**AP United States Government Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chapter 8 Study Guide – Political Parties**

**Vocabulary:** On index cards, define the following terms.

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| 1. Party competition 2. Political party 3. Linkage institutions 4. Rational-choice theory 5. Party image 6. Party identification 7. Ticket splitting 8. Party machines 9. Patronage | 1. Closed primaries 2. Open primaries 3. Blanket primaries 4. National convention 5. National committee 6. National chairperson 7. Coalition 8. Party eras 9. Critical election | 1. Party realignment 2. New Deal coalition 3. Party dealignment 4. Third parties 5. Winner-take-all system 6. Proportional representation 7. Coalition government 8. Responsible party model |

**Questions:** Complete the following as you read chapter 8 in your textbook.

1. Explain the three heads of the political party in the expression “a three-headed political giant.”
2. What are the five tasks political parties should perform if they are to serve as effective linkage institutions?
3. Draw a graph or diagram depicting Anthony Downs’ rational-choice model of political parties.
4. What two clear patterns regarding party identification have been evident in recent elections?
5. Draw an organizational chart of an American political party and then mark where most of the power actually exists.
6. What are the differences between the following types of party primaries?
   1. Closed primaries:
   2. Open primaries:
   3. Blanket primaries:
7. What is the function of each of the following national party organizations?
   1. National convention:
   2. National committee:
   3. National chairperson:
8. What is the relationship between party promises and party performance?
9. List four elections that might be considered “critical” or “realigning.” Explain why.
10. List the six presidents since 1968 and complete the following table on divided government.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| President and party affiliation | Number of years with Republican Congress | Number of years with Democratic Congress |
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1. What are the three basic varieties of third parties?
2. What are two ways in which third parties can have an impact on American politics?
3. What is the most important consequence of two-party governance in the United States?
4. List the four conditions that advocates of the responsible party model believe the parties should meet.
5. How does the American party system affect the scope of government?
6. What is the key problem of the American political parties today?