PAPER 1: 3 Pages + sources

INTRODUCTION

The adoption of the Constitution in 1787 established a strong federal government for the United States and codified the principles of a country that balanced the interests of divergent political, social, religious, and economic groups. The logistical necessities of organizing these interests on a federal level contributed to the establishment of national political parties during George Washington’s first term in office. Though President Washington warned of the dangers of factionalism in his farewell address, the advantages these organizations possessed for achieving their policy goals made parties an integral part of the political system. During the first half of the nineteenth century, the United States experienced a period of tremendous territorial expansion. The challenges resulting from the spread of political and social institutions—most notably, slavery—across the continent deepened sectional divisions into a national crisis by the 1850s. The Civil War was the bloodiest conflict in American history, and the war and its aftermath profoundly altered the political, social, and economic characteristics of the United States.

In this assessment, you will explain the characteristics of the First Party System in the United States and its legislative consequences. You will also examine the growth of the sectional divisions in the United States during the nineteenth century leading up to the outbreak of the Civil War.

REQUIREMENTS

*Your submission must be your original work. No more than a combined total of 30% of the submission and no more than a 10% match to any one individual source can be directly quoted or closely paraphrased from sources, even if cited correctly. An originality report is provided when you submit your task that can be used as a guide.*

*You must use the rubric to direct the creation of your submission because it provides detailed criteria that will be used to evaluate your work. Each requirement below may be evaluated by more than one rubric aspect. The rubric aspect titles may contain hyperlinks to relevant portions of the course.*

A.  Explain (*suggested length of 1–2 paragraphs*) the reasons for the rise of partisan politics in the Early Republic (i.e., major conflicts and concerns, development of the First Party System).

B.  Discuss the development of the Second Party System (*suggested length of 1–2 pages*) by doing the following:

1.  Compare the platforms of the Whig and Democratic parties.

*Note: You may include both similarities and differences of the two parties.*

2.  Describe the leaders and constituents that defined *each* party.

3.  Explain how the Second Party System contributed to increased democratization of American politics.

C.  Discuss the major movements and events that led to the Civil War *(suggested length of 2 pages)* by doing the following:

1.  Explain the pro-slavery and abolitionist arguments of the antebellum period.

2.  Describe the role of westward expansion in increasing sectional tensions.

3.  Evaluate how **three** major events (e.g., significant legislation, territorial conflicts, court cases, political debates) contributed to the outbreak of the Civil War.

D.  Provide acknowledgement of source information, using in-text citations and references, for quoted, paraphrased, or summarized content.

1.  Include the following information when providing source references:

•   author

•   date

•   title

•   location of information (e.g., publisher, journal, or website URL)

Paper 2: 4 pages + sources

INTRODUCTION

Over the course of the nineteenth century, the United States matured into a country with interests and influences extending beyond North America. Following the upheaval of the Civil War, Americans tried to reassemble their country and bring the states of the former Confederacy back into the Union. The decade of Reconstruction was characterized by contentious legislation and attempts to integrate African Americans into the political, economic, and social frameworks of the United States. The Second Industrial Revolution reached its height during the second half of the century as well. New innovations in manufacturing, transportation, and communication accelerated the growth of consumer culture and changed the standard of living in the United States. As the nineteenth century drew to a close, the United States became an overseas empire, fighting wars with European powers over territorial influence and acquiring colonial possessions of its own.

In this assessment, you will examine the legal and social changes that took place during Reconstruction in the United States. You will also consider the ways that industrialization and imperialism contributed to the emergence of the United States as an international power during the late nineteenth century.

REQUIREMENTS

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A.  Discuss **three**major changes in race relations (i.e., laws, amendments, labor arrangements, working conditions, migration patterns, socioeconomic changes) that resulted from Reconstruction *(suggested length of 1–2 pages)*.

B.  Describe **two**consequences of industrialization on American politics and/or society *(suggested length of 1–2 pages)*.

C.  Explain the rise of the Progressive movement *(suggested length of 1–2 pages)* by doing the following:

1.  Describe the role of religion and social morality in promoting Progressive reforms.

2.  Describe **two** reform movements that helped to define the Progressive Era.

3.  Discuss **one** impact of the Progressive movement on American politics (i.e., amendments, legislation, diplomatic decisions).

D.  Explain *(suggested length of 1–2 pages)* the role of American imperialism in leading the United States into **two**of the following conflicts:

•  Hawaiian Annexation

•  War in the Philippines

•  Spanish-American War

•  World War I

E.  Provide acknowledgement of source information, using in-text citations and references, for quoted, paraphrased, or summarized content.

1.  Include the following information when providing source references:

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•   date

•   title

•   location of information (e.g., publisher, journal, or website URL)

PAPER 3: 4 pages + sources
NTRODUCTION

The development of the United States in the twentieth century was shaped by several challenges: an economic collapse, global war, and social and political upheaval at home. The economic collapse that preceded the Great Depression brought high unemployment, increased prices for goods, and displaced populations across the United States. President Franklin Roosevelt promised a “New Deal” for Americans, and during his administration the federal government intervened in the American economy with regulations and stimulus, changing the relationship between the states and the federal government. The aftermath of the Second World War brought the United States to greater international prominence, but the following geopolitical and ideological struggle with the Soviet Union divided the planet and threatened international destruction through the use of thermonuclear weapons. At the same time as the United States was expanding its role as an international power, many domestic protest movements challenged institutional discrimination and unequal systems of power in federal and state governments. Their victories resulted in legislation and legal precedents that changed the complexion of American society.

 In this assessment you will examine several major events that shaped modern American society. You will consider how the New Deal policies were designed to ameliorate the effects of the Great Depression, how the Cold War was waged both internationally and domestically, and how the civil rights movement challenged the perceived assumptions of American society.

REQUIREMENTS

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*You must use the rubric to direct the creation of your submission because it provides detailed criteria that will be used to evaluate your work. Each requirement below may be evaluated by more than one rubric aspect. The rubric aspect titles may contain hyperlinks to relevant portions of the course.*

A.  Explain *(suggested length of 1–2 pages)* the major causes of the Great Depression (e.g., economic policies, trade concerns, banking practices, international commerce).

B.  Describe **three** ways (e.g., major legislation, organizations, relief and recovery efforts) that the New Deal sought to address the problems of the Great Depression *(suggested length of 1–2 pages)*.

C.  Explain how the end of World War II contributed to the rise of Cold War tensions *(suggested length of 1–2 pages)* by doing the following:

1.  Discuss the effect of the arms race on the rise of Cold War tensions.

2.  Describe how differing ideologies led to increased Cold War tensions.

3.  Explain the effect of Cold War tensions on American culture and domestic policies (e.g., security concerns, organizations, discrimination).

D.  Explain **two** changes (e.g., legislation, cultural shifts, economic shifts) that came about as a result of **one** of the following historical events *(suggested length of 1–2 pages)*:

•  civil rights movement

•  feminist movement

•  gay rights movement

•  rise of the religious right

E.  Provide acknowledgement of source information, using in-text citations and references, for quoted, paraphrased, or summarized content.

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Paper 4: 2 pages + sources

INTRODUCTION

Historians work with two types of sources: primary and secondary. Primary sources are letters, diaries, films, photographs, newspaper articles, and any other artifacts that were produced by people living through the events of a historical period. Historians study and draw on these sources in order to recreate the past for the current generation. These recreations are called secondary sources. Secondary sources are books, articles, and websites that historians and other authors write about the past—*A People and a Nation* is an example of a secondary source.

The analysis of primary sources is an important part of understanding both the culture of the past and the meaning of current events. Primary sources reveal the different perspectives that groups of people and individuals had on contemporary debates as well as the variety of responses historical actors can have to the same event. By investigating how people responded to their situations in diverse historical contexts, we can learn how individuals felt about events as they unfolded and can appreciate their divergent perspectives. This appreciation builds empathy that assists us as we approach individuals with different perspectives in our workplace and daily lives.

In this assessment, you will work with one of the following four time periods in United States history:

• English Colonization and the Road to Revolution

• The Early Republic and the American Civil War

• Reconstruction and the Age of American Imperialism

• The Making of Modern America

For each of these periods, you will have a pair of two primary sources. For your chosen historical period, you should use your knowledge and analytical skills—in addition to relevant readings from the *A People and A Nation*text—to provide context for these primary sources and to explain how they relate to one another. In this assessment, you will select one historical period and then analyze the corresponding two primary sources.

REQUIREMENTS

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*You must use the rubric to direct the creation of your submission because it provides detailed criteria that will be used to evaluate your work. Each requirement below may be evaluated by more than one rubric aspect. The rubric aspect titles may contain hyperlinks to relevant portions of the course.*

A.  Write an essay *(suggested length of 2–3 pages)* on **one** of the historical periods from the list provided in the introduction, using the corresponding primary sources. In your essay, do the following:

*Note: You can refer back to the text, A People and A Nation, for additional information about these time periods.*

1.  Analyze the point of view of primary source A by doing the following:

a.  Describe the major characteristics of primary source A (e.g., the author’s background, the main ideas presented, the reasons it was created).

b.  Explain how primary source A reflects the major events of the chosen historical period (e.g., social movements, developing ideologies, international conflicts).

2.  Analyze the point of view of primary source B by doing the following:

a.  Describe the major characteristics of primary source B (e.g., the author’s background, the main ideas presented, the reasons it was created).

b.  Explain how primary source B reflects the major events of the chosen historical period (e.g., social movements, developing ideologies, international conflicts).

3.  Discuss how the **two** primary sources relate to each other within their historical context.

*Note: This may include major themes of the period or social/political movements that define the era.*

B.  Provide acknowledgement of source information, using in-text citations and references, for quoted, paraphrased, or summarized content.

1.  Include the following information when providing source references:

•   author

•   date

•   title

•   location of information (e.g., publisher, journal, or website URL)