POL.USC16-10min US Voting Behaviour and the Participation Crisis: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be concise. For levels-marked questions write full sentences and structured paragraphs. Time guidance: 75 minutes total; allow approximately 35 minutes for the two extended levels questions together and the remainder for short items and reading the source.

1 State one characteristic of Hispanic/Latino voting patterns in recent US presidential elections, as observed in the 2016 to 2024 period.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Explain two reasons why younger voters in the United States tend to have lower turnout than older voters in many midterm elections.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Explain two ways in which felony disenfranchisement laws vary between US states and how that variation affects aggregate national turnout and group representation.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 State two long-term partisan realignment trends in the United States since the 1960s affecting the vote by region or demographic.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Explain two ways religion influences voting behaviour in US presidential elections, naming an example denomination or movement where appropriate.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · POL.USC16-10min US Voting Behaviour and the Participation Crisis: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one accurate statement, e.g. Hispanic voters are not monolithic and show variation by region and country of origin — **B1**

Answer: Hispanic/Latino voters are not monolithic and show substantial variation by region and national origin, with differences in party support between, for example, Cuban Americans in Florida and Mexican Americans in the Southwest.

Question 2

one valid reason explained, e.g. lower political mobilisation and weaker ties to party organisations among younger people — **B1**

a second valid reason explained, e.g. registration barriers and frequent residential moves reducing the likelihood of being registered where they live — **B1**

Answer: Younger voters often have weaker ties to party organisations and lower political mobilisation, and they move residence more frequently and face greater barriers under registration systems that require advance registration, both factors reducing turnout in midterms.

Question 3

identifies one variation, e.g. some states permanently disenfranchise felons while others restore rights on release or after sentence completion — **B1**

explains the effect of that variation on turnout, e.g. permanent disenfranchisement reduces eligible voter numbers in some states, lowering turnout rates and excluding disproportionately affected demographic groups — **B1**

identifies a second variation, e.g. some states require a waiting period or application to restore rights whereas others restore automatically on completion of sentence, parole and probation — **B1**

explains the effect of the second variation, e.g. cumbersome restoration reduces participation among formerly incarcerated people and can depress turnout in communities with high incarceration rates — **B1**

Answer: Some states permanently disenfranchise felons, while others restore voting rights automatically on release or after completion of sentence; permanent disenfranchisement lowers the pool of eligible voters in some states and disproportionately excludes groups such as young Black men, reducing measured turnout and representation. Other states require an application or waiting period to restore rights, and these administrative hurdles and uncertainty suppress participation among formerly incarcerated people and in communities with high incarceration rates.

Question 4

one accurate trend, e.g. the South's shift from Democratic to Republican dominance over several decades — **B1**

a second accurate trend, e.g. increasing Democratic strength in urban areas and Republican strength in rural areas — **B1**

Answer: The Southern states shifted from Democratic to Republican dominance from the 1960s to the 1990s, and there has been an increasing urban-rural split with Democrats stronger in large cities and Republicans stronger in rural and some suburban areas.

Question 5

one valid explanation, e.g. evangelical Protestants tend to vote Republican due to conservative positions on social issues — **B1**

a second valid explanation, e.g. Jewish voters have tended to favour Democrats due to historic positions on social welfare and civil rights — **B1**

Answer: Evangelical Protestants often support Republican candidates because of conservative positions on social issues such as abortion and religious liberty, while many Jewish voters have tended to favour Democratic candidates, reflecting historic alignments on social welfare, civil rights and foreign policy concerns.

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