

## CHAPTER

## 5

## PREREADING AND VOCABULARY

## Political Parties

2

## A. Using Context Clues

**Directions:** Context clues are words or phrases that help you understand the meaning of an unfamiliar word. Look at the following sentences. Underline the context clues that help you identify the meaning of the bold word. Then, in the space provided, define each bold term in your own words.

1. The **conservative** politician argued that the state should cut back on expensive government programs.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Most of the **electorate** came to vote in the close election.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. All voters in the **precinct** voted at the polling place set up in Marcia's elementary school.

\_\_\_\_\_

## B. Fill-in-the-Blank

**Directions:** Circle the correct word in the parentheses to complete each sentence. If necessary, use the dictionary to look up definitions.

4. For voting purposes, cities are divided into areas called \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ on the electoral map.  
(wards / caucuses)

5. Republicans and Democrats often work together in a \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ way. (conservative / bipartisan)

6. During the convention, the party will \_\_\_\_\_  
a candidate for President. (resign / nominate)

7. \_\_\_\_\_ are less concerned about government  
control than conservatives. (Liberals / Incumbents)

8. Presidents almost never \_\_\_\_\_, or leave  
office. (nominate / resign)

**CHAPTER**  
**5****CHAPTER OUTLINE****Political Parties****2**

**Directions:** Fill in the outline below. Filling in the blanks will help you as you read and study Chapter 5.

**I. Section 1: Parties and What They Do****A. The Major Parties**

1. The two major political parties are the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Both parties are made up of three different groups: the party \_\_\_\_\_, the party in \_\_\_\_\_, and the party in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Duties of Political Parties**

1. The most important duty of a political party is to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for public office.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a set of policies and promises by a political party. It states what the candidate will do if elected.

**C. Reasons for the Two-Party System**

1. The struggle for the ratification of the Constitution led to the formation of two \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ districts have also encouraged a two-party system.

**D. Other Party Systems**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ systems often lead to the formation of coalitions in order to create a majority.
2. One-party systems are usually \_\_\_\_\_.

**CHAPTER OUTLINE (continued)**

**Political Parties**

**2**

**II. Section 2: The Two-Party System in American History**

**A. Early Political Parties**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ supported George Washington and favored a strong central government.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Party was begun by Andrew Jackson.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ came to power in 1854 when several groups combined.

**B. Four Eras of American Political Parties**

1. Control of government alternated between the Democrats and Republicans from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The period from 1968 to the present has been marked by \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Section 3: The Minor Parties**

**A. Types of Minor Parties**

1. Minor parties called \_\_\_\_\_ parties are organized around a certain set of beliefs.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ parties focus on only one main issue.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ parties are minor parties that break away from a major party.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes appear when the economy is doing poorly.

**B. The Importance of Minor Parties**

1. Minor parties can \_\_\_\_\_ the outcome of elections by \_\_\_\_\_ from one of the major parties. Minor parties can also raise awareness of important issues.
2. Minor parties are plagued by a lack of \_\_\_\_\_.

**CHAPTER OUTLINE (continued)**

**Political Parties**

**2**

**IV. Section 4: Party Organization**

**A. Structure**

\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ process are two major reasons for the lack of organization in the major parties.

**B. Organization at the National Level**

1. Each party has a national \_\_\_\_\_ that meets in the summer of presidential election years.
2. Each party has a \_\_\_\_\_ who leads the national committee and runs the presidential campaign.

**C. State and Local Organization**

1. The members of a state central committee are chosen through a primary \_\_\_\_\_. They can also be chosen through local \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Cities are divided into \_\_\_\_\_ on the electoral map of a state.

**CHAPTER**
**5**
**SECTION 1**
**READING COMPREHENSION**
**Parties and What They Do**
**3**

1. The textbook identifies four factors in creating the stability of the two-party system in our society: (1) historical basis, (2) tradition, (3) the electoral system, and (4) ideological consensus in American society. In the chart below, describe how each factor helps to preserve our two-party system. Then rank each factor, with (A) being the factor you think is most responsible for the stability of the two-party system and (D) being least responsible.

Factor	Description	Ranking
Historical basis		
Tradition		
Electoral system		
Ideological consensus		

2. Complete the table below to identify policies supported by each major party.

	Democrats	Republicans
Policies supported		

**CHAPTER**  
**5**  
**SECTION 1****READING COMPREHENSION****Parties and What They Do****2**

**Directions:** Write your answer to each question. Use complete sentences.

1. What are five duties of political parties?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

2. In the table below, write a description of each party system.  
Provide an example of each system in the example column.

Party System	Description	Example
One-party system		
Two-party system		
Multiparty system		

3. Circle the name of the party system you support. Explain the reason why on the lines below the table.

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER

## 5

## SECTION 1

## CORE WORKSHEET

## Parties and What They Do

3

## Party Functions

Identify the party function described by each action in the chart.

Action	Party Function
1. After six years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, Republican John Sununu agreed to a request from the national party to run for Senate in the next election.	
2. John McCain won the New York Republican primary in the winter of 2008.	
3. The Republican Party revises its Web site regularly.	
4. When the Democrats win control of the House of Representatives from the Republicans, the Democrat who had served the longest on the Armed Services Committee became chair of the committee.	
5. When the Democrats controlled the House of Representatives, the ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee objected to a line item in the defense budget.	
6. When a senator was caught in a scandal, leaders of the senator's party pressured him to resign.	
7. Jimmy Carter made the acceptance speech before the Democratic National Convention in 1980.	
8. The Democratic Party ordered 1 million bumper stickers before a presidential election.	
9. When George W. Bush was elected President, he appointed members of his political party to his Cabinet.	
10. After World War I, Senate Republicans led the opposition to the Versailles Treaty, negotiated by Democratic President Woodrow Wilson.	

## CHAPTER

## 5

## SECTION 1

## CORE WORKSHEET

## Parties and What They Do

2

## Party Functions

Read below about an action taken by a political party member. Then write the party function being performed. Choose from this list: (1) nominating candidates; (2) informing and activating supporters; (3) bonding agent; (4) watchdog; (5) governing.

Action	Party Function
1. Republican John Sununu served in the House of Representatives and had a distinguished career. The national party asked him to run for the Senate. Sununu agreed.	
2. John McCain won the New York Republican primary in the winter of 2008.	
3. The Republican Party revises its Web site regularly.	
4. The Democrats won control of the House of Representatives. This meant a Democrat would become chairperson of the Armed Services Committee. That job goes to the person who has served longest on the committee.	
5. The Armed Services Committee reviewed the defense budget. The ranking Republican on the committee did not like one budget item. At that time, the Democrats controlled the House of Representatives.	
6. A senator was caught in a scandal. So leaders of the senator's party pressured him to resign.	
7. Jimmy Carter made his acceptance speech. It was before the Democratic National Convention in 1980.	
8. The Democratic Party ordered 1 million bumper stickers printed for a presidential election.	
9. When George W. Bush was elected President, he appointed members of his party to his Cabinet.	
10. After World War I, Democratic President Wilson negotiated the Versailles Treaty. Senate Republicans did not like the treaty and opposed it.	