

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY

2007 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

Settlers in the eighteenth-century American backcountry sometimes resorted to violent protest to express their grievances. Analyze the causes and significance of TWO of the following:

March of the Paxton Boys
Regulator movement
Shays' Rebellion
Whiskey Rebellion

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that analyzes both the causes and significance of TWO of the events.
- Develops the thesis with considerable, relevant supporting information.
- Has effective analysis of the events and connects them to violent protest and its importance; coverage may be somewhat uneven.
- May contain minor errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Is clearly organized and written.

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a thesis that may be partially developed in analyzing the causes and significance of TWO of the events.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant information.
- Has some analysis of the causes and significance.
- Discusses two of the events, but one may be more developed than the other.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- May paraphrase the question or contain a confused or unfocused thesis.
- Provides few relevant facts or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- May contain only generalizations.
- Has little or no analysis of one or both events.
- May contain major errors that seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- May be poorly organized and/or written.

The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response.
- Has little or no understanding of the question.
- Contains numerous errors, both major and minor.
- Is poorly organized and/or written.

The — Essay

- Is completely off topic or blank.

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Question 2 Fact Sheet

March of the Paxton Boys (1764)

Backcountry farmers
Scots-Irish
Indian attacks
Royal government
Farmer Petitions
Farmers attack peaceful Indians

Indian peace treaty with the royal government
Benjamin Franklin
End of French and Indian War
Farmers scorned by East Coast elites
Proclamation of 1763

Regulator Movement (1770s)

Two movements: North and South Carolina
White bandits
Distrust of the East

Took control of the courts
General anarchy
Two groups in the backcountry

Shays' Rebellion (1787)

Era known as the "Critical period"
Revolutionary War veterans
Daniel Shays
Weak Articles of Confederation
No standing army
Need for stronger central government
Clash between agricultural frontier and
mercantile Boston and the East
Merchants calling-in loans to farmers
Foreclosures on farms by banks

Issue of paper money while farmers had to pay
debts and taxes in specie
Federal arsenal at Springfield
Massachusetts taxes and control of inflation
Farmers could not pay their mortgages or taxes,
leading to foreclosures
Elites/"mobocracy"
Constitutional Convention/Constitution
Militia ends the rebellion (can be from other
states, as some textbooks say this)

Whiskey Rebellion (1794)

Alexander Hamilton/Hamilton financial
program/whiskey tax, an excise tax
Revolutionary War debts
Whiskey used as currency on frontier
Whiskey made from grain
Cheaper to transport whiskey over mountains
Pennsylvania farmers outraged when whiskey
was taxed
Tax was a prominent source of money for the
new federal government
Pre-Revolutionary British policies/Stamp Act

Tar and feathering of federal tax officials
Strong central government
Little evidence of resistance when troops went
into the field
Government strong enough to deal with internal
defiance
Thousands of troops (10,000–15,000)
Some see a too-strong central government
Definition of executive power/supremacy of
federal law
Contributes to the formation of two-party system

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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2A

1 of 2

a The ^{being} yeomen of the American Backcountry often revolted when ~~pressed~~ pressed by a government they viewed as indifferent to their grievances. Two prime examples are Shay's Rebellion of 1786 and the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. Both involved backcountry farmers taking up arms in protest of a ~~poor~~ economic policy they opposed and both tested the mettle of the young US government.

In the years following the American revolution, life was hard especially in the backcountry ^{of Massachusetts}, where former Continental soldiers found that their farms and homesteads were in disrepair or overgrown, or neglected. Also, they ~~didn't~~ didn't receive pensions or emoluments for their service. They began to feel pressure from the tax collectors and banks, with the shadows of foreclosure and disgrace ~~to~~ hovering above their heads rather than ~~except~~ such a fate, the backwoodsman ~~rebeld~~ rebelled and ~~marched~~ marched against the state capital of Springfield in 1788. This caused widespread panic amongst the Upper Class, who feared class warfare. Though the mob was broken up by

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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2A
2 of 2

state militia, the Rebellion led to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and the formation of a functioning government. In 1794, the government of George Washington levied a duty ~~was~~ on Whiskey. This caused outrage in Western Pennsylvania, where whiskey was often used in lieu of money. The backwoodsmen took up arms and tarred and feathered tax collectors. In response, Washington raised troops in a broad interpretation of the constitution and crushed the rebellion himself.

Though these two events are not only similar in the fact that they were backcountry insurrections but also affected the power of the US government. One showed the weakness of the US under the Articles of Confederation and led to the formation of the federal government and the constitution. The other establishes the precedent of using ^{Federal} force to put down uprisings.

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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During the 1700s in America, a sense developed among people living far from big cities and the East coast, that their ~~own~~ wishes were not being accurately represented in state or federal governments. ~~Two~~ Two very notable examples of such groups of people resorting to violent protest were the March of the Paxton Boys, and the Whiskey Rebellion.

During the colonial period in Pennsylvania, there were some troubles on the borders of the frontier with Indian attacks. ~~A~~ A rebellion of sorts erupted when a town on the far frontier was attacked by a band of Indians from much further west. The group, led by a ~~family~~ prominent family named Paxton, petitioned to ~~the~~ the state government in Philadelphia to provide protection from such attacks, or to allow them to arm themselves to go kill Indians. The state government refused and the group organized into a mob called the Paxton Boys. They attacked a peaceful settlement of Indians further to the east that had ~~been~~ made a peace treaty with the government and then began to march on Philadelphia itself before they were talked down by ~~the~~ Ben Franklin and other men. This event is so significant because it marked the beginning of a period of difficult relations with the Indians who had ~~been~~ their peaceful counterparts slaughtered
heard of

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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by an angry mob. It also however increased the prestige of Ben Franklin who went on to bigger and better things.

The Whiskey Rebellion occurred ~~before~~ ^{after} the Revolution. The federal government had imposed an excise tax on many goods, notably whiskey in an attempt to generate some revenue. There were however no members of the federal legislators from the backwoods regions in the Appalachians where whiskey manufacture was such a key to their way of life. They felt that they had been unfairly taken advantage of and were indignant due to how their situation so completely seemed to echo the situation of the colonies under Great Britain's control. A war had just been fought against "taxation without representation" ~~and~~ only to have the same taxation without representation occur again. A violent rebellion erupted in the backwoods of Pennsylvania and the federal government had to stop it. Washington led federal troops into the area and ~~quashed~~ ^{quelled} the rebellion. This event was so significant because it seemed to have been such a breach from the ideals the country had been founded upon. It was also the first test for an infant federal government. Many would say that they failed miserably.

In conclusion, violent protest and rebellion in the backwoods of America was caused primarily because ~~the~~ the inhabitants of such areas felt they were not being

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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2B
3 of 3

locked out for by the governments in charge. The March of the Boston Boys, and the Whiskey Rebellion signify a failure of American governments to do what they decided Great Britain for not doing: ~~and~~ representing the wishes of the people.

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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2C
1 of 2

After the creation of the United States, violent protests occurred. These violent protests were beneficiary to the United States government in the long run. Two protests, Shays' Rebellion and the Whiskey Rebellion, played an important role in the ~~the~~ U.S. government.

Daniel Shays raised a riot with a group of farmers in Pennsylvania for overtaxation. The group was difficult to stop because it was during the period when the Articles of Confederation was enacted.

Shays' Rebellion exposed the weakness of the Articles of Confederation. It did not have a strong central government and couldn't quiet violent protests. ~~It~~ Those who wanted to keep the Articles of Confederation now had a difficult argument. Shays' Rebellion quickened the ratification of the Constitution.

The Whiskey Rebellion was initiated by a group in ~~America~~ the Appalachian area ~~the~~ irrate about the high duty on whiskey. George Washington quickly summoned an excessively large army to take care of the rebellion. The rebels fled ~~with~~ at the site of the army. The Rebellion was

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

2C
2 of 2

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one ② or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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over with ^{very} few casualties. The Whiskey Rebellion sent a message to the people and the U.S. gov't of how ~~rebe~~ violent protests should be dealt with.

~~The~~ Shays' Rebellion and the Whiskey Rebellion helped an infant and inexperienced U.S. government. ~~It gave the @ government insight about itself and its weak~~ Shays' Rebellion gave the government insight about itself and its weakness. The Whiskey Rebellion served as a model example of how violence will be dealt with to all of America.

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY 2007 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the causes and significance of backcountry violence in the eighteenth century and how such violence affected the social and political world of eighteenth-century American communities. Students also had to comprehend how the protests often reflected as well as created sectional, especially east/west, tensions. In addition, this question encouraged them to use a thematic approach in addressing and discussing historical events.

Sample: 2A

Score: 8

This essay presents deep analysis with substantial historical evidence. Its focus on the east/west division in colonial America, and the impact of the uprisings on the creation and empowerment of the United States government is well developed. Deeper historical contextualization placed the essay in the top score category, but the limited treatment of the Whiskey Rebellion prevented it from receiving the highest score.

Sample: 2B

Score: 6

This essay formulates a strong thesis predicated on the failure of the eastern centers of power to live up to the ideals of the American Revolution, namely, representing the opinions of the people. It offers a balanced portrayal of both the Paxton Boys' revolt and the Whiskey Rebellion with accurate, relevant information. However, the limited insights regarding the significance of the two revolts prevented this essay from earning a higher score.

Sample: 2C

Score: 3

This essay contains broad generalizations with limited factual evidence. Although both the causes of the uprisings and their impacts are discussed, these issues are not developed well enough to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the significance of the two events.