Democracy and Participation

1. What is an invisible primary? Period before the primaries where the ‘field is whittled down based on opinion polls and funding. TV debates are staged with each candidate needing to reach polling and funding criteria to particpate
2. Give two strengths of invisible primaries. The election campaign is long. Stamina is required. IPs require this, allows ‘unkown candidates to begin to get name recognition
3. Give two weaknesses of invisible primaries. Too long means only wealthy well connected can run, voter apathy, lack of serious debate
4. How are candidates ‘eliminated’ in the invisible primary. Opinion polls and funding
5. Name five Republican candidates who took part in invisible primary debates. Christie, De Santis, Haley, Pence, Ramaswamy
6. What is the difference between a primary and a caucus? Caucus is an actual meeting to discuss candidates, primary just a vote
7. What types of primary are there? Open Closed, modified
8. What is the difference between pledged delegates and super delegates at a national convention? Pledged have to vote the way the state did, super do not
9. Who decides the number of delegates for each state. The party
10. How are delegates usually awarded to each candidate in a primary. Based on vote percentage
11. Give two strengths of primaries/Caucuses – voter choice, federalism
12. Give two weaknesses of primaries/Caucuses voter apathy and undemocratic because two few people vote ( esp in closed primaries)
13. What does the nominee choose at a national convention Vice President
14. Give three significances of party conventions? Publicise the candidate, set the narrative, unite the party after divisive primaries
15. Give three reasons why they are no longer significant Most crucial decisions taken prior to the convention, reduced TV coverage
16. Why do wasted votes occur in presidential and congressional elections. Winner takes all - FPTP
17. What is a /misfire election’ When loser of national vote wins election
18. Give three weaknesses of the Electoral College system. Over representation of small states, misfire elections, unfair to third parties
19. Give three strengths of the electoral college system Preserves voice of small states, reflects federalism, alternatives no better
20. Why were there 10 faithless electors in 2016. Vopted Clinton because anger that Trump won when she polled 3 m votes more
21. How many faithless electors have there been since the very first presidential election. 100
22. What is the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. An agreement between a number of states to give all EC votes to winner of popular vote. Needs 270 to be adopted only has 190
23. What is hard money Money donated directly to candidates
24. What is soft money. Money raised and spent indirectly
25. Why was the BiPartisan Campaign Reform Act declared unconstitutional. First amendment rights given to corporations
26. How much did the 2020 presidential congressional and state elections cost
27. What is an attack advert. Advert attacking opposing candidate
28. Give three reasons why campaign finance should be reformed. Only wealthy candidates can compete – like a political auction, Influence of corporations compared to voters
29. Give three reasons why it should not. Freedom of speech, Super Pacs promote competition often supporting non incumbents to mitigate against the funding power of the incumbent, increased spending improves knowledge of voters
30. What types of interest group exist in the USA, Professional, single issue, policy
31. Give two examples of each one American Medical association, American Bar Association, NRA, Emily’s list, Environment America, ACLU
32. What are the four functions of US interest groups
33. What is meant by the phrase electioneering and endorsement. When Super Pacs spend money on trying to get candidates elected
34. What is programme monitoring. Holding politicians to account on delivery of programme
35. Why is the influence of Big Pharma and Banking more of a concern that the NRA or Emily’s List . They do not really represent any group
36. What are Voting Cards? Records kept by interest groups on the way representatives vote
37. What is the strength of Voting cards? Accountability, Informing electorate
38. What are the three factions in the Democrat Party. Progressive, moderates, Conservatives
39. Give members of each and their relevant caucus P 100 Congressional Progressive Caucus - Squad , 100 ish New Democrat Coalition Caucus Biden Obama, 26 Blue Dog Democrats Manchin Sinema
40. What are the three factions in the Republican Party. Social Conservatives, Fiscal Conservatives, Moderates
41. Give the names of members of each and their relevant caucus. SC Republican Study Committee 150 Freedom Caucus – Pence Cruz, FC Freedom Caucus MTG Gaetz 35-40, M Tuesday Group, Romney Collins
42. Which group dominates the Republican Party Social Conservatives
43. Who are the Never Trumpers? Cheney Romney
44. Give examples of Trump’s foreign policy causing anger from some Republicans – North Korea, Criticsing NATO bought condemnation from Lidsey Graham
45. Give four examples of people who tend to vote Democrat? Black Americans, Hispanics, College educated, women
46. Give four examples of people who tend to vote Republican? Men , evnagelicals, non college educated cubans