

# AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES HISTORY

## 2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 5

Explain the causes and consequences of TWO of the following population movements in the United States during the period 1945–1985.

Suburbanization

The growth of the Sun Belt

Immigration to the United States

#### The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that explains the causes and consequences of TWO of the three population movements in the United States during the period 1945–1985.
- Develops the thesis with substantial and relevant historical information related to the causes and consequences of the two population movements during the time period.
- Provides effective analysis of the causes and consequences of the two population movements; treatment of the two movements and/or the causes and consequences may be somewhat uneven.
- 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 partially developed thesis that addresses the causes and consequences of TWO of the three population movements in the United States during the period 1945–1985.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant supporting information.
- Provides some analysis of the causes and consequences of the two population movements in the United States during the period 1945–1985; treatment of the two movements and/or the causes and consequences may be uneven.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

#### The 2–4 Essay

- Contains an undeveloped or unfocused thesis, or simply paraphrases the question.
- Provides few relevant facts, or lists facts with little or no application to the question and/or time period.
- Provides simplistic analysis that may be generally descriptive, or addresses the causes and consequences of only ONE movement.
- May contain major errors.
- May be poorly organized and/or written.

#### The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Has little or no understanding of the question.
- Factual information is off topic.
- Contains substantial factual errors.
- Is poorly organized and/or written.

#### The — Essay

- Is blank or completely off topic.

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### Question 5 — Fact Sheet

#### Suburbanization

##### Causes:

- 1944: Service Men’s Readjustment Act (G.I. Bill) included provisions for below-market home loans to veterans (Veterans Administration [VA] loans).
- Need for housing due to soldiers returning from World War II.
- Federal Housing Administration (FHA) from 1934 extended government role by insuring mortgage loans.
- Demographic trends: marriage rates, childbirth rates, declining age of marriage, decline in divorce rate; nuclear family.
- Migration facilitated by new construction, loans and indirect government stimulus.
- Construction boom on cheaper land outside of cities; led by William Levitt with Levittown (1,500 acres with 17,000 mass-produced, low-priced homes on Long Island, New York, and in New Jersey).
  - Levittowns were segregated.
  - In 1960 federal housing laws made it illegal to engage in segregation of tract homes purchased with VA or FHA loans.
  - Race riots in the 1960s accelerated white exodus from the cities.
  - Between 1950 and 1960, 18 million migrated from cities to suburbs.
- Popular culture: *Leave It to Beaver*, *Father Knows Best*, *LIFE* magazine.
- Housing Acts, 1949 (“urban renewal”), 1954.
- Army Corps of Engineers/Bureau of Reclamation dams and irrigation projects in arid West.
- 1954: white flight/desegregation following *Brown vs. Board of Education*.
- Federal Highway Act of 1956 boosted suburban growth (Interstate Highway System).
- 1965: Department of Housing and Urban Development created.
- Other cold war stimulus included transferring government-built defense plants to private corporations and establishing strategic bomber and missile bases throughout the country.
- Houston, Texas, Cape Canaveral, Florida, and the Greater Los Angeles area became centers for the Space Race (aerospace industry).

##### Consequences:

- FHA policies led to discrimination against racially and economically mixed communities.
- Within a generation, the majority of middle-class Americans had moved to the suburbs.
- Businesses, schools and stores followed, leaving a lower tax base in the cities:
  - Many older and inner cities became increasingly poor due to a lower tax base.
- Many older and inner cities became racially divided due to “white flight”: movement of whites to the suburbs.
- Federal Highway Act of 1956 accelerated the decline of mass transit in older cities.
- Suburbs necessitated a car culture with drive-in theaters and fast-food restaurants.
- Civil rights movement: Montgomery Bus Boycott, Freedom Rides.
- Bomb shelters.
- “Gentrification.”

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### Question 5 — Fact Sheet (continued)

- Decline of mass-transit systems.
- Post–World War II social conformity:
  - Domestic ideal of nuclear family.
  - Rebirth of religious life.
  - Belief in the group focus on middle-class aspirations such as safety, low taxes, patriotism.
- Heightened mobility: the average American moved six times before reaching age 25.
- John Birch Society called for conservative and Protestant values and advocated segregation of “un-American” residents.
- “Redlining.”
- Race-based real estate covenants.
- Architectural and psychological conformity.
- Critics: *The Lonely Crowd* (1950), *The Organization Man* (1956) and *The Crack in the Picture Window* (1956).
- Urban renewal destruction of minority neighborhoods.
- Teens with cars reduced parental control.
- Suburban middle-class lifestyle bred a teen-oriented culture.
- *All in the Family* explored the bigoted side of the suburban family.
- *The Cosby Show* extolled the middle-class accomplishments of African American families.
- By 1985 over half of Americans owned their residences.
- Attractions included shopping malls, parks, new schools and other new infrastructure.

### Growth of the Sun Belt

(Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California)

### Causes:

- World War II economic activity relocated laborers and military personnel, stimulating the poor South and underpopulated West Coast.
- Defense-related spending (during World War II and the cold war) moved to Sun Belt regions — oil, military and aerospace.
- World War II wartime construction in thinly populated areas close to the coast (South) and in areas close to the Pacific war (West).
- Transportation costs drastically reduced in post-war period.
- Aging Baby Boomers, Social Security, Medicare.
- Warm winters and affordable air-conditioning due to electrical grid development.
- Inexpensive gas from Oklahoma and Texas and explosion in automobile sales.
- Expansion of tourism.
- Lower labor costs/Bracero Program.
- Increase in immigration from Mexico, Asia and Latin America.
- Fewer unions; lower southern wages; southern right-to-work laws — weak labor laws.
- High-tech industry in South and West: military and computer industries (National Aeronautical and Space Administration [NASA] in Florida and Texas) are emblematic.
- Post–Civil Rights Act of 1964 characterized primarily by migration to the Sun Belt.
- Lower taxes.
- Lower costs in the South (for utilities, housing, etc.).
- Cheaper cost of land.

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### Question 5 — Fact Sheet (continued)

- Sun Belt regions are attractive places to live.
- Increase in infrastructure spending.
- Northern states in the Rust Belt went through a deep economic depression in 1974-75.
- The decline of the Rust Belt undercut prosperity in the nation as a whole.
- Rust Belt workers fled to the Sun Belt for jobs, straining social services and infrastructure.
- Northern cities' treasuries were depleted.

#### Consequences:

- Increase in personal income, population and housing in the Sun Belt.
- Rise of Rust Belt identity and population decline in the Northeast.
- 1970s: Nevada, California, Florida and Arizona were fastest growing states; 2000: 10 percent of the U.S. population lived in California.
- Shift in congressional representation toward California, Florida, Texas.
- More ethnic diversity in California and the West.
- Political balance shifts South along with population and wealth; realigns political power in the U.S.
- Decline in federal aid to big cities since late 1970s.
- Nationally, a shift to more conservative social policies.
- Housing market expanded — prices of housing stock increased.
- Sun Belt economy transformed from agriculture into industry, yet agriculture remains important in some areas.
- Rise in recreational and retirement spending.

#### Immigration to the United States

##### Causes:

- Lifting of restrictive policies prior to World War II.
- War refugees from Europe (World War II), Korean and Vietnam Wars.
- Political refugees from Communist takeovers in Cuba and Southeast Asia.
- Immigration Act of 1965 ended the ethnic quotas of the 1920s that favored Europeans.
- Rise in legal immigrants from Latin American and Asian countries.
- Post-World War II search for work/higher wages.
- 1942–1964: Bracero Program — agricultural program to bring Mexicans to the U.S.
- U.S. church groups and others gave support to immigrants coming to U.S.
- War Brides Act of 1945 — authorized the limited admission of the wives and children of citizens honorably discharged or serving in U.S. armed forces.
- Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (McCarran–Walter Immigration Act):
  - Reaffirmed the national origins quota system.
  - Abolished the ban on most Asian immigrants; people from all nations given the opportunity to enter the U.S. (repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882).
  - Barred homosexuals and people considered subversive from entering the U.S.
- Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965:
  - Abolished the national origins quota system.
  - Allowed 120,000 immigrants from Western Hemisphere.
  - Allowed 170,000 immigrants from Eastern Hemisphere.
  - Established preferences for professionals and highly skilled workers.
- 1977 amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act abolished separate immigration quotas for the Western and Eastern Hemispheres.

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### Question 5 — Fact Sheet (continued)

- Refugees Act of 1980 reduced the worldwide quota to 270,000 immigrants.
- Technological improvements in land and air travel decreased costs of travel.

#### Consequences:

- Shift in areas of origin:
  - Prior to 1960s, the majority of immigrants were from Europe and Canada.
  - By the 1980s, 47 percent of immigrants came from Latin America, 37 percent from Asia, and less than 13 percent from Europe and Canada.
- Post–World War II immigrants have included more women and persons who are more educated and who have higher skills.
- Increase in immigration each year since 1945.
- Immigrants accounted for 60 percent of the U.S. population growth according to the 1990 census.
- Two-thirds of immigrants settled in New York, California, Florida, New Jersey, Illinois and Texas.
- Many Americans have become increasingly concerned about the number of immigrants coming to the U.S.
- Increase of illegal immigrants from Latin America.
- Anti-immigration sentiment has intensified, especially with regard to Latinos.
- Some in the anti-immigration movement have supported efforts to make English the official language.
- Interracial tensions have arisen between African Americans and Latinos.
- After 1965 developing nations replaced Europe as the major source of immigrants.
- Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (Simpson–Rodino):
  - Granted amnesty to illegal immigrants arriving before 1982.
  - Penalized employers for hiring illegal immigrants.
- In 1989 Congress passed legislation authorizing work permits and granting refugee status to Central Americans.
- Shifting patterns of immigration have produced a more multicultural society.

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

Mandatory <b>1</b>	Part B — Circle one <b>2 or 3</b>	Part C — Circle one <b>4 or 5</b>
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5A  
(P. 1073)

Immigration and changing demographics have long characterized America as a "melting pot," but such population movements often have unintended consequences. Two relatively modern movements, suburbanization and the immigration of Asians and Latinos, have contributed to America's cultural depth. Increasing urban populations have resulted in the rise of suburbs, while both push and pull factors gave rise to the new immigrants ~~in~~ from 1945 to 1985. There are, however, consequences to such population trends.

After World War II, legislation such as the GI Bill of Rights democratized higher education and gave rise to the upper-middle class. Later, in the 1970s and 1980s, young urban professionals achieved financial comfort, and decided to abandon the slums and ghettos of urban life and head towards the suburbs. The increasing amount of upper-middle class families also led to dissatisfaction with city life.

Improvements in transportation, including automobiles and subways ~~allowed~~ facilitated the commute from the suburbs to a major city for work. Suburban sprawl may be a sign of increasing affluence, but it has troubling consequences. First of all, the landscape of America became ever so similar in all regions, with "cookie-cutter" neighborhoods popping up everywhere, and in some places devastating local wildlife and natural beauty. Civil rights activists claim ~~that~~ that suburbanization is just a modern symbol of segregation, reflecting the difference in opportunities

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

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5A  
(p. 2 of 3)

between whites and minorities. Continuing to this day, suburbanization continues to be polarizing, especially concerning the equality of urban and suburban education.

Another significant population trend in this period was new immigration by both Asians and Latinos. Latinos were drawn by the American Dream, but ultimately ~~most~~<sup>many</sup> worked long, hard hours for little pay as migrant workers in the Southwest. The reforms of Cesar Chavez made life easier for Mexican immigrants and workers, and many Southwestern schools began teaching in both Spanish and English. Nevertheless, the 2007 suit riots in Los Angeles signified discontent from "Americans," and a revival of McCarthyism and the Second Red Scare also occurred shortly after World War II. Asians, on the other hand, came to America with more discipline and education, and successfully integrated into the middle class. New technological innovations, including the personal computer, provided jobs for these immigrants, especially in California's Silicon Valley. Both immigrant groups continue to make strides, including the appointment of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court. As consequence of these new immigration waves, America became more diverse and accepting of minorities, thanks to the groundwork done by black civil rights activists.

Both the rise of suburbia and the immigration of Asians and Latinos have certainly added to America's cultural diversity, yet consequences of these trends include the ~~proliferation~~ proliferation of socio-economic segregation

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5 A  
(p. 3 of 3)

and the inevitable racism that comes from the introduction of new people to a society. Positive consequences include a richer national culture and the sense of community provided by suburbia. The period from 1945 to 1965 was very significant in shaping the fabric of America as it is today, opening the doors for more cultures and ways of life.



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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5 B  
(p. 1073)

After World War II, ~~and the soldiers came home,~~  
~~many wanted to start families~~ many things changed  
including population. The time after WWII is called  
the "baby boom" era because the soldiers coming home  
wanted to have families and children. With these  
changes, less and less families wanted to live in  
cities, so suburbs were formed. Another population  
change was immigration to the U.S. This population  
boom ~~could have been~~ <sup>because</sup> ~~because of many~~ of  
economics and the freedoms in the U.S. Both  
of these booms have causes, but they also have  
consequences associated with them.

One of the main causes of ~~the~~ suburbanization  
other than the baby boom, is the construction of  
interstate highways. Interstate highways were  
part of Dwight D. Eisenhower's plan. The reason  
~~the~~ interstates are important to suburbanization  
is that they allowed more people to travel to and  
from the city ~~to~~ for work and pleasure. People  
felt that they could simultaneously work in  
a big city, such as New York City, and have a  
family in the suburbs. People could now have  
larger families because they could have them  
and have the money too. Another cause of  
this is the economic times. The economics  
after the war were good. People had jobs and

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. 2 of 3)

money was in good supply. Because of economic good times, people were more likely to have families and move away from cities. A consequence, however, of suburbanization is partly environmental. More land is taken up by houses, which ~~for~~ harnis habitats, ~~is~~ and more people are driving putting ~~emissions~~ harmful emissions into the atmosphere. Overall, suburbanization was a good thing because it helped with not overpopulating cities.

Immigration was another population boom that was caused by a few factors. One of the factors is ~~the~~ not good economic times in many countries especially ones in Europe because of WWII. Germany was dealing with war debts along with many other countries while the U.S. had better economics. People saw the U.S. as a place of freedom and growth. ~~the~~ many countries were under harsh rulers, and the people had little to no freedom. The U.S. provided a place to have rights and have their own opinions, so many people immigrated to the U.S. There were consequences, however, to go along with it. ~~the~~ the population grew hugely because of it, ~~and~~ which means fewer jobs. Another consequence is the issue of

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

Mandatory <b>1</b>	Part B — Circle one <b>2 or 3</b>	Part C — Circle one <b>4 or 5</b>
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5 B  
(p. 3 of 3)

citizenship among immigrants. Many never attained full citizenship and were living illegally causing problems with crime and law enforcement. Immigration added to the already growing population and has become one of the most important issues in American politics.

Suburbanization and immigration have both influenced the way Americans live today. Suburbs have become a part of American society and immigration is still an issue being discussed in politics. Both population movements were caused by ~~the~~ the end of World War II and ~~the~~ both had consequences that will influence ~~the~~ the United States for years to come.

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  
(p1 of 2)

Immediately following World War II, the United States of America saw many changes. Soldiers returned home, and citizens desired for life to be "normal" again. However, this time period of 1945 to 1985 saw two population movements, suburbanization and immigration to the United States. Each has its own cause and consequence that affected the country, even to this day.

Suburbanization was the swing of the population from tightly-packed cities to the suburbs, places with neighborhoods and yards. As the soldiers returned home, America was feeling good. There was prosperity, and the economy was doing well. With mass production, many could afford a car, and travel was a lot easier. The citizens wanted to settle down and start families of their own, and that's what they did. During this 40 year stretch, some of the largest birth numbers ever were recorded. In addition, education became a bigger priority - for both men and women. Thanks with the G.I. Bill, veterans as well as women went to college. Big industries grew even bigger, as the demand increased. A new trend of living in a neighborhood with other people became popular, and suburbanization was commonplace.

Also in the time between 1945 and 1985 immigration to the U.S. increased. Many people flocked to America from their native land in search of a better life. The United States was a superpower, and with that came the safety and security of a sturdy nation. Regarded as the "land of opportunity," America was a melting pot of backgrounds as more people moved in. These immigrants fled their countries for many reasons, whether it be just falling apart, persecution, war, or famine. America seemed to be a ~~draw~~ <sup>be</sup> a ~~draw~~

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  
(p. 2 of 2)

desirable home for a person looking to make a good living. Because of the massive influx, these other cultures created their own influence on American life. Ways of life of Americans changed as a result.

Suburbanization and ~~imm~~ immigration are two population movements seen in the forty year span of 1945 to 1985. America melted and molded, and changed to be the country it is today. These movements can be traced back from today to really see the basis of a society and how the United States came to be.

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## 2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 5

#### Overview

This question asked students to explain the causes and consequences of two of the three designated population movements (suburbanization, the growth of the Sun Belt, immigration to the United States) during the period 1945–1985. Students were expected to provide contextual and factual information as to the causes and resulting changes arising from these key demographic shifts in the United States.

#### Sample: 5A

**Score: 8**

This is a strong essay that presents a thesis that alludes to both causes and consequences. The student provides effective evidence, though some of it is incompletely linked to the narrative (e.g., McCarthyism and immigration). The student also ascribes value statements to suburban life that do not necessarily accurately reflect suburbanites' attitudes (e.g., the similarity of the landscape as a “troubling consequence”). On the whole, however, this is a well-developed and well-written essay.

#### Sample: 5B

**Score: 5**

This essay has a well-developed thesis that includes a discussion of causes and consequences for the suburbanization and immigration movements. However, the essay provides limited relevant information (only environmental consequences of suburbanization; no references to specific immigrant groups).

#### Sample: 5C

**Score: 3**

This essay begins with an undeveloped thesis that simply states that suburbanization and immigration had causes and consequences. It has few relevant facts and plenty of generalizations, and causes and consequences are not adequately addressed. Overall it has simplistic analysis that is generally descriptive.