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AP[®]

CollegeBoard

AP[®] United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Question 2: Short Answer Primary Source**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines 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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

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- (A)** Briefly describe ONE historical situation in the United States during the Second World War suggested by the image. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Wartime demands resulted in new employment opportunities for women in many fields that had previously restricted their participation.
- Women made up a significant portion of the industrial workforce during the Second World War.
- Women more directly supported the war effort by serving as nurses and as auxiliary members of the armed services.
- The Second World War contributed to existing debates about gender and the proper roles of women in society.

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- (B)** Briefly explain how ONE specific event or development in the period from 1900 to 1941 led to the historical situation for women suggested by the image. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Women were asked to support the war effort in any way possible during the Second World War, as they had during the First World War.
- Although relatively small, women’s participation in previously male-only professions like medicine and law began to increase throughout the Progressive Era and helped pave the way for women’s employment during the war.
- Many women, particularly young women and those who were poor, had consistently been involved in specific areas of industrial production, particularly textile production.
- The economic strains of the Great Depression had already contributed to increased women’s participation in the labor market in the years prior to the Second World War.

- Women were involved in the reform movements of the Progressive Era, particularly the woman suffrage movement, resulting in more opportunities for women in society.

Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:

- Women’s participation in white-collar employment such as secretarial work increased.
- Women were experiencing greater opportunities in society in the 1920s Flapper era.

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- (C)** Briefly explain how ONE specific event or development in the period from 1944 to 1970 resulted from the historical situation suggested by the image. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Women were expected to leave their jobs once the war ended and be wives/mothers.
- Many women wanted to keep their wartime jobs and pushed for further access to employment and to educational opportunities.

Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:

- Many women pushed to stay in the workforce after the war.
- Women were expected to create ideal domestic environments for their families, particularly as many experienced improved standards of living and sought suburban lifestyles.
- The second wave of the feminist movement developed.
- The number of women enrolled in college and who pursued careers in professional fields increased throughout this period.

Total for question 2 3 points

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a) One situation during WWII was the increased mobilization in America to aid the war efforts. With many men off fighting in war and there being increased need of manufacturers to build war materials, women began working in jobs typically held by men. Women were encouraged to work by posters such as Rosie the Riveter and their desire to help with war efforts. Although many women had experience leaving their domestic sphere during the war, many were forced to return to household duties after. Women helped the US war efforts to succeed by working to make supplies.

b) The 19th amendment that granted women the right to vote led to the increased participation in society such as aiding in the war effort. Now that women could vote and participate in politics they were more active in society. This expansion from strictly domestic duties led to women being able to do more like men's jobs and hold an active role in things such as reform movements.

c) One event that resulted from female introduction to industry during WWII was the return of women to the home and role of a traditional woman. After men returned from war, the women were no longer needed to fill all those workforce positions. The growth of suburbs and the return of men from war also led to a baby boom which required women to stay home and tend to the children and house.

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

One historical situation in the United States during the Second World War suggested by the image was women going to work in industrial jobs and other jobs previously not done by women during the war. Because the majority of the male workforce was at war, women had to step up and take jobs they previously were not able to have. This idea is supported by the picture because it reinforces the idea that women had to work during the war.

One specific event that led to the historical situation was World War II. World War II was in full force during this time and it called many of the young men in the workforce away, forcing the women at one to step up to the new role. This shows the idea reinforced by the image because it asks if they want their wives to work after the war, implying they had worked during the war.

One specific event or development that resulted from the historical situation suggested by the image is the role of women in the 50's. During the 50's, many women stopped working and took on the role of the moral leader of the household. They were expected to stay at home and take care of household chores and their children. This occurred because of the women that ceased working after the war.

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

A. During the second world war, women worked jobs formerly occupied by men. Because of the war, men were being drafted to fight in the armed forces, and therefore could not perform their jobs, women filled these jobs during the war. This shows a difference of women's role in society during the war.

B. The second world war was a development that led to the historical situation shown by the image. Women began to take jobs left empty by men in order to help the war effort, and by doing so, changed their roles in society. WWII led to the idea that women should work more diverse jobs after the war.

C. Women, after WWII, ~~worked more jobs~~ began to expand their rights. ~~As~~ ~~then~~ women began asking for more rights, and a more integrated role in society, one of these rights was the right to vote, which evolved into a huge movement by the late 20th century. These ideas originated from WWII, where women began to take men's roles in society.

Short Answer Question 2

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

Overview

- In response to this question, students were expected to demonstrate understanding of and analyze a primary source image depicting the role of women in the labor force during the Second World War.
- Responses needed to describe a historical situation in the United States during the Second World War suggested by the image.
- Responses had to provide relevant evidence (from 1900 to 1941) and explain how it led to the historical situation suggested by the image and also provide relevant evidence (from 1944 to 1970) that resulted from the situation suggested by the image.
- Responses had to show understanding of the role of women in society as well as of women’s efforts to achieve agency during the prewar period. They also had to explain how these efforts created the historical situation suggested in the image and the degree to which women’s status and agency changed in the postwar period.
- This question focused on analyzing historical evidence and primary sources.
- This question primarily addressed Topics 7.8, 7.12, 7.13, and 8.11.

Sample: 2A

Score: 3

The response for part (a) earned 1 point for correctly describing, “With many men off fighting in war . . . women began working in jobs typically held by men.” The response further ties this situation to the image by explaining, “Women were encouraged to work by posters such as Rosie the Riveter.”

The response for part (b) earned 1 point for correctly explaining, “The 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote led to the increased participation in society such as aiding in the war effort.” The response further explains that as a result of this women gained a more active role in society, including employment and social activism.

The response for part (c) earned 1 point for accurately explaining that “[a]fter men returned from war, the women were no longer needed to fill all those workforce positions.” The response further explains that during the period of 1944–1970, “The growth of suburbias and the return of men from war also led to a baby boom which required women to stay home.”

Sample: 2B

Score: 2

The response for part (a) earned 1 point because it describes “women going to work in industrial jobs” correctly linking it to the fact that “the majority of the male workforce was at war.”

The response for part (b) did not earn a point because it does not offer any new evidence and simply restates information already presented in part (a).

The response for part (c) earned 1 point because it correctly explains that many women in the postwar period stopped working and “were expected to stay at home and take care of household chores and their children.”

Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response for part (a) earned 1 point because it correctly identifies men being drafted into the Second World War and women being asked to fulfill the jobs left behind.

The response for part (b) did not earn a point because it does not provide any new evidence and restates that women had “to help the war effort.”

The response for part (c) did not earn a point because the evidence provided about the right to vote is outside the time period.