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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.L1 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8  |
| Cognitive Complexity  | Low |
| Item | What are the names of the two major political parties in the United States today? |
| A | Democratic and Republican |
| B | Democratic and Libertarian |
| C | Socialist and Republican |
| D | Socialist and Libertarian |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.L1 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8  |
| Cognitive Complexity  | Low |
| Item | What are the names of the two major political parties in the United States today? |
| A | Democratic and Republican | ***Correct***-The Democratic and Republican parties are the two major political parties in the United States today.  |
| B | Democratic and Libertarian | **Incorrect**-The Libertarian Party is often referred to as a “minor” or a “third” party because its candidates do not hold elected office, with few exceptions.  |
| C | Socialist and Republican | **Incorrect**-The Socialist Party is often referred to as a “minor” or a “third” party because its candidates do not hold elected office, with few exceptions. |
| D | Socialist and Libertarian | **Incorrect**-The Socialist and Libertarian political parties are often referred to as “minor” or “third” parties because their candidates to not hold elected office, with few exceptions.  |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.M1 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8 |
| Cognitive Complexity | Moderate |
| Item | The statement below is from a political party platform.We, the workers and our allies, need to take power from the hands of the wealthy few, their corporations, and their political operatives.Which political party’s position is represented in the statement? |
| A | Communist |
| B | Democratic |
| C | Republican  |
| D | Socialist  |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.M1 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8 |
| Cognitive Complexity | Moderate |
| Item | The statement below is from a political party platform.We, the workers and our allies, need to take power from the hands of the wealthy few, their corporations, and their political operatives.Which political party’s position is represented in the statement? |
| A | Communist | ***Correct***-The Communist Party focuses on the needs and concerns of working persons which include shifting power from those who are wealthy and who own corporations.  |
| B | Democratic | **Incorrect**-The Democratic Party focuses on many of the same economic issues as the Communist Party although the Democratic Party holds a different viewpoint on how government should address these issues, such as employment policy. |
| C | Republican  | **Incorrect**- The Republican Party focuses on many of the same economic issues as the Communist Party although the Republican Party holds a different viewpoint on how government should address these issues, such as employment policy. |
| D | Socialist  | **Incorrect**- While, the Socialist Party focuses on many of the same economic issues as the Communist Party, it generally does not advocate policy change through seizing power. It tends to favor change through the electoral process.  |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.M2 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8 |
| Cognitive Complexity | Moderate |
| Item | Which spending increase would the Democratic Party likely support? |
| A | homeland security  |
| B | space exploration  |
| C | education  |
| D | military |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.M2 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8 |
| Cognitive Complexity | Moderate |
| Item | Which spending increase would the Democratic Party likely support? |
| A | homeland security  | Incorrect-The Republican Party platform more strongly supports homeland security spending compared with the Democratic Party platform.  |
| B | space exploration  | Incorrect-The two major parties support space exploration although an increase in spending is not a top concern for either the Democratic or Republican party.  |
| C | education  | Correct-The Democratic Party platform more often supports increases in education spending for public schools compared with the Republican Party platform. |
| D | military | Incorrect-The Republican Party platform more often supports increases in military spending compared with the Democratic Party platform. |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.M3 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8  |
| Cognitive Complexity  | Moderate |
| Item | The conversation below is part of a political discussion. ---------------------------**Lou**: I am going to vote for the candidate who will support cutting government spending.**Bob**: Yes, we spend too much on some programs.---------------------------Which party’s candidates are these voters most likely to support?  |
| A | Democratic |
| B | Green |
| C | Republican |
| D | Socialist  |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.M3 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8  |
| Cognitive Complexity  | Moderate |
| Item | The conversation below is part of a political discussion. ---------------------------**Lou**: I am going to vote for the candidate who will support cutting government spending.**Bob**: Yes, we spend too much on some programs.---------------------------Which party’s candidates are these voters most likely to support?  |
| A | Democratic | **Incorrect**-The Democratic Party platform, compared with the Republican Party platform, less often focuses on reduced spending, especially on government programs such as social welfare. |
| B | Green | **Incorrect**-The Green Party platform, compared with the Republican Party platform, less often advocates reduced spending, especially on enforcing environmental laws.  |
| C | Republican | ***Correct***-The Republican Party platform focuses on cutting government spending and reducing spending on some programs such as social welfare.  |
| D | Socialist  | **Incorrect**-The Socialist Party platform, compared with the Republican platform, tends not to focus on reduced government spending.  |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.H1 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8 |
| Cognitive Complexity | High |
| Item | The table below describes political party associations of governors.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Democratic Governors** | **Number of** **Republican** **Governors** |
| 2013 | 19 | 30 |
| 2011 | 20 | 29 |
| 2009 | 26 | 24 |
| 2007 | 29 | 21 |

Based on the table, what has been an impact of political parties on policy making?  |
| A | More Republican issue positions have shaped federal policy. |
| B | More Democratic issue positions have shaped federal policy. |
| C | The number of Democrats nominated for governor increased.  |
| D | The number of Republicans nominated for governor increased.  |

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| Bank Item Number | G.C.2.8.H1 |
| Benchmark | SS.7.C.2.8 |
| Cognitive Complexity | High |
| Item | The table below describes political party associations of governors.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Democratic Governors** | **Number of** **Republican** **Governors** |
| 2013 | 19 | 30 |
| 2011 | 20 | 29 |
| 2009 | 26 | 24 |
| 2007 | 29 | 21 |

Based on the table, what has been an impact of political parties on policy making?  |
| A | More Republican issue positions have shaped federal policy. | ***Correct***-In a federal system power is shared between the national and the state governments. The more Republican governors there are the more likely that the issue positions of these governors will be heard by national lawmakers.  |
| B | More Democratic issue positions have shaped federal policy. | **Incorrect**-In a federal system power is shared between the national and the state governments. The more Republican governors there are the less likely that the issue positions of Democratic governors will be heard by national lawmakers.  |
| C | The number of Democrats nominated for governor increased.  | **Incorrect**-Each major party nominates one person to run for any office. There may be more people seeking nomination but only one will earn nomination for any office.  |
| D | The number of Republicans nominated for governor increased.  | **Incorrect**-Each major party nominates one person to run for any office. There may be more people seeking nomination but only one will earn nomination for any office. |