**American Government**

**Ch. 5 Sec. 3 “Minor Parties”**

1. Define the 4 types of minor parties

1. ideological –
2. single-issue –
3. economic protest –
4. splinter –

\_\_\_\_\_\_  **2.** Most splinter parties

**a.** form around a strong personality and tend to fade when that leader

steps aside.

**b.** disappear when the country climbs out of the difficult economic con-

ditions in which those parties were formed.

**c.** seldom win many votes, though they tend to be long-lived.

**d.** are unwilling to take clear-cut stands on controversial issues.

\_\_\_\_\_\_  **3.** Historically, minor American political parties have been *most* important

**a.** in bringing disaffected Americans into the political process.

**b.** in winning State and local elections.

**c.** as “spoilers” in national elections.

**d.** in their roles of critic and innovator.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ **4.** When minor parties are successful at gaining support for their proposals,

what is most likely to happen?

**a.** They become major parties.

**b.** They are able to elect their candidates to national offices.

**c.** Their platforms are adopted by one of the major parties.

**d.** They are more willing to compromise.

\_\_\_\_\_  **5.** What is one way minor parties affect American politics?

**a.** they get voters to vote for major party candidates

**b.** they get the attention of newspapers, television, and radio

**c.** they win state and local elections

**d.** they influence the outcome of elections



6. Why do you think a leader or group might seek to create a minor party even though their chances for winning are less than those of a major party?

7. Would you ever join a minor party? Why or why not?