**Know and Be Able To (KBAT)**

Chapter 8 – Political Parties

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** How have individuals coalesced into organized political groups, and how do these groups influence policy?

**KNOW**

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| DealignmentDivided GovernmentNational CommitteeNational ConventionParty IdentificationParty-in-GovernmentParty-in-the-Electorate | Party OrganizationParty PlatformParty PolarizationPatronagePolitical PartiesRealigning (“critical”) electionRealignment | Single-Member DistrictStraight-ticket VotingSwing VotersThird Party Ticket SplittingTwo-Party SystemWinner-Take-All System (Plurality Election) |

**BE ABLE TO**

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| P. 256-263 | * Describe the party in the electorate, party as an organization, and party in government.
* Identify and explain various tasks performed by parties as linkage institutions.
* Explain why parties must remain near the center of the political spectrum.
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| P. 263-264 | * Identify recent trends in presidential elections in association with party identification.
* Define ticket-splitting and provide examples.
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| P. 265-270 | * Explain how American political parties are decentralized and fragmented.
* Discuss how party machines used patronage to their advantage in the past.
* Describe why party machines have far less influence in modern politics.
* Explain how some states have encouraged straight-ticket voting.
* Identify reasons why state parties rarely manage campaigns, but rather serve to supplement “candidate-centered campaigns.”
* Briefly outline the purpose of the national convention, national committee, and national chairperson.
* List several examples of when parties succeed and fail in carrying out their promises.
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| P. 270-276 | * Describe how critical elections and party realignment are interrelated.
* Explain why the elections of 1860, 1896, and 1932 are considered critical elections.
* Discuss how Nixon’s “Southern Strategy” led to a gradual realignment in the American South.
* Explain how divided government affects our political system.
* Describe the difference between realignment and dealignment.
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| P. 277-278 | * Identify the three basic varieties of third parties in American politics and give examples of each.
* Explain how third parties can serve as “safety valves”.
* Describe how the two-party system leads to moderation of political conflict.
* Explain how the winner-take-all system affects third parties.
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