

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

- |                           |                          |                                 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Party competition      | 10. Closed primaries     | 19. Party realignment           |
| 2. Political party        | 11. Open primaries       | 20. New Deal coalition          |
| 3. Linkage institutions   | 12. Blanket primaries    | 21. Party dealignment           |
| 4. Rational-choice theory | 13. National convention  | 22. Third parties               |
| 5. Party image            | 14. National committee   | 23. Winner-take-all system      |
| 6. Party identification   | 15. National chairperson | 24. Proportional representation |
| 7. Ticket splitting       | 16. Coalition            | 25. Coalition government        |
| 8. Party machines         | 17. Party eras           | 26. Responsible party model     |
| 9. Patronage              | 18. Critical election    |                                 |

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

1. Explain the three heads of the political party in the expression “a three-headed political giant.”
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  
2. What are the five tasks political parties should perform if they are to serve as effective linkage institutions?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  
3. Draw a graph or diagram depicting Anthony Downs’ rational-choice model of political parties.



9. List four elections that might be considered “critical” or “realigning.” Explain why.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

10. List the six presidents since 1968 and complete the following table on divided government.

President and party affiliation	Number of years with Republican Congress	Number of years with Democratic Congress

11. What are the three basic varieties of third parties?

- a.
- b.
- c.

12. What are two ways in which third parties can have an impact on American politics?

- a.
- b.

13. What is the most important consequence of two-party governance in the United States?

14. List the four conditions that advocates of the responsible party model believe the parties should meet.

a.

b.

c.

d.

15. How does the American party system affect the scope of government?

16. What is the key problem of the American political parties today?