



## AP<sup>®</sup> United States History 2003 Sample Student Responses

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With the Great Depression came big changes in the organization of the government and relief efforts for the unemployed. Underpaid and overworked employees saw improvement in their working conditions as well. Franklin Roosevelt's responses to the economic hardships of the Great Depression proved themselves to be effective in relieving the suffering of the American people. Also the government subsequently underwent a renovation, so to speak, through FDR's efforts.

Through government aid, many people received food ~~in~~ and shelter during the Depression. There were "bread lines" that doled out food to people in need. There were also "flap houses" where, like Meridel Lesueur said, "a bed can be had for a quarter or less." William Garrison also agreed that there was, "an enormous outpouring of federal money for human relief." These humanitarian programs kept the American people in need from starving or going homeless.

Along with food and shelter, FDR put into effect ~~part~~ programs that ~~g~~ created jobs and benefitted society and small communities. Garrison comments that there were, "immense sums for public-works projects" that would have created many new jobs for the unemployed. Document J shows that at the peak of unemployment 12,830,000 nonfarm workers were out

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of work. By 1940, however, that number dropped by about 5 million. That is 5 million people who will lay claim that Roosevelt's programs were very effective.

FDR also looked out for people that were still employed as well. While creating more jobs for the unemployed, he also supported programs that pushed for higher wages and shorter hours. Of course big business' complained about its effect on their money-making by saying things like, "Washington is against stimulation of business," or that, "It is plain that these requirements are imposed in order to govern the details of defendant's management of their local business." However business', "have no right to transgress the law which gives to the workers the right ~~to~~ of self-organization," as John Lewis so aptly stated on an NBC radio broadcast. In the end, FDR's push for better working conditions prevailed, and the American visibly saw the effectiveness of Roosevelt's programs.

With these relief and improvement programs, the government became a more efficient system, with special departments that could better deal with the American populace's problems. As Document H states, the, "more efficient organization of the whole executive department... strengthened and renovated," the government

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Consequently its role of protecting and supporting the American people was also improved and rejuvenated.

The government during the Depression helped not only the unemployed or underappreciated worker, it also helped those heading to retirement. The government under FDR began the social security program, that sends a regular check to you if you are over 65. This meant that, "everybody working for salary or wages," was entitled to social security, as shown in Document E. The elderly could now count on the government for support in their retirement.

The elderly was not the only group to benefit from FDR's changes, the black ~~population~~ population received help along with whites. The editorial from Document I shows that FDR's programs promote the fact that, "negroes are a part of the country and must be considered in any program for the country as a whole." It also states that, "For the first time in their lives, government has taken on meaning and substance for the Negro masses." Nobody, or group, was left behind by the government under FDR.

The programs for the unemployed and those for the undervalued worker alone show the effectiveness of FDR's policies. 5 million workers went back to work after his programs were put into use, and they would have probably testified to FDR's ingenious remedies to the Great

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Depression. Because of these policies the government's role also shifted to that of a more supportive and protective one. So, yes the new programs were effective and yes, the government shifted into a much more benevolent role.

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The administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt proved to be a very effective team in combating the problems of the Great Depression. By putting into use many new ideas and programs, the New Deal also worked to raise the power of the president and government in general while extending the expectations of the people for government and setting a new standard.

One of the first programs that Roosevelt put into action concerned the problem of the failing banks. This was enacted almost immediately after he was inaugurated and has since ~~set~~ president of critical review of the executive position in the early part of their term.

The banks were closed for a minimum of four days and had to pass a review by Roosevelt's administration before reopening.

Another big issue of the Depression that Roosevelt addressed was the problem of overproduction of farm commodities. This surplus of food kept farm prices very low causing many farms to crash. Roosevelt's cure for this was a Soil and Water Conservation Act, which would pay farmers for not using their land. To pass this act in the Supreme Court, Roosevelt justified the act by saying it was to reduce erosion.

After the banks had failed them before, the American people were reasonably suspicious of placing their money in them. To inspire trust and raise the circulation of money, Roosevelt put into action two measures. He first instigated an FDIC plan which would guarantee the depositor their money back up to a sum of about 1,000 dollars (this is still active today, though prices have risen impressively). Roosevelt also initiated a massive federal money spending plan that added six billion

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dollars to the national debt (Doc. D) This money was spent on many public-works projects like the CCC and TVA. These also provided jobs, often looked at as "busy-work" today, for many unemployed men of the time. This also raised their self-esteem because the man's value was strongly reflectant on a "manky-man" image. He felt respected and productive when he had a job. Some of the things that the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) did was to bring dams to rural areas. These not only controlled flooding but also brought electricity to some ~~one~~ of the most remote areas. The jobs were not handed out evenly however. White males almost always were given jobs over black males and even when these men were accepted and employed it was in segregated camps. But Roosevelt's consideration and thoughtfulness in including blacks at all (Doc. I), resulted in a dramatic increase in black support for the Democratic party.

Another program of Roosevelt's concoction was one of the most important accomplishments <sup>NEWS</sup> of the time. This was the creation of Social Security (Doc. E). This was widely viewed as insurance, at first, not charity, which widely boosted its popularity. The idea of slowly paying money and getting it back was very progressive but it passed. This was largely because of the distaste at the idea of welfare (another program in use) because those receiving it had to earn it first and would not, this way, become dependant on the government.

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Roosevelt started many plans, another widely accepted one was <sup>the legalization of unions</sup> ~~the National Labor Relations Act~~ (accepted among workers). Unfortunately it was very hard to enforce the new labor laws and many companies simply ignored them or strongly disagreed (Doc. 9). This led to many strikes and labor unrest. Other labor policies were also changed during Roosevelt's administration. These included higher wages, shorter hours, ~~and~~ and again, the creation of new jobs (Doc. B).

As seen in Document J the unemployment rate did go down during the 1930's. This statistic shows just how effective Roosevelt's plans were. Unemployment goes from a high of 36% (approx.) ~~to~~ in 1932 to nearly 20% in 1937. This decrease shows the cumulative product of Roosevelt's program.

Through the sheer number of Roosevelt's reform plans (nick-named the alphabet administration) he overwhelmed the people with his energetic reform. This has set the ~~the~~ expectations of future presidents and has changed the role of federal government. After his terms, government was expected to be much more involved with the people and much more active. The executive branch of government is viewed as a much more powerful position, able to put into action the president's measures.

Through the effective time of Roosevelt in office, he and his administration have 'raised the bar' on all ~~the~~ executives since. The New Deal ~~has~~ changed government and altered the people's view of the president.



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The Great Depression in the late 20s and most of the 30s in <sup>America</sup> ~~the U.S.~~ was caused by many factors, such as overspeculation, over-production, overly-stimulated stock market trading, and underconsumption. When Franklin D. Roosevelt assumed his presidency, he proposed to a troubled nation the New Deal, ~~which was a~~ ~~social~~ a socialistic-natured program where the government would assume responsibility for providing employment, stimulate industry production, and provide its citizens with basic needs. ~~Overall~~ Although there were some confusions ~~and~~ and contradictions at first, the New Deal did ameliorate United States' economy by providing jobs for the unemployed, ~~stimulate~~ and stimulate the economy ~~it~~ through ~~deficit~~ ~~the~~ government deficit spending. Its impact on the federal government is fundamental in that it reversed the non-interfering policy of their <sup>previous</sup> Republican presidents and forever implanted a federal role on regulating the economy and provide support to its citizens.

~~The~~ ~~emphases~~ The emphases of the New Deal program was stimulating the economy by ~~shifting the demand~~ ~~the~~ increasing demand through government deficit spending. Overturning the century-old prudence of a balanced budget, Roosevelt strove to ~~save~~ <sup>use</sup> the Great Depression by ~~putting~~ <sup>raising</sup> demand on goods and services, thus ~~over~~ ~~bring~~ increasing employment and increasing industrial output. The first step he took to achieve this goal was stabilizing the ~~the~~ financial world by ~~bringing~~ bringing back people's confidence in banks. <sup>The</sup> Acts, <sup>Glass-</sup> FDIC, <sup>Stearns</sup> ~~passed~~ a government payment to citizens who lost a ~~and~~ <sup>ensured</sup>

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certain amount <sup>of their savings</sup> due to bank's bankruptcy, thus putting up a safety net for people to rely on. The stabilization of the financial market was an ~~important~~ ~~and~~ efficient way to ~~see~~ deal with the Great Depression because it provides the backbone for all other New Deal policies. ~~the~~

Besides stabilizing the banks, Roosevelt moved to solve unemployment and stimulate industry output. His CCC program puts thousands of young men into <sup>working on</sup> ~~effecting~~ ~~for~~ conservation projects throughout the nation, and the TVA project <sup>put</sup> ~~fairly~~ stimulated the employment for workers, ~~it~~ but also modernized the backward Tennessee Valley. <sup>Some politicians</sup> ~~Business~~ ~~people~~ call these kind of acts as communitarianism (Doc B), claiming that the government over-spending would just lead to further recession, yet this ~~view~~ ~~was~~ perspective was incomplete in that ~~the~~ these opponents to the New Deal failed to see that government-inherent was need to bring back the confidence of the people and providing employment to those who are willing to work but couldn't. Another attack on New Deal was that its acts contradicted one another and produced disharmony. (Doc D). This view was true in a way in that Roosevelt did not have a clear plan for his New Deal when he was running for the presidency. However, as the New Deal matured, its efficiency eventually increased. ~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~justified~~

The most controversial issue of the ~~the~~ ~~effectiveness~~ of New Deal was probably centered on the National Recovery Administration, a ~~the~~ Committee composed of labor union leaders and business-owners

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alike to force many industries to cooperate together on <sup>curbing</sup> the Great Depression. However, the interests between the Union leaders and the business people also clashed constantly. ~~with some people blamed by the fault~~ As part of the NRA, the Union leaders promised not to strike in return for promises for jobs and price-stabilization. Many media proclaimed this agreement was an oppression of the workers (Doc G). ~~and~~ ~~stand~~ ~~the~~ Indeed, the argument about NRA went so far that the Supreme Court eventually declared ~~the~~ <sup>NRA</sup> ~~a~~ ~~an~~ unconstitutional (Doc F). Thus, one sees that ~~at~~ although Roosevelt's New Deal was efficient for the most part, the president did make a few crucial mistakes in his planning, as exposed here in the NRA case. However, upon viewing the New Deal as a whole, one sees that the benefit of government involvement, ~~and~~ which led to a decrease in unemployment (Doc J), the development of national transportation net, conservation, and Tennessee Valley far outweighs ~~the~~ a few errors made during ~~this~~ ~~part~~ this period. Thus, one can say that the New Deal was efficient ~~it~~ because its positive effects ~~is~~ outweighs its negative effect.

Besides the immediate <sup>its</sup> effect ~~of~~ ~~New Deal~~ <sup>on</sup> the national economy, and Great Depression, the New Deal also has left a great impact on the role of federal government so that it ensured ~~the~~ federal government intervention on the behalf of the health of the economy and its citizens' welfare. Contradicting

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to some people's belief that the New Deal was a product of ~~the~~ a natural trend of <sup>necessary</sup> government involvement (Doc C), the Great Depression was what really gave birth and momentum to this gigantic program. The Republican presidents who preceded ~~Roosevelt~~ Roosevelt, such as Harding, ~~Coolidge~~ Coolidge, and Hoover, ~~all~~ all supported non-Federal government intervention in providing the needs to the people. Roosevelt reversed this policy by creating social welfare such as social security (Doc E), which made the federal government responsible for people's needs. Some media sources praised this government intervention as "efficient" and modern (Doc H). ~~They are correct that~~ In other words, the socialistic programs were embraced by many people, and the break-away from the old non-federal government intervention was left far behind in the 1920s. <sup>later on</sup> The new Federal government began to not only ~~just~~ provide needs for the people, but also started to regulate the economy through fiscal <sup>and</sup> monetary policy, <sup>and</sup> aided the civil rights movement, and ~~and~~ ~~and~~ ~~and~~ There all had ~~the~~ their roots in the New Deal program. Indeed, just as the editorial in The Crisis proclaims, Roosevelt's New Deal not only dealt with economy, but also the ~~old~~ <sup>issues such as</sup> racial prejudice as well (Doc I). ~~That~~ To sum up, the New Deal was the beginning of the increasing Federal government involvement that picked up ~~at~~ speed ~~the~~ throughout the 20th century.

The Great Depression was a special time in U.S. history. It not only taught America ~~not to~~ ~~to~~ many lessons, but

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also brought forth the New Deal, a program that aimed at  
curbing ~~the~~ the recession and impacted the Federal government's  
policies for decades to come