
AP[®] United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Short Answer Question 4

- Scoring Guideline**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Short Answer Question 4

Answer (a), (b), and (c).

- a) Briefly describe ONE similarity between New Deal and Great Society programs.
- b) Briefly describe ONE difference between New Deal and Great Society programs.
- c) Briefly explain ONE reason for a difference between New Deal and Great Society programs.

Scoring Guide

0–3 points

Score 3

Response accomplishes **all three** tasks set by the question.

Score 2

Response accomplishes **two** of the tasks set by the question.

Score 1

Response accomplishes **one** of the tasks set by the question.

Score 0

Response accomplishes **none** of the tasks set by the question.

Score NR

Is completely blank

Question-Specific Scoring Guide

- ONE point for describing ONE similarity between New Deal and Great Society programs
- ONE point for describing ONE difference between New Deal and Great Society programs
- ONE point for explaining ONE reason for a difference between New Deal and Great Society programs

Scoring Notes

Introductory notes:

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These rubrics require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Short Answer Question 4 (continued)

Examples of responses to (a) that would earn credit:

- Both expanded a social welfare net.
- Both expanded government programs.
- Both regulated society and economy, expanded the power and reach of the federal government, and increased government spending and the management of fiscal and monetary policy to ensure economic productivity and growth.
- Both addressed poverty and unemployment.
- Both had programs to help the elderly.
- Both gave workers and labor purchasing power and a stronger political voice.
- Both were driven by presidential vision and expanded presidential power.

NOTE: *Credited responses for (a) must not rely on generalities. “Both addressed the economy” would not earn a point but “both addressed poverty and unemployment” would because it addresses specific economic concerns.*

Examples of responses to (b) that would earn credit:

- The New Deal stabilized capitalism and sought to stave off the deepening or return of the Great Depression, while the Great Society sought to extend the benefits of affluence to all Americans and to eradicate poverty.
- The New Deal focused on economic recovery and relief, while the Great Society sought to eradicate social problems like poverty, racial inequality, access to health care, and access to education.
- The Great Society focused on civil rights, while much of the New Deal did not address civil rights or institutionalized discrimination against African Americans and women in its programs.
- Great Society environmental policies focused primarily on the beautification of urban and rural areas, as well as developing regulations for air and water; New Deal environmental policies, instead, focused more on constructing infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings.
- The New Deal created a lasting Democratic political coalition and consensus around liberalism in government, while aspects of the Great Society hurt the Democratic Party and inspired criticisms of liberalism by the New Right.

NOTE: *Credited responses for (b) must address explicit differences between the New Deal and the Great Society. (e.g., A response like “The Great Society addressed civil rights issues, but the New Deal did not” is not sufficient to address the prompt.)*

NOTE: *Credited responses for (b) must elaborate beyond chronological differences.*

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Short Answer Question 4 (continued)

Examples of responses to (c) that would earn credit:

- The New Deal was a response to an economic depression, while the Great Society was a response to the persistent problem of poverty in a prosperous economy.
- The Great Society took place during and in response to the civil rights movement, while the New Deal reflected the racism of the era prior to the civil rights movement in American politics.
- The New Deal political coalition included many southern Democrats who supported racial discrimination (although it did feature incremental symbolic progress on racial issues), while the Great Society response to pressure from civil rights activists led many southerners to leave the Democratic Party.
- The Great Society could build upon the accomplishments of the New Deal, whereas the intervention of the federal government in society and economy during the New Deal was unprecedented.
- The Vietnam War constrained the accomplishments of the Great Society, while the New Deal could be more expansive partly because the United States was uninvolved in significant international engagements at the time.

NOTE: *Earning the point for (c) is not contingent on earning the point for (b).*

NOTE: *A credited response to (c) could be a reason for a difference established in (b). If the response in (c) is a continuation that addresses the same explicit difference established in (b), the response can earn credit if it only addresses one topic.*

Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



4A

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

(A) One similarity between the New Deal and Great Society was their goal to decrease unemployment. Under the New Deal, the CCC employed young men to provide labor for park restoration and other projects. Similarly, LBJ was motivated to stimulate the economy and provide jobs specifically for people of Appalachia. This area was among the poorest in the US, and LBJ decreased unemployment with Great Society measures.

(B) One difference between the New Deal and Great Society was that the Great Society had an emphasis on Civil Rights, while the New Deal did not. Great Society legislation included Civil Rights Acts which served to protect the liberties of blacks both politically and ~~economic~~ socially. In contrast, the New Deal had no such legislation, and in fact, minorities received much less benefits than their white counterparts.

(C) One reason for the difference in Civil Rights between the New Deal and Great Society was the influence of civil rights activists like Martin Luther King Jr. during the Great Society. His influence impacted the passage of pro civil rights laws. In contrast, during the New Deal, civil rights goals had not been as influential.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

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Question 3

Question 4



4B

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a) Both the New Deal and Great Society programs were focused on reforming the US and bringing society back to a form of normalcy. The New Deal was focused on helping the country recover after the Great Depression while the Great Society occurred right ~~at~~ in the time of the ~~Korean~~ War after Korea. While both were established when Vietnam the country was desperate for help, they also both held positive and negative programs.

b) One difference between the New Deal and Great Society programs was that the Great Society dove deeper into solving social issues such as hunger and racism than the New Deal did. The Great Society held programs that sought to bring much more to specific minorities such as the elderly, disabled, African Americans, and women while the New Deal era programs were directed at the country as a whole. This for example, the Great Society focused on Medicare while New Deal had Social Security.

c) A reason the two were different was because of the time that they were in. The Great Society came in the 60s while New Deal was in the 30s. The Great Society came after the civil rights movement and many wars while the New Deal was after the Depression so goals were different.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

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Question 3

Question 4



4C

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

- A) Both the New Deal instituted by FDR and the Great Society by LBJ held extensive emphasis on social programs.
- B) Many of the New Deal policies were put in place to seek Americans jobs, and to relieve our nation's great economic distress.
- C) Because the New Deal was instituted ~~to combat~~ during a time in which our nation had seen its greatest economic distress ever (Great Depression), while the economic status of our nation during the institution of the Great Society ~~was~~ was nowhere near as poor, differences in the programs can be understood.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Short Answer Question 4

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

- This question asked students to describe one similarity between New Deal and Great Society programs. Next, it asked students to describe one difference between New Deal and Great Society programs. Finally, it asked students to explain one reason for a difference between New Deal and Great Society programs.
- This question expected students to demonstrate an understanding of the role of the federal government in American social, political, and economic life, in particular, how government intervention can bring about change.
- This question focused on comparison and causation.
- This question addressed Key Concepts 7.10 and 8.9.

Sample: 4A

Score: 3

The response to (a) earned 1 point by describing how both the New Deal and the Great Society addressed unemployment, and it also provides specific examples of programs.

The response to (b) earned 1 point by explicitly addressing both the New Deal and the Great Society, and it also elaborates on the role of race in shaping both sets of programs.

The response to (c) earned 1 point by elaborating on the response to (b) by specifically explaining the involvement of civil rights activists as a reason for the difference.

Sample: 4B

Score: 2

The response to (a) did not earn a point because “bringing society back to a form of normalcy” is not a specific enough similarity. Also, the reference to the Vietnam War as creating the “desperate” conditions driving Great Society programs is inaccurate.

The response to (b) earned 1 point by addressing both the New Deal and the Great Society. It also elaborates on the greater social focus of Great Society programs. The claim that “the Great Society dove deeper into solving social issues such as hunger and racism than the New Deal” crosses the threshold. While the response slightly contradicts itself by introducing “Social Security,” that does not detract from the stated difference.

The response to (c) earned 1 point by explaining a reason for the difference between the New Deal and the Great Society beyond simple chronology. It attributes the difference to the impacts of the Civil Rights movement and the Great Depression.

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Short Answer Question 4 (continued)

Sample: 4C

Score: 1

The response to (a) did not earn a point because “emphasis on social programs” is not a specific enough similarity between the New Deal and Great Society.

The response to (b) did not earn a point because it does not explicitly address both the New Deal and the Great Society.

The response to (c) earned 1 point by explaining that there were “differences in the programs” because the New Deal was in response to the “economic distress” of the Great Depression, while the “economic status” of America during the Great Society was not as dire.