

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY
2008 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 5

Analyze the extent to which the 1920s and 1950s were similar in TWO of the following areas.

Impact of technology

Intolerant attitudes

Literary developments

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis assessing the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in two of the given areas.
- Supports the thesis with substantial, relevant information illustrating the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in the selected areas.
- Effectively analyzes the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in two of the given areas; coverage of the two may be somewhat uneven.
- Is well organized and well written.
- May contain minor errors.

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a thesis, which may be partially developed, assessing the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in two of the given areas.
- Provides some relevant information illustrating the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in the two selected areas.
- Essay analyzes to some degree the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in two areas; coverage of the two may not be balanced.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the essay.

The 2–4 Essay

- Presents a thesis that may be confused, simplistic, or undeveloped in terms of assessing the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in two given areas; or presents no thesis.
- Includes little relevant information illustrating the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in two given areas.
- Contains little analysis of the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in two areas; or may cover only one category or only one time period.
- May be poorly organized and/or poorly written.
- May contain major errors.

The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or restates the question.
- Includes no relevant information on the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s in two given areas.
- Contains no analysis of the extent of similarities between the 1920s and 1950s.
- Is poorly organized and/or poorly written.
- May contain numerous errors, both major and minor.

The — Essay

- Is completely off topic or blank.

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Question 5 Information List

In many respects the 1950s was both more of the same as in the 1920s and yet marked by important innovations and changes in direction.

Technology

Many aspects of mass culture that surface in the 1920s would be magnified in the 1950s along with new technologies of production and distribution. Breakthroughs in medicine were matched by breakthroughs in the technology of war. In both periods there were elements of dramatic changes.

The 1920s saw advances in silent and sound movies, phonographs, automobiles, airplanes, home appliances, the telephone, mass circulation of magazines, and an emphasis on consumer products and consumer buying on credit: refrigerators, washing machines, electric irons, vacuum cleaners, and the introduction of auto service stations, grocery stores, and new techniques of advertising. The 1920s marked the beginning of the radio age, as the 1950s would be the beginning of the age of television. The decade also saw the extensive electrification of the United States along with the beginning of highway construction and the enormous impact of the automobile on American life and manners. Symbolizing the advances and its identification with American character and culture was Charles Lindbergh's solo flight to Europe.

The 1950s witnessed innovations in televisions (setting the decade as the era of television and its immense cultural impact), continued mass production of mainstream magazines that influenced American culture as did TV sitcoms, jet planes, faster means of travel and federal funding of interstate highways (contributing to a resurgence of movement to the suburbs), improved kitchen appliances, mass production of houses (Levittown), along with other life-saving innovations such as the polio vaccine and other antibiotics. Technology represented the potential destructiveness of nuclear war and the environmental consequences of technological advances, but also the promise of a better world, represented by the growth of electronics and the introduction of computers, and scientific advancements, symbolized by Sputnik.

Intolerance

The intolerance so widespread during the 1920s had not entirely died out by the 1950s, but entrenched opponents to reform now found major changes taking place nonetheless, with a number of minority groups now better prepared to fight for change.

The 1920s were marked by the extremes of the Ku Klux Klan at its political peak, the pervasiveness of Jim Crow laws in the South, violence against African Americans and continued lynchings, as well as heightened concerns and dissatisfaction with southern and eastern European immigrants, especially those tied to homelands or espousing left-wing political ideas. Anti-radicalism, anti-Catholicism, and anti-Semitism contributed to the concerns fueling the movement to restrict immigration. Fundamentalism expanded and gained notoriety with the Scopes trial. Reactions to the Scopes trial and the trial of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, executed on the basis of insubstantial evidence despite strong protests, revealed the climate of intolerance of the decade, as did the anti-Catholicism that contributed to Al Smith's defeat in the 1928 presidential election. Additionally, the Catholic Church displayed intolerance of Mexicans in the Southwest because of cultural differences in their Catholicism. The Roaring Twenties masked considerable prejudice against minority races and immigrants.

The 1950s continued to see racial violence and lynchings and racial murders (including that of Emmett Till), a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, and the formation of the Citizens Councils. However, the United

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2008 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 5 Information List (continued)

States also began to see desegregation in the military, in baseball, and in schools (as a result of *Brown v. Board of Education*), followed by boycotts against segregated public transportation (Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr.), Little Rock High School, and the 1957 Civil Rights Act. Practices that were widespread in the 1920s began to come under attack, with a new generation more willing to fight prejudice, particularly among African Americans and Mexican Americans. There was also a marked decline in anti-Semitism and wider acceptance of the United States as a nation of Judeo-Christian traditions—that is, an America based on toleration of Protestants, Catholics, and Jews. Ethnic identities were muted; religious ones were celebrated.

There was a renewed fear of communism, and many leftists were seen as communists. The latter were compelled to testify or were forced out of jobs. The Julius and Ethel Rosenberg case and their execution for spying reinforced apprehensions. McCarthyism prevailed for a time, and political dissent was viewed with much fear, as shown in the passage of the McCarran Internal Security and Immigration Acts. The official adoption of “One Nation Under God” as a national motto to be included on currency and elsewhere and “under God” in the pledge of allegiance also could be a sign of intolerance to atheists. (Students interpreted fear of communism as intolerance of communists. Many of the essays viewed the communist issue as the only problem of intolerance in the two periods.)

Literature

The literature of the 1920s expressed the outburst of African American culture as well as the works of many other American authors analyzing, questioning, critiquing elements of American life. While the resurgence of black culture would actually take place in the 1960s, there was an array of minority/ethnic writers who were depicting life and culture in their groups, while here, too, an array of other American authors were analyzing and dissecting American society as their forebears had done in the 1920s.

Literature in the 1920s included two important streams: one associated with the Harlem Renaissance, including Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Jean Toomer, and Zora Neale Hurston; and a second stream that included those taking a more critical view of American society and the superficiality of the 1920s, or trying to capture the radical cultural changes associated with Prohibition and the Roaring Twenties. The latter included William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, H. L. Mencken, Walter Lippmann, Eugene O’Neill, Sinclair Lewis, and Ernest Hemingway. Some of the writers were included among those known as the Lost Generation. Another significant development roughly associated with literature in the 1920s was the emergence of the mass circulation magazines, including *Saturday Evening Post*, *Look*, *Life*, *Reader’s Digest*, and *Lady’s Home Journal*.

The 1950s saw important works that challenged the postwar United States and the conformity that reflected the banality of the decade. Some works were beginning to challenge the pressures toward consensus, such as Jack Kerouac’s *On the Road*, David Reisman’s *The Lonely Crowd*, Vance Packard’s *The Hidden Persuaders*, and William Whyte’s *The Organization Man*. Other works, such as those by Norman Mailer, portrayed Second World War experiences. As James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison expressed much of the African American experiences, Philip Roth and Bernard Malamud depicted Jewish American life, and Alan Ginsberg portrayed the Beat fringe and an emerging counterculture. While such signs of change were just beginning and a new era of literature would soon flourish in the 1960s, especially in reaction to the 1950s, the movies, television, and magazine mass media captured the emphases on religion and family, symbolized by the massive sales of Benjamin Spock’s *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*.

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

5A

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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(174)

The 1920s and the 1950s were both periods following wars. The 1920s came right after World War I while the 1950s followed right after World War II. Though seemingly disparate in social conventions, technology, and in many aspects, both periods show a period of intolerant attitudes against "outsiders" of any sorts (especially communists) and literary developments with a new generation of writers that revealed new perspectives of their respective societies.

In both periods, there was a conservative reaction against communists, anarchists, liberals, or any other person viewed as "non-American" or an outsider to ^{traditional} American society. In the 1920s, this took several forms. For one, there was a Red Scare just before the 1920s (in 1919) and the effects of that Red Scare that persecuted targeted communists and anarchists lingered in prejudice against anyone suspected of being a communist/anarchist. Often communists/anarchists were stereotyped as sneaky, swarthy, untireable non-American, dangerous people. The Sacco and Vanzetti trial, where two suspected communists were convicted of murder and then executed under extremely circumstantial evidence is one example of the effects of this prejudice. Another expression of this intolerant attitude in the 1920s was the conservative, ^{Christian} fundamentalism movement that believed the Bible was the literal word of God and began in response to the liberalization and ~~modernization~~ of modernism of ~~the~~ ~~churches~~ churches. The funda-

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

5A

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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(2 of 4)

Intellectuals reacted against this liberalization by becoming strict about the Bible and religion, but the intolerant attitude did not reveal itself until the Scopes Trial. ~~With~~ the Scopes Trial, John Scopes and the ACLU went against a state law that banned the teaching of evolution in schools because fundamentalist Christians did not believe in evolution. Scopes lost the trial but ^{managed to} revealed to the American ~~public~~ ^{public} (as the trial was very high profile) of how the intolerance of the fundamentalists hindered ~~the~~ the education system. These kind of intolerant attitudes were expressed in the 1950s against communism in a second Red Scare that became known as communism. In this movement, Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House of Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) played on Cold War fears of communism, to ~~persecute~~ persecute, deport or even jail people suspected of communism, sometimes without a fair trial (denying them their rights). This same paranoia and intolerance towards suspected communists caused the execution of the Rosenbergs under circumstantial evidence. So the 1950s had a period of intolerant attitudes as well that parallel that of the 1920s.

Also, both the 1920s and 1950s saw the genesis and growth of new literary movements that revealed new aspects of society. In the

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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(3 of 4)

1920s, the Great Black Migration, which had blacks from the South move up to the North in search of jobs led to the Harlem Renaissance, a burgeoning of black music (jazz), art, and literature. The writings of black authors of Langston Hughes and others drew from the experience of black people and the racism they encountered in American society. Whereas the literary scene in America had been dominated by mostly white writers, this new black perspective entered ~~the~~ American literature in the 1920s. The 1920s also featured the lost generation of writers such as Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway who wrote stories that often subtly critiqued the mass consumerism of the 1920s economic boom. The 1950s featured the growth of a new literary movement that critiqued, often overtly and subtly, the conformity of the 1950s. ~~Books~~ Books such as Through the Picture Glass and How the Other Side Lives revealed how people in the 1950s ignored large social problems that still existed in society, just under the surface. Novels such as Main Street by Sinclair Lewis criticized the small-town American life that was glorified on popular media. In a period where most entertainment was conforming and comforting (i.e. Leave it to Beaver) ^{cont. v.} a new generation of writers arose that revealed the uglier and ~~more~~ realistic aspects of American life.

In both the 1920s and 1950s, there

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

5A

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or (5)
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(4 of 4)

Was a movement of intolerance that persecuted communists and "outsiders" and a new movement of literature that helped reveal ~~new~~ new or unseen facets of society, often in a critical way. Both time periods led to periods of large change (the Great Depression and the 1960s) ~~and~~ and show a parallelism and similarity that ~~exists~~ belies their difference in time.

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
12/1

The 1920s and 1950s were very similar in the way technology impacted everyday life, as well as the ~~my~~ attitudes presented in literary works. In both eras technology improvements led to an increase in consumerism and, some might say, decadence. Many authors criticized these changes in attitude in both societies, but in slightly different ways.

With the invention of the radio in the 1920s and the television in the 1950s, people began to spend more and more of their time and money on entertainment, leading to a consumerist culture. Housewives of both time periods were encouraged to buy the latest in domestic appliances, and cars became not just a utility but a statement of status as new and different models arrived. With the advent of these new technologies, people began having to do less and less, and have more and more fun.

This attitude paved the way for writers seeking to shock people back into a culture not focused on the almighty dollar. F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" is a perfect example of a critique of the lifestyle of the 1920s. Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg attempted to do the same with their stories and beat poetry about a life that didn't consider material goods important. Both eras had an intellectual counterculture movement, some becoming very famous for their works, like Ernest Hemingway.

Although the 1920s and the 1950s may have been separated by an entire generation, the issues people faced were the same. Each era had advances in entertainment and inventions that made life easier. Each era also had a literary movement that criticized the sedentary, materialistic lifestyle that these inventions helped to promote. History had ~~managed~~ managed to come full circle in a very short period of time.

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
1 of 2

The 1920's and 1950's were similar to an extent in the areas of technological impact as well as intolerant attitudes. The 1920's was a time for growth in America through success in technology which has not stopped improving since then. Along with the changes being brought to the American society, intolerant attitudes towards change also increased.

With new household appliances such as the toaster and vacuum cleaner, the ~~the~~ 1920's was a time that was all about the typical housewife. Life became easier and "upgraded." A boom in industry came along after the quick moving assembly line idea. Women and men had easier and more job opportunities. The creation of the ever-so magnificent television ~~in~~ around the 1950's brought with it not only a technological feat, but commercial advertising which helped market the new appliances!

The advancement and impact technology had on ~~an~~ Americans also brought intolerant ~~attitudes~~ attitudes. Segregation was an issue between the 1920's and 1950's. Integration was at its start and many protested to the idea. Examples of white Americans racist views can be seen through the development of African America Blues music, and white Americans want to not listen to such a thing.

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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Intolerant attitudes and technology share some similarities. With the automobile booming, communication at a high, and new developments to ease society, ~~the~~ intolerant attitudes were expressed. People did not enjoy ideas of integration. They did not enjoy the idea of the "housewife" working in un-woman like conditions. (Jobs ~~that~~ that were not teachers, secretaries etc.) Intolerant attitudes towards women and African Americans were present, more so towards African Americans.

Protests against integration into schools, after it was determined that no public school could segregate, increased. Families took their children to private schools, paying more just to avoid integration.

Though there were intolerant ~~attitudes~~ attitudes between the 1920's and ~~to~~ 1950's, the impact of technology still helped America develop into a greater country.

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2008 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 5

Sample: 5A

Score: 9

This is an impressive essay in most respects. Strengths include its coverage, writing, and analysis; and parallelism between the decades; and the relevance, abundance, and unusual nature of the evidence presented—biblical fundamentalism, John Scopes, ACLU, etc. The essay's errors (e.g., Sacco and Vanzetti as communists and two novels from the wrong era) are minor.

Sample: 5B

Score: 6

The essay has a clear thesis and its development is sophisticated: it ties the results of technological change—materialism and consumerism—to each period's literature. It is well organized and compactly written, with some analysis, but there is not enough specific evidence to fully sustain the argument.

Sample: 5C

Score: 4

This essay has a simple thesis and some development. It contains an adequate description and analysis of technology in both periods, but it is weak, strained, and general in its coverage and analysis of intolerance. The writing is acceptable.