

AP US HISTORY FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS SINCE 1990

I. Colonial Time 1607 - 1775

1. Throughout the colonial period, economic concerns had more to do with the settling of British North America than did religious concerns. Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to economic and religious concerns. (90)
2. For the period before 1750, analyze the ways in which Britain's policy of salutary neglect influenced the development of American society as illustrated in the following:
Legislative assemblies Commerce Religion (95)
3. Analyze the extent to which religious freedom existed in the British North American colonies prior to 1700. (98)
4. Analyze the cultural and economic responses of TWO of the following groups to the Indians of North America before 1750.
British French Spanish (00)
5. How did economic, geographic, and social factors encourage the growth of slavery as an important part of the economy of the southern colonies between 1607 and 1775? (01)
6. Compare the ways in which religion shaped the development of colonial society (to 1740) in TWO of the following regions:
New England Chesapeake Middle Atlantic (02)
7. Compare and contrast the ways in which economic development affected politics in Massachusetts and Virginia in the period from 1607 to 1750. (05)
8. Analyze the differences between the Spanish settlements in the Southwest and the English colonies in New England in the seventeenth century in terms of TWO of the following:
Politics Religion Economic Development (06)

II. American Revolution – Early Republic (1776 – 1800)

1. Analyze the extent to which the American Revolution represented a radical alteration in American political ideas and institutions. Confine your answer to the period 1775 to 1800. (97)
2. Analyze the degree to which the Articles of Confederation provided an effective form of government with respect to any TWO of the following:
Foreign relations Economic conditions Western lands (96)
3. Evaluate the relative importance of domestic and foreign affairs in shaping American politics in the 1790's. (94)
4. The Bill of Rights did not come from a desire to protect the liberties won in the American Revolution, but rather from a fear of the powers of the new federal government. Assess the validity of the statement. (91)
5. Evaluate the relative importance of the following as factors prompting Americans to rebel in 1776:
Parliamentary taxation British military measures Restriction of civil liberties
The legacy of colonial religious and political ideas (92)
6. Analyze the contributions of TWO of the following in helping establish a stable government after the adoption of the Constitution.
John Adams Thomas Jefferson George Washington (02)
7. Analyze the impact of the American Revolution on both slavery and the status of women in the period from 1775-1800. (04)

III. Jeffersonian Democracy 1800 – 1825

No questions since 1983. The 1983 question is included below.

- Analyze the economic consequences of the Civil War with respect to any TWO of the following in the United States between 1865 and 1880.
Agriculture Transportation Labor Industrialization (97)
- Explain why and how the role of the federal government changed as a result of the Civil War with respect to TWO of the following:
Race relations Economic development Westward expansion (06)

VIII. Agricultural and Industrial America 1865 – 1900

- A number of writers and reformers in the period 1865-1914 discussed the growing gap between wealth and poverty in the United States. Compare and contrast THREE of the following authors' explanations for this condition and their proposal for dealing with it. (unknown year)
Henry George : Progress and Poverty
Edward Bellamy: Looking Backwards
Andrew Carnegie: The Gospel of Wealth
William Graham Sumner: What Social Classes Owe to Each Other
Upton Sinclair: The Jungle
- Compare and contrast the attitudes of THREE of the following toward the wealth that was created in the United States during the late nineteenth century.
Andrew Carnegie Horatio Alger Ida M. Tarbell
Eugene V. Debs Booker T. Washington (94)
- Although the economic development of the Trans-Mississippi West is popularly associated with hardy individualism, it was in fact largely dependent on the federal government. Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to western economic activities in the nineteenth century. (91)
- Analyze the impact of any TWO of the following on the American industrial worker between 1865 and 1900.
Government actions Labor Unions
Immigration Technology changes (98)
- How and why did transportation developments spark economic growth during the period from 1860 to 1900 in the United States? (01)

IX. Intellectual, Cultural and Social Trends 1860 – 1900

- From the 1840's through the 1890's, women's activities in the intellectual, social, economic and political spheres effectively challenged traditional attitudes about women's place in society. Assess the validity of this statement. (91)
- Describe the patterns of immigration in TWO of the periods listed below. Compare and contrast the responses of Americans to immigrants in these periods. (unknown year)
1820 to 1860 1880 to 1924 1965 to 2000

X. Politics 1877 –1900

- Analyze the reasons for the emergence of the Populist movement in the late nineteenth century. (95)
- How were the lives of the Plains Indians in the second half of the nineteenth century affected by technological developments and government actions? (99)
- Evaluate the impact of the Civil War on political and economic developments in TWO of the following regions:
The South The North The West
Focus your answer on the period between 1865 and 1900. (03)

XI. Expansionism 1890's – 1914

- Compare the debates that took place over American expansionism in the 1840's with those that took place in the 1890's, analyzing the similarities and differences in the debates of the two eras. (92)

XII. The Progressives 1900 –1920

1. Analyze the ways in which state and federal legislation and judicial decisions, including those of the Supreme Court, affected the efforts of any TWO of the following groups to improve their position in society between 1880 and 1920.
African Americans Farmers Workers (93)

XIII. World War I 1914 - 1920

1. Assess the relative influence of THREE of the following in the American decision to declare war on Germany in 1917.
German naval policy Allied propaganda
American economic interests America's claim to world power
Woodrow Wilson's idealism (95)
2. To what extent did the United States achieve the objectives that led it to enter the First World War? (00)

XIV. The 1920's

1. In what ways did economic conditions and developments in the arts and entertainment help create the reputation of the 1920's as the Roaring Twenties? (99)
2. Describe and account for the rise of Nativism in American Society from 1900 to 1930. (01)
3. Historians have argued that Progressive reform lost momentum in the 1920s. Evaluate this statement with respect to TWO of the following:
Regulation of business Labor Immigrants (06)

XV. The New Deal 1932 - 1945

1. Analyze the ways in which the Great Depression altered the American social fabric in the 1930's. (96)
2. Identify Three of the following New Deal measures and analyze the ways in which each of the three attempted to fashion a more stable economy and a more equitable society.
Agricultural Adjustment Act Wagner National Labor relations Act
Securities and Exchange Commission Social Security Act (93)
3. Although American writers of the 1920's and 1930's criticized American society, the nature of their criticisms differed markedly in the two decades. Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to writers in both decades. (90)
4. Compare and contrast the programs and policies designed by reformers of the Progressive era to those designed by reformers of the New Deal period. Confine your answers to programs and policies that addressed the needs of those living in poverty. (04)

XVI. Isolationism and War 1921 - 1945

1. To what extent and why did the United States adopt an isolationist policy in the 1920's and 1930's? (98)
2. Compare and contrast United States society in the 1920s and the 1950s with respect to TWO of the following:
Race relations Role of women Consumerism (03)

XVII. Postwar Years 1945 -1960

1. In 1945 Winston Churchill said that the United States stood at the summit of the world. Discuss the developments in the thirty years following Churchill's speech which called the global preeminence of the United States into question. (92)
2. Analyze the influence of TWO of the following on American-Soviet relations in the decade following the Second World War.
Yalta Conference Communist Revolution in China Korean War McCarthyism (96)

3. To what extent did the decade of the 1950's deserve its reputation as an age of political, social, and cultural conformity? (94)
4. How do you account for the appeal of McCarthyism in the United States in the era following the Second World War? (97)
5. Although the 1960's are usually considered the decade of the greatest achievement for Black civil rights, the 1940's and 1950's were periods of equally important gains. Assess the validity of this statement. (91)
6. Compare and contrast United States foreign policy after the First World War and after the Second World War. Consider the periods 1919-1928 and 1945-1950. (02)
7. While the United States appeared to be dominated by consensus and conformity in the 1950s, some Americans reacted against the status quo. Analyze the critiques of United States society made by TWO of the following:
 Youth Civil Rights Activists Intellectuals (06)

XVIII. 1960's to the Present

1. 1968 was a turning point for the United States. To what extent is this an accurate assessment? In your answer, discuss TWO of the following:
 National Politics Vietnam War Civil Rights (98)
2. In what ways did the Great Society resemble the New Deal in its origins, goals, and social and political legacy? Cite specific programs and policies in support of your arguments. (92)
3. Describe THREE of the following and analyze the ways in which each of the three has affected the status of women in American society since 1940.
 The persistence of traditional definitions of women's roles
 Advances in reproductive technology
 The rebirth of an organized women's movement
 Changing economic conditions (93)
4. Foreign affairs rather than domestic issues shaped presidential politics in the Election year 1968. Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to foreign and domestic issues. (90)
5. Assess the success of the United States policy of containment in Asia between 1945 and 1975. (99)
6. Discuss with respect to Two of the following, the view that the 1960's represented a period of profound cultural change.
 Education Gender roles Music Race Relations (00)
7. How did the African American Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s address the failures of the Reconstruction? (02)
8. Analyze the successes and failures of the United States Cold War policy of containment as it developed in TWO of the following regions of the world during the period 1945 to 1975.
 East and Southeast Asia Europe Latin America Middle East (05)
9. Analyze the extent to which TWO of the following transformed American society in the 1960s and 1970s. (05)
 The Civil Rights Movement The Anti-war movement
 The Women's movement