

**AP United States Government
Chapter 8 Study Guide – Political Parties**

Name: _____

Key Terms: On index cards, define the following terms.

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Factions | 9. Patronage | 17. Winner-take-all system |
| 2. Political party | 10. Party-in-government | 18. Third parties |
| 3. Party-in-the-electorate | 11. Divided government | 19. Realignment |
| 4. Party organization | 12. Ticket splitting | 20. Dealignment |
| 5. National convention | 13. Party polarization | 21. Party identification |
| 6. Party platform | 14. Safe seats | 22. Straight-ticket voting |
| 7. National committee | 15. Two-party system | 23. Swing voters |
| 8. State central committee | 16. Plurality | 24. Tipping |

Questions: Complete the following as you read chapter 8 in your textbook.

1. Read the *What If?* section on page 265. Do you think nominating conventions still perform a useful function?

2. What are political parties, and why were our founders wary of them?

3. What are the differences between political parties and interest groups?

4. Describe the following functions of political parties.
 - a. Recruiting candidates:

 - b. Organizing elections:

 - c. Presenting policies to voters:

 - d. Operating the government:

 - e. Acting as opposition:

5. How do parties function within the electorate?

6. How do parties function as organizations?

7. What is the purpose of creating a party platform?

8. Describe the role of the national committee.

9. How do state and local parties relate to national parties?

10. How do parties function in government?

11. Why is party unity not always guaranteed in government?

12. What demographic groups are typically Democrats and Republicans?

13. How do Democrats and Republicans differ on public policies?

14. Explain the following reasons for the endurance of our two-party system.
 - a. Historical foundations:

 - b. Political socialization:

 - c. Winner-take-all system:

 - d. State and federal laws:

15. What are "third parties"?

16. What types of third parties exist in America?

17. What is the role of third parties in American politics?

18. Describe the concepts of voter realignment and realigning elections.

19. What is the argument behind political dealignment?

20. What is the future of political parties in the United States?