



AP[®] United States History 2002 Sample Student Responses Form B

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By the 1930's, the decadence and consumerism of the 1920's had led to the worst depression in US history. The practice of buying "on margin", the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, wild stock market speculation, and world-wide economic slump - eventually hit America in the stock market crash of 1929. Millions of Americans lost life savings and were thrust into poverty. All the while President Hoover assured the populace that relief was "just around the corner. Indeed it was (though not in the way Hoover intended it!), when the vastly unpopular Hoover was replaced with Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR). Upon arrival in office FDR pledged himself to provide a "New Deal" to Americans. What this meant no one was really sure, not even the president, however FDR soon promised action for relief and recovery. On the whole, FDR's New Deal programs enjoyed the significant success in providing relief and recovery - though FDR still encountered setbacks such as the Depression of 1837 and full

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economic recovery was not to come until World War II.

In terms of relief, FDR was able to restore Americans' faith in the federal government and economic system. After the stubborn refusal of Hoover to provide direct relief, FDR's programs were a breath of fresh air. FDR began his program of relief with a simple Bank Holiday - first introduced in one of FDR's radio "fireside chats." Although this measure also proved to be a step towards recovery (it required banks to be inspected in terms of stability before reopening) it also assured Americans that help was on the way. Indeed, FDR soon embraced Keynesian economic theory in formulating his New Deal. ~~The~~ Keynesians believed that in times of economic hardship, the federal government should increase its expenditures to stimulate relief and recovery. And this is just what FDR did. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were intended to provide work for the

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unemployed. Out of work actors, writers, and artists also received government sponsorship. Vast public projects were enacted—such as the building of roads and inner-city development to stimulate industry. On the whole such New Deal programs enjoyed significant success in providing direct relief to suffering Americans. Although significant portions of the population were still out of work, the effect of FDR's New Deal programs on ~~the~~ public morale were enormous.

~~In terms~~ With the problem of relief out of the way, Roosevelt turned to the problem of stimulating recovery. The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) was designed to help farmers out of the economic slump which had plagued them for decades and prevent it from ever happening again by paying farmers to cut production. The NRA was created along with a series of business codes to regulate and stabilize industry (these codes achieved much of ~~union's~~ labor union agenda by establishing minimum wage, maximum

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hours, etc.) Although the Supreme Court declared both the AAA and NRA unconstitutional, FDR managed to successfully reintroduce similar legislature at a later date. FDR also enacted legislature to regulate stock market speculation, thereby stabilizing the financial market.

FDR's New Deal program received significant criticism from both the right and the left. After their businesses had been saved, many conservatives and the wealthy turned on FDR, calling him a "traitor to his class" and declaring his programs radically and even socialistic. Meanwhile, politicians such as Louisiana senator Huey Long criticized FDR for not doing enough. When another wave of recession hit the US in 1937, these doubts and fears of FDR's policies seemed justified.

It would not be until the advent of World War II, when the economy would fully recover. FDR's New Deal programs of direct relief,

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however, ~~he~~ had enjoyed considerable success by providing jobs through the WPA and CCC and providing funds for the elderly and handicapped through the Social Security Act. Overall, FDR's programs of relief achieved a fair amount of success by boosting morale and saving the American capitalist system. In terms of economic recovery, much of FDR's New Deal legislation is responsible for the stability of US business and markets as we recognize them today, although FDR's New Deal did not ultimately provide full economic recovery, it is difficult to ascertain whether it would have achieved recovery without the advent of World War II. On the whole however, FDR's New Deal program enjoyed much popularity with the American people, ensuring FDR's lasting legacy as one of the most popular presidents in American history.

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A ^{and ~~some~~ ^{and} by the ~~beginning~~ ^{beginning} of the decade} ^{and} ^{unemployment had been reduced to only 11.5%.} ^{included farmers,} ^{were also} ^{many did not benefit} ^{from these programs at all.} ^{immediate} ^{banking crisis,} ^{declared} ^a ^{Banking Holiday,} ^{closing} ^{down} ^{all} ^{the} ^{banks,} ^{and} ^{enacted} ^{the} ^{Glass} ^{Steagall} ^{Act.} ^{Although} ^{this} ^{created} ^{confidence} ^{created} ^{some} ^{confidence,} ^a ^{large} ^{population} ^{did} ^{not} ^{benefit} ^{from} ^{the} ^{newly} ^{enacted} ^{investment} ^{policies,} ^{since} ^{few} ^{banks} ^{were} ^{accessible.} ^{Although} ^{Roosevelt} ^{attempted} ^{to} ^{solve} ^{the} ^{immediate} ^{issues} ^{of} ^{unemployment} ^{and} ^{inflation,} ^{his} ^{legislation} ^{failed} ^{to} ^{reach} ^{an} ^{adequate} ^{number} ^{of} ^{people.}

Roosevelt also enacted policies to enact short and long term reform, however, many of the programs were ineffective and declared unconstitutional. Reform consisted of improving the situation of labor and land. ~~in order to improve~~ ^{facilitate} the reform that occurred in land was the AAA, which sought to improve the plight of farmers by attempting to reduce the volume of produce generated or instituting price controls. These actions were soon declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court & prevented ^{assistance from} ~~from any way~~ reaching the farmers. Attempts at labor reform also met with similar results. Although the ~~the~~ ^{the} NRA, which formed the National Industrial Recovery Association, attempted to ~~improve~~ ^{increase} the power of labor unions, and in addition, Roosevelt sought to develop relations with big business in mandating minimum wages and working hours. These efforts were stalled by the big businesses, however, and the NRA was also declared unconstitutional. Because much of the reform policies enacted by Roosevelt were declared unconstitutional, they failed in reaching

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an adequate number of people in order to be declared successful.

Although Roosevelt sought to address many of the concerns of the Great Depression such as overspeculation & production in lands, ~~and~~ unemployment, and inflation he was highly unsuccessful since many of his programs were targeted.

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During ^{Franklin D} ~~ED~~ Roosevelt's presidency (1932-1945) his New Deal program was designed to help America overcome the Great Depression which occurred during the late 1920's. ~~United States had during his two~~ ^{which took place} ~~the first~~ ^{the first} hundred days his new Deal program included that of relief and recovery. Both of these were quite successful ~~as FDR made a number of acts to~~ for its purpose of helping the Americans overcome the Great Depression. ~~In~~ ^{In} his relief programs, FDR chose to deal with the bank issue ~~as~~ because the corruption in the banks (overspeculation) ~~was caused~~ was a main cause of the Great Depression. Thus he proposed a Bank Holiday in which the banks were closed for one day and those that were solid ^{would eventually} ~~reopen~~ ^{would eventually} reopen again. However those that were not, eventually remained closed. So this was basically a test for FDR to distinguish between the solid banks and the weak ones. He further proposed the Emergency Bank Relief Act. This time, the banks ~~were~~ were closed for ten days, and those that did ~~not~~ not reopen would ^(merge) ~~merge~~ with the solid ones. Through his method, a stronger banking system emerged as the solid ones replaced those that were not.

In the recovery portion of FDR's New Deal, FDR tried to help with the issue of unemployment

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and overproduction. The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of his most prominent establishments as he saved millions from unemployment. People ~~were~~ found jobs as service workers, construction workers and many more. Besides his efforts on recovering the problems of unemployment, he also ~~developed~~ established the AAA (Agricultural Adjustment) in which he paid the farmers to stop growing the crops. ~~This~~ ~~was~~ The overproduction was causing cheap prices but FDR desired a decrease in production, yet an increase in pricing. ~~Sometimes FDR even slaughtered~~ Sometimes the farmers even slaughtered pigs ^{and cattle} (not for meat-packing) and this eventually was protested by many as a waste. However, FDR with his ~~recovery~~ recovery program helped tremendously in trying to bring his people away from the Depression. Unemployment rates decreased, and the economy improved after the AAA was proposed.

Through the efforts of FDR in his relief and recovery program, the Great Depression was no longer as severe as it was before. Banks were solid, unemployment was low, and the economy improved. FDR's success in his New Deal program eventually won him the support for his reelection in 1936, and 1940. (Note the only president in U.S. history to be elected for three consecutive terms)