

3. The judicial branch is often assumed to be insulated from politics. However, politics affects many aspects of the judiciary.

- 2012
- (a) Describe two political factors that affect presidents' decisions to appoint members of the federal judiciary.
 - (b) Identify two political factors that affect the confirmation process of a president's nominees and explain how each factor complicates a confirmation.
 - (c) Explain how one legislative power serves as a check on court decisions.
 - (d) Explain how one executive power serves as a check on court decisions.
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1. The United States Supreme Court receives many appeals, but it hears and rules on a small percentage of cases each year. Numerous factors influence the actions of the Court, both in deciding to hear a case and in the decisions it hands down.

- 2011
- a. Define judicial review.
 - b. Explain how judicial review empowers the Supreme Court within the system of checks and balances.
 - c. Describe the process through which the Court grants a writ of certiorari.
 - d. Explain how each of the following influences decisions made by individual justices when deciding cases heard by the Court.
 - Stare decisis
 - Judicial activism