

SS.7.C.2.10 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	Who do lobbyists represent in their attempts to influence government?	The correct answer should identify the group of people who would use lobbyists to convince government officials to adopt their preferred policies.
A	military officers	Incorrect – Military officers are executive branch employees, so they would not hire lobbyists.
B	elected officials	Incorrect – Elected officials are representatives in government, so they would not need to hire lobbyists to influence themselves.
C	interest groups	Correct – This is the correct response because interest groups hire lobbyists to influence the actions of government officials.
D	circuit judges	Incorrect – Circuit judges are public officials, so they would not need to hire lobbyists to influence themselves.



SS.7.C.2.10 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	Based on the government system in the United States, which individual activity is used to directly influence legislative decisions?	The question is asking to identify which activity individuals may participate in that will directly impact the law making process.
A	watching political debates on television	Incorrect – The act of watching debates on television will have no direct impact on the lawmaking process even though this activity may make individuals more informed citizens.
B	discussing political issues at work	Incorrect – Discussing political issues at work will have no direct impact on the lawmaking process even though this activity may allow individuals to express political viewpoints.
C	collecting opinions for a yearbook	Incorrect – Collecting opinions for a yearbook will have no direct impact on the lawmaking process even though this activity will expose an individual to a variety of viewpoints.
D	gathering signatures for a petition	Correct – This activity will allow individuals to directly influence the lawmaking process by gathering signatures to make a written request to the government showing that many citizens support or discourage specific government actions.



SS.7.C.2.10 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The table below describes ratings for news organizations.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3"><i>Believability ratings of news organizations</i></th> </tr> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% Reliable</th> <th>% Not Reliable</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>56</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>62</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>64</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>61</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>63</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002</td> <td>70</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Adapted from Pew Research Center poll conducted July 19-22, 2012.</p> <p>According to the table, what impact has media had on government?</p>	<i>Believability ratings of news organizations</i>			Year	% Reliable	% Not Reliable	2012	56	44	2010	62	38	2008	64	36	2006	61	39	2004	63	37	2002	70	30	<p>Read through the chart, looking for trends (an increase or decrease, over time, of the percentage of the public that believes that the news is a reliable source of information).</p> <p>Predict how a decrease in people’s trust in the media could affect government actions. The correct answer should identify the most likely government response to a decline in public trust of news media organizations.</p>
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A	Government is less likely to regulate the press.	Incorrect – The First Amendment guarantees freedom of the press, so the government is already unlikely to reduce regulations of news organizations. There is no information in the table that supports this action.																								
B	Government is more likely to regulate the press.	Incorrect – The First Amendment guarantees freedom of the press, so it is unlikely that the government would increase regulations of the press. There is no information in the table that supports this action.																								
C	Government is less likely to respond to public concerns.	<p>Correct – The media links citizens to the government by monitoring government officials, bringing their actions to the public’s attention and communicating the public’s concerns to government officials. News media reports can influence public opinion and voting choices. Elected officials want constituents to vote for them, so they will address negative media reports by responding to concerns that may hurt those officials during elections.</p> <p>If the public does not trust the news, however, then the media is unlikely to influence citizens’ voting choices. If the media does not influence elections, government officials are less likely to respond to the public’s concerns in order to prevent bad press.</p>																								
D	Government is more likely to respond to public concerns.	Incorrect – The government will not be more likely to respond to citizens’ concerns if the public does not trust news reporting agencies which inform the public about government. Government officials would have no reason to avoid negative reports on their actions if the public does not trust news reporting.																								

