

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY

2007 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

“Landslide presidential victories do not ensure continued political effectiveness or legislative success.” Assess the validity of this statement by comparing TWO of the following presidential administrations.

Franklin Roosevelt (1936)

Lyndon Johnson (1964)

Richard Nixon (1972)

Ronald Reagan (1984)

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that assesses whether landslide presidential victories ensured continued political effectiveness/legislative success by comparing TWO of the four presidential administrations.
- Develops the thesis with substantial and relevant historical information.
- Provides effective analysis of the TWO administrations and their political effectiveness/legislative success; treatment of the administrations as well as political effectiveness/legislative success may be somewhat unbalanced. (Assessment of the impact of the election itself may be implicit or explicit.)
- May contain minor errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Is well organized and well written.

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a thesis, which may be partially developed, that addresses whether landslide presidential victories ensured continued political effectiveness/legislative success by comparing TWO of the four presidential administrations.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant supporting information.
- Provides some analysis of the TWO administrations and their political effectiveness/legislative success; treatment may be unbalanced. (Assessment of the impact of the election itself may be implicit or explicit.)
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- Contains a weak or unfocused thesis or simply paraphrases the question.
- Provides few relevant facts or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- Provides simplistic analysis that may be generally descriptive or addresses only one administration.
- May contain major errors.
- May be poorly organized and/or written.

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Question 5 (continued)

The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inadequate response.
- Has little or no understanding of the question.
- Contains substantial factual errors.
- Is poorly organized and/or written.

The — Essay

- Is completely off topic or is blank.

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Question 5 Fact Sheet

Franklin Roosevelt (1936)

Political Effectiveness/Legislative Success

Second New Deal
Quarantine Speech
Social Security
Battle of Britain
Keynesian Economics
Election of 1940 (unprecedented third term)
Southern Democrats
Atlantic Charter
Farm Security Administration
Winston Churchill

Alfred Landon
Neutrality Acts
National Housing Act
Cash and Carry
Second AAA
Peacetime draft
Fair Labor Standards Act
Lend Lease Act (1941)
Executive Reorganization Act

Political Ineffectiveness

Supreme Court invalidates the AAA (1936)
Rise of fascism
Court packing scheme
Hitler/Mussolini/Emperor Hirohito

“Memorial Day Massacre”
Munich Conference/appeasement
1937-38 economic collapse

Lyndon Johnson (1964)

Political Effectiveness/Legislative Success

Presidential ability to expand Vietnam War
Great Society
Bombing of North Vietnam (February 1965)
“War on Poverty”
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
Job Corps, VISTA, AFDC, Upward Bound
Robert Weaver (first African American cabinet member)
Thurgood Marshall appointed to Supreme Court
Economic Opportunity Act
Water and Air Quality Acts
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Medicaid

Medicare
Highway Beautification Act
Head Start
Highway Safety Act
Elementary and Secondary Education Act
Increase in minimum wage (1966)
Immigration Reform Act (1965)
Twenty-fifth Amendment
Voting Rights Act
Truth-in-Lending Act
National Endowment of the Arts Act
Civil Rights Act (1968) (housing)

Political Ineffectiveness

Race riots in Watts, Newark, Cleveland, Detroit, and elsewhere
Tet Offensive
Black Power movement
Johnson withdraws from 1968 race
Opposition to affirmative action
Split in Democratic Party

Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated
Violence at Democratic National Convention
White backlash
Retreat from Great Society/War on Poverty
Senate hearing on Vietnam
Drop in LBJ’s approval rating
Antiwar protests on university campuses

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Question 5 Fact Sheet (continued)

Richard Nixon (1972)

Political Effectiveness/Legislative Success

Christmas Bombing of 1972/Paris Peace Accord
China
Vietnamization
ABM Treaty

Détente/USSR
SALT
Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy"
Agricultural and Consumer Protection Act

Political Ineffectiveness

Committee for the Re-election of the President
War Powers Act
Watergate
Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns (tax evasion)
Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox
Nixon's "I am not a crook" speech
"Saturday Night Massacre"
Subpoena of tapes

Roe v. Wade
Growing calls for impeachment (three bills)
Troubled economy/stagflation
Supreme Court ruled against Nixon regarding tapes
1973 Arab oil embargo
Nixon resigns (August 8, 1974)

Ronald Reagan (1984)

Political Effectiveness/Legislative Success

"Teflon" presidency
1986 Tax Reform Act
Glasnost (openness)
INF Treaty (1987)

Perestroika (restructuring)
Cease-fire agreement in Nicaragua (1988)
Reagan-Gorbachev summit meetings (four)
Bush wins in 1988 (Reagan legacy)

Political Ineffectiveness

Widening income disparity between rich and poor
Massive budget deficits, trade deficits, national debt
Challenger disaster
Democrats regain control of U.S. Senate
Iran-Contra Scandal/Tower Commission Report
Abortion and affirmative action controversies
Administration scandal: Edwin Meese, Michael Deaver, Samuel Pierce (HUD), and so on

S&L failures and Wall Street scandals: Keating Five, Michael Milken, Ivan Boesky
Stock Market Crash: Black Monday (October 19, 1987)
Homelessness
AIDS crisis
Senate rejects Robert Bork for Supreme Court

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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5A
(p.1044)

Many ~~Presidents~~ candidates who are running for the office of the President desire sweeping victories in the polls, because they believe that this guarantees success as a President. This has not been the case for two of America's Presidents, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Richard Nixon. Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated as a Democratic President in 1932, in the midst of America's worst economic depression in history. He had a policy of "relief, recovery, and reform," and was effective in implementing much of his New Deal legislation. Richard Nixon, who ~~was~~ won the presidency as a Republican in 1972, began his presidency successfully implementing his "Vietnamization" policy and his creation of "détente," or "relaxed tensions," with the Soviet Union. Despite these Presidents' big victories and initial legislative and political success, their popularity and success waned.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was so popular with the American people that he broke the ~~customary~~ customary two-term presidency rule when he won an astounding 4 elections. Many people believed Roosevelt had saved the country with his New Deal programs. Many of these programs, such as the CCC and the WPA, were successful in giving jobs to Americans in need of them and money. But some of the reforms that Roosevelt

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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5A
(p. 2 of 4)

truly supported were shot down by the Supreme Court during the latter half of the 1930s. The "Hundred Days Congress" passed the Agriculture Adjustment Act, which essentially paid farmers not to grow crops. Roosevelt believed this would help because overproduction and underconsumption was one of the most serious problems before and during the stock market crash in 1929. The Supreme Court declared this Act unconstitutional, along with the NIRA, which was another New Deal agency that Roosevelt fully supported. Roosevelt was losing the governmental and legislative support that he had so thoroughly enjoyed during 1933, and the "Hundred Days Congress." Roosevelt chose to deal with ~~these~~ these new challenges to his New Deal by packing the Supreme Court. He essentially wanted to change the Constitution and the way the Supreme Court was handled solely to pass his New Deal legislation. Because of this, Roosevelt lost most of the political and popular support that he had enjoyed so much of during the beginning of his first term.

Richard Nixon became President of the US when the country was involved in the Vietnam War, a very unpopular and deadly war. Americans questioned why we were fighting "somebody else's war," and Nixon's response was "Vietnamization." He

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

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5A
(p. 3 of 4)

proposed a gradual withdrawal of American troops while simultaneously increasing the amount of South Vietnamese troops to fight the war. This was a very popular policy among the many protesters of the war. Nixon also lessened the nuclear war threat by improving relations with the Soviet Union: the era of détente. These two very popular and good policies were completely overshadowed by Nixon's secrecy. While preaching a decreased amount of troops, Nixon actually ~~decreased~~ increased the amount of American troops in ~~the~~ South East Asia by secretly bombing Cambodia. When this secret was revealed to the largely anti-war American public, Nixon ~~lost~~ rapidly lost support. He lost even more support when the 1974 Watergate scandal swept the country. When members of the Committee to Reelect the President were found breaking into the Watergate Hotel, a slew of investigations clouded the Nixon administration. Nixon worsened the situation and decreased his public approval ratings by claiming executive privilege to not release tapes. Nixon resigned, and his once popular presidency ended in shame and corruption.

When politicians are elected by a vast majority of the population, their continued success as a President is not secured. FDP lost support when

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

5A
(P4 of 4)

Q5
HML

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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he tried to change the nature of democracy with the Supreme Court, and Nixon's successes with the Cold War and initial popularity was entirely forgotten when his presidency ended in corruption

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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5B
(p.1074)

"Landslide presidential victories do not ensure political effectiveness or legislative success."

This quote is deemed not only invalid but also ironic when applied to the presidencies of Richard Nixon (1972) and Ronald Reagan (1984).

Both of these presidents gained immense popular American support, often through superficial claims and vague objectives, and proved to be unqualified holders of the executive office, embarrassing the American people and forming their own foolish and scarring legacies. Both Nixon and Reagan served at a crucial time in American history, dealing with the Vietnam War, communism, and nuclear technology. However, the actions of both these men proved that popular victory does not guarantee success or excellence ~~in~~ in the Oval Office.

Richard Nixon first entered the political arena during the famous Senate Hearings on Communism during the 1950's. As a junior statesman, Nixon provided false evidence which proved Alger Hiss to be a communist sympathizer. Also during this time, Ronald Reagan, a Hollywood actor, accused other fellow ~~and~~ movie industry workers of communist activities falsely, leading to the unlawful arrests of hundreds

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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5B
(p294)

Nixon ran against John Kennedy during the presidential elections of 1960 and lost by one of the closest margins in history; He continued to serve as senator afterwards. Reagan continued to act in "B" modes and was elected as governor of California ... a glamorous, movie star man unfit for a real political office.

In the late 1960's, Nixon was nominated by the Republican party for the presidency, and with lots of popular support for a "traditional, peaceful America," deftly defeated his opponent.

It was later revealed to the American public that Nixon received several monetary and settlement kick-backs illegally from party contributors. ~~Nixon ruined his presidency~~ The most notorious scandal of his presidency, and the American presidency at large, occurred when security and staff at the Watergate Hotel in Washington D.C had reported numerous break ins to the Democratic National Committee offices. It soon became clear that Nixon had ordered his advisors to "bug" the Democratic offices and was listening in on private conversations. One after another of Nixon's cabinet and administrators resigned, and Nixon soon followed, shaming

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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5B
(p. 3 of 4)

the presidency, disgracing his administration, and losing the trust of the American people.

Ronald Reagan also won huge support from the public, who admired the tall, handsome actor who promised to lead America with traditional values. Once elected, Reagan proved to be incompetent, unaware of the political process, and easily influenced by the unwarranted advice from Republican Party contributors. He gave huge tax cuts for the wealthy and increased military spending, creating a ~~the~~ large deficit and raising taxes for middle class America. ~~The~~ Reagan, unfamiliar with the federal system of medical and welfare benefits for the poor, cut funding for these projects and forced thousands out of their jobs and homes. President Reagan blindly and selfishly made the wealthy richer and the poor even poorer, dividing the classes and leading America into a deep socioeconomic recession.

Both President Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan proved that popularity is no sure sign of political knowledge or success. Although both men enjoyed landslide

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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5B
(p. 4 of 4)

victories, they both served foolishly and selfishly, concerned only with their wants and needs and disregarding the American people who had voted them in. As a result, the presidencies of Nixon and Reagan left a shameful and embarrassing legacy on the executive office.

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

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50
1 of 2

The statement that "landslide victories do not ensure continued political effectiveness or legislative success," can be clearly noted in the ~~to~~ the presidential administrations of Roosevelt and Nixon. Both of the presidents had ~~transit~~ landslide elections but only one received continued support.

Franklin Roosevelt did many productive and essential things during his presidential administration to keep continued support. Franklin Roosevelt was elected during the great depression by a landslide election against Hoover. Roosevelt while in office put ~~a~~ many new deal programs into action some of which are still active today. He successfully pulled the United States out of the Great ~~Bad~~ Depression. He was the president responsible for the creation of this nations highway system. He also established the National Park Service for the maintaining of the National Parks he set preserved. Yet one of the greatest things he did in office he did within just a few days of being placed there. He closed all of the banks in the US. and reestablished a public trust in the bank through a program called FDIC. It was things like that; becoming personal with the nation that kept him loved by most all.

Richard Nixon was not a bad president he just did some things that the public disagreed with

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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5C
2 of 2

and he lied. Some of the better things he did was establish a free trade system to open up trade with China, and to removed our soldiers from Vietnam. For most people the thing he did bad like always ~~seem~~ ~~stam~~ ~~to~~ protrude out just a little farther. It was mostly because of the water gate scandal that he was disliked. He would not ~~to~~ have been so harshly disliked if he would not of lied to the faces of the American people.

It is not ~~what a pre~~ just what a president does but how he communicates and projects him or herself to the American people.

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY 2007 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview

This question required students to analyze the accomplishments of two different second-term administrations, using their “landslide” electoral victories as a basis of comparison. They were asked to draw conclusions about the relationship between these electoral victories and each president’s subsequent political effectiveness and legislative success. Further, the question invited students to demonstrate their ability to analyze the complexities of electoral politics as they intersected with external events. The stronger students were able to show that, in most of these cases, the success of the administration was determined, at least in part, by the effectiveness of the president’s response to these challenges.

Sample: 5A **Score: 8**

This essay features a clear, well-developed thesis that assesses the successes that followed landslide elections. It contains effective analysis of the complexity of each administration’s actions, supported by substantial and relevant evidence—for example, it clearly distinguishes Franklin D. Roosevelt’s first term accomplishments from his second term challenges. The essay, however, is chronologically vague in some places: Nixon’s first term is not clearly noted, and the Supreme Court’s challenge to the New Deal is located in “the latter half of the 1930s.” These are minor problems that do not detract from the overall strength of this essay.

Sample: 5B **Score: 5**

This essay’s thesis addresses the question and develops a concrete answer by examining two presidents. The student provides background information to explain each landslide victory as well as relevant but limited information to support the thesis (e.g., Nixon was undermined by Watergate; Reagan’s economic policies created class divisions). Too much of the information is extraneous and mainly descriptive (e.g., the description of Nixon’s fight against communism in the 1950s), thus the essay could not be placed in the top score category.

Sample: 5C **Score: 2**

This student’s thesis statement demonstrates a simplistic understanding of the question. The essay contains little supporting information and is marred by errors (e.g., Franklin Roosevelt is credited with creating the National Park Service; bank closures are located in his second term). Analysis is simplistic—the student claims that Roosevelt pulled the United States out of the Great Depression and that Nixon was unpopular only because “he lied.”