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# AP United States History

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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# AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES HISTORY

## 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Short Answer Question 2

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

- Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Second World War (1939–1945) transformed the relationship of the United States with the rest of the world.
- Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Second World War transformed United States society.
- Briefly explain ANOTHER important way in which the Second World War transformed United States society.

### 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

No response. Response is completely blank.

### Scoring Notes

- Response briefly explains ONE important way in which the Second World War (1939–1945) transformed the relationship of the United States with the rest of the world.

Examples of responses to (a) that would earn the point:

- The United States emerged from the Second World War as a superpower as a result of military and technological advancements.
- The development and use of the atomic bomb, threat of atomic/nuclear war, start of atomic race.
- The United States became the “Arsenal of democracy.”
- The United States became the world’s leading industrial power at the time when the rest of the world had to rebuild infrastructure damaged during the Second World War.
- The Second World War led to economic, political, and military global dominance of the United States (“most powerful nation on earth” and advent of “American century”).
- The United States public accepted and/or supported an internationalist/interventionist foreign policy.
- The United States was no longer isolationist and became interventionist as a result of policy change.
- The United States lead role in the United Nations helped make it a new world power.

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## 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

- Disagreements between the United States and the Soviet Union at Yalta and in the immediate postwar era led to the Cold War/bipolar world.
  - The United States came to the aid of democratic governments throughout the world (e.g., Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan).
- b) and c) Response briefly explains TWO important ways in which the Second World War transformed United States society.

Examples of responses to (b) that would earn the point:

**Scoring Note:** *The explanations in (b) and (c) need to be clearly connected to the war to earn the point.*

- Wartime mobilization led to end of the Great Depression; scientific, technological and industrial advances; and an economic boom at home.
- The war led to a period of postwar economic growth and contributed to a Baby Boom generation.
- The G.I. Bill of Rights (Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944) contributed to the postwar economic growth.
- The war led to efforts to extend democratic values at home (e.g., demands for civil rights, Double V campaign, desegregation of the armed forces in 1948, women's rights — Rosie the Riveter).
- Nationalism/patriotism rose as a result of the war (e.g., victory bonds, victory gardens, Four Freedoms Speech).
- The war led to debates/conflicts over civil liberties (e.g., Japanese internment).
- The war led to debates/conflicts over workers' rights, unionization, and an antiunion movement.
- Improved positions for women and minorities in workforce during war.
- Women's work viewed in a new light during war, women recruited for war work, jobs previously held by men (e.g., Rosie the Riveter).
- Federal government created Federal Employment Practices Commission (FEPC) to lessen racial discrimination in wartime work/defense industry jobs; resulted from pressure by A. Philip Randolph's threatened March on Washington.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2** on this page only.

- a) During WWII the United States used a ~~sort of~~ <sup>weapons never seen before,</sup> <sup>ex. nuclear bomb</sup> and helped the Allies win years before the war ~~of~~ was predicted to end. This led to the US emerging as a world superpower ~~during~~ after the war, and this ~~creating~~ a rise in tensions between the USSR and the US. After the war, the US also asserted itself as an ally to democracy, and pushed for the containment policy shortly after the war. The US also used the Marshall Plan to fund the European reconstruction.
- b) Before WWII, the US had been plunged into the Great Depression, but after entering the war ~~the GDP drastically~~ <sup>the GDP drastically</sup> improved and pulled the country out of the Great Depression, mainly due to the opening of new factories to create weapons to help the US ~~help~~ win the war.
- c) After the Second World War, when American G.I. soldiers returned home, the US saw a drastical increase in births, which would become the baby boom generation. Also after returning from the war, many veterans entered universities and colleges with the help of the G.I. bill. This meant a higher percentage of the population ~~became educated~~ had higher education.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2** on this page only.

The Second World War drastically altered the United States' foreign policy. Having shown the world ~~its~~ its military power, the United States acted much more boldly and confidently in world affairs. An example of this would be the Cold War, in which the US and USSR had an extreme amount of tension between them, and the US sought to stop the spread of Communism from the Soviet Union.

World War II also transformed United States' society. After the war, the US saw an economic boom and unprecedented prosperity. This was due to government spending on the war. Industries like textiles, weapons, food, metal, and many more became successful when the government needed their services and products for the war, ~~the~~ which resulted in economic prosperity.

World War II also transformed United States' society by boosting national pride. The American public became much more patriotic due to the United States success in the war. This is also due to the economic prosperity caused by World War II.

Use a blue or black pen only for the short-answer questions. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

a) As in the first World War, the United States came out of the <sup>2nd world</sup> War in much better condition than the European nations. With this, the U.S. became a source of ~~reain~~ recovery for the other ~~name~~ nations, making the European nations more dependent on the U.S. than before.

b) The U.S. society was transformed by the second World War by the lack of spending during the war, piling up \$, filling the pockets of the American society, leading to the strengthening of consumerism.

c) Another way the U.S. society was transformed by World War II is the growing threat of the rival superpower~~s~~ to the U.S., the Soviet Union & its communism. When World War II ended, Russia was able to spread its influence upon other nations & the U.S. was in fear that "domino ~~theor~~ theory", when one nation ~~follows~~ <sup>falls to</sup> communism, the neighbor will soon follow, would reach the U.S. and crash it.

# AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES HISTORY 2017 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Short Answer Question 2

### Overview

Responses were expected to demonstrate an understanding of both the foreign and domestic effects of the United States involvement in the Second World War. Possible examples of this could be changes in gender roles because of wartime manufacturing employment, new demands for civil liberties and rights, the sale of war bonds, the adoption of rationing, and the country's emergence from the Great Depression. Students were also expected to understand that the Second World War changed America's role in international affairs by moving the country away from isolationism and toward interventionism in the global sphere. Possible examples of this could be the involvement with the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine, the creation of NATO, joining the United Nations, or the creation of the Cold War world, in which the United States confronted the Soviet Union. Students were also expected to demonstrate an understanding that the United States emerged as a major economic and military global power. Possible examples of this could be the development of the atomic bomb, an increase in military strength, new technological advancements, and the escape from the physical wartime devastation experienced by Europe.

This question assessed the skill of Continuity and Change over Time.

The Learning Objective assessed in this question focuses on the role of the United States in the world (analyzing the reasons for and the results of United States diplomatic, economic, and military initiatives in North America and overseas).

### Sample: 2A

#### Score: 3

- a) The response earned 1 point because it correctly identifies the strength of the United States military with its advanced weaponry. Additionally, the Marshall Plan and the policy of Containment are included in this answer.
- b) The response earned 1 point because it includes an explanation of the United States coming out of the Depression to enjoy economic prosperity because factories originally produced weapons and supplied jobs for the war effort, which continued in the postwar period.
- c) This response earned 1 point as it provides sufficient information regarding the effect of returning soldiers as a major contribution to the Baby Boom generation, and it discusses access to higher education through the G.I. Bill, which allowed college graduates to secure better jobs.

### Sample: 2B

#### Score: 2

- a) The response earned 1 point because it correctly identifies the United States as more active in world affairs, using the Cold War as an example.
- b) The response earned 1 point because it correctly points out the impact of government spending on the military economy, which stimulated economy prosperity.
- c) The response failed to earn a point because it does not provide specific examples of patriotism, and it already earned the point above for its discussion of economic prosperity.

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## Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

**Sample: 2C**

**Score: 1**

- a) The response earned 1 point through its characterization of America's superior economic position after the war and its role in European recovery: "making the European nations more dependent on the U.S. than before" demonstrates a transformation of United States foreign policy.
- b) The response did not earn a point because it does not accurately characterize the reasons for the transformation to a consumer economy.
- c) The response did not earn a point because it focuses on international policy rather than a domestic response to communism.