



AP[®] 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).

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“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.

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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