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# **AP<sup>®</sup> United States History**

## **2015 Free-Response Questions**

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## **2015 AP® US HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

#### **SECTION I, Part B**

**Time—50 minutes**

**4 Questions**

**Directions:** Read each question carefully and write your responses in the Section I, Part B: Short Answer booklet on the lined pages provided for that question.

Use complete sentences; an outline or bulleted list alone is not acceptable. You may plan your answers in this exam booklet, but no credit will be given for notes written in this booklet. Only your responses on the designated pages of the Section I, Part B: Short Answer booklet will be scored.

1. Answer (a), (b), and (c).
  - a) Briefly explain ONE important similarity between the British colonies in the Chesapeake region and the British colonies in New England in the period from 1607 to 1754.
  - b) Briefly explain ONE important difference between the British colonies in the Chesapeake region and the British colonies in New England in the period from 1607 to 1754.
  - c) Briefly explain ONE factor that accounts for the difference that you indicated in (b).

## **2015 AP® US HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

“None of Nature’s landscapes are ugly so long as they are wild.”

John Muir, 1901

“I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.”

Former president Theodore Roosevelt, 1910

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

- a) Briefly explain ONE implication for public policy of John Muir’s view on land use.
- b) Briefly explain ONE way in which an implication for public policy of Theodore Roosevelt’s view contrasts with the implication for public policy of Muir’s view.
- c) Identify ONE specific example of land use policy in the United States from 1890 to 1945 and briefly explain how the example is consistent with the view of either Muir or Roosevelt.

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“As to the history of the revolution, my ideas may be peculiar, perhaps singular. What do we mean by the revolution? The war? That was no part of the revolution; it was only an effect and consequence of it. The revolution was in the minds of the people, and this was effected from 1760 to 1775, in the course of fifteen years, before a drop of blood was shed at Lexington.”

Former president John Adams to former president Thomas Jefferson,  
August 1815

“There is nothing more common than to confound the terms of the American Revolution with those of the late American war. The American war is over: but this is far from being the case with the American Revolution. On the contrary, nothing but the first act of the great drama is closed. It remains yet to establish and perfect our new forms of government; and to prepare the principles, morals, and manners of our citizens, for these forms of government, after they are established and brought to perfection.”

Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence and delegate  
to the Continental Congress, January 1787

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

- a) Briefly describe ONE significant difference between Adams' understanding and Rush's understanding of the American Revolution.
- b) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development from the period between 1760 and 1800 could be used to support Adams' interpretation.
- c) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development from the period between 1760 and 1800 could be used to support Rush's interpretation.

## **2015 AP® US HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

4. Answer (a), (b), and (c).
- a) Briefly explain why ONE of the following best marks the beginning of industrialization in the United States.
- The market revolution in the first half of the 1800s
  - The Civil War era in the middle of the 1800s
  - The rise of big business in the second half of the 1800s
- b) Provide ONE example of an event or development that supports your explanation in (a).
- c) Provide specific historical evidence that explains why ONE of the other options is less convincing as the possible beginning of industrialization in the United States.

**END OF SECTION I**

## **2015 AP® US HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

#### **SECTION II**

**Total Time—1 hour, 30 minutes**

##### **Question 1 (Document-Based Question)**

**Suggested reading period: 15 minutes**

**Suggested writing time: 40 minutes**

**Directions:** Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following.

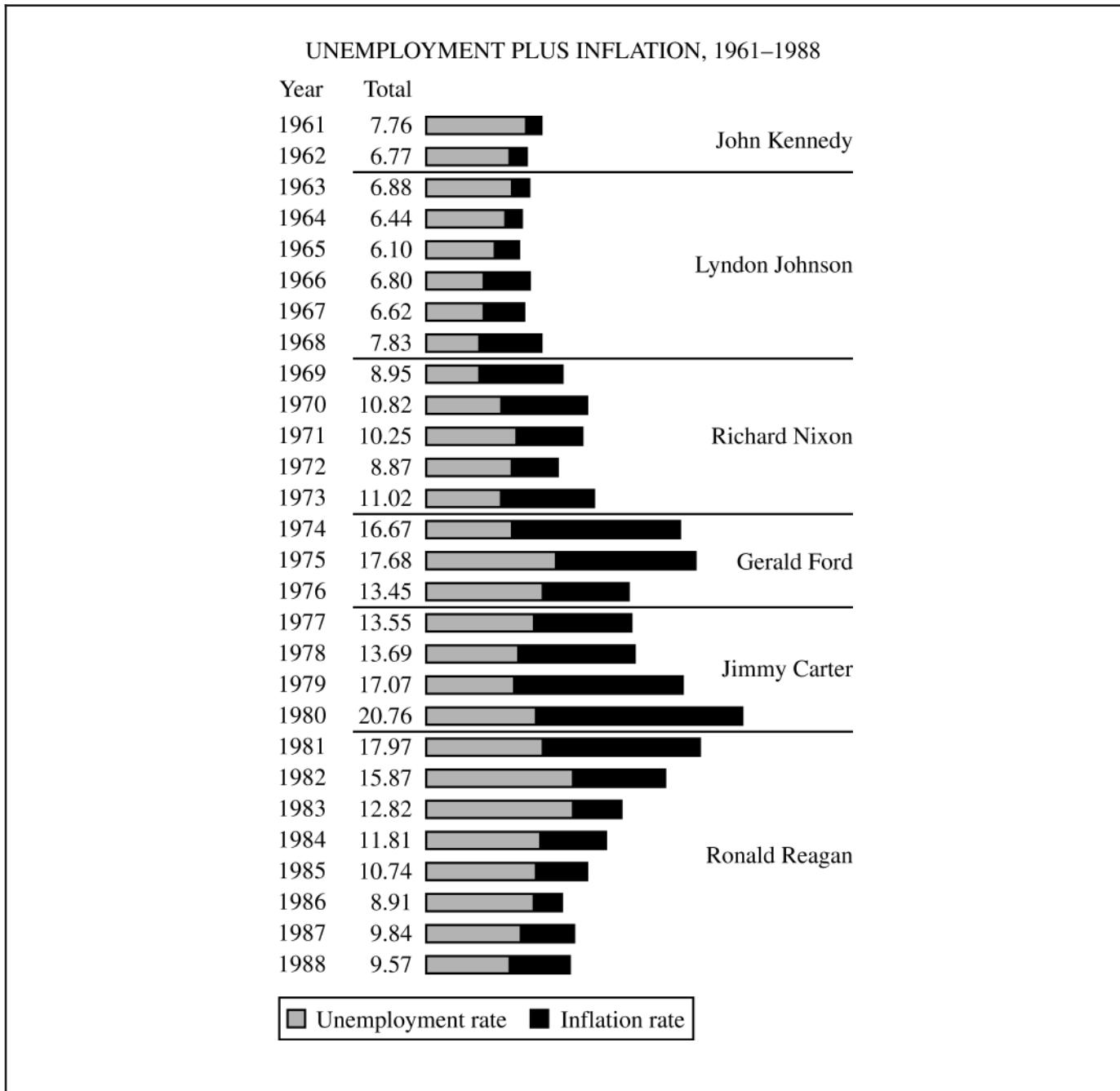
- State a relevant thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
- Support the thesis or a relevant argument with evidence from all, or all but one, of the documents.
- Incorporate analysis of all, or all but one, of the documents into your argument.
- Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- Support your argument with analysis of historical examples outside the documents.
- Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.
- Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay that extends your argument, connects it to a different historical context, or accounts for contradictory evidence on the topic.

1. Explain the reasons why a new conservatism rose to prominence in the United States between 1960 and 1989.

## 2015 AP® US HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

### Background Information

The graph below is for background information. Analysis of it is not required and will not count toward the required number of documents.



## 2015 AP® US HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

### Document 1

Source: Barry Goldwater, a Republican senator from Arizona, *The Conscience of a Conservative*, 1960.

Franklin Roosevelt's rapid conversion from Constitutionalism to the doctrine of unlimited government is an oft-told story. . . . I am here concerned . . . by the unmistakable tendency of the Republican Party to adopt the same course. The result is that today *neither* of our two parties maintains a meaningful commitment to the principle of States' Rights. Thus, the cornerstone of the Republic, our chief bulwark against the encroachment of individual freedom by Big Government, is fast disappearing under the piling sands of absolutism. . . .

The root evil is that the government is engaged in activities in which it has no legitimate business. As long as the federal government acknowledges responsibility in a given social or economic field, its spending in that field cannot be substantially reduced.

### Document 2

Source: Milton Friedman, economist, *Capitalism and Freedom*, 1962.

We now have several decades of experience with governmental intervention. . . .

Which if any of the great "reforms" of past decades has achieved its objectives? . . .

A housing program intended to improve the housing conditions of the poor, to reduce juvenile delinquency, and to contribute to the removal of urban slums, has worsened the housing conditions of the poor, contributed to juvenile delinquency, and spread urban blight. . . .

The greater part of the new ventures undertaken by government in the past few decades have failed to achieve their objectives. The United States has continued to progress; its citizens have become better fed, better clothed, better housed, and better transported; class and social distinctions have narrowed; minority groups have become less disadvantaged. . . . All this has been the product of the initiative and drive of individuals co-operating through the free market.

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### **Document 3**

Source: Letter to Nelson Rockefeller, Republican governor of New York, February 6, 1971.

This letter is written to you by a law abiding citizen who feels she is discriminated against in favor of dope addicts and welfare cheats. I am a widow who lives alone, works every day, pays taxes and lives by the rules. I get very little from my taxes when I can no longer walk on the streets and when I am afraid in my own home. . . . Sorry this letter is not typed. My typewriter was stolen.

### **Document 4**

Source: Jerry Falwell, television evangelist and founder of the Moral Majority, *Listen, America!*, 1980.

We must reverse the trend America finds herself in today. Young people between the ages of twenty-five and forty have been born and reared in a different world than Americans of years past. The television set has been their primary baby-sitter. From the television set they have learned situation ethics and immorality—they have learned a loss of respect for human life. They have learned to disrespect the family as God has established it. They have been educated in a public-school system that is permeated with secular humanism. They have been taught that the Bible is just another book of literature. They have been taught that there are no absolutes in our world today. They have been introduced to the drug culture. They have been reared by the family and the public school in a society that is greatly void of discipline and character-building. These same young people have been reared under the influence of a government that has taught them socialism and welfarism. They have been taught to believe that the world owes them a living whether they work or not.

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### **Document 5**

Source: 1980 Republican Party Platform.

Overseas, our goal is . . . to preserve a world at peace by keeping America strong. This philosophy once occupied a hallowed place in American diplomacy, but it was casually . . . dismissed at the outset by the Carter Administration—and the results have been shattering. Never before in modern history has the United States endured as many humiliations, insults, and defeats as it has during the past four years: our ambassadors murdered, our embassies burned, our warnings ignored, our diplomacy scorned, our diplomats kidnapped. The Carter Administration has shown that it neither understands totalitarianism nor appreciates the way tyrants take advantage of weakness. The brutal invasion of Afghanistan promises to be only the forerunner of much more serious threats to the West—and to world peace—should the Carter Administration somehow cling to power.

### **Document 6**

Source: Teddi Holt, a homemaker, a member of Georgia Stop ERA, and the national president of Mothers On the March, 1984.

I am pleased that God blessed me with the privilege of being a woman. I have never been envious of the role of men but have had respect for both sexes. There's no doubt that there has been discrimination against women, but that is past history, just as discrimination against blacks is past history in the US. . . .

Just what were we women to be liberated from? These women [feminists] were calling for liberation from the things women like me love most—our husbands, our children, our homes. My cry became: “God, liberate us from the Liberators!” . . .

We believe that the mothers of this and other nations must stand up for the protection of our homes and our children. In no way are we extremists, unless we be guilty of extreme devotion to our husbands, our children, and our homes. It is our sincere belief that if we do not unite against the threats to the home, if we retire to the convenience and security of our houses and do not speak out, then it will not be long until we, the “keeper at home” (Titus 2.5) will not have a home to keep!

Excerpt from “Women Who Do and Women Who Don’t Join the Women’s Movement” by Teddi Holt and edited by Robyn Rowland, Copyright © 1984 by Teddi Holt. Reproduced by permission of Taylor & Francis Books U.K.

### **END OF DOCUMENTS FOR QUESTION 1**

## **2015 AP® US HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

### **Question 2 or Question 3**

**Suggested writing time: 35 minutes**

**Directions:** Choose EITHER Question 2 or Question 3.

In your response you should do the following.

- State a relevant thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
- Support your argument with evidence, using specific examples.
- Apply historical thinking skills as directed by the question.
- Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay that extends your argument, connects it to a different historical context, or connects it to a different category of analysis.

2. Evaluate the extent to which the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War, 1754–1763) marked a turning point in American relations with Great Britain, analyzing what changed and what stayed the same from the period before the war to the period after it.

3. Evaluate the extent to which the Mexican-American War (1846–1848) marked a turning point in the debate over slavery in the United States, analyzing what changed and what stayed the same from the period before the war to the period after it.

**WHEN YOU FINISH WRITING, CHECK YOUR WORK ON SECTION II IF TIME PERMITS.**

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**