

Answer each part of all questions in complete sentences. A thesis is not required.

Question 1

“The New Deal economic policies... implanted several ‘stabilizers’ that have been... successful in averting another such depression.... Such safeguards restored confidence in the discredited banking system and established a firm economic foundation that performed well for decades thereafter. The New Deal was also responsible for numerous other notable changes in American life. In the space of a decade government laws eliminated sweatshops, severely curtailed child labor, and established enforcement standards for hours, wages, and working conditions.... The New Deal’s safety net...firmly established the principle that the government had an obligation to assist the needy.” Roger Biles, historian, 1991

“My principal problem with Roosevelt and the New Deal [is] not over specific reforms or his social programs, but with the failure of the United States to recover from the depression during the eight peacetime years that he and his policies governed the nation.... There were certainly positive contributions under the New Deal, but they may not have outweighed the negative aspects of the period. When one examines the full range of New Deal proposals...the outline emerges of a form of government alien to any definition of liberalism except that of New Dealers themselves. Historians need to weigh more thoroughly and objectively the implications for the United States if Roosevelt’s programs had been fully implemented. They also need to assess the costs in human misery of the delay in recovery, and of reduced U.S. influence abroad at a critical time in world affairs owing to its economic weaknesses.” Gary Dean Best, historian, 1990

1. Using the excerpts above, answer (a), (b), and (c).

- a) Briefly explain ONE major difference between Biles’s and Best’s historical interpretations of the New Deal.
- b) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development during the period 1929 to 1941 that is not mentioned directly in the excerpts could be used to support Biles’s interpretation.
- c) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development during the period 1929 to 1941 that is not mentioned directly in the excerpts could be used to support Best’s interpretation.

2. Answer a, b, and c.

- a) Briefly explain ONE cause of the Great Depression that was different from the causes of any previous economic depressions (panics).
- b) Briefly explain ONE example of continuity between the policies of the Progressive Era and the New Deal era.
- c) Briefly explain ONE New Deal reform that went beyond the reforms of the Progressive Era.

3. Answer a, b, and c.

a) Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Second World War transformed United States society.

b&c) Briefly explain the impact of the Second World War on TWO of the following:

- Women
- Immigrants
- African-Americans

4. Answer a, b, and c.

a) Briefly explain ONE important way in which President Franklin D. Roosevelt dealt with U.S. foreign policy prior to U.S. entry into the Second World War (1939–1945).

b) Briefly explain ONE important way in which President Franklin D. Roosevelt dealt with U.S. foreign policy prior during the Second World War (1939–1945).

c) Briefly explain ONE way in which the role of the United States in the world changed as a result of the Second World War.