



**AP[®] US History
2004 Sample Student Responses
Form B**

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Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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As the United States became more and more prosperous due to industry and an availability of jobs in several new areas where unskilled workers could be hired, the roles of women drastically changed from 1790 to 1860. Firstly, the Industrial Age opened ^{up} more job opportunities. Secondly, public education improved, proving women's worth. And lastly, the preparation for the Civil War allowed women to fill jobs that men previously had, redefining a woman's role in life and society from 1790 to 1860.

The Industrial Revolution made America's economy prosper, but mainly because it had more workers, for women were allowed to work as unskilled workers in industries and jobs previously only open to men. With new inventions, such as Elias Howe's sewing machine, and machine interchangeable parts, life and work in the home became easier, and the standard of living rose. Since families needed money, ~~the cost of living~~ and ~~the cost of living~~ ~~was~~ the life of a worker ^{was} made easier, families were able to spare women and children for jobs in mines and industries to bring in more money to the household. Thus, a woman's ~~role~~ ^{role,} economically, was drastically changed.

As federal funding to public schools increased, female children became more educated than in 1790,

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where girls usually did not attend schools. ~~Society~~
 These girls had a higher education than their predecessors, thereby, knowing more about the issues and news going on in the U.S., eventually increasing female involvement in politics, job management positions, and a new perspective on their domestic roles, since women were now able to work outside the home. ~~In~~ In the past, a woman could only work in the home, taking care of an average of eight (8) children, however as time progressed between 1790 and 1860, both the children and the mother (when the children were old enough) could work ~~at~~ at unskilled jobs in factories, thereby, putting more money into the family's savings and way of life.

In preparation for the Civil War, the majority of young men were drafted from both the Union and the Confederacy. In order to maintain the economy, it was necessary for women to fill in these jobs for the men, which made society and the economy dependent on women and children of old enough age to work (usually at age seventeen [17]). These newer, more important, jobs were a great responsibility, and further redefined women's roles in society, because this gave them the opportunity to prove their education and

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their worth. It also gave them the opportunity to become more involved in society, especially politically, since education gave women a new perspective and interest in life.

Although the period between 1790 and 1860 is great, through the Industrial Revolution's new job openings, the improved public education, and the new responsibilities given to women in preparation for the Civil War (which lasted from 1860 to 1865), women not only redefined their roles domestically, economically, politically, and socially, but also proved themselves and their abilities ~~in~~ ~~such a way that later gave~~ with the determination and zeal that would eventually give them suffrage with the 25th Amendment.

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Women's Rights, and Roles in society is an issue that today is relevant and apparent in American society. Over time, women have made great achievements towards gaining equal rights, however it has been a struggle. Colonial women faced many hardships as they were considered greatly inferior. Between the periods of 1790 and 1860, the roles of women's lives changed. Although the changes were not extremely strong or relevant, women did what they could to change their roles socially, and domestically.

The Revolutionary War resulted in certain domestic changes for women. In the South, women had worked, however for the most part as supervisors of the slaves. In the North, women had been stuck in the cult of Domesticity. The war however, brought slight changes to this. With most of the men fighting for freedom, the women were left to continue and maintain the previous lifestyles, while greatly assisting with war causes. Women were maintaining the households as well as taking over their husband's tasks. They played a major role in the war effort, providing food, sewing uniforms, and in some cases nursing on the front. For the first time, women were proving their capabilities,

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which evidently extended much farther than only domestic capabilities. After the war however, although women had attempted to prove themselves, their domestic roles changed only slightly. Over time, women were able to get small jobs such as teaching and sewing, all the while remaining inferior to men, and expected to main the household.

Women made more changes when it came to their social roles. In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott held the Seneca Falls Convention, a convention to discuss the grievances of their roles in society. The women had met at a meeting for abolitionists, however were forced to sit behind a curtain where they could not see or be seen. The women, tired of their inferior roles, gathered other women and wrote the Declaration of Sentiments, stating that the constitution claimed that all men were created equal, which should include women. For the first time, women were taking a real stand to advocate social change on women's behalf. This truly never resulted in much, ~~except~~ except that the movement for women's rights had begun, and that they began to speak out. The reform movements were also important ~~too~~ for women's social roles, because again they were taking stand.

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More women were starting things, such as Mental Hospitals, and were speaking out and becoming part of the abolitionist movements. Women had moved from almost silent roles, to speaking out and beginning to take action.

Women faced a great deal of suppression and lack of opportunity. This however, began to slowly change over time. Helping during the war helped women make a slight stand and show their "other than domestic" capabilities. Their greatest achievements, or ~~starting~~ achievements that truly began the women's rights movement began with their social change ~~at the time~~ and the Seneca Falls Convention. As a result to the early time period and strong opposing faction of men, it was difficult to make huge changes; however the women of this time managed to begin what would eventually become a major movement.

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Many women started to work, which was to support their family and most of these were young unmarried women. Though this was a time where women ventured out into the work force, their wages were considerably less and the safety and work conditions were poor. As more women started working, the tradition idea of a large family was changed to only two children per family. Due to this drop in marriage rates and birth rates, the cult of domesticity emerged. This was the basic idea that women were best needed at home to teach and take care of the children. It was said that it was the responsibility of the woman to keep a clean house and uphold religion in child-rearing. As time went by, many women left their jobs and returned to the role of a housewife. But by the late 1800's, about $\frac{1}{4}$ the women population has held a job before she was married.

Early in the republic, women's rights were attempted to be change. Though it was a ^{short} ~~space~~ moment of freedom, these protest and acts paved roads in the future for greater success in the equality of women and men.