

B1 Election Terminology**Answer Key for the Listening Comprehension.**

Listen to "Gerrymandering, explained" produced by the Washington Post online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGLRJ12uqmk.

Then answer the listening comprehension questions.

Put a check in the correct box or fill in the blank with the appropriate answer.

- 1** Each U.S. state has two representatives except for large states.
.....
 Each representative has been elected by the voters in his/her district.
.....
 Each representative has a district which is geographically the same size.
.....
- 2** In the example of a state with 50 citizens one can see that ...
 the authors of the constitution intended to have each state divided into grids for the districts.
.....
 Congressional districts can be drawn up so that the majority party is not represented.
.....
 the minority party can win the election by redrawing the congressional district lines.
.....
- 3** Gerrymandering is the process of re-drawing Congressional district lines in order to give one party the advantage over another.
- 4** Facts about Elbridge Gerry:
He lived: 1744 - 1814
His job: Governor of Massachusetts
Known for: redrew the districts in 1810 to weaken the other party
- 5** The "Mander" in "Gerrymandering" comes from a picture of a "dragon."
 True
.....
 False. It comes from the picture of a salamander that was printed in the Boston Centinel.
.....
- 6** The process of Gerrymandering is being criticized because :
 Representatives in Congress do not represent the population's political affiliation.
.....
 the President likes it and wants to divide the states up himself.
.....
 it is an old system that is unfair to the opposing party.
.....

B4 Political Parties in the United States

Key for the Comprehension Section

Put a check in the correct box or fill in the blank with the appropriate answer.
Provide a quotation from the text to support each correct statement:
The line number(s) plus the first three and the last three words of the quotation.

1 In the U.S. system of government one can say that ...

- most Americans would prefer a multiparty system of government.
- the smaller parties usually don't play a major role in the presidential race.
- there are only two parties for the voters to choose from.

line(s): 5–7  Some minor parties (...) during presidential elections

2 The founding fathers created the first two political parties in the U.S. even though they didn't like the battles political parties have.

True False

line(s): 15–17  Despite their negative (...) American political parties

3 Tick the correct statement.

- The Democratic Party was the first political party founded in the U.S.
- George Washington was the founder of the Democratic party.
- The Southern Democrats wanted to keep their slaves.

line(s): 38–39  Southern Democrats strongly supported slavery

4 What do people call the Republican Party? Correct: The Grand Old Party (GOP)

5 In the 19th century the Republicans ...

- had a lot of support from the Southern farmers.
- didn't win a presidential race for fifty years after the Civil War.
- were the ones who got rid of slavery.

line(s): 45–46  the Republicans succeeded (...) the United States territory

6 The Democratic Party started to represent the working class during the 20th century.

True False

line(s): 52–53  The Democrats started (...) workers and unions

7 Tick the correct answer.

- The Democrats are known for cutting government spending.
- The Republicans think the government should spend more money on programs for the poor.
- The Republicans usually agree that the government should not regulate society's problems.

line(s): 70–71  the Republicans tend (...) to national problems

B6 The Trump Administration and the Media**Answer Key****Task 1: Listening Comprehension: A Brief History of Fake News**

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words.

- 1 Towards the end of the 2016 U.S. Election Campaign BuzzFeed found out that young people in Macedonia were producing false stories for Facebook.
- 2 These teenagers created these fake stories because _____
they wanted the money for the advertisements.
- 3 As time went by, the term “fake news” became the heading for misinformation , conspiracy ,
theories , political spins and pranks .
- 4 Why did President Trump use the term “fake news”? _____
He wanted to discredit the media that wasn't favorable to him.
- 5 Experts on media give the viewer the advice to _____
concentrate on the differences between facts, opinion, speculation and fiction.

B9 U.S. Political Parties: Where do you stand on these US political issues?

Answer Key

ISSUE	YES	NO	Democrat	Republican
Should women have the right to have an abortion?			The majority thinks it should not be made illegal; they support Roe v. Wade.*	The majority thinks it should not be legal; they oppose Roe v. Wade.*
Do you support the legalization of same-sex marriage?			Generally support it.	On the whole oppose it.
Should the federal government allow the death penalty?			While support for the death penalty is strong among Democrats, opponents of the death penalty are also a substantial fraction of the Democratic base.	A large majority of Republicans support the death penalty.
Should the government increase environmental regulations to prevent global warming?			Democrats claim that the Republicans are ignoring climate change.	Republicans claim that the Democrats have turned a blind eye to the economy.
Should the government raise the federal minimum wage?			Support minimum wages and raising them to a certain standard	Wages should be set by the free market. The government should not interfere with the economy.
Do you support increased gun control?			An issue that splits both parties.	An issue that splits both parties.
Do you support the legalization of marijuana?			88% support legalization; 12% oppose it.	59% oppose legalization; 41% support it.
Do you support the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)?			Support universal healthcare; strong support of government involvement in healthcare, including Medicare and Medicaid. Generally support Obamacare.	Private companies can provide healthcare services more efficiently than government-run programs. Oppose Obamacare provisions like (1) requirement for individuals to buy health insurance or pay a fine, (2) required coverage of contraceptives.
Would you support increasing taxes on the rich in order to reduce interest rates for student loans?			Believe in progressive taxation, i.e., higher tax rates for higher income brackets.	Believe taxes shouldn't be increased for anyone including the wealthy. Wages should be set by the free market.
Do you support stronger measures to increase our border security?			50% support stronger measures; 50% oppose stronger measures.	96% support stronger measures; 4% oppose stronger measures.

*Roe vs. Wade – U.S. Supreme Court Ruling from 1973 that allows abortion; however, it also gave individual states the rights to limit it.