



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

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African American

~~Black~~ citizens were also beginning to test the boundaries of segregation in the south. The movement, led by Martin Luther King Jr. + the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) began w/ the arrest of Rosa Parks + the ensuing Montgomery bus boycott to protest segregation w/ in transportation. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organized sit-ins + boycotts to protest segregation in public areas such as restaurants. CORE (a northern African American student group) organized "Freedom Rides" to protest segregation on interstate transportation + "Freedom Summers" to increase African American voter registration, where it was particularly low in states such as Mississippi.

These movements, along w/ television images of African Americans being beaten + jailed for non-violent protests, spurred the government to action. The National Guard was repeatedly mobilized in the south to enforce school de-segregation. But legislatively, African American rights were still relatively unprotected, though the Civil Rights Act of 1957 did give increased power to the judiciary in enforcing the rights of voters.

The administrations of Kennedy + LBJ saw the greatest change. The Voting Rights Act of 1964

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ended the use of literacy tests for voting + provided for federal assistance for black voters. The 24th Amendment eliminated the poll tax, another Southern white method of restricting the African American vote. Finally the Civil Rights Act of 1965 made segregation illegal in public places.

Lyndon B. Johnson + Nixon did more to expand the idea of social racial equality w/ affirmative action, 1st instituted by LBJ's executive order (w/ in government hiring) + then expanded by Nixon w/ the Philadelphia plan. Affirmative action aimed to promote racial equality by giving minorities (particularly African Americans) priority in positions of employment + education.

Women also saw an increase in their social equality from 1965-1975. Following the 19th Amendment, female voting participation had consistently increased. Along w/ it, female participation in the work force was rapidly expanding. During WWII many women were employed in war industries, + while many quit @ the wars' end to make way for returning soldiers, some stayed. As both prosperity + the middle class expanded in the 1950's, more women began working outside the home to

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provide a second income to pay for a ~~suburban~~ suburban life. This new role for women was encouraged by Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*.

Also encouraging increased female independence were new options for reproductive control. Prior to this time period, birth control (first advocated by Margaret Sanger during the Progressive Era) was often difficult to use + unreliable. The "pill" allowed women near complete reproductive planning. Also, the decision of *Roe v. Wade* allowed women the freedom to choose abortion.

Finally, the feminist + women's liberation movements (led by organizations such as NOW + women such as Gloria Steinem + Betty Friedan) educated women on their rights + sought to promote equality, particularly w/in the work force. Although it ~~was~~ narrowly avoided ratification by the states, the Equal Rights Amendment raised awareness of the status of women.

The 1960s-1975 represented an era of greatly increased political + social rights for many groups, the largest of those movements being the women's liberation movement + the civil rights movement of African Americans.

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The struggle for political and social equality has always been fought, but from 1960 to 1975, there was certainly great progress made. First, the sentiments of ^{the} Vietnam War affected the American public's views concerning peace and equality. Secondly, the many organizations that planned and carried out protests helped make the American public aware of discrimination and inequality. And lastly, key and experienced figures helped lead others through ^{the} struggle for political and social equality. These factors greatly contributed to the struggle of political and social equality from 1960 to 1975.

During the 1960's, when the U.S. entered the Vietnam War, many ^{radical} peace advocates (or "hippies") organized peaceful protests in retaliation of ~~the~~ U.S. involvement. From this experience, many African Americans began to form their own protests against the unequal treatment they had been receiving for centuries in the U.S. In addition, the determination that added to the great progress African Americans made to the struggle for equality, many African American soldiers who fought in a desegregated army, in Vietnam came home to segregation, and ~~the~~ influenced African American civilians into protests with their

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segregated experiences in the military.
~~From the protests by African Americans,~~
~~women began their protests for social and~~
~~political equality.~~

In addition to their experiences in a desegregated military, African Americans could now turn to a Supreme Court case called "Brown vs. the Board of Education," which overturned the "Plessy vs. Ferguson" ruling that "separate but equal" was constitutional.

Using the African-American Civil Rights movement to their advantage, women began pushing for political and social equality, as Native Americans began asking the U.S. government for more reservation land and rights wrongfully denied them.

Key figures, such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X not only inspired people to change society, but also, through great leadership and determination, contributed to the great progress their people (as well as women and Native Americans) made from 1960 to 1975, considering how many decades (and centuries) those people had been denied political and social equality.

The Vietnam War sentiments, coupled with experienced and organized protests and key leaders.

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the struggle for political and social equality significantly and greatly advanced from 1960 to 1975, eventually producing the Equal Rights Act, improved Reservation rights and conditions for Native Americans, and equal pay and voting procedures for women. All this was performed effectively and significantly mainly throughout the 1960 and 1975 time period, proving that it was most definitely a time of great accomplishments and progress for many people.

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Political and social equality was a demand that existed for centuries, since when slavery started, by 1960. This is most easily seen with the many issues concerning blacks' rights. African Americans fought for their freedom, then for their equality and then for their rights. Similarly, women had started to access a more important role by the ~~beginning~~ beginning of the 20th century, but many men did not acknowledge it.

The so called "Pop Culture" had started to invade the USA by the 1960s. The era that arranged the Beatles and Elvis Presley was filled with violence, crime, discrimination and a lot of music. Pop ~~general~~ came from the ghettos and imposed a high importance into the social life of people. This was also the era where most young people argued about the war in Vietnam. Many became hippies and drugged themselves to have a "higher sense of reality".

African Americans had been fighting for rights, and even if these had already been achieved in Justice, many racism movements (like the KKK) still existed. The ~~era~~ "Black Power" emerged during the 60s and had ~~the~~ the purpose to show that blacks had their own political and social ideas and that they would grow inside their group. Their idea of separating from white groups, to not compete with them, had started with Booker T. Washington. Then W.E. DuBois brought the idea that whites and black should relate but the blacks would not threaten their achievements. Those earlier ideas ~~then~~ were then developed after the Age of Conformity. Malcolm X arose and fought for muslim-

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blacks ^{who} suffered even higher discrimination. And then came time for the great leaders to emerge. Martin Luther King Jr, who called for black renaissance to realize that they could work equally and achieve whatever they wanted. Segregationist issues was moving so slowly but with achievements (Nixon took care of bussing problems as to integrate the society) and schools who had segregated now had their black students demand for black teachers and coordinators. Great progresses came for African Americans by 1975, specially because it was a generation of "peace and love" who believed in racial equality (majority).

For women it is necessary to point out that they had been taking place by the soldiers who had come back from WWII, or Vietnam, in job positions, to become a house wife. Many of them did not support the idea that there was no equal job offers and knew that they were capable of working like men. That is where women started to desire man's place, and the feminist movement that ^{searched} ~~searched~~ for their civil rights amendment emerged with many homosexual females. During the 1970s, the hippies female would not wear a top under wear and would cut their hair short to look less attractive to men. The idea of liberty that was being praised for Vietnam was what the women wanted for themselves. Women wanted legal rights, equal to men, such as that abortion came out, ~~and~~ birth control pills gave women their sexual freedom and they grew in a business area, showing the capacity that they had to carry the USA during WWII when they replaced soldiers, both politically and socially.

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All of these ^{that} ~~also~~ came with much struggle, for both women and African Americans, were fiercely fought for. One of the most contradictory points, however, was that 100 years after Lincoln made the Emancipation Proclamation all blacks ~~gathered~~ met in his memorial in Washington, to listen to Martin Luther King, Jr. say that they were free, but that they had no rights whatsoever. It was necessary to demand, and Black Power emerged from that. Women also sought fairly for their rights and in the 70s experienced a change, radical in a way, that was never present in their lives.