

## **AP US HISTORY FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS SINCE 1971**

### **I. Colonial Time 1607 - 1775**

1. Puritanism bore within itself the seeds of its own destruction. Apply this generalization. (74)
2. In the seventeenth century, New England Puritans tried to create a model society. What were their aspirations, and to what extent were those aspirations fulfilled during the seventeenth century? (83)
3. Between 1607 and 1763, Americans gained control of their political and economic institutions. To what extent and in what ways do you agree or disagree with this statement? (71)
4. What role did unfree labor play in colonial American society? (72)
5. Although many Northerners and Southerners came later to think of themselves as having separate civilizations, the Northern and Southern colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were in fact more similar than different. Assess the validity of this statement. (75)
6. Although the thirteen American colonies were founded at different times by people with different motives and with different forms of colonial charters and political organization, the Revolution the thirteen colonies had become remarkably similar. Assess the validity of this statement. (78)
7. Throughout the colonial period, economic concerns had more to do with the settling of British North America than did religious concerns. Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to economic and religious concerns. (90)
8. To what extent and why did religious toleration increase in the American colonies during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? Answer with reference to Three individuals, events, or movements in American religion during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. (81)
9. From 1600 – 1763, several European nations vied for control of the North American continent. Why did England win the struggle? ( 73)
10. The American Revolution should really be called the “British Revolution” because marked changes in British colonial policy were responsible for final political division than were American actions. Assess the validity of this statement for the period 1763 – 1776. (82)
11. Britain’s wars for empire, far more than its mercantilist policies, dictated the





### **III. Jeffersonian Democracy 1800 – 1825**

1. There is no American history separate from the history of Europe. Test this generalization by examining the impact of European events on the domestic policies of the U.S. from 1789 to 1815. (72)
2. The achievements of Generals are in the long run more decisive than the achievements of diplomats. Assess the validity of this generalization for the U.S. in the period 1800 – 1825. (74)
3. Early United States foreign policy was primarily a defensive reaction to perceived or actual threats from Europe. Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to United States foreign policy on TWO major issues during the period from 1789 – 1825. (83)
4. The Era of Good Feeling (1816-1824) marked the appearance of issues that transformed American politics in the next 20 years. Assess the validity of this generalization. (75)

### **IV. Jackson and American Life 1825 – 1860**

1. Andrew Jackson's election as President marked the beginning of a new age in American political history. Assess the validity of this generalization. (71)
2. From the American Revolution to the Civil War, American writers (both fiction and non-fiction) sought to discuss a uniquely national culture. Analyze this statement for any period of approximately thirty years between 1775 and 1860. (73)
3. Account for the emergence of utopian communities from the mid-1820's through the 1840's and evaluate their success and/ or failure. (74)
4. In the first half of the nineteenth century, the American cultural and intellectual community contributed to the development of a distinctive American national consciousness. Assess the validity of this statement. (86)
5. American social reform movements from 1820 to 1860 were characterized by unyielding perfectionism, impatience with compromise, and distrust of established social institutions. These qualities explain the degree of success or failure of these movements in achieving their objectives. Discuss with reference to BOTH anti-slavery and ONE other reform movement of the period 1820 –1860 (for example, temperance, women's rights, communitarianism, prison reform or educational reform). (79)
6. American reform movements between 1820 and 1860 reflected both optimistic and





agree or disagree with this statement? (71)

2. "I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races." How can this 1858 statement of Abraham Lincoln be reconciled with his 1862 Emancipation Proclamation? (88)
3. How do you account for the failure of Reconstruction (1865 – 1877) to bring social and economic equality of opportunity to the former slaves? (83)
4. The unpopular ideas and causes of one period often gain popularity and support in another, but the ultimate price of success is usually the alteration or subversion of the original ideas and programs. For the period 1830-1870, discuss this statement with reference to BOTH (A) the ideas and activities of abolitionists and (B) the policies of the Republican Party. (78)
5. Discuss the political, economic, and social reforms introduced in the South between 1864 and 1877. To what extent did these reforms survive the Compromise of 1877? (92)
6. Analyze the economic consequences of the Civil War with respect to any TWO of the following in the United States between 1865 and 1880.  
Agriculture                      Transportation  
Labor                                Industrialization (97)

### **VIII. Agricultural and Industrial America 1865 – 1900**

1. A number of writers and reformers in the period 1865-1914 discussed the growing gap between wealth and poverty in the United States. Compare and contrast THREE of the following authors' explanations for this condition and their proposal for dealing with it.  
Henry George : Progress and Poverty  
Edward Bellamy: Looking Backwards  
Andrew Carnegie: The Gospel of Wealth  
William Graham Sumner: What Social Classes Owe to Each Other  
Upton Sinclair: The Jungle
2. Andrew Carnegie has been viewed by some historians as the "prime representative of the industrial age" and by others as "an industrial leader atypical of the period. Assess the validity of these views. (86)
3. The path to labor organization was marked by false starts and wrong moves. Assess the validity of this generalization for the period 1865 – 1900. (77)
4. Popular fascination with the cowboy, the pioneer, and stories of Horatio Alger in the period 1870 to 1915 reflected America's uneasiness of transition from an agrarian to



The Scotch-Irish on the eighteenth century Appalachian frontier  
The Irish in the nineteenth century urban Northeast  
The Chinese in the nineteenth century west (87)

6. From the 1840's through the 1890's, women's activities in the intellectual, social, economic and political spheres effectively challenged traditional attitudes about women's place in society. Assess the validity of this statement. (91)
7. Account for the growth of ONE of the following major urban centers during the period indicated:

Boston, 1630 – 1700	Cincinnati, 1790 – 1860
New York, 1790 – 1860	Chicago, 1830 – 1900
New Orleans, 1790 – 1860	Salt Lake City, 1845 – 1900
Atlanta, 1870 – 1940	Los Angeles, 1890 – 1960 (71)
8. Assess the changing status of Blacks between emancipation and the end of the nineteenth century. (74)
9. Americans have been a highly mobile people. Describe and account for the dominant Population Movements between 1820 and 1900. (82)

#### **X. Politics 1877 – 1900**

1. Did the Republican Party from 1877 – 1896 abandon its earlier principles and succumb to expediency? (72)
2. Although the economic growth of the United States between 1860 and 1900 has been attributed to a governmental policy of laissez-faire, it was in fact encouraged and sustained by direct governmental intervention. Assess the validity of this statement. (88)
3. Political movements in the U.S. often reflect a yearning for the past. Assess the validity of this statement in reference to the Populists. (73)
4. Both the Jacksonian Democrats during 1824-1840 and the Populists during 1890 – 1896 attacked and sought out special privilege in American life. The Jacksonian Democrats attained power and succeeded; the populists failed. Assess the validity of this view. Give roughly equal attention to the Jacksonian Democrats and the Populists. (74)
5. In what ways were the late nineteenth century Populists the heirs of the Jacksonian Democrats with respect to overall objectives AND specific proposals for reform? (89)
6. Analyze the reasons for the emergence of the Populist movement in the late

nineteenth century. (95)

7. How were the lives of the Plains Indians in the second half of the nineteenth century affected by technological developments and government actions? ( 99)

## **XI. Expansionism 1890's – 1914**

1. United States foreign policy between 1815 and 1910 was determined less by economic than strategic, moral, or political interests. Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to at least TWO major episodes ( for example: treaties, wars, proclamations, annexations, etc.) in the foreign policy of the United States between 1815 and 1910. (80)
2. How and why did the Monroe Doctrine become the cornerstone of United States foreign policy by the late nineteenth century? (85)
3. Both the Mexican War and the Spanish American War were premeditated resulting from deliberately calculated schemes of robbery on the part of a superior power against weak and defenseless neighbors. (86)
4. Compare the debates that took place over American expansionism in the 1840's with those that took place in the 1890's, analyzing the similarities and differences in the debates of the two eras. (92)

## **XII. The Progressives 1900 –1920**

1. Analyze and evaluate Booker T. Washington's program for American Blacks and W.E.B. DuBois's challenge to that program. (71)
2. Discuss the development of the women's suffrage movement and account for its success. (72)
3. The legal, political, and economic rights achieved by minorities and women in the United States have come largely during periods of major reform movements, which both helped the struggle of these groups and set limits to them. Assess the validity of this statement for the history of one or more of these groups in the period 1830-1920. (76)
4. Paradoxically, Darwinism provided a justification for both social conservatism and social reform in the period from 1870-1915. Discuss this statement (77)
5. In American politics the most significant battles have occurred within the major parties rather than between them. Discuss this statement with reference to the periods 1850 –1861 and 1900 –1912. (81)

6. The Progressive movement of 1901 to 1917 was a triumph of conservatism rather than a victory for liberalism. Assess the validity of this generalization. (87)
7. Analyze the ways in which state and federal legislation and judicial decisions, including those of the Supreme Court, affected the efforts of any TWO of the following groups to improve their position in society between 1880 and 1920.  
                     African Americans                      Farmers                      Workers (93)
8. Although many Americans between 1870 and 1915 blamed political corruption at the state and local level on public indifference or greedy politicians, such corruption reflected a serious crisis of traditional institutions in dealing with social and economic problems of modern America. Assess the validity of this generalization (75)

### **XIII. World War I 1914 - 1920**

1. The U.S. in the period 1898-1919 failed to recognize that it had vital interests at stake in Europe, where it tried to stay aloof. At the same time, it had fewer or no such interests in Asia, where it eagerly became involved. Assess the validity of this generalization. (77)
2. The United States entered the First World War not “to make the world safe for democracy” as President Wilson claimed, but to safeguard American economic interests. Assess the validity of this statement. (74)
3. Assess the relative influence of THREE of the following in the American decision to declare war on Germany in 1917.  
                     German naval policy    Allied propaganda  
                     American economic interests                                      America’s claim to world power  
                     Woodrow Wilson’s idealism (95)
4. To what extent did the United States achieve the objectives that led it to enter the First World War? (00)

### **XIV. The 1920’s**

1. Alienation from American society is a dominant theme of the literature of the 1920’s. Discuss this statement with reference to TWO writers (novelists, poets, playwrights, journalists, etc.) citing evidence from their works. (72)
2. The 1920’s witnesses an assault by rural and small town America on Urban America. Assess the validity of this generalization. (74)

3. From 1790 to the 1870's, state and national governments intervened in the American economy mainly to aid private economic interests and promote economic growth. Between 1890 and 1929, however, government intervention was designed primarily to curb and regulate private economic activity in the public interest. Assess the validity of this statement, discussing for EACH of these periods at least TWO major areas of public economic policy. (77)
4. In what ways did economic conditions and developments in the arts and entertainment help create the reputation of the 1920's as the Roaring Twenties? (99)
5. In the work of American writers from the 1820's through the 1920's, the city mirrored America's darkest fears, whereas the wilderness, the country and the farm reflected the fondest hopes. Assess the validity of this generalization. You may draw your evidence from fiction and or non-fiction. (76)
6. The legal, political, and economic rights achieved by minorities and women in the United States have come largely during periods of major reform movements, which both helped the struggles of these groups and set limits to them. Assess the validity of this statement for the history of one or more of these groups in the period 1830 – 1920. (76)
7. The economic policies of the federal government from 1921 to 1929 were responsible for the nation's depression of the 1930's. Assess the validity of this generalization. (83)

#### **XV. The New Deal 1932 - 1945**

1. How do you account for the onset of the Great Depression of the 1930's? (71)
2. Account for the increased urbanization of Black Americans in the period 1914 to 1945. (72)
3. The depression of the 1890's delayed reform; the depression of the 1930's stimulated it. To what extent and in what ways do you agree or disagree with this statement?(72)
4. The New Deal did not radically alter American business, but conserved and protected it. Assess the validity of this statement. (73)
5. Despite artificial similarities, the domestic programs of the New Deal constituted a fundamental departure from those of the Progressive Era. Assess the validity of this generalization. (74)
6. The history of the U.S. shows that none of the three branches of the federal government is immune from the temptation to upset the system of checks and

balances established by the Constitution. Assess the validity of this generalization in regard to BOTH Congress versus the President 1865 – 1868 AND the President versus the Supreme Court 1935 – 1937. (75)

7. Although often defended and attacked on purely economic grounds, the federal tariff policies of the U.S. have been more important politically than economically. Assess the validity of this generalization in regard to TWO tariffs in U.S. history. (75)
8. Major American writers have been indifferent to the social problems of their day. State whether you agree or disagree with generalization and defend your position with reference to THREE novelists/ or poets. (75)
9. Most reform legislation since 1900 has been the work of special interests seeking to advance their own well-being, but the adoption of such legislation has required the general support of others who were not directly affected but who perceived it to be in the public interest. Assess the validity of this statement with reference to THREE examples of reform legislation since 1900. You may draw your examples from reform at any level of government: national, state or municipal. (79)
10. The New Deal secured the support of labor and agriculture after 1932 as the Republican party had secured the support of industry and commerce since 1920 – with special interest programs giving financial aid, legal privileges, and other types of assistance. Assess the validity of this statement, giving attention to both periods (1920 –1932 and 1932 – 1940). (81)
11. Despite often brutal clashes between labor and capital in the United States during the period 1865-1940, collective working-class protest did not constitute a basic attack on the capitalistic system. Assess the validity of this statement. (82)
12. During the past four decades, historians have consistently have rated Washington, Lincoln, and FDR as the greatest presidents. Assess the greatness of any TWO of these, making clear the criteria on which you base your judgement. (85)
13. Reform movements of the twentieth century have shown continuity in their goals and strategies. Assess the validity of this statement for ONE of the following pairs of reform movements.
  - Progressivism and the New Deal
  - Women’s suffrage and post-Second World War Feminism
  - The New Deal and the Great Society (86)
14. Why did socialism fail to become a major force in American politics between 1900 and 1940 despite widespread dissatisfaction with the social and economic order and significant support for radical movements during that time period? (88)
15. Analyze the ways in which the Great Depression altered the American social fabric in the 1930’s. (96)

16. Identify Three of the following New Deal measures and analyze the ways in which each of the three attempted to fashion a more stable economy and a more equitable society.

Agricultural Adjustment Act                      Wagner National Labor relations Act  
Securities and Exchange Commission                      Social Security Act (93)

17. Although American writers of the 1920's and 1930's criticized American society, the nature of their criticisms differed markedly in the two decades. Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to writers in both decades. (90)

## **XVI. Isolationism and War 1921 - 1945**

1. President Franklin Roosevelt was naïve and ineffective in his conduct of foreign policy from 1933 and 1941. To what extent and in what ways do you agree or disagree with this statement. (71)
2. The term “isolationism “ does not adequately describe the reality of either United States foreign policy or America's relationships with other nations during the period from Washington's Farewell Address 1796 to 1940. Assess the validity of this generalization. (76)
3. War has frequently had unexpected consequences for the United States foreign policy but has seldom resulted in major reorientations of policy. Discuss with reference to the First and Second world wars giving about equal attention to each. (78)
4. Prior to American involvement in both the First and Second World Wars, the United States adopted an official policy of neutrality. Compare the policy and its modifications during the period 1914-17 to the policy and its modifications during 1939-41. (82)
5. Between 1776 and 1823 a young and weak United States achieved considerable success in foreign policy when confronted with the two principal European powers, Great Britain and France. Between 1914 and 1950, however, a far more powerful United States was less successful in achieving its foreign policy objectives in Europe. Discuss by comparing United States foreign policy in Europe during the period 1776 1823, with United States policy in Europe during ONE of the following periods:  
1914 – 1932 OR 1933 -1950. (77)
6. To what extent and why did the United States adopt an isolationist policy in the 1920's and 1930's? (98)

## **XVII. Postwar Years 1945 -1960**

1. Discuss the changing attitudes of historians towards the origins of the Cold War. (72)
2. Harry S. Truman was a realistic, pragmatic President who skillfully led the American people against the menace posed by the Soviet Union. Assess the validity of this generalization for President Truman's foreign policy. (84)
3. The size, character, and effectiveness of the organized labor movement changed significantly during the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Apply this statement to TWO of the periods:  
1870 -1915      1915 - 1935      1935 - 1950 (85)
4. In 1945 Winston Churchill said that the United States stood at the summit of the world. Discuss the developments in the thirty years following Churchill's speech which called the global preeminence of the United States into question. (92)
5. Analyze the influence of TWO of the following on American-Soviet relations in the decade following the Second World War.  
Yalta Conference                      Communist Revolution in China  
Korean War                              McCarthysim (96)
6. To what extent did the decade of the 1950's deserve its reputation as an age of political, social, and cultural conformity? (94)
7. How do you account for the appeal of McCarthyism in the United States in the era following the Second World War? (97)
8. Although the 1960's are usually considered the decade of the greatest achievement for Black civil rights, the 1940's and 1950's were periods of equally important gains. Assess the validity of this statement. (91)

## **XVIII. 1960's to the Present**

1. Discuss the adjustments of ONE of the following minority groups to American life.  
American Indians from 1860 -1900                      Puerto Ricans from 1910 – 1970 (72)  
Mexican -Americans from 1910 – 1970                      Japanese Americans from 1910 - 1970
2. Controversy between integrationist and separatist viewpoints has long been a dominant theme within the black community. Analyze the controversy among blacks for the period 1920 - 1970. (73)
3. In the period since 1945, the Republican Party, as represented in the administrations of Dwight Eisenhower (1953-1961) and Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974), virtually abandoned the opposition to the New Deal expressed in the 1930's. assess the

validity of this generalization. (75)

4. Greater similarities than differences have characterized the experiences of all ethnic and racial groups who have migrated to American cities. Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to the Irish and Germans from the 1840's to the 1890's AND black Americans from 1915 - 1970. (75)
5. Presidents who have been notably successful in either foreign affairs or domestic affairs have seldom been notably successful in both. Assess this statement with reference to TWO presidents, one in the nineteenth century, and the other in the twentieth century, giving reasons for success or failure in each case. (77)
6. The leadership, organization, and programs of ethnic and racial minority movements after 1945 represented a fundamental departure from those which had existed from 1900 to 1945. Discuss with reference to black Americans or Mexican Americans, giving about equal attention to the periods before and after 1945. (77)
7. From 1914 to the present, the main trend in the relationship between the central government and the states has been toward concentration of power in the federal government. Discuss with reference to such areas of governmental power as regulation of business, social welfare, and civil rights. (78)
8. During the twentieth century, American "progressives" or "liberals" at some times advocated a strong presidency and expanded executive power, while "conservatives" opposed the expansion of these powers. At other times, the "liberals" and "conservative" positions were reversed. Assess the validity of this statement with reference to the periods 1900 – 1940 AND 1965 – 1974. (79)
9. A presidential election that results in defeat of the party in power usually indicates the failure of the party in power to have dealt effectively with the nation's problems, rather than indicating the positive appeal of the winning candidate and his party platform. Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to TWO of the elections in which the party in power was defeated: 1912, 1920, 1932, 1952, 1960, 1968. (80)
10. Compare the goals and strategies of Black reform movements in the period 1890 – 1910 to the goals and strategies of Black reform movements in the period 1950-1970. (82)
11. What accounted for the growth between 1940 and 1965 of popular and governmental concern for the position of Blacks in American society? (85)
12. "Hawks" and "doves" have disagreed on United States involvement in wars since the inception of the nation. Compare the "hawk" to the "dove" position for both a war of the nineteenth century and a war of the twentieth century. (73)

13. Candidates elected to the presidency in the twentieth century have usually campaigned as middle – of – the – road men without strong commitments. Assess the validity of this generalization. (73)
14. The principal cause of the expansion of the American presidential power in the twentieth century has been war and diplomacy rather than domestic growth and crisis. Assess the validity of this statement. (76)
15. Shifts in party control of the presidency during the twentieth century have typically NOT brought major shifts in domestic policy. Assess the validity of this statement. Illustrate your argument by discussing the extent to which TWO of the following presidents adopted the DOMESTIC programs of the previous presidential administrations given in parentheses beneath their names.
- Woodrow Wilson  
(administration of William H. Taft and Theodore Roosevelt)
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt  
(administration of Herbert Hoover)
  - Dwight D. Eisenhower  
(administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman)
  - Richard M. Nixon  
( administration of Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy) (83)
16. Vice -Presidents who have succeeded to the presidency on the death of the President have been less effective in their conduct of domestic AND foreign policy than the men they have replaced. Assess the validity of this statement for any TWO of the following pairs.
- William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman
  - John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson (89)
17. Most of the reform legislation since 1900 has been the work of special interests seeking to advance their own well – being, but the adoption of such legislation has required the general support of others who were not directly affected but who perceived it to be in the public interest. Assess the validity of this statement with reference to THREE examples of reform legislation since 1900. You may draw your examples from reform at any level of government: national, state, or municipal. (77)
18. Social dislocations resulting from wartime conditions frequently bring lasting change within a society. Evaluate the relevance of this generalization to American society in the twentieth century in view of the experience of Blacks AND women. (87)
19. 1968 was a turning point for the United States. To what extent is this an accurate assessment? In your answer, discuss TWO of the following:
- National Politics
  - Vietnam War
  - Civil Rights (98)
20. In what ways did the Great Society resemble the New Deal in its origins, goals, and

social and political legacy? Cite specific programs and policies in support of your arguments. (92)

21. Describe THREE of the following and analyze the ways in which each of the three has affected the status of women in American society since 1940.

The persistence of traditional definitions of women's roles

Advances in reproductive technology

The rebirth of an organized women's movement

Changing economic conditions (93)

22. Foreign affairs rather than domestic issues shaped presidential politics in the Election year 1968. Assess the validity of this statement with specific reference to foreign and domestic issues. (90)

23. Assess the success of the United States policy of containment in Asia between 1945 and 1975. (99)

24. Discuss with respect to Two of the following, the view that the 1960's represented a period of profound cultural change.

Education

Gender roles

Music

Race Relations (00)