Essay

1. The federal bureaucracy as part of the executive branch exercises substantial independence in implementing governmental policies and programs. Most workers in the federal bureaucracy are civil-service employees who are organized under a merit system.

(a) Describe one key characteristic of the merit system.

(b) For each of the following, describe one factor that contributes to bureaucratic independence.

The structure of the federal bureaucracy

The complexity of public policy problems

(c) For each of the following, explain one Constitutional provision that it can use to check the bureaucracy.

Congress

The courts

Interest groups