

BEFORE YOU BEGIN familiarize yourself with the DBQ Prompt:

7B DBQ Prompt: Analyze the responses to Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration to the problems of the Great Depression. How effective were these responses? How did they change the role of the government?

Step 1: Analyzing the Documents

Document A

Source: Meridel Lesueur, *New Masses*, January 1932.

It's one of the great mysteries of the city where women go when they are out of work and hungry. There are not many women in the bread line. There are no flop houses for women as there are for men, where a bed can be had for a quarter or less. You don't see women lying on the floor of the mission in the free flops. They obviously don't sleep . . . under newspapers in the park. There is no law I suppose against their being in these places but the fact is they rarely are.

Yet there must be as many women out of jobs in cities and suffering extreme poverty as there are men. What happens to them?

1. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: During the Great Depression, women were not taken care of like men.

2. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows an ineffective response to the Great Depression because women are suffering from poverty like men but they aren't given alternatives such as temporary places to stay like men are given.

Document B

Source: Letter to Senator Robert Wagner, March 7, 1934.

It seems very apparent to me that the Administration at Washington is accelerating it's [sic] pace towards socialism and communism. Nearly every public statement from Washington is against stimulation of business which would in the end create employment.

Everyone is sympathetic to the cause of creating more jobs and better wages for labor; but, a program continually promoting labor troubles, higher wages, shorter hours, and less profits for business, would seem to me to be leading us fast to a condition where the Government must more and more expand it's relief activities, and will lead in the end to disaster to all classes.

3. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: This document talks about the spread of socialism and communism as well as the creation of more jobs to relieve unemployment. However, if we continue to expand these things it could possibly lead America to rely too much on the government for relief and end in an economic/social downfall.

4. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows an ineffective response to the Great Depression because it acknowledges the ideal creation of more jobs, better wages, and shorter hours, but challenges its effectiveness by stating that it will ultimately destroy the economy.

Document C

Source: *The Evening Star* (Washington D.C.), April 26, 1934.



5. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: FDR saw his response to the Great Depression as a beneficial expansion to the government rather than completely changing it.

6. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows an effective response to the Great Depression because FDR proposed many solutions to this economic downfall and ultimately contributed to stabilizing the government and economy.

Document D

Source: William Lloyd Garrison, Jr., "The Hand of Improvidence," *The Nation*, November 14, 1934.

The New Deal, being both a philosophy and a mode of action, began to find expression in diverse forms which were often contradictory. Some assisted and some retarded the recovery of industrial activity. . . . An enormous outpouring of federal money for human relief and immense sums for public-works projects started to flow to all points of the compass. . . . Six billion dollars was added to the national debt . . . a bureaucracy in Washington grew by leaps and bounds . . . and finally, to lend the picture the heightened academic touch, John Maynard Keynes, of Cambridge, England, . . . commenced the plan of buying Utopia for cash.

7. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: This document talks about how the actions of The New Deal often wasted money on things that weren't really helpful to the economy. Examples include art projects, huge outpourings of federal money for human relief, and the purchase of Utopia for cash in return.

8. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows an ineffective response to the Great Depression because it challenges the idea that everything produced by the New Deal was necessary and beneficial to the U.S. government.

Document E

Source: Print and Photograph Division, Library of Congress, 1935.



9. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: This document is illustrating the creation of social security to promote financial support for elders.

10. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows an effective response to the Great Depression because it proposes a solution of financial stability for the dependent audience such as elders, children, and the disabled.

Document F

Source: Charles Evans Hughes, majority opinion, *Schechter v. United States*, 1935.

The question of chief importance relates to the provision of the codes to the hours and wages of those employed . . . It is plain that these requirements are imposed in order to govern the details of defendants' management of their local business. The persons employed . . . are not employed in interstate commerce. Their wages have no direct relation to interstate commerce . . .

The authority of the federal government may not be pushed to such an extreme.

11. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: This document is saying that FDR's response to the Great Depression is too much for the government.

12. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows an ineffective response to the Great Depression because it is stating that FDR is doing too much and is trying to overpower the government.

Document G

Source: NBC radio broadcast, John L. Lewis, December 13, 1936.

It is the refusal of employers to grant such reasonable conditions and to deal with their employees through collective bargaining that leads to widespread labor unrest. The strikes which have broken out . . . especially in the automobile industry, are due to such "employee trouble."

Huge corporations, such as United States Steel and General Motors . . . have no right to transgress the law which gives to the workers the right of self-organization and collective bargaining.

13. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: FDR does not want large businesses to take advantage of their workers and undermine their rights of reasonable conditions.

14. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: Effective because it is advocating for labor rights.

Document H

Source: "The New Deal in Review" editorial in *The New Republic*, May 20, 1940.

The government as an instrument of democratic action in the future has also been strengthened and renovated. This is not merely a matter of the addition of many new agencies, but of the more efficient organization of the whole executive department — including a planning board under the President which so far has been relatively unimportant but is capable of future development. The Courts, too, have been revived, partly by legislation, but principally by excellent new appointments, so that we now have a Supreme Court which is abreast of the times.

15. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: FDR is not only adding new agencies, but also improving the state of the government through legislation and new appointments.

16. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows an effective response to the Great Depression because it addresses the positive renovation of the government that will be beneficial for America in the future.

Document I

Source: "The Roosevelt Record," editorial in *The Crisis*, November 1940.

To declare that the Roosevelt administration has tried to include the Negro in nearly every phase of its program for the people of the nation is not to ignore the instances where government policies have harmed the race. . .

At Boulder Dam, for example, the administration continued the shameful policy begun by Hoover of forbidding Negroes to live in Boulder City, the government-built town. And in its own pet project, the TVA, the administration forbade Negroes to live in Norris, another government-built town at Norris Dam.

[The] most important contribution of the Roosevelt administration to the age-old color line problem in America has been its doctrine that Negroes are a part of the country and must be considered in any program for the country as a whole. The inevitable discriminations notwithstanding, this thought has been driven home in thousands of communities by a thousand specific acts. For the first time in their lives, government has taken on meaning and substance for the Negro masses.

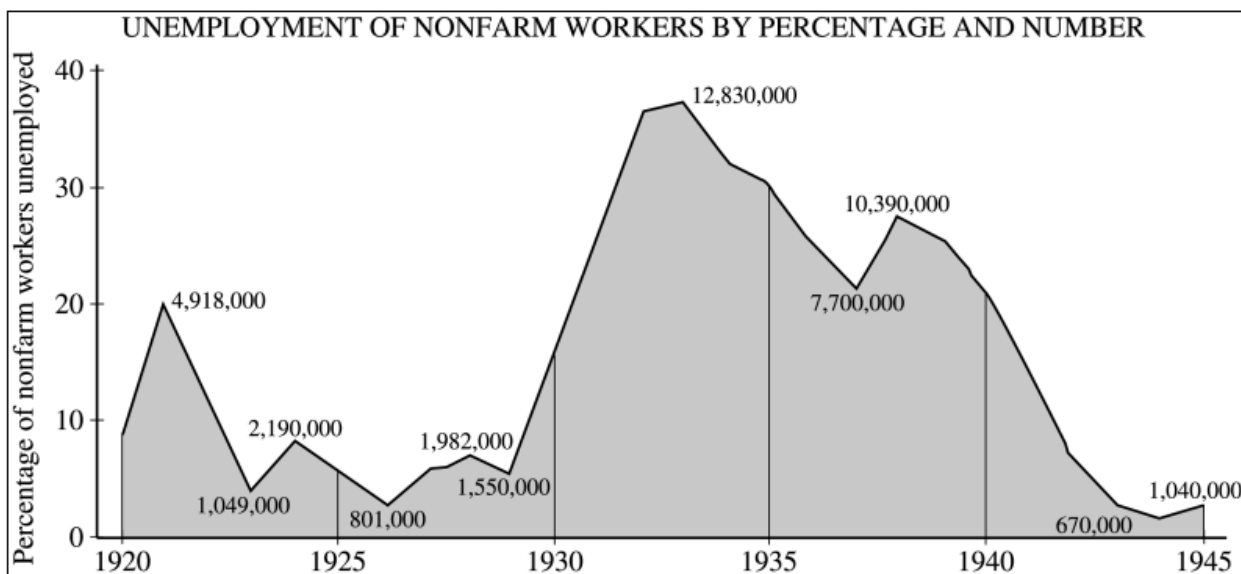
17. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: Roosevelt wants to include African Americans in his programs, however, government policies have repeatedly discriminated against them.

18. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows a response to the Great Depression because African Americans are still being excluded and discriminated against.

Document J



19. What does this document tell you about FDR's response to the Great Depression or the expansion of government?

A: When FDR stepped into office, the unemployment of farmers decreased

20. Does this document show an effective or ineffective response to the Great Depression? Why?

A: This document shows an effective response to the Great Depression because it shows how FDR provided relief for struggling farmers.

Step 2: Planning Your DBQ

21. List which documents you believe show that FDR's New Deal was **EFFECTIVE** at helping the effects of the Great Depression.

A: **J, H, G, E, C, I**

22. List which documents you believe show that FDR's New Deal was **INEFFECTIVE** at helping the effects of the Great Depression.

A: **A, B, D, F,**

23. **Creating your thesis:** Look at how you've sorted your documents. The amount you have listed as effective or ineffective will help you determine the direction of your thesis. Write your thesis below.

A: Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed the New Deal which was mostly effective at relieving the effects of the Great depression, it addressed government expansion, economic stability, and advocated for the rights of oppressed groups.

24. **Creating your counterclaim:** Use the documents that do not support your thesis to back up your counterclaim. Write your counterclaim below.

A: However, while the New Deal made great advancements in these areas, there were still issues the New Deal failed to address such as the abuse of presidential power, wasted money, over reliance on the government, and the neglect of financially unstable women.

25. **Contextualize before your thesis:** To effectively contextualize in an APUSH DBQ, relate the prompt's topic to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occurred before, during, or after the specified time period. What contextualization can you provide in this DBQ? (Hint: I'd start with problems of the Great Depression).

A: During the 1920's, the trend of buying on credit was steadily increasing which led people to rack up loans they didn't have the money to pay, ultimately leading to the stock market crash that took place in 1929. When people and banks began to ask for the money they loaned to be paid, no one had enough to pay them back, leading to bankruptcy in countries and an overall economic downfall known as the Great Depression.

Step 3: Writing Your DBQ

(Highlight **your contextualization in orange**, **your thesis in blue**, **your documents in green**, **purple when you explain the documents**, **and red for your counterclaim**)

NOTE: You need to cite AT LEAST 4 of the documents from the DBQ in your response!!!

During the 1920's, the trend of buying on credit was steadily increasing which led people to rack up loans they didn't have the money to pay, ultimately leading to the stock market crash that took place in 1929. When people and banks began to ask for the money they loaned to be paid, no one had enough to pay them back, leading to bankruptcy in countries and an overall economic downfall known as the Great Depression. Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed the New Deal which was mostly effective at relieving the effects of the Great depression, it introduced government expansion, economic stability, and advocated for the rights of oppressed groups. However, while the New Deal made great advancements in these areas, there were still issues the New Deal failed to address such as the abuse of presidential power, wasted money, over reliance on the government, and the neglect of financially unstable women.

The New Deal contributed to the expansion of the government. **Document C** depicts a tree going through the different stages of growth until it is fully grown and shows Roosevelt referring to the growth of the tree as an evolution rather than a revolution. This illustration is meant to represent the growth of the government due to the companies President Roosevelt implemented in an attempt to stabilize the economy. The events of this document are situated in the larger context of strengthening the government and economy, this is essential because a

solidified government will decrease the risks of future detrimental tragedies such as the Great Depression. Additionally, **Document H** elaborates on the changes in the government by stating that Roosevelt is not only adding new companies to ensure the welfare of America's people, but also including internal changes to the government by improving the Courts through legislation and new appointments as well as implementing efficient ways to stay prepared for future occurrences. Roosevelt's expansion of the government ultimately ensured the protection of America against future conflict.

The New Deal contributed to economic stability. During the Great Depression, many individuals lost their jobs and weren't able to retrieve their savings or make new money due to the fall of the stock market and the lack of available jobs because of bankrupt businesses. **Document E** shows a flyer introducing the Social Security Act, otherwise known as (SSA) which aimed at providing financial stability to retired elders who lost their savings as well as dependent children along with individuals who suffer from disability. The events in this document are situated in the larger context of providing financial support to the helpless, this is necessary because without social security, these groups of individuals would not be able to afford a living, resulting in poverty and eventually death. Another example of the New Deal helping to stabilize the economy is demonstrated by **Document J** which depicts a graph illustrating the decrease of unemployed farmers during Roosevelt's presidency, (1933-1945). The events in this document are situated in the larger context of providing financial relief during the economic depression, this is important because it proposed a solution to farmers who were struggling to make profit. To increase employment for farmers, Roosevelt introduced the Agricultural Adjustment Act, also known as (AAA) which paid farmers to destroy their crops in order to prevent overproduction and low prices. By eliminating crops, farmers produced an appropriate amount of crops which led to a price increase, benefiting farmers during the struggle for employment.

The New Deal advocated for the rights of oppressed groups. **Document G** shows opposition towards the act of big businesses taking advantage of their workers and advocates for workers' rights to self-organize/collectively bargain. The events in this document are situated in the larger context of the importance of labor rights, which is essential because workers should have the right to protest against harmful and unfair conditions to ensure their safety while producing for society. Roosevelt's solution to this issue is known as the Wagner Act which aimed to protect workers' rights, as a result, labor unions were able to hold effective strikes and win gains for their members. Additionally, **Document I** addresses the lack of inclusion of African Americans in government administrations and elaborates on how Roosevelt views Negroes as members of society and aims to include them in the New Deal programs. The events in this document are situated in the larger context of equality and inclusivity for African Americans, this is important because Blacks have been constantly undermined and have had few opportunities to benefit from government rule, in other words, Roosevelt acknowledging African Americans as part of the country contributed to a step towards the end of racism.

While it is true that the New Deal had many great outcomes, one must consider the fact that it did not provide solutions to every problem created by the Great Depression. According to **Document D** some actions of The New Deal added more pressure to the economy rather than relieving it. For example, The New Deal contributed to large loss of federal money for human relief and great spendings for public-work projects which immensely increased national debt, hence the reason why many felt negative about Roosevelt's additions to the government as stated in **Document F**. **Document B** focuses on the idea of economic recovery through the creation of more jobs, increased wage, and shortened hours and challenges how beneficial these attributes would be to the future economy, this is important because if society relies on the government to provide economic relief, it could result in another economic downfall because of exploitation of government resources. **Document A** acknowledges the women of the Great Depression and highlights the fact that unlike men, women suffering from extreme poverty are rarely seen in the community, implying that they aren't being taken care of during this economic crisis. The events in this document are situated in the larger context of discrimination/sexism against women which is important because it provides a clear example of women being overlooked even during times of tragedy.

