

The AP exam questions
2004

A. DBQ

1. In what ways did the French and Indian War (1754-63) alter the political, economic and ideological relations between Britain and its American colonies?

Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1740-1766 in constructing your response.

B. Free Response - Pre 1877

2. Analyze the impact of the American Revolution on both slavery and the status of women in the period from 1775-1800.

3. Analyze the effectiveness of political compromise in reducing sectional tensions in the period 1820-1861.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

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 answer to programs and policies that addressed the needs of those living in poverty.

5. Analyze the successes and failures of the United States Cold War policy of containment as it developed TWO of the following regions of the world during the period 1945-1975.

East and Southeast Asia

Europe

Latin America

Middle East

2004 B

D. DBQ

1. How and for what reasons did United States foreign policy change between 1920-1941?

Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1920-1941 to construct your answer.

E. Free Response - Pre 1877

2. To what extent was the election of 1800 aptly named the “Revolution of 1800”? Respond with reference to TWO of the following areas:

Economics

Foreign Policy

Judiciary

Politics

3. To what extent and in what ways did the roles of women change in American Society between 1790 and 1860? Respond with reference to TWO of the following areas:

Domestic

Economic

Political

Social

F. Free Response – Post 1877

4. Analyze the primary causes of the population shift from a rural to an urban environment in the United States between 1875 and 1925.

“Between 1960 and 1975, there was the great progress in the struggle for political and social equality.”
Assess the validity of this statement with respect to TWO of the following groups during that period.

African Americans
Asian Americans
Latinos
Native Americans
Women

2003

A. DBQ

1. Analyze the responses of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration to the problems of the Great depression. How effective were these responses? How did they change the role of the Federal government?

Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1929-1941 to construct your essay.

B. Free Response - Pre 1877

2. Evaluate the extent to which the Articles of Confederation were effective in solving the problems that confronted the new nation.
3. In what ways did developments in transportation bring about economic and social change in the United States in the period 1820 to 1860?

C. Free Response – Post 1877

4. Evaluate the impact of the Civil War on political and economic developments in TWO of the following regions.

The South
The North
The West

5. Compare and contrast United States in the 1920’s and the 1950’s with respect to TWO of the following:

Race relations
Role of women
Consumerism

2002 Form B

A. DBQ

1. Historians have traditionally labeled the period after the War of 1812 the “Era of Good Feelings.” Evaluate the accuracy of this label, considering the emergence of nationalism and sectionalism.

B. Free Response - Pre 1877

2. Analyze the impact of the Atlantic trade routes established in the mid 1600’s on economic development in the British North American colonies. Consider the period 1650-1750.
3. Identify and analyze the factors that changed the American city in the second half of the nineteenth century.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

4. How successful were the programs of the New Deal in solving the problems of the Great Depression? Assess with respect to TWO of the following.

Relief
Recover
Reform

5. Analyze the ways in which TWO of the following shaped American politics after the Second World War.

Anticommunism in the 1940’s and 1950’s
The women’s liberation movement in the 1960’s
The “silent majority” in the 1970’s

2002

A. DBQ

1. “Reform movements in the United States to expand democratic ideals.” Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to the years 1825-1850.

Use the following documents and your knowledge of the period 1825-1850 in constructing your response.

B. Free Response - Pre 1877

2. 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

3. 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

C. Free Response – Post 1877

4. 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.
5. How did the African Americans Civil Rights movements of the 1950's and 1960's address the failures of the Reconstruction?

2001

A. DBQ:

What were the cold war fears of the American people in the aftermath of the second world war? How successfully did the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower address these fears? Use the documents and your knowledge of the years 1948 – 1961 to construct your response.

B. Free Response - Pre 1877

- (1) 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?
- (2) The Jacksonian period [1824 – 1848] has been celebrated as the era of the “common man”. To what extent did the period live up to its characterization? Consider two of the following in your response [economic development, politics, reform movements].

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) How and why did transportation developments spark economic growth during the period from 1860 to 1900 in the United States?
- (2) Describe and account for the rise of nativism in American society from 1900 to 1930.

2000

A. DBQ

How successful was organized labor in improving the position of workers in the period from 1875 to 1900? Analyze the factors that contributed to the level of success achieved. Use documents and knowledge of period from 1875 to 1900.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) Analyze the cultural and economic responses of two of the following groups to the Indians of North America before 1750: [British, French, Spanish}
- (2) Assess the moral arguments and political action of those opposed to the spread of slavery in the context of two of the following: [Missouri Compromise, Mexican War, Compromise of 1880, Kansas-Nebraska Act].

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) To what extent did the United States achieve the objectives that led it to enter the first world war?
- (2) 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].

1999

A. DBQ

To what extent had the colonists developed a sense of their identity and unity as Americans by the eve of the revolution? Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1750 to 1776.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) How did two of the following contribute to the reemergence of a two party system in the period 1820 to 1840? [major political personalities, states rights, economic issues]
- (2) How were the lives of the plains Indians in the second half of the 19th century affected by technological developments and government actions?

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (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?
- (2) Assess the success of the United States policy of containment in Asia between 1945 and 1975.

1998

A. DBQ

With respect to the Federal constitution, the Jeffersonian Republicans are usually characterized as strict constructionists who were opposed to the broad constructionism of the federalists. To what extent was this characterization of the two parties accurate during the presidencies of Jefferson and Madison? In writing your answer, use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1801 – 1817.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) Analyze the extent to which religious freedom existed in the British North American colonies prior to 1700.
- (2) Analyze the impact of any two of the following on the American industrial worker between 1865 and 1900: [government actions, immigration, labor unions, technological changes].

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) To what extent and why did the United States adopt an isolationist policy in the 1920's and 1930's?
- (2) "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].

1997

A. DBQ

To what extent did economic and political developments as well as assumptions about the nature of women affect the position of American women during the period 1890 – 1925? Use the documents and your knowledge of the history of the years 1890 – 1925 to construct your response.

B. Free Response – Post Pre 1877

- (1) Analyze the extent to which the American Revolution represented a radical alteration in American political ideas and intuitions. Confine your answer to the period 1775 to 1800.
- (2) Discuss the impact of territorial expansion on national unity between 1800 and 1850.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) 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, labor, industrialization, transportation].
- (2) How do you account for the appeal of McCarthyism in the United States in the era following the Second World War?

1996

A. DBQ

In what ways and to what extent did constitutional and social developments between 1860 and 1877 amount to a revolution? Use the documents and your knowledge of the period from 1860 to 1877.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) 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].

(2) Analyze the extent to which two of the following influenced the development of democracy between 1820 and 1840: [Jacksonian economic policy, changes in electoral politics, second great awakening, Westwood movement].

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) Analyze the ways in which the Great Depression altered the American social fabric in the 1930's.
- (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]

1995

A. DBQ

Analyze the changes that occurred during the 1960's in the goals, strategies, and support of the movement for African American civil rights. Use the documents and your knowledge of the history of the 1960's to construct your response.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) 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].
- (2) Analyze the ways in which supporters of slavery in the 19th century used legal, religious, and economic arguments to defend the institution of slavery.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) Analyze the reasons for the emergence of the populist movement in the late 19th century.
- (2) Assess the relative influence of three of the following in the American decision to declare war on Germany in 1917: [German naval policy, American economic interests, Woodrow Wilson's idealism, allied propaganda, America's claim to world power].

1994

A. DBQ

To what extent was late 19th century and early 20th century United States expansionism a continuation of past United States expansionism and to what extent was it a departure? Use the documents and your knowledge of U.S. history to 1914.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) Analyze the ways in which two of the following influenced the development of American society: [Puritanism during the 17th century, the Great Awakening during the 18th century, the second Great Awakening during the 19th century].
- (2) Evaluate the relative importance of domestic and foreign affairs in shaping American politics in the 1790's.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) Compare and contrast the attitudes of three of the following toward the wealth that was created in the United States during the late 19th century [Andrew Carnegie, Eugene Debs, Horation Alger, Booker T. Washington, Ida Tarbell].
- (2) To what extent did the decade of the 1950's deserve its reputation as an age of political, social, and cultural conformity?

1993

A. DBQ

Although New England and the Chesapeake region were both settled largely by people of English origin, by 1700 the regions had evolved into two distinct societies. Why did this development occur? Use the documents and your knowledge of the Colonial Period up to 1700.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877 [choose one of the following – 50 minutes; _ of section 2 score]

- (1) Compare the expansionist foreign policies of Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Polk. To what extent did their policies strengthen the United States?
- (2) In what ways did the early 19th century Reform Movements for abolition and women's rights illustrate both the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in the Early American republic?

B. Free Response – Post 1877

- (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]
- (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, Securities and Exchange Commission, Wagner National Labor Relations Act, Social Security Act].
- (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 [changing economic conditions, the rebirth of an organized women's movement, advances in reproductive technology, the persistence of traditional definitions of women's roles].

1992

A. DBQ

To what extent did the natural environment shape the development of the west beyond the Mississippi and the lives of those who lived and settled there? How important were other factors? Use both evidence from the documents and your knowledge of the period from the 1840's through the 1890's to compose your answer.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) Evaluate the relative importance of the following as factors prompting Americans to rebel in 1776: [Parliamentary taxation, restriction of civil liberties, British military measures, the legacy of colonial, religious and political ideas].
- (2) 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.
- (3) Discuss the political, economic and social reforms introduced in the south between 1864 and 1877. To what extent did these reforms survive the compromise of 1877?

B. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.

1991:

A. DBQ

It was the strength of the opposition forces, both liberal and conservative, rather than the ineptitude and stubbornness of President Wilson that led the senate defeat of the Treaty of Versailles. Using the documents and your knowledge of the period 1917 – 1921, assess the validity of this statement.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) 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 this statement.
- (2) Although historically represented as distinct parties, the Federalists and the Whigs in fact shared a common political ideology, represented many of the same interest groups, and proposed similar programs and policies. Assess the validity of the statement.
- (3) From the 1840's through the 1890's, women's activities in the intellectual, social, economic, and political spheres effectively challenged attitudes about women's place in society. Assess the validity of this statement.

B. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) 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 19th century.
- (2) Although the 1960's are usually considered the decade of greatest achievement for black civil rights, the 1940's and 1950's were periods of equally important gains. Assess the validity of this statement.

1990

A. DBQ

Jacksonian democrats viewed themselves as the guardians of the United States Constitution, political democracy, individual liberty, and equality of economic opportunity. In light of the documents and your knowledge of the 1820's and 1830's, to what extent do you agree with the Jacksonians' view of themselves?

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (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.
- (2) “Although Americans perceived manifest destiny as a benevolent movement, it was in fact an aggressive imperialism pursued at the expense of others.” Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to American Expansionism in the 1840's.
- (3) “The reorganization and consolidation of business structures was more responsible for late 19th century American Industrialization than was the development of new technologies.” Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to business structures and technology between 1865 and 1900.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) “Although American Writers of the 1920's and the 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.
- (2) “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.

1989

A. DBQ

Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Dubois offered different strategies for dealing with the problems of poverty and discrimination faced by black Americans at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. Using the documents and your knowledge of the period 1877 – 1915, assess the appropriateness of each of these strategies in the historical context in which each was developed.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) In the two decades before the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, a profound shift occurred in the way many Americans thought and felt about the British Government and their colonial governments.” Assess the validity of this statement in view of the political and constitutional debates of these decades.
- (2) “Developments in transportation, rather than in manufacturing and agriculture, sparked American economic growth in the first half of the 19th century.” Assess the validity of this statement.

D. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) In what ways were the late 19th populists the heirs of the Jacksonian democrats with respect to overall objectives and specific proposals for reform?
- (3) “The United States entered the first world war not “to make the world safe for democracy” as President Wilson claimed, but to safeguard American economic interests.” Assess the validity of this statement.

(4) “Vice Presidents who have succeeded to the presidency on the death of the President have been less effective in their conduct of domestic and foreign policy than the men they replaced. Assess the validity of this statement for any two of the following [William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson].

1988

A. DBQ

The United States decision to drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima was a diplomatic measure calculated to intimidate the Soviet Union in the post second world war era rather than a strictly military measure designed to force Japan’s unconditional surrender. Evaluate this statement using the documents and your knowledge of the military and diplomatic history of the years 1939 through 1947.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

(1) “This history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpation, all having, in direct object, the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states.” Evaluate this accusation made against George III in the declaration of independence.

(2) “American reform movements between 1820 and 1860 reflected both optimistic and pessimistic views of human nature and society.” Assess the validity of this statement in reference to reform movements in three of the following areas [education, temperance, women’s rights, utopian experiments, penal institutions].

(3) “I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races.” How can this 1858 statement of Abraham Lincoln be reconciled with his 1862 emancipation proclamation?

B. Free Response – Post 1877

(1) “Although the economic growth of the United States between 1860 and 1900 has been attributed to a governmental policy of laissez-faire, it was in fact encouraged and sustained by direct governmental intervention.” Assess the validity of this statement.

(2) Why did socialism fail to become a major force in American politics between 1900 and 1940 despite widespread dissatisfaction with the social and economic order and significant support for radical movements during that period?

1987

A. DBQ

“By the 1850’s the constitution, originally framed as an instrument of national unity, had become a source of sectional discord and tension and ultimately contributed to the failure of the union it had created.” Using the documents and your knowledge of 1850 to 1861, assess the validity of this statement.

1986

A. DBQ

The 1920's were a period of tension between new and changing attitudes on the one hand and traditional values and nostalgia on the other. What led to the tensions between old and new and in what ways was the tension manifested?

1985:

A. DBQ

“From 1781 to 1789 the Articles of Confederation provided the United States with an effective government.” Using the documents and your knowledge of the period, evaluate this statement.

1984:

A. DBQ

President Franklin D. Roosevelt is commonly thought of as a liberal and President Herbert C. Hoover as a conservative. To what extent are these characterizations valid?

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) What evidence is there for the assertion that the basic principles of the constitution were firmly grounded in the political and religious experience of America's colonial and revolutionary period?
- (2) “Throughout our history, the supreme court has acted as a partisan political body rather than a neutral arbiter of constitutional principles”. Assess the validity of this generalization for the period of 1800 – 1860.
- (3) “Slavery was the dominating reality of southern life”. Assess the validity of this generalization for two of the following aspects of southern life from about 1840 to 1860 [political, social, economic, and intellectual life].

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) A number of writers and reformers in the period of 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 proposals for dealing with it: [Henry George – progress and poverty, Edward Bellamy – looking backward, Andrew Carnegie – the gospel of wealth, William Graham Sumner – what social classes owe each other, Upton Sinclair – The Jungle].
- (2) “Harry S. Truman was a realistic, pragmatic President who skillfully led the American people against the menace posed by the Soviet Union.” Assess the validity of this generalization for President Truman's foreign policy from 1945 to 1953.

1983:

A. DBQ

Documents a – h reveal the problems that many farmers in the late 19th century [1880-1900] saw as threats to their way of life. Using the documents and your knowledge of the period (a) explain the reasons for Agrarian discontent and (b) evaluate the validity of the farmer’s complaints.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) In the 17th century, New England puritans tried to create a model society. What were their aspirations, and to what extent were those aspirations fulfilled during the 17th century?
- (2) “Early United States foreign policy was primarily a defensive reaction to perceived of actual threats from Europe.” Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to United States foreign policy on two major issues during the period from 1789 to 1825.
- (3) How do you account for the failure of reconstruction [1865 – 1877] to bring social and economic equality of opportunity to the former slaves?

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) “Shifts in party control of the Presidency during the 20th century have typically not brought major shifts in domestic policy.” Assess the validity of this statement. Illustrate your argument by discussing the extent to which two of the following Presidents adopted domestic programs of the previous presidential administrations given in parentheses beneath their names.
 - a. Woodrow Wilson [administrations of William H. Taft and Theodore Roosevelt]
 - b. Franklin D. Roosevelt [Herbert C. Hoover]
 - c. Dwight D. Eisenhower [administrations of Harry S. Truman and FDR]
 - d. Richard M. Nixon [administrations of Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy]
- (2) “The economic policies of the Federal government from 1921 to 1929 were responsible for the nation’s depression of the 1930’s.” Assess the validity of this generalization.

1982:

A. DBQ

John Brown’s raid on the Federal armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in October 1859, involved only a handful of abolitionists, freed no slaves, and was over in two days. Although many northerners condemned the raid, by 1863 John Brown had become a hero and martyr in the north. To what extent and in what ways do the views about John Brown expressed in the documents illustrate changing north-south relations between 1959 and 1863?

1981:

A. DBQ

Directions- this question tests your ability to work with historical documents. Your answer should be derived mainly from the documents. You may also refer to historical facts and developments not mentioned in the documents and may assess the reliability of the documents as historical sources where relevant to your answer.

- How and why did the lives and status of northern middle-class women change between 1776 and 1876?

B. Free Response - 1877

(1) “At various times between 1789 and 1861, Americans changes their positions on the constitutional question of loose construction or strict construction as best suited their economic or political interests.” Discuss this statement with reference to any two individuals or groups who took positions on this constitutional question.

(2) “The New Deal secured the support of labor and agriculture after 1932 as the Republican Party had the support of industry and commerce since 1920 – with special interest programs giving financial aid, legal privileges, and other types of assistance.” Assess the validity of this statement, giving attention to both periods [1920-1932 and 1932-1940].

C. Free Response – Post 1877

(1) Why did United States foreign policy after the Second World War [1945-1960] take a different direction from that after the First World War [1918-1939]? Give approximately equal attention to both periods.

(2) To what extent and why did religious toleration increase in the American colonies during the 17th and 18th centuries? Answer with reference to three individuals, events, or movements in American religion during the 17th and 18th centuries.

(3) “In American politics the most significant battles have occurred within the major parties rather than between them.” Discuss this statement with reference to the periods 1850 – 1861 and 1900 – 1912.

1980:

A. DBQ

“The decision of the Jackson administration to remove the Cherokee Indians to land west of the Mississippi River in the 1830’s was more a reformulation of the national policy that had been in effect since the 1790’s than a change in the policy.” Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to the moral, political, constitutional, and practical concerns that shaped national Indian policy between 1789 and the mid 1830’s.

B. Free Response – Post 1877

(1) “A presidential election that results in defeat of the party in power usually indicates the failure of the party in power to have dealt effectively with the nation’s problems, rather than indicating the positive appeal of the winning candidate and his party’s platform.” Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to two of the following elections in which the party in power was defeated [1912, 1920, 1932, 1952, 1960, 1968].

(2) “United States foreign policy between 1815 and 1910 was determined less by economic than by strategic, moral, or political interests.” Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to at least two major episodes [for example, treaties, proclamations, annexations, wars, etc.] in the foreign policy of the United States between 1815 and 1910.

(3) “Between 1783 and 1800 the new government of the United States faced the same political, economic, and constitutional issues that troubled the British government’s relations with the colonies prior to the revolution.” Assess the validity of this generalization.

(4) “In the period 1815 to 1860, improvements in transportation and increased interregional trade should have united Americans, but instead produced sectional division and finally disunion.” Discuss with reference to the impact of improved transportation and increased interregional trade on the northeast [New England and Middle Atlantic States], the south and the west.

(5) “Although the United States is widely regarded as the home of free enterprise, business values, and materialism, American fiction since 1865 has generally been critical of business behavior and values.” Assess

the validity of this generalization with reference to the work of at least two writers who have treated the behavior and values of businessmen in their fiction since 1865.

1979:

A. DBQ

To what extent and for what reasons did the policies of the Federal government from 1865 to 1900 violate the principles of laissez faire, which advocated minimal government intervention in the economy? Consider with specific reference to the following three areas of policy [railroad land grants, control of interstate commerce, and antitrust activities].

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

(1) “Most reform legislation since 1900 has been the work of special interest seeking to advance their own well-being, but the adoption of such legislation has required the general support of others who were not directly affected but who perceived it to be in the public interest.” Assess the validity of this statement with reference to three examples of reform legislation since 1900. You may draw your example from reform at any level of government – national, state or municipal.

(2) “American social reform movements from 1820 to 1860 were characterized by unveiling perfectionism, impatience with compromise, and distrust of established social institutions. These qualities explain the degree of success or failure of these movements in achieving their objectives.” Discuss with reference to both antislavery and one other reform movement of the period of 1820-1860 [for example, temperance, women’s rights, communitarianism, prison reform, or educational reform].

(3) “During the 17th century and increasingly in the 18th century, British colonists in America charged Great Britain with violating the ideals of rule of law, self-government, and ultimately, equality of rights. Yet the colonist themselves violated these ideals in their treatment of blacks, American Indians [Native Americans], and even poorer classes of white settlers.” Assess the validity of this view.

(4) “Between 1775 and 1823 a young and weak United States achieved considerable success in foreign policy when confronted with the two principal European powers, Great Britain and France. Between 1914 and 1950, however, a far more powerful United States was far less successful in achieving its foreign policy objectives in Europe.” Discuss by comparing United States foreign policy in Europe during the period of 1776-1823, with United States policy in Europe during one of the following periods [1914-1932 or 1933-1950].

C. Free Response – Post 1877

(1) “During the 20th century, American ‘progressives’ or ‘liberals’ at some times advocated a strong presidency and expanded executive power, while ‘conservatives’ opposed the expansion of these powers. At other times the ‘liberal’ and ‘conservative’ positions were reversed.” Assess the validity of this statement with reference to the periods 1900-1940 and 1965-1974.

1978

A. DBQ

In the 20th century prohibition spread by states’ passing local option laws which permitted a unit of local government, such as a county, to prohibit the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages. After an intensive

campaign by the anti-saloon league and other prohibitionist organizations and reform groups, national prohibition was achieved by the ratification of the 18th amendment to the Federal constitution in 1919. What accounts for the success of the prohibition movement in the United States during the era of progressive reform, 1900-1919? Consider the social composition of the prohibitionists, their motives, strategy and pressure-group tactics, and the relationship of prohibitionism to progressive reform.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

(1) “The unpopular ideas and causes of one period often gain popularity and support in another, but the ultimate price of success is usually the alteration or subversion of the original ideas and programs.” For the period of 1830-1877, discuss this statement with reference to both (a) the ideas and activities of abolitionism and (b) the policies of the Republican Party.

(2) “Although the thirteen American colonies were founded at different times by people with different motives and with different forms of colonial charters and political organization, by the revolution the thirteen colonies had become remarkably similar.” Assess the validity of this statement.

(3) “Ironically, popular belief in the ‘self-sufficient farmer’ and the ‘self-made man’ increased during the 19th century as the reality behind these beliefs faded.” Assess the validity of this statement.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

(1) “War has frequently had unexpected consequences for United States foreign policy but has seldom resulted in major reorientations of policy.” Discuss with reference to the first and second world wars, giving about equal attention to each.

1977: [includes model answers]

A. DBQ

The debate over the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 revealed bitter controversies on a number of issues. Discuss the issues involved and explain why these controversies developed.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

(1) “Presidents who have been notably successful in either foreign affairs or domestic affairs have seldom been notably successful in both.” Assess this statement with reference to two presidents, one in the 19th century and the other in the 20th century, giving reasons for success or failure in each case.

(2) “From 1790 to the 1870’s, state and national governments intervened in the American economy mainly to aid private economic interests and promote economic growth. Between 1890 and 1929, however, government intervention was designed primarily to curb and regulate private economic activity in the public interest.” Assess the validity of this statement, discussing for each of these periods at least two major areas of public economic policy.

(3) “What immigrants from Europe wanted in coming to America, and what America gave them, both changed during the period 1607-1915.” Discuss changes in what these immigrants wanted and what they found, giving about equal attention to the periods 1607-1790 and 1820-1915.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) “The leadership, organization, and programs of ethnic and racial minority movements after 1945 represented a fundamental departure from those which existed from 1900 to 1945.” Discuss with reference to Black Americans or Mexican Americans, giving about equal attention to the periods before and after 1945.
- (2) “Paradoxically, Darwinism provided a justification for both social conservatism and social reform in the period from 1870-1915.” Discuss this statement.

1976:

A. DBQ

Was American society, as evidenced by Wethersfield, Connecticut, becoming more ‘Democratic’ in the period from the 1750’s to the 1780’s? Discuss with reference to property distribution, social structure, politics, and religion.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) Both the Jacksonian democrats during 1824-1840 and the populists during 1890-1896 attacked and sought to root out special privilege in American life. The Jacksonian democrats attained power and succeeded; the populists failed.” Assess the validity of this view. Give roughly equal attention to both.
- (2) “The principal cause of the expansion of American presidential power in the 20th century has been war and diplomacy rather than domestic growth and crisis.” Assess the validity of this statement.
- (3) “The legal, political, and economic rights achieved by minorities and women in the United States have come largely during periods of major reform movements, which both helped the struggles of these groups and set limits to them.” Assess the validity of this statement for the history of one or more of these groups in the period of 1830-1920.
- (4) “In the work of American writers from the 1820’s through the 1920’s, the city mirrored America’s darkest fears, whereas the wilderness, the country, and the farm reflected its fondest hopes.” Assess the validity of this generalization. You may draw evidence from fiction and/or nonfiction.
- (5) “The term ‘isolationism’ does not adequately describe the reality of either United States foreign policy or America’s relationships with other nations during the period from Washington’s farewell address [1796] to 1940.” Assess the validity of this generalization.

1975:

A. DBQ

Analyze the factors that influenced the senate in ratifying the treaty of Paris in 1899 and assess their relative significance. Your analysis and assessment should take into account the complexities and/or contradictions presented by the evidence.

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

- (1) “The Declaration of Independence has been variously interpreted as a bid for French support, an attempt to swing uncommitted Americans to the revolutionary cause, a statement of universal principles, and an affirmation of the traditional rights of Englishman.” To what extent, if any, are these interpretations in conflict?
- (2) “The history of the United States shows that none of the three branches of the federal government is immune from the temptation to upset the system of checks and balances established by the constitution.”

Assess the validity of this generalization in regard to both congress versus the president, 1865 – 1868, and the President versus the Supreme Court, 1935 – 1937.

(3) “Although often defended and attacked on purely economic grounds, the federal tariff policies of the United States have been more important politically than economically.” Assess the validity of this generalization in regard to two tariffs in United States history.

(4) “Major American writers have been indifferent to the social problems of their day.” State whether you agree or disagree with this generalization and defend your position with reference to three novelists and/or poets.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

(1) “Although many Americans between 1870 and 1915 blamed political corruption at the state and local level on public indifference or greedy politicians, such corruption reflected a serious crisis of traditional institutions in dealing with the social and economic problems of modern America.” Assess the validity of this.

(2) “Greater similarities than differences have characterized the experiences of all ethnic and racial groups who have migrated to American cities.” Assess the validity with reference to the Irish and Germans from the 1840’s to the 1890’s and Black Americans from 1915 – 1970.

(3) “The era of good feeling [1816 – 1824] marked the appearance of issues that transformed American politics in the next twenty years.” Assess the validity.

(4) “Although many northerners and southerners later came to think of themselves as having separate civilizations, the northern and southern colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries were in fact more similar than different.” Assess the validity.

(D) Free Response – Post 1877

(1) “In the period since 1945, the republican party, as represented in the administrations of Eisenhower [1953-1961] and Nixon [1969-1974], virtually abandoned opposition to the New Deal it expressed during the 1930’s. Assess the validity.

1974

A. DBQ

To what extent was President-elect Abraham Lincoln responsible for the defeat of the Crittenden proposal on the territorial expansion of slavery?

B. Free Response – Pre 1877

(1) To what extent did economic issues provoke the American Revolution?

(2) Account or the emergence of utopian communities from the mid 1820’s through the 1840’s, and evaluate their success or failure.

(3) “The path to labor organization was marked by false starts and wrong turns.” Assess the validity of this generalization.

C. Free Response – Post 1877

- (1) “Despite superficial similarities, the domestic programs of the New Deal constituted a fundamental departure from those of the Progressive Era.” Assess the validity.
- (2) “Puritanism bore within itself the seeds of its own destruction.” Apply this generalization to colonial New England.
- (3) “The achievements of diplomats are in the long run more decisive than the achievements of generals.” Assess the validity of this generalization for the United States in the period 1800-1825.
- (4) Assess the changing status of Blacks between emancipation and the end of the 19th century.
- (5) “The United States in the period 1898-1919 failed to recognize that it had vital interests at stake in Europe, where it tried to stay aloof. At the same time, it had few or no such interests in Asia, where it eagerly became involved.” Assess the validity.

1973

A. DBQ

Relying on a critical evaluation of the accompanying documents, analyze the factors that probably influenced congress to pass the Immigration Act of 1924.

B. Free Response

- (1) “Hawks” and “doves” have disagreed on United States involvement in wars since the inception of the nation. Compare the “hawk” to the “dove” position for both a war of the 19th century and a war of the 20th century.
- (2) “Political movements in the United States often reflect a yearning for the past.” Assess the validity of this generalization by applying it to the Jacksonian and the Populists.
- (3) “The New Deal did not radically alter American business, but conserved and protected it. Assess the validity.
- (4) Controversy between integrationist and separate viewpoints has long been a dominant theme within the black community. Analyze the controversy among Blacks for the period 1920 - 1970.
- (5) “From the American Revolution to the Civil War, American writers [both fiction and non-fiction] and artists sought to express a uniquely national culture.” Analyze this statement for any period of approximately thirty years between 1775 and 1860.
- (6) Discuss the impact of the “transportation revolution,” 1820 – 1860, on the United States.
- (7) “Candidate elected to the Presidency in the 20th century have usually campaigned as middle-of-the-road men without strong commitments.” Assess the validity.
- (8) From 1600 to 1763, several European nations vied for control of the North American continent. Why did England win the struggle?
- (9) Why did the institution of slavery command the loyalty of the vast majority of antebellum southern whites, despite the fact that only a small percentage of them owned slaves?

1972

B. Free Response

- (1) What role did unfree labor play in colonial American society?
- (2) “Supreme court decisions reinforce state and federal legislation.” Assess validity for three decisions of Supreme Court prior to the Civil War.
- (3) Discuss the development of the woman suffrage movement and account for its success.
- (4) Discuss the changing attitudes of historians toward the origins of the Cold War.

- (5) Discuss the adjustment of one of the following minority groups to American life [American Indians 1860-1900, Mexican Americans 1910-1970, Puerto Ricans 1910-1970, Japanese Americans 1910 -1970].
- (6) Did the Republican Party from 1877 to 1896 abandon its earlier principles and succumb to expediency?
- (7) “There is no American history separate from the history of Europe.” Test this generalization by examining the impact of European events on the domestic politics of the United States from 1789 – 1815.
- (8) “The depression of the 1890’s delayed reform; the depression of the 1930’s stimulated it.” To what extent and in what ways do you agree or disagree.
- (9) “Alienation from American society is a dominant theme of the literature of the 1920’s.” Discuss this statement with reference to two writers [novelists, poets, playwrights, journalists, etc.] citing evidence from their works.
- (10) Account for the increased urbanization of Black Americans in the period 1914 -1945.

1971

Free Response

- (1) The south never had a chance to win the Civil War. To what extent do you agree or disagree.
- (2) How do you account for the onset of the Great Depression of the 1930’s?
- (3) Describe the thesis advanced by Federick Jackson Turner about the relationship of the frontier to political democracy and assess the principal argument that later historians have made to attack or defend the thesis.
- (4) “Andrew Jackson’s election in 1828 was the consequence of the rise of democracy rather than the start of a new democratic age.” Assess the validity.
- (5) Account for the growth of one of the following major urban centers during the period indicated: Boston 1630-1700, New York 1790-1860, New Orleans 1790-1860, Cincinnati 1790-1860, Chicago 1830-1900, Salt Lake City 1845-1900, Atlanta 1870-1940, Los Angeles 1890-1960.
- (6) “Between 1607 and 1763, Americans gained control of their political and economic institutions.” To what extent do you agree/disagree...
- (7) Analyze and evaluate Booker T. Washington’s program for American Blacks and W.E.B. Dubois’s challenge to that program.
- (8) “President FDR was naïve and ineffective in his conduct of foreign policy from 1933 to 1941.” To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- (9) “The United States in the gilded age [1865-1900] was a materialistic society, sterile in all forms of artistic expression.” Assess the validity... discuss literature and the arts...
- (10) “Our prevailing passions are ambition and interest; and it will be the duty of a wise government to avail itself of those passions, in order to make them subservient to the public good.” [Alexander Hamilton, 1787]. How was this viewpoint manifested in Hamilton’s financial program as secretary of the treasury?

1970

Free Response

- (1) “The constitutional convention of 1787 had no need to invent a new form of government. All it did was to codify the imperial and provincial systems under which America had been ruled, minus the formal subservience to Great Britain.” To what extent do you agree?
- (2) What was McCarthyism and why did it flourish between 1950-1955?

- (3) “Since the Civil War no third party has won a presidential election; however, third party programs have often found their way into Federal law.” For two of the following, discuss the validity of this generalization [Populist Party, Bull Moose Party, socialist party, States ’ Rights Party (Dixiecrat)].
- (4) “Despite the agony and violence of war, each of America’s major military conflicts resulted in improved opportunities for Black Americans.” Test this generalization concerning Black Americans for two of following [1776-1789, 1860-1876, 1914-1928, 1941-1954]
- (5) To what extent and in what ways has the economy of the United States been affected by international economic developments? Respond by analyzing one of the following periods [1789-1840, 1919-1933, 1945 to present].
- (6) Choose any two of the following works and explain how each illuminates the period in which it was written [“The Sun Also Rises”-Ernest Hemingway, “leaves of grass”, Walt Whitman, autobiography- Malcolm X, “The Grapes of Wrath”- John Steinbeck, “Looking Backward”- Edward Bellamy, the film- “The Birth of a Nation”, the confessions of Nat Turner- William Styron, “Civil Disobedience”- Henry David Thoreau, “Up From Slavery”- Booker T. Washington.
- (7) Alexis E. Tocqueville observed in 1835 that “almost all the defects inherent in democratic institutions are brought to light in the conduct of foreign affairs.” Evaluate this statement by comparing the conduct of the United States foreign affairs in the 1960’s and its conduct in one of the following periods [the 1790’s, the 1890’s, 1931-1941].
- (8) Explain the recurring demand for currency reform and the policies it produced in the period 1860-1914.
- (9) Assess the significance of violence or the threat of violence in two of the following [the coming of the American Revolution, the antislavery crusade, labor’s struggle for recognition and social justice, the civil rights movement from 1948- 1965]
- (10) “When Lincoln’s personal beliefs, public statements, motivations, acts, and actual accomplishments as president are studied objectively, he cannot be called ‘the great emancipator’. Discuss the validity.