

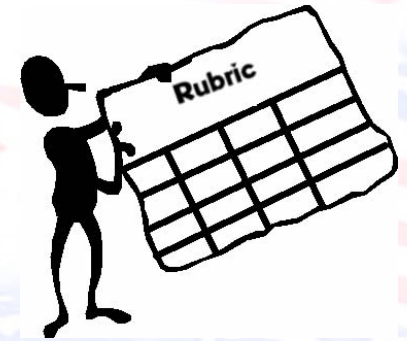
AP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Unit One Part 4

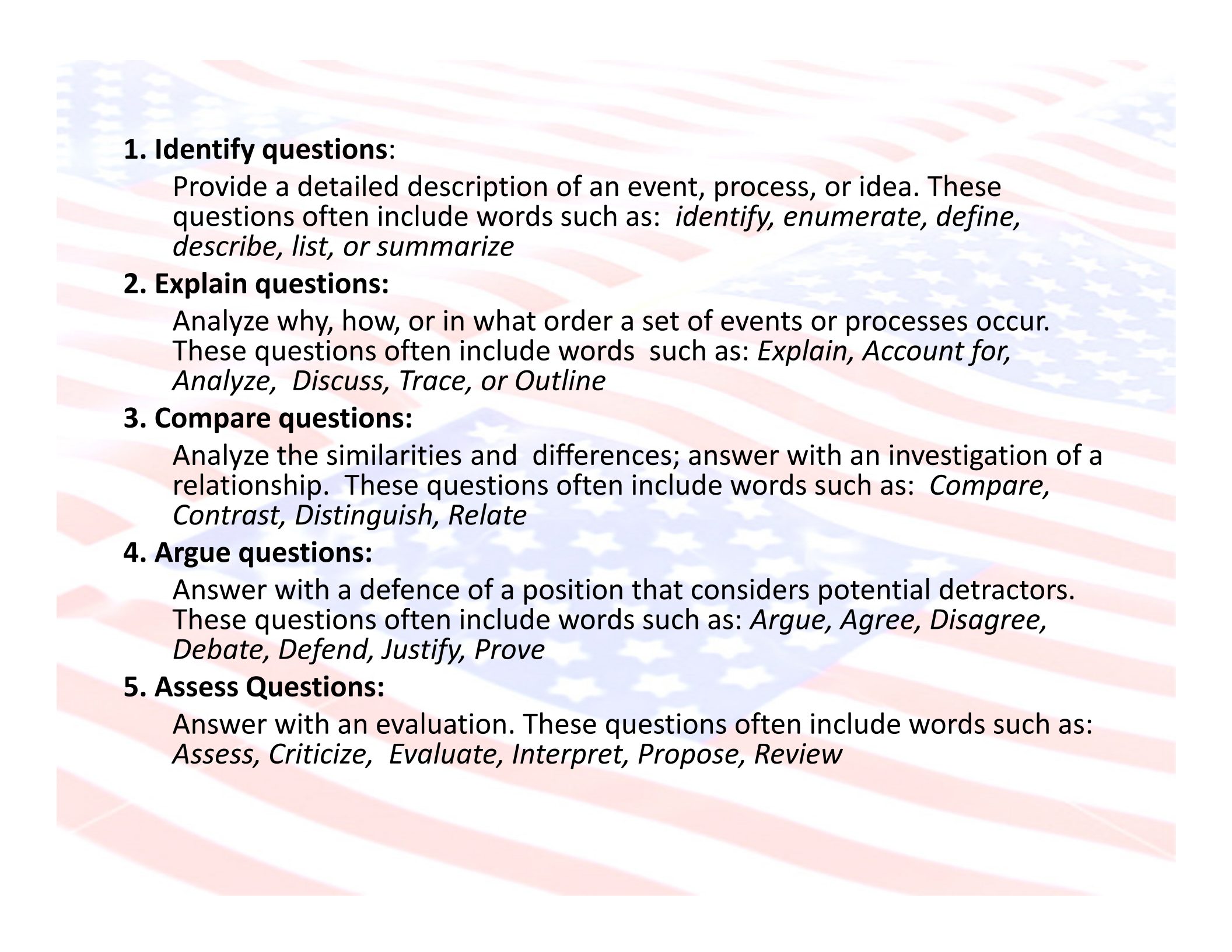
Reading for the Rubric



Reading for the Rubric



- READ the question!
- Build your own rubric:
 - Underline the key words such as ***define, describe, identify, or explain.***
 - *For example, a question which asks for two identifies, two explains, and two examples will very be scored on a 6 point basis.*
- Your answer must be CORRECT, COMPLETE and LINKED!
- Each subsection must be a separate paragraph in your essay.
 - A paragraph may be as short as one sentence.
- Label each paragraph that with the appropriate letter heading.
- Stay on task; link your answer back to the directive/descriptor as you write.
- Check off the underlined key words in your exam booklet as you address each issue
- Completely ANSWER the actual question that is asked. Do NOT ramble or randomly cite facts.



1. Identify questions:

Provide a detailed description of an event, process, or idea. These questions often include words such as: *identify, enumerate, define, describe, list, or summarize*

2. Explain questions:

Analyze why, how, or in what order a set of events or processes occur. These questions often include words such as: *Explain, Account for, Analyze, Discuss, Trace, or Outline*

3. Compare questions:

Analyze the similarities and differences; answer with an investigation of a relationship. These questions often include words such as: *Compare, Contrast, Distinguish, Relate*

4. Argue questions:

Answer with a defence of a position that considers potential detractors. These questions often include words such as: *Argue, Agree, Disagree, Debate, Defend, Justify, Prove*

5. Assess Questions:

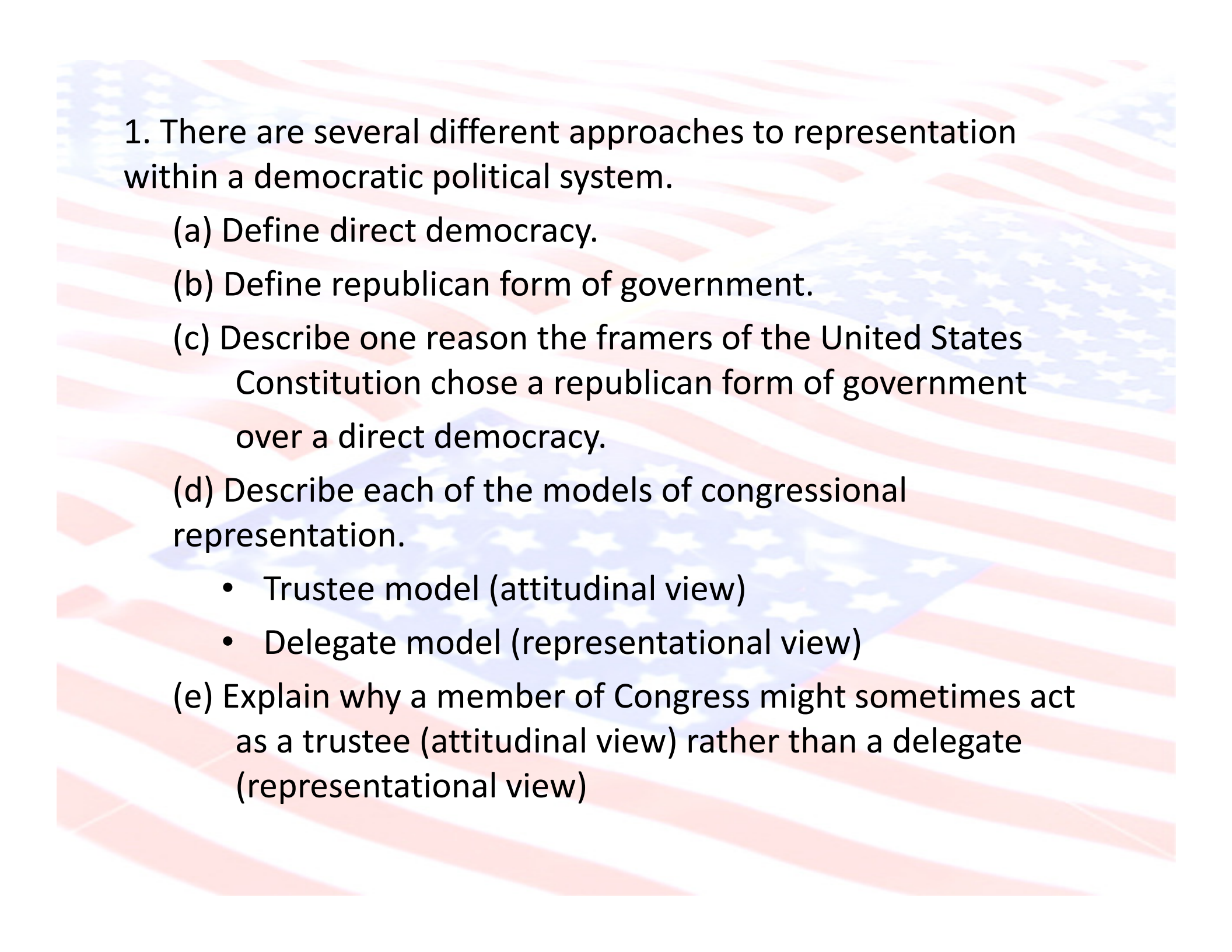
Answer with an evaluation. These questions often include words such as: *Assess, Criticize, Evaluate, Interpret, Propose, Review*

Free Response Question

FRQ

***Question which requires
outside information.***

FRQ



1. There are several different approaches to representation within a democratic political system.

(a) Define direct democracy.

(b) Define republican form of government.

(c) Describe one reason the framers of the United States Constitution chose a republican form of government over a direct democracy.

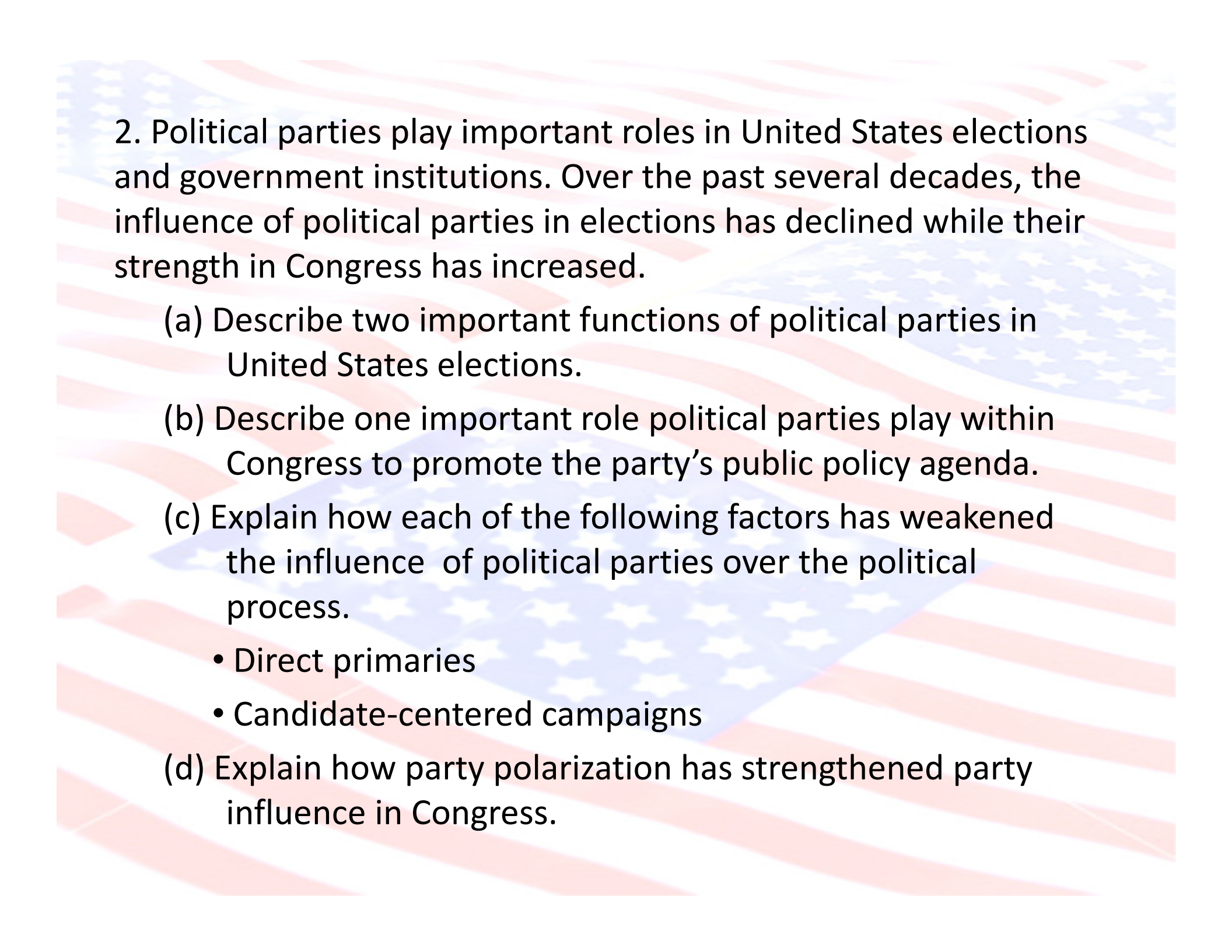
(d) Describe each of the models of congressional representation.

- Trustee model (attitudinal view)
- Delegate model (representational view)

(e) Explain why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate (representational view)

1. SIX POINT RUBRIC:

- (a) **Define** direct democracy.
- (b) **Define** republican form of government.
- (c) **Describe one** reason the framers of the United States Constitution chose a republican form of government over a direct democracy.
- (d) **Describe each** of the models of congressional representation.
 - Trustee model (attitudinal view)
 - Delegate model (representational view)
- (e) **Explain** why a member of Congress might sometimes act as a trustee (attitudinal view) rather than a delegate (representational view)

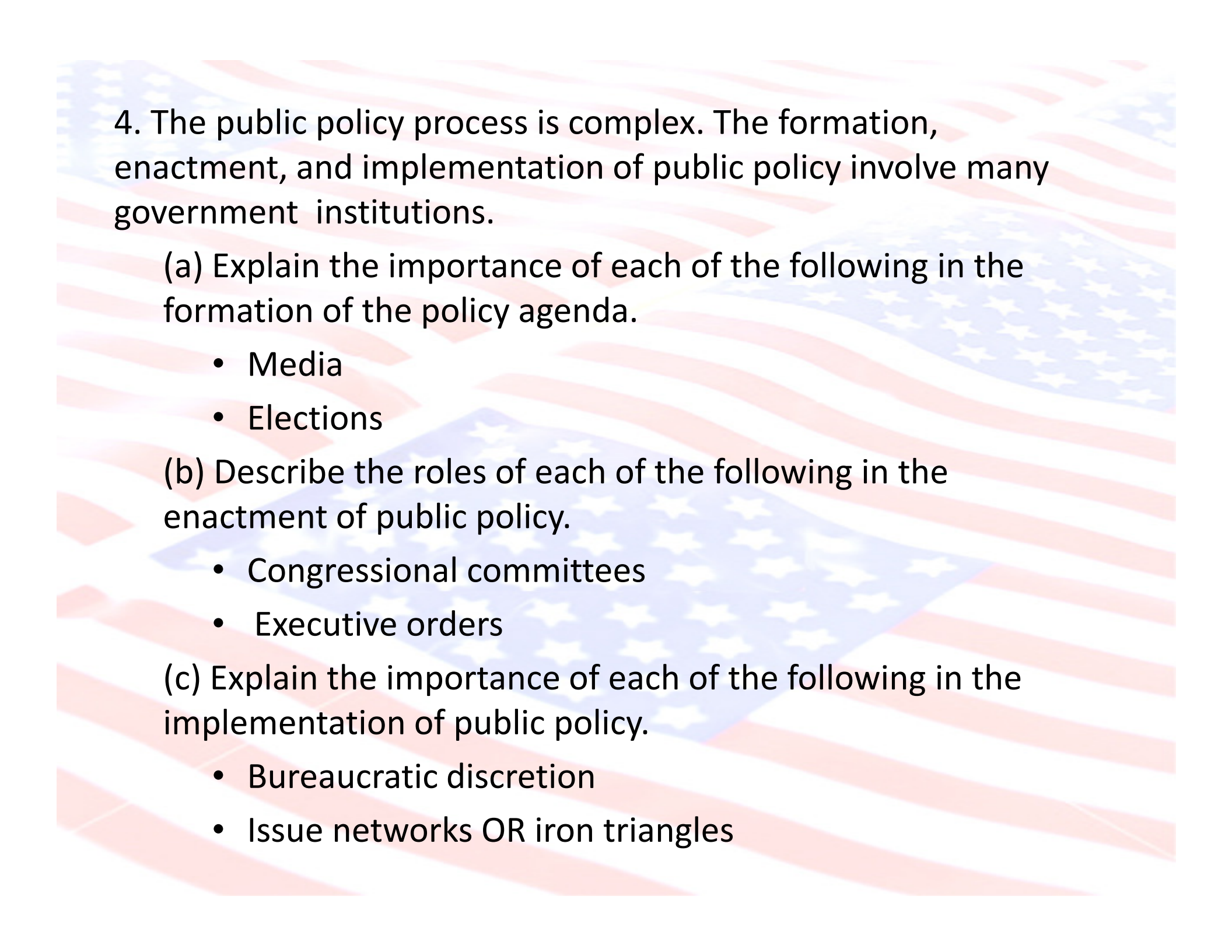
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2. Political parties play important roles in United States elections and government institutions. Over the past several decades, the influence of political parties in elections has declined while their strength in Congress has increased.

- (a) Describe two important functions of political parties in United States elections.
- (b) Describe one important role political parties play within Congress to promote the party's public policy agenda.
- (c) Explain how each of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process.
 - Direct primaries
 - Candidate-centered campaigns
- (d) Explain how party polarization has strengthened party influence in Congress.

2. SIX POINT RUBRIC:

- (a) **Describe two** important functions of political parties in United States elections.
- (b) **Describe one** important role political parties play within Congress to promote the party's public policy agenda.
- (c) **Explain** how **each** of the following factors has weakened the influence of political parties over the political process.
 - Direct primaries
 - Candidate-centered campaigns
- (d) **Explain** how party polarization has strengthened party influence in Congress.



4. The public policy process is complex. The formation, enactment, and implementation of public policy involve many government institutions.

(a) Explain the importance of each of the following in the formation of the policy agenda.

- Media
- Elections

(b) Describe the roles of each of the following in the enactment of public policy.

- Congressional committees
- Executive orders

(c) Explain the importance of each of the following in the implementation of public policy.

- Bureaucratic discretion
- Issue networks OR iron triangles

4. SIX POINT RUBRIC:

(a) **Explain** the importance of **each** of the following in the formation of the policy agenda.

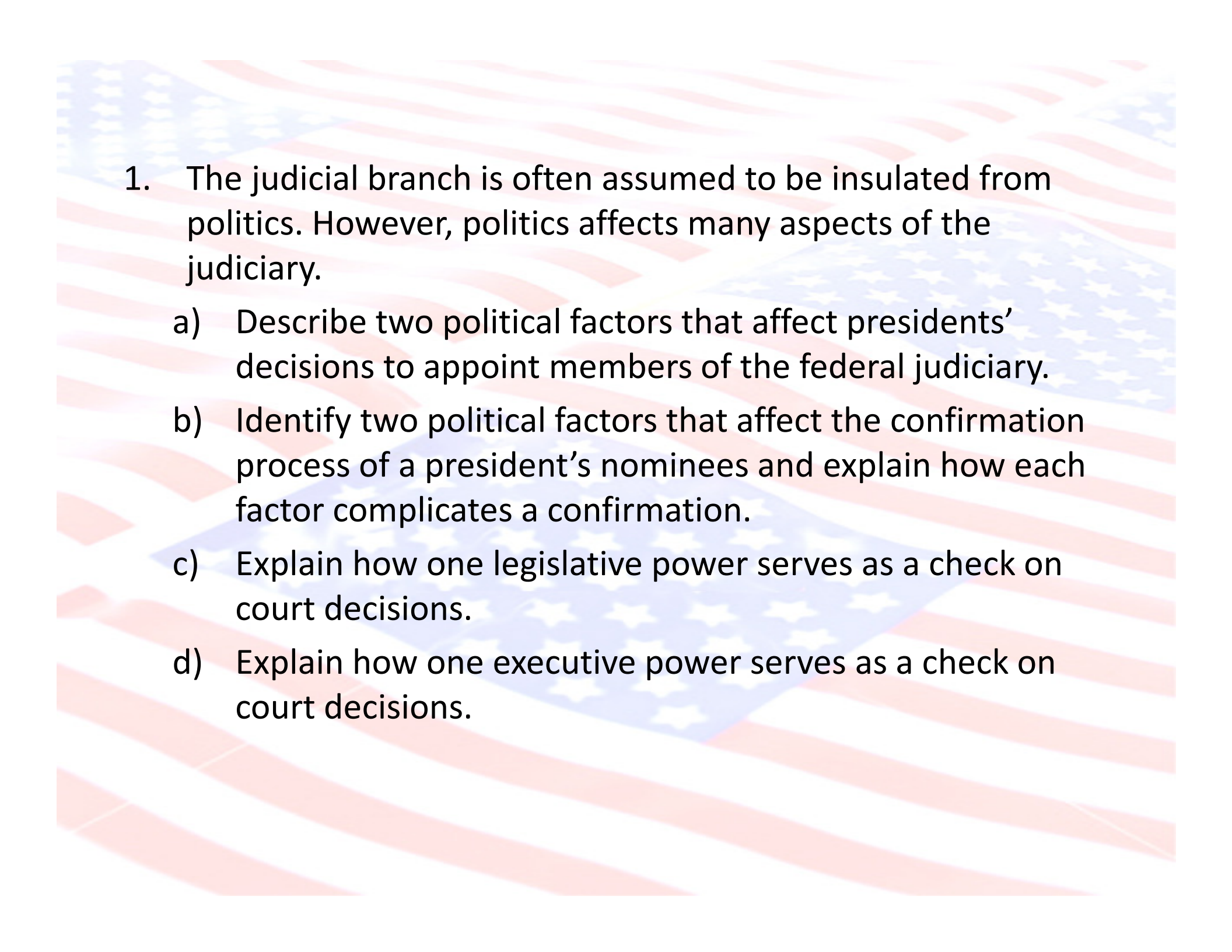
- Media
- Elections

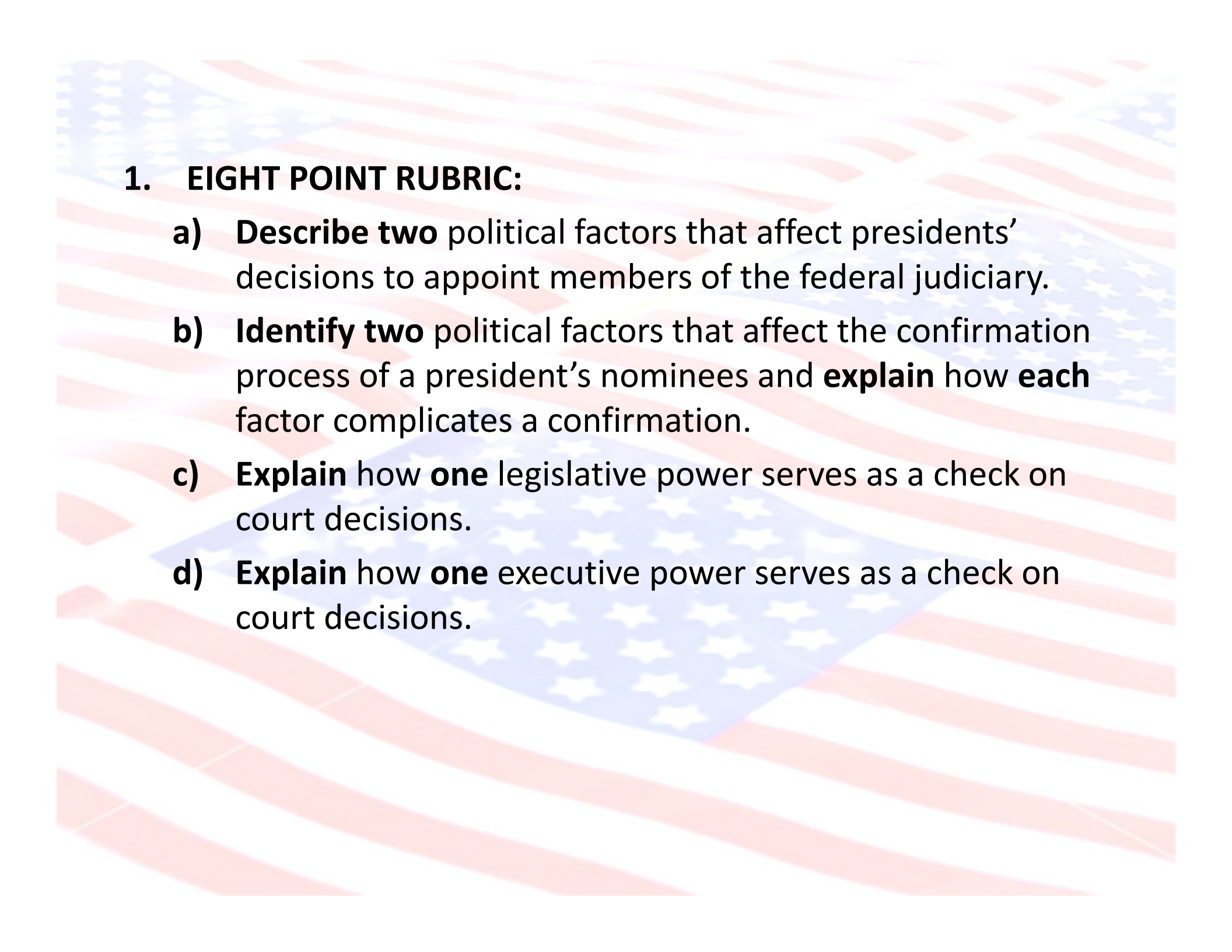
(b) **Describe** the roles of **each** of the following in the enactment of public policy.

- Congressional committees
- Executive orders

(c) **Explain** the importance of **each** of the following in the implementation of public policy.

- Bureaucratic discretion
- Issue networks OR iron triangles

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- The background of the slide is a faded, stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars.
1. The judicial branch is often assumed to be insulated from politics. However, politics affects many aspects of the judiciary.
 - a) Describe two political factors that affect presidents' decisions to appoint members of the federal judiciary.
 - b) Identify two political factors that affect the confirmation process of a president's nominees and explain how each factor complicates a confirmation.
 - c) Explain how one legislative power serves as a check on court decisions.
 - d) Explain how one executive power serves as a check on court decisions.

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1. EIGHT POINT RUBRIC:

- a) **Describe two** political factors that affect presidents' decisions to appoint members of the federal judiciary.
- b) **Identify two** political factors that affect the confirmation process of a president's nominees and **explain** how **each** factor complicates a confirmation.
- c) **Explain** how **one** legislative power serves as a check on court decisions.
- d) **Explain** how **one** executive power serves as a check on court decisions.

Document/Data Based Question DBQ

***Question which requires you to
analyze given data.***

