

Political Parties

Student Handout | Chapter 5

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Go to duelinghistory.com/government/PoliticalParties/ and work through the screens. Fill in each section as you go.

1. Party Functions

Write the party function that matches each description.

Description	Function
Once its candidates are elected, the party must prod them to perform well or it may suffer with them in the next election.	
This is the activity that most clearly sets political parties apart from other political groups.	
The party out of power criticizes the party that controls the government and urges voters to "throw the rascals out."	
Parties share this function with the news media and interest groups.	
Party connections help the executive and legislative branches of government cooperate with one another.	

2. How the National Party Is Organized

Click each part of the organization. Write one fact about each.

Part	One fact
National Convention	
National Committee	
National Chairperson	
Congressional Campaign Committee	

3. Wards and Precincts

A **precinct** is _____

A **ward** is _____

4. Direct Primaries

Write OPEN or CLOSED next to each statement.

Statement	Open or Closed?
No Crossovers	
Permits Crossovers	
Democrats & Independents can't vote in the Republican primary	
Any voter can vote	
Must be registered in the party to vote	
Republicans & Independents can vote in the Democratic primary	

What kind of primary does our state use? _____

5. The Three Parts of a Party

Part	Who is in it?
The Party in Government	
The Party Organization	
The Party in the Electorate	

When more voters call themselves independents, scholars call it _____.

6. Straight Ticket or Split Ticket?

Which did you vote on the sample ballot? STRAIGHT / SPLIT

Why is ticket-splitting a sign of weaker party ties? _____

7. American Minor Parties

Write each party under the kind of minor party it was.

Ideological	Single-Issue	Economic	Splinter

Parties: Green, Know Nothing, Dixiecrat, Populist, Free Soil, Socialist, American Independent, Bull Moose, Greenback, Libertarian, Socialist Labor, Reform, Prohibition, Communist

8. Presidents and Their Parties

Write the president for each term and circle the party.

Year	President	Party	Year	President	Party
1945		D R	1989		D R
1949		D R	1993		D R
1953		D R	1997		D R
1957		D R	2001		D R
1961		D R	2005		D R
1965		D R	2009		D R
1969		D R	2013		D R
1973		D R	2017		D R
1977		D R	2021		D R
1981		D R	2025		D R
1985		D R			

9. Password Vocabulary

Write the term from the Password board that matches each clue.

Clue	Term
The practice of giving government jobs and favors to loyal party supporters.	
Each party wins seats in proportion to its share of the popular vote.	
Groups of people who try to control government by winning elections and holding office.	

Clue	Term
The big summer meeting where a party names its presidential ticket and adopts its platform.	
One party holds the White House while the other controls one or both houses of Congress.	
Voters drift away from both major parties and call themselves independents.	
A ballot that lists candidates side by side under their party's name, so straight-ticket voting is easy.	
Naming the people who will run for office. It is the job that most sets parties apart.	
A ballot that groups candidates by the office they seek, not by party.	
Free from party ties, like many city council and school board elections.	
Clue	Term
A smaller party, like the Libertarians or the Greens, with little chance of winning the presidency.	
Elections where a new coalition takes power for a long time, as in 1860 and 1932.	
Unlimited "party-building" donations. The 2002 McCain-Feingold law banned them for national parties.	
The candidate with the most votes in a state wins all of that state's electoral votes.	
Nominating, informing, seal of approval, governing, and watchdog are all examples of these.	

10. Party Platforms: Then & Now

Pick **three** planks. For each, describe both parties in 2000 and 2024, then say what changed.

Plank: _____	2000	2024
Democrats		
Republicans		
What changed?		

Plank: _____	2000	2024
Democrats		
Republicans		
What changed?		

Plank: _____	2000	2024
Democrats		
Republicans		
What changed?		

11. Thomas Nast and How to tell 'em Apart

Nast drew the Democrats as a _____ (1870) and the Republicans as an _____ (1874).

Why can a cartoon say in one picture what an editorial needs a page to say? _____
