**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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| Dealignment  Divided Government  National Committee  National Convention  Party Identification  Party-in-Government  Party-in-the-Electorate | Party Organization  Party Platform  Party Polarization  Patronage  Political Parties  Realigning (“critical”) election  Realignment | Single-Member District  Straight-ticket Voting  Swing Voters  Third Party  Ticket Splitting  Two-Party System  Winner-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. |
| P. 263-264 | * Identify recent trends in presidential elections in association with party identification. * Define ticket-splitting and provide examples. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |