

5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt
Explain why and how political parties change and adapt.

1. Political scientists agree that primary elections have weakened political parties. This is because primary elections

- a. Only happen every four years
- b. Do not allow party labels to appear on state and local ballots
- c. Bypass party filters and let people vote directly on candidates
- d. Do not allow for any campaigning prior to the election

2. Political scientists agree that information technology has weakened political parties. This is because information technology

- a. Has enabled candidate-centered campaigns
- b. Has made campaigns significantly more expensive
- c. Has considerably increased voter turnout
- d. Has increased trust and faith in the political process, but not political parties

3. Voters in the South tend to be solid supporters of the

- a. Democratic Party
- b. Republican Party
- c. Minor Parties
- d. Voters in the South show no consistent preference

4. This term is used when a local party leader builds loyalty and devotion by passing out perks and privileges. As our political process has grown more and more democratic and as our political parties have grown weaker and weaker we see these less and less.

- a. Party machine
- b. Party platform
- c. Party plank
- d. Party caucus

5. Laws have been passed in attempt to reform big money in politics. It is much more difficult to give large amounts of money to campaigns. Which of the following was an unintended consequence of this reform measure?

- a. Political parties grew weaker
- b. PACs too were banned
- c. Fewer elections were held
- d. Less ideological candidates

6. More and more voting Americans consider themselves

- a. Democrats
- b. Republicans
- c. Independents
- d. Libertarians

7. All of the following have been shown to weaken today's political parties EXCEPT

- a. Candidate centered campaigns
- b. Information technology
- c. Campaign finance laws
- d. Partisan identification has increased

8. Before any candidate can win an election they first must win their political party's nomination. Today that is done primarily through

- a. Winning the spoils system
- b. Winning at the party conventions
- c. Winning party caucuses
- d. Winning primary elections

9. The Democratic and Republican parties are decentralized. Which of the following provides an example?

- a. The two political parties hold to rigid platforms
- b. The leader of the two respective political parties controls all decisions
- c. Leadership and issues can vary from state to state
- d. Democrats in some states align with Republicans in other states

10. What is the current state of political parties in American political life?

- a. Stronger
- b. Weaker
- c. Splintering
- d. Irrelevant