

5.5 Third-Party Politics

Explain how structural barriers impact third party and independent candidate success.

1. Which of the following best describes the political party system in the United States?
 - a. Dominant party system
 - b. Multi-party system
 - c. Two-party system
 - d. Three-party system

2. Plurality elections go a long way to explain our political party system. What is true of plurality elections?
 - a. Most votes win
 - b. Majority wins
 - c. Run-off elections are required
 - d. You must win twice

3. Which of the following provides an important role played by third parties in American politics?
 - a. Third parties champion new issues
 - b. Third parties champion rising new candidates
 - c. Third parties unite the other two parties
 - d. Third parties distract voters from the real issues

4. All of the following help explain why the United States maintains a two-party political system EXCEPT
 - a. Rigid ideological policy commitments
 - b. Plurality elections
 - c. Winner-take-all rules
 - d. Single-member districts

5. Most of our elections in the United States follow plurality rules. Plurality elections mean
 - a. The most votes win
 - b. Only two political parties can be on the ballot
 - c. At least two names must be on the ballot
 - d. You must receive a majority of the votes to win

6. On occasion third parties gain attention by championing an issue that garners wide support. What typically is the outcome when this happens?
 - a. A new competitive party replaces one of the older parties
 - b. The third party fights for the right to champion that issue in court
 - c. The media chooses to stop covering the issue
 - d. One of the two major parties adopts the issue

7. Our two-party system can be explained by all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Plurality elections
- b. Winner-take-all rules
- c. Parties as broad based coalitions
- d. Lack of third parties

8. According to French sociologist and political scientist Maurice Duverger structural barriers impact political processes. Which of the following best summarizes Duverger's Law?

- a. Winner-take-all rules tend to favor liberal candidates
- b. Single member districts tend to support two party systems
- c. Plurality elections tend to recruit extreme third party candidates
- d. Thirds party candidates do better if they were once elected by a major party

9. Parliamentary governments typically use proportional rules when determining election outcomes. Which of the following best describes the political party system in most parliamentary governments?

- a. Dominant party system
- b. Multi-party system
- c. Two-party system
- d. Three-party system

10. Single member districts characterize what is at stake in most American elections. A simple explanation of single member districts would be

- a. Winner-take-all outcomes
- b. Incumbency dominates
- c. Constituent service determines outcomes
- d. Party labels no longer assist voters