. Think Ralph Nader in the 2000 presidential election.

27. Historically minor parties have been most important in their roles of _____ and _____. Minor parties often draw attention to issues the major parties find too controversial or prefer to _____ or _____ the fence on.

28. The _____ party is usually more solidly united and more cohesively organized than the _____ .

29. The impact of _____ helps contribute to the decentralized nature of the two major political parties.

30. In each party, the _____ is the leader of the national party committee.

31. The three components of political parties include: _____, people who give their time and money to the party, _____, people who regularly vote for members of their political party, and _____, the party’s officeholders who govern at the federal, state and local level.

32. More and more voters have chosen to identify themselves as _____ .

33. People who vote for candidates of different parties for different offices in the same election are said engage in _____ voting.

34. Recent changes in _____ have influenced the future of the parties.

35. Changes in _____ have helped candidates speak directly to the people.

36. The growth of _____ organizations have influenced the major parties and how they deal with specific issues.

37. The two major American political parties are older than any other in the world. True or False.

38. What party does your family typically support, if any? _____.

