

2023



AP® United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Short-Answer Question 1

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Question 1: Short Answer Secondary Source**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

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- (A) Briefly describe one major difference between Cohen’s and Katznelson’s historical interpretations of the New Deal. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Cohen focuses on the diversity of New Deal supporters, while Katznelson focuses on the New Deal supporters that were White supremacists.
- Katznelson focuses on New Deal politicians and their activities, while Cohen focuses on how certain American voters came to support the New Deal and New Deal politicians.
- Cohen praises the effects of the New Deal for giving immigrants and members of minority groups a voice in democracy, whereas Katznelson condemns the effects of the New Deal that allowed discrimination against minority groups.
- Cohen emphasizes the expansion of the New Deal coalition to include working-class people, immigrants, and African Americans (an expansion of American democracy), while Katznelson points out that New Deal leaders allowed racial discrimination in their programs to keep support for them from conservative southern Democrats.
- Cohen acknowledges the more positive aspects of the New Deal for minority groups and indicates that it is an important transitional step toward greater opportunities, while Katznelson expresses disappointment that New Deal programs did not do enough to accelerate greater rights and representation for minority group members and were severely limited by efforts to maintain southern support.

(B)	Briefly explain how one event or development from 1932 to 1945 that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Cohen's argument.	1 point
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Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The economic hardship in the Great Depression led to broad support for the Democrats because Roosevelt promised to provide government relief.
- The widespread popularity of Democrats is why Roosevelt won the presidency four times.
- African Americans, who had largely supported Republicans because of their role in Reconstruction, began their shift to the Democratic party in the 1930s.
- The efforts by radical, union, and populist movements to push Roosevelt toward more extensive efforts to change the American economic system support Cohen's argument that working-class people asserted themselves in the political arena in new ways.

Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:

- Many people worked for New Deal programs such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA).
- Impact of the Wagner Act.

(C)	Briefly explain how one event or development from 1932 to 1945 that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Katzenbach's argument.	1 point
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Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Katzenbach's assertion that the New Deal turned a blind eye toward a system of racial cruelty is supported by the persistence of racial segregation in the South throughout this period.
- Many New Deal jobs programs segregated African Americans, which proves Katzenbach's argument about the limitations of the New Deal.
- Franklin Roosevelt shied away from confronting racism in New Deal programs, as well as from recognizing crucial issues, such as lynching, because of the power of southern Democrats in Congress.
- Many New Deal programs, such as the WPA, were administered by states, which allowed local authorities in the South to maintain segregation in the programs and to provide disproportionately small amounts of relief for African Americans.
- Important programs for American workers, such as Social Security and minimum wage legislation, excluded agricultural and domestic workers, a move southern Democrats demanded. These decisions largely excluded African Americans, who predominated in such occupations, especially in the South, from those programs.

Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:

- Segregation of the military under Roosevelt.
- Persistence of Jim Crow Laws.
- Continued racial oppression in the South by groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

Total for question 1 3 points

a) Lizabeth Cohen believed that the New Deal got immigrants to support the Democratic party as they believed the Federal Government was committed to providing welfare benefits for them. Katznelson on the other hand believed that the New Deal directly collaborated and turned a blind eye to the South's racist policies that were ongoing, which allowed them to expand their system of organized racial cruelty. The main difference between these viewpoints is that Cohen more strongly believed that the New Deal's Democratic Party more strongly supported the interests of immigrants and minorities while Ira believed that the New Deal collaborated with Southern Racism.

b) One development from 1932 to 1945 that can be used to support Cohen's argument were the various New Deal organizations such as the Public Works Administration and the Tennessee Valley Authority whose reform policies extended to African American's helped get them out of the Great Depression. This supports Cohen's argument because the opportunities of reform out of the Depression was available in various New Deal programs such as the PWA and the TVA and so the people benefitting from this, including minorities, would be more inclined to vote Democratic because of these programs, which is what Cohen is saying.

c) One development in the period 1932-1945 that can be used to support Katznelson's perspective is the continued prominence of Jim Crow laws and racial segregation in the South. The New Deal efforts turned a "blind eye" to racial segregation and this allowed Jim Crow laws to stay in effect in the south, which is what Katznelson is arguing when she says that the New Deal collaborated with the South's racial hegemony.

A. Cohen's interpretation of the New Deal is that the New Deal was beneficial to minorities, while Katznelson's interpretation is that the New Deal was more beneficial to white supremacists. Evidence of Cohen's beliefs can be seen in how she details how minorities benefited from welfare programs created by the New Deal and how that led them to support the policies by voting for FDR. Katznelson's interpretation can be seen in how he details how the New Deal actually benefited white supremacists due to it not taking action against racist policies in the South.

B. An event from 1932-1945 that supports Cohen's argument is FDR's alphabet agencies. Those agencies created jobs that minorities were in need of and helped them earn wages which was beneficial to them.

C. An event from 1932-1945 that supports Katznelson's interpretation is Jim Crow laws. The New Deal failed to address Jim Crow laws that inhibited the rights of minorities as it mostly affected economic policy. By not addressing Jim Crow laws the New Deal supported them and their ideals.

A. Cohen's argument states that the New Deal applies to all no matter their race nor color of skin. He felt the New Deal is helping people of all races in Chicago while also helping immigrants. This differs from Katzenelson's interpretation which is that the New Deal benefited more to southern white supremacists and that the New Deal contributed to the south's racism.

B. Cohen's argument could be supported by the fact the people of all colors were allowed to join and participate in the military to help fight World War II and protect our country from the Axis forces. These people being implemented into the army shows how blacks or other minority groups were included more and allowed them to have a bigger role in society.

C. Katzenelson's argument can be supported with the lynchings of African Americans by the KKK after the New Deal was passed. This shows how even though the new deal was supposed to be these new laws to better our society, it still allowed terrible racial discriminatory acts to occur in the south against black people. The African Americans and other minority groups who were killed or hurt by the white supremacists of the KKK thought the new deal would better their situation, when in reality, nothing changed.

Short Answer Question 1

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

- This question asked students to describe the difference between two excerpts from secondary source texts about the politics of those supporting the New Deal. The first excerpt, by Lizabeth Cohen, argues that the diverse political supporters of the New Deal advocated, often for the first time, for the Democratic Party. The second excerpt, by Ira Katznelson, argues that the New Deal depended on the support of southern legislators, and, thus, the government failed to enact civil rights legislation.
- Responses had to provide relevant evidence (between 1932 and 1945) and explain how that evidence supported each of the arguments found in the excerpts.
- This question focused on analyzing historical evidence and secondary sources.
- This question primarily addressed Topics 7.9 and 7.10.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response to part (a) earned 1 point by correctly describing the difference between Cohen’s argument about support for the New Deal and Katznelson’s argument that the New Deal allowed racism in the South to continue.

The response to part (b) earned 1 point by supporting Cohen’s argument by explaining how New Deal programs providing government relief resulted in more support for the Democratic party.

The response to part (c) earned 1 point by supporting Katznelson’s argument by explaining the continuity of Jim Crow laws and the New Deal’s inaction on issues of race.

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response to part (a) earned 1 point by describing the difference between Cohen’s argument about how people who benefitted from the New Deal voted for Roosevelt, contrasting Katznelson, who argues that New Deal policies benefitted the policies of “white supremacists.”

The response to part (b) did not earn a point because it fails to explain the political effects of the New Deal in support of Cohen’s argument.

The response to part (c) earned 1 point by explaining how the New Deal’s failure to address Jim Crow laws supports Katznelson’s argument.

Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response to part (a) did not earn a point because, while it accurately describes Katznelson's argument, it lacks specifics in summarizing Cohen's argument.

The response to part (b) did not earn a point because it does not adequately explain the link between the military service of minorities and Cohen's argument about increasing support of the Democratic Party.

The response to part (c) earned 1 point because it accurately explains the link between racial violence and Katznelson's argument that the New Deal failed to limit "terrible racial discriminatory acts."