

2017

AP[®] CollegeBoard

AP United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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2017 AP® UNITED STATES HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

2. Answer (a), (b), and (c).

- a) Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Second World War (1939–1945) transformed the relationship of the United States with the rest of the world.
- b) Briefly explain ONE important way in which the Second World War transformed United States society.
- c) Briefly explain ANOTHER important way in which the Second World War transformed United States society.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2** on this page only.

- a) During WWII the United States used a ~~sort of~~ ^{weapons never seen before} and helped the Allies win years before the war ~~it~~ ^{was predicted to end}. This led to the US emerging as a world superpower ~~during~~ after the war, and this ~~is~~ creating a rise in tensions between the USSR and the US. After the war, the US also asserted itself again ally to democracy, and pushed for the containment policy shortly after the war. The US also used the Marshall Plan to fund the European reconstruction.
- b) Before WWII, the US had been plunged into the Great Depression, but after entering the war ~~the GDP~~ ^{the GDP} ~~improved~~ ^{drastically improved} and pulled the country out of the Great Depression, mainly due to the opening of new factories to create weapons to help the US ~~help~~ win the war.
- c) After the Second World War, when American G.I. soldiers returned home, the US saw a drastical increase in births, which would become the baby boom generation. Also after returning from the war, many veterans entered universities and colleges with the help of the G.I. bill. This meant a higher percentage of the population ~~became educated~~ had higher education.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2** on this page only.

The Second World War drastically altered the United States' foreign policy. Having shown the world ~~its~~ its military power, the United States acted much more boldly and confidently in world affairs. An example of this would be the Cold War, in which the US and USSR had an extreme amount of tension between them, and the US sought to stop the spread of Communism from the Soviet Union.

World War II also transformed United States' society. After the war, the US saw an economic boom and unprecedented prosperity. This was due to government spending on the war. Industries like textiles, weapons, food, metal, and many more became successful when the government needed their services and products for the war, ~~the~~ which resulted in economic prosperity.

World War II also transformed United States' society by boosting national pride. The American public became much more patriotic due to the United States success in the war. This is also due to the economic prosperity caused by World War II.

Use a blue or black pen only for the short-answer questions. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

a) As in the First World War, the United States came out of the ^{2nd world} War in much better condition than the European nations. With this, the U.S. became a source of ~~relax~~ recovery for the other ~~name~~ nations, making the European nations more dependent on the U.S. than before.

b) The U.S. society was transformed by the second World War by the lack of spending during the war & piling up \$, filling the pockets of the American society & leading to the strengthening of consumerism.

c) Another way the U.S. society was transformed by World War II is the growing threat of the rival superpower^s to the U.S., the Soviet Union & its communism. When World War II ended, Russia was able to spread its influence upon other nations & the U.S. was in fear that "domino ~~theor~~ theory", when one nation ^{falls to} follows communism, the neighbor will soon follow, would reach the U.S. and crash it.