

SS.7.C.2.8 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	What are the names of the two major political parties in the United States today?	The correct answer should identify the two current and main political parties in the United States.
A	Democratic and Republican	Correct – The Democrats and Republicans are currently the two major political parties in the United States.
B	Democratic and Libertarian	Incorrect – The Libertarian Party is a minor, or third party.
C	Socialist and Republican	Incorrect – The Socialist Party is a minor, or third party.
D	Socialist and Libertarian	Incorrect – Both parties are minor, or third parties.



SS.7.C.2.8 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The statement below is from a political party platform.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>We, the workers and our allies, need to take power from the hands of the wealthy few, their corporations, and their political operatives.</p> </div> <p>Which political party's position is represented in the statement?</p>	<p>The passage describes the ideas of a modern political party.</p> <p>The correct answer should identify the current political party that the passage describes.</p>
A	Communist	Correct – The Communist Party supports workers controlling all governmental power.
B	Democratic	Incorrect – The Democratic Party supports a stronger federal government and more government services but does not support a worker-controlled government.
C	Republican	Incorrect – The Republican Party supports a weaker federal government, lower taxes, and fewer government services.
D	Socialist	Incorrect – The Socialist Party supports cooperative ownership of private industry but does not support taking all power from the rich and giving it to the working class.



SS.7.C.2.8 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	In the modern political system, which issue represents a basic disagreement between Republicans and Democrats?	<p>The current views of the Republican Party and the Democratic Party should be compared and contrasted.</p> <p>The correct answer option should represent a modern disagreement between the two political parties.</p>
A	the responsibilities of government	Correct – Core differences between political parties’ ideas about government are based on their views of the role of government in modern society.
B	the frequency of national elections	Incorrect – The stem focuses on “a basic disagreement” which would address a core or central role of parties. This option focuses on an individual issue that is not central to how and why political parties do what they do.
C	the legality of the U.S. Constitution	Incorrect – A law may be found unconstitutional; the U.S. Constitution cannot be found illegal. Laws exist because of the U.S. Constitution; the U.S. Constitution does not exist because of laws.
D	the support for the U.S. military soldier	Incorrect – Republicans and Democrats may disagree about military policy but not about an individual soldier.

