Political Dictionary

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Practicing the Vocabulary

Using Words in Context: For each of the terms below, write a sentence that shows how it relates to this chapter.

1. Multiparty
2. Pluralistic society
3. Party in power
4. Minor party
5. Single-member district
6. Plurality
7. Bipartisan
8. Consensus
9. Multiparty
10. Two-party system

True/False: Determine whether each of the following statements is true or false. If it is true, write “true.” If it is false, rewrite the sentence to make it true.

11. A plurality is more than half the votes cast.
12. A ward is a unit into which cities are often divided for the election of city council members.
13. An ideological party arises over a particular issue or crisis and soon fades away.
14. Partisanship means membership in one of the major parties.

Reviewing Main Ideas

Section 1

15. What is the major function of a political party?
16. Which term better describes political parties in American politics: divisive or unifying? Why?
17. Cite two examples that show why American government may be described as government by party.

Section 2

18. In what two ways does the American electoral system tend to promote a two-party system?
19. How can the diversity of views represented in a multiparty system be seen as both a strength and a weakness?
20. How is the ideological consensus of the American electorate reflected in the membership of the major parties?

Section 3

21. (a) Which political party was the first to appear in the new United States? (b) Who was its leader and what type of government did it favor?
22. (a) How did the Republican Party begin? (b) How was its development unique in American politics?
23. What effect did the Great Depression have on American political parties?
24. What unusual feature characterizes the present era of American two-party history?

Section 4

25. Briefly describe the four types of minor parties.
26. Historically, what have been the most important roles of minor parties? Briefly explain one of these roles.

Section 5

27. Why is the party in power more cohesive than the opposition party?
28. Describe the role of the national chairperson.
29. List and explain four factors that have contributed to the present weakened state of the major parties.