AP Practice Free Response

Remember, to try this on your own before you check your answers. Bring to class on Monday.

1. Interest groups seek to influence political processes in ways that benefit their members. In doing so, however, they may not act in the overall public interest.

(a) Describe two techniques interest groups use to influence elections.

(b) Explain how interest groups use each of the following to influence government decision making.

• Issue networks (also known as iron triangles)

• Amicus curiae briefs

(c) Explain how each of the following serves to limit interest group influence.

• The media

• Pluralism

2. In the United States Congress, the majority party exerts a substantial influence over lawmaking. However, even when one party has a numerical majority in each chamber of the United States Congress, there is no guarantee that legislation supported by that majority party will be passed by both chambers. Rules of each chamber independently influence the likelihood that legislation will pass in that chamber; legislation passed by one chamber is not always passed by the other.

(a) Describe two advantages the majority party in the United States House of Representatives has in lawmaking, above and beyond the numerical advantage that that majority party enjoys in floor voting.

(b) Describe two differences between House and Senate rules that may make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not in the other.

(c) Explain how the differences identified in (b) can lead to the passage of a bill in one chamber but not in the other.