**Texas government**

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. YOUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE TYPED DIRECTLY UNDER THE QUESTION.

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| 1. ​Explain the difference between temporary and permanent party organizations. |

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| 2. Briefly explain why conservatives tend to support the Republican party and liberals tend to support the Democratic party.​ |

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| 3. How did the Republican party gain control of Texas government during Reconstruction?  How did they lose control of Texas government when Reconstruction ended?​

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| 4. Describe the differences between the Libertarian Party and the Republican Party.  Describe also the differences between the Green Party and the Democratic Party.​ |

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| 5. Explain why it is difficult for an independent candidate to win elections in Texas. Why do you think independent candidates choose to run without a party label when it is so difficult to win?​ |

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| 6. Describe how potential voters in Texas learn about candidates and issues.  What appear to be the primary factors in voter choices (deciding who to vote for)? Do you think voters get accurate and unbiased information?  How might voters become better informed? |

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| 7. Describe what candidates in Texas must do to run a successful campaign for office. Include in your discussion a consideration of the need to both raise funds and communicate with voters.  Explain one reform that might improve the system, or explain why you think the system needs no reform. |

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| 8. Why are Latinos such an important factor in Texas electoral politics?  What progress have they made in electoral politics, and what obstacles still remain to exercising their political power?  How do you think the growing Latino population will change elections in Texas in the future? |

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| 9. Explain how considerations of race and ethnicity factor into elections in Texas. Are traditional minorities adequately represented in the voting population? What steps have been taken to address this issue?  Do you think additional steps are necessary? |

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| 10. Describe the historical progress made by women seeking elected office in Texas. What challenges do female candidates still face in running for office?  What might be done to increase the representation of women in state government?  Why might it be important for women to be more equally represented? ​ |

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| 11. Discuss the changes over time in how Texans get their news.  Compare the ways in which Texans get their information today with past patterns. |

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| 12. Evaluate the media’s roles in furthering democracy.  Describe these roles in Texas politics. |

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| 13. Discuss the history and impact of investigative journalism in Texas.  Include in your answer a discussion of open meetings, open records, and scandals.​ |

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| 14. Explain the conflicting views as ​to whether and how the media affect our political opinions.  Which view do you find has the most merit and why? |

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| 15. ​How are changes in the media affecting the ability of citizens to affect government?  Do you think these changes make citizens more or less powerful in their ability to influence elected officials and why? |