**Concept Application FRQ’s**

**Each question should include a short scenario (with citation) followed by 3 parts. The rubric indicates the following:**

**A good response should:**

* **Describe a political institution, behavior or process connected with the scenario. This item is pretty straight forward.**
* **Explain how the response in part A affects or is affected by a political process, government entity or citizen behavior as related in the scenario. REMEMBER….the example for this answer needs to come from the scenario provided. DO NOT make up an outside example.**
* **Explain how the scenario relates to a political institution, behavior or process in the course. REMEMBER….the example for this answer needs to come from the scenario provided. DO NOT makeup an outside example.**
* **This question will very likely utilize one or many terms from the course vocabulary words. Make sure you explain how/why that word relates to the question at hand.**

**This question relates to Disciplinary Practice strand 1**

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**“The Democrats’ big mistake was using the “nuclear option” to pack the federal circuit courts with liberal judges. After Democrats won control of the Senate and the White House, they set about trying to fill court vacancies — particularly on the D.C. circuit — with judges so left-wing they knew they could not meet the 60-vote “standard.” When Republicans (following the precedent Democrats had set) filibustered some of President Barack Obama’s nominees, Democrats again broke precedent and eliminated the filibuster for all but Supreme Court nominees. The short-term gain of going nuclear was immense. Obama flipped most of the circuit courts from conservative to liberal majorities, including the D.C. circuit. But the long-term costs were around the corner.”**

**Adapted from *The Chicago Tribune* July, 6, 2018**

**1. Use the information from the excerpt above to answer the following questions.**

**A. Describe a power of the Senate used to address the comments outlined in the scenario.**

**B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the use of the Senate power described in Part A can be affected by its interaction with the presidency.**

**C. In the context of the scenario, explain how the interaction between the Senate and the presidency can be affected by linkage institutions.**

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* **Describe a political institution, behavior or process connected with the scenario**
* **Explain how the response in part A affects or is affected by a political process, government entity or citizen behavior as related in the scenario**
* **Explain how the scenario relates to a political institution, behavior or process in the course**

**CHICAGO — Attorney General of the United States Jeff Sessions cannot follow through, for now, with his threat to withhold public safety grant money to Chicago and other so-called sanctuary cities that have refused to impose tough new national immigration policies, a federal judge ruled Friday.**

**“It means essential resources for public safety will not come with unlawful strings attached,” Mayor Emanuel said, “and the Trump Justice Department cannot continue to coerce us into violating and abandoning our values.”**

**Judge Leinenweber agreed, writing, that because the Constitution gives Congress the federal wallet, the president may not impose new conditions on federal grant funds to state and local municipalities. By adding conditions not imposed by the legislative branch, the Department Of Justice (DOJ), part of the executive branch, appears to be usurping Congress’ authority.**

**Adapted from *The New York Times*, April 27, 2017**

**2. Use the information from the excerpt above to answer the following questions.**

**(A) Describe one action the President could take if he disagreed with the outcome in the scenario.**

**(B) In the context of the scenario, explain how the President’s action described in A could be affected by Congress.**

**(C) In the context of the scenario, explain how the interaction between the executive and the judicial branches could be affected by the public.**

**APGOPO FRQ – Mass Media (Unit #5)**

**PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP would lose to a generic Democrat if the 2020 presidential election were held today, a new poll released Wednesday found.**

**Trump trails a generic Democrat by 8 points, with 44 percent of registered voters saying they would prefer a Democrat over 36 percent who would vote to re-elect the president, according to a new Morning Consult/Politico poll. Nineteen percent said they were undecided.**

**The Morning Consult survey found Trump trailing his own 2016 performance in nearly every demographic group. Although exit polls show Trump won 52 percent of men in 2016, male respondents to the Morning Consult survey were evenly split between Trump and the generic Democrat with 42 percent.**

**- U.S. News (2018)**

**Using the information above, answer the following questions.   
  
(A) Describe what role(s) the media is taking in the scenario above.  
  
(B) Describe how sound bites and horse race journalism relate to media coverage of elections.  
  
(C) Explain two ways that media coverage of elections can change public opinion about presidential candidates.**

**Unit 5- Political Participation- Interest Groups**

**E-cigarette company Juul Labs has more than doubled its spending on lobbying as it faces regulatory threats from the Trump administration and Congress.**

**Juul spent about $560,000 on lobbying in the third quarter of 2018, which runs from July through the end of September, according to newly released disclosure reports...  
  
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and lawmakers from both parties are considering a regulatory crackdown on Juul and other companies in the e-cigarette industry as use among teenagers grows… As the crackdown looms, Juul has hired several high-profile former federal officials and regulators. According to the disclosure report released Tuesday, Juul spent the third quarter of 2018 lobbying both the House and Senate, as well as the Office of Management & Budget within the White House.   
  
FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has hinted at future regulatory actions, writing last month that "the FDA won’t tolerate a whole generation of young people becoming addicted to nicotine as a tradeoff for enabling adults to have unfettered access to these same products."  
- The Hill, October 23, 2018  
  
After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below.**

**A. In the context of the scenario, explain how lobbying is used by interest groups to exert influence over policy  
B. Using the scenario, describe how the financial resources of an interest group can enhance its influence over Congress  
C. Explain one way that Congress has attempted to limit the influence of interest groups.**

**“Mr. Chairman, I come before the committee with no agenda. I have no platform. Judges are not politicians who can promise to do certain things in exchange for votes. I have no agenda, but I do have a commitment. If I am confirmed, I will confront every case with an open mind. I will fully and fairly analyze the legal arguments that are presented. I will be open to the considered views of my colleagues on the bench. And I will decide every case based on the record, according to the rule of law, without fear or favor, to the best of my ability. And I will remember that it's my job to call balls and strikes and not to pitch or bat. If I am confirmed, I will be vigilant to protect the independence and integrity of the Supreme Court, and I will work to ensure that it upholds the rule of law and safeguards those liberties that make this land one of endless possibilities for all Americans.**

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**

**Thank you, members of the committee.**

**I look forward to your questions.” - John Roberts Jr. (2005) at Senate confirmation hearing.**

**a.) Explain Chief Justice Roberts’ argument using vocabulary from this unit.**

**b.) Explain how the Constitution addresses the argument in part A.**

**c.) Describe two ways that the Supreme Court depends on the other branches.**

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday it will decide whether existing civil rights laws ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, a question that has divided the nation's lower courts.

Federal law forbids workplace discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. It does not explicitly apply to LGBT individuals, but gay rights advocates have argued that firing employees because of their sexual orientation is already prohibited as a form of sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. They've been hoping to achieve in the courts what they have so far been unable to get in Congress — a nationwide ban on job discrimination. The cases accepted Monday reflect the split among federal courts. Two appeals courts ruled that employers violated Title VII by firing gay and transgender employees. A third said civil rights laws don't cover sexual orientation.

NBC News, April 22, 2019

After reading the scenario, answer A, B, and C.

A. Describe the power that the Supreme Court is using to address the question raised in the scenario.

B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the response in part A could be affected by the President.

C. In the context of the scenario, describe an action Congress could take to resolve the question separately

from the court process and how the interactions between the three branches could be affected by linkage institutions.