

GVPT 423

Congressional Elections

E. Uslander

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Mid-term Review Sheet

The following is an example of the type of essay question that might appear on the midterm examination. This question will NOT appear on the exam.

What are the key determinants of vote choice in Congressional elections? How do House elections differ from Presidential contests? In which contests is party identification more important? Why?

Here are some key terms that you should know (listed in no particular order). Note that knowing the terms is insufficient to do well. You need to be able to relate concepts to each other and to make a coherent argument.

protectionist stage / expansionist stage  
home style  
heterogenous constituency  
geographic constituency  
reelection constituency  
primary constituency  
personal constituency  
pork barrel  
casework  
quality challenger  
political action committee  
independent expenditures / soft money  
incumbent expenditures versus challenger expenditures  
labor PAC / nonconnected PAC / business PAC  
role of issues in elections  
money in House and Senate elections  
party identification  
sophomore surge  
retirement slump  
soft money  
string of votes  
candidate-centered elections / party-centered elections  
mudslinging  
negative campaigning  
horse race