

Edwards 17 Chapter 8 Assignment

1. What does it mean that we have a period of political polarization?
2. How does polarization lead to an unwillingness to compromise?
3. If parties can't find common ground how does this affect the people who don't support the party in power (if it holds the House, Senate, and White House)?
4. What is the primary goal of a political party?
5. Define political party.
6. When former Democrat Donald Trump decided to run as a Republican for president why couldn't the Republican party decline to accept him?
7. How are political parties organized like a business?
8. What does it mean that elections, political parties, interest groups and the media are linkage institutions?
9. How do primary elections empower the people to decide the candidates who will represent the parties in the general election?
10. What five roles do political parties play in our system?
11. How has the rise of mass media made candidates less reliant on parties for help running their campaigns?
12. How do the labels Democrat and Republican give context clues to people about a candidate's way of thinking generally?
13. How does a political platform signal what the parties stand for?
14. How do members of a party sticking together make it so they have a chance to enact their policy goals?
15. Why does it pay off in elections for parties to stick to the moderation in their policy goals?
16. In order to win parties must stay to the center, but differentiate themselves from their opponents. Explain.
17. If Democrats and Republicans are fairly close in number of supporters, how does Figure 8.1 show that winners do a better job with independent voters?
18. How does Figure 8.1 show that Republicans are more likely to resist compromises than Democrats?
19. If registered members of the party do the selection during primary elections where must a candidate find support for office? Use Figure 8.1.
20. How does this compare to where the average voter and independent is?
21. How does this support the idea that many people often find their candidate choices in November uninspiring?
22. How is party image different from party identification?
23. Identify and explain two trends in Figure 8.2.
24. What are the consequences of these two trends?
25. Which party's losses have done more to fuel the rise in the number of people calling themselves independent?
26. Why have "independents" shunned the Democrats and Republicans?
27. What is ticket splitting?
28. How can ticket splitting result in divided government?
29. How would divided government be more likely to result in compromise?
30. How are political parties decentralized and fragmented?
31. Why is a patronage system of job distribution bad for the public?
32. How can the work of local party units be considered where the real work of the party takes place?
33. Compare and contrast open and closed primary.
34. Why should a Republican primary be closed so that only Republican voters can choose the Republican candidate for office?
35. Imagine its 2020, Donald Trump is running unopposed for the Republican nomination, how will

- Republican voters be free to play havoc on the Democrats in states that have open primaries?
36. How do closed primaries completely marginalize the 42% of voters identifying as independent?
 37. How does the exclusion of independent voters from closed primaries more likely to end up with ideological extremists winning?
 38. What is the function of the national convention?
 39. What does the national committee do between conventions?
 40. In what ways is the national chairperson, a fundraiser, candidate seeker, team manager, and just overall doer?
 41. How does the idea that parties represent coalitions of supporters help to explain how speaking with one voice might pose a problem?
 42. Republicans control the Presidency and the Senate necessary to placing a member on the Supreme Court. How will this likely disappoint Democrats when it comes to climate change, same-sex marriage, and abortion rights as Trump fills in the judicial bench?
 43. What is a party realignment?
 44. What was decided in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*?
 45. Who made up the New Deal coalition?
 46. How has Trump's capturing of blue collar workers, the loss of white southerners, and social issue Catholic voters, fractured the New Deal coalition?
 47. What has the New Deal, and Great Society meant for the range of governmental activities?
 48. Was Nixon's Southern strategy ultimately proven correct?
 49. What can the advantages of divided government mean to governing?
 50. What does dealignment mean for the political parties' future if they want to win?
 51. How does the winner-take-all system allow someone to win even if that candidate isn't supported by the majority of voters?
 52. How does getting nothing for second place make it hard for third parties to gain a foothold in the political system?
 53. How does a proportional system allow for a party to get its foot in the door and grow based on performance?
 54. How is the ability to represent your political district (say local Republicans with large number of immigrant workers on farms whose owners supported them) lost under the responsible party model?