education

Department of Education
FREE STATE PROVINCE

GRADE 11



HISTORY
TASK 2

MARCH 2026

Duration: 2 hrs
Marks: 100

This question paper consists of 5 pages

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This question paper consists of SECTION A and SECTION B based on the prescribed content framework in the CAPS document.

   SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

   QUESTION 1: CAPITALISM IN USA 1900 TO1940: THE NATURE OF CAPITALISM IN THE USA

   SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTIONS

   QUESTION 2: CAPITALISM IN USA 1900 TO1940: ROOSEVELT'S NEW DEAL

2. SECTION A consists of ONE source-based questions. Source material that is required to answer these questions can be found in the ADDENDUM.

3. SECTION B consists of ONE essay question.

4. Answer BOTH questions as follows:

5. You are advised to spend at least ONE hour per question.

6. When answering the questions, you should apply your knowledge, skills and insight.

7. You will be disadvantaged by merely rewriting the sources as answers.

8. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.

9. Write neatly and legibly

SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:
WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF 1929 ON THE AMERICANS?

Study Sources 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D and answer the questions that follow

1.1 Refer to Source 1A.

1.1.1 Why, according to the source, can a company sell shares in ownership of their businesses? (1 x 1) (1)

1.1.2 Define the term 'Shares' in your own words (1 x 2) (2)

1.1.3 Explain why speculation is regarded as a form of gambling. (2 x 2) (4)

1.1.4 Why do you think financial experts warned speculators and the public about share prices? (2 x 2) (4)

1.1.5 Why, according to the source, were people unwilling to invest in suspicious companies in September? (2 x 1) (2)

1.1.6 What according to the source, triggered (started) the collapse of the American economy on 29 October 1929? (1 x 3) (3)

1.1.7 Comment on why you think this source would be useful to a historian researching about the buying and selling of shares in the United States of America in the 1920s. (1 x 2) (2)

1.2 Read Source 1B.

1.2.1 Identify any FOUR factors from the source showing that the economy was stunned (negatively affected) after the crush. (2 x 1) (2)

1.2.2 Select TWO pieces of evidence from the source confirming that many Employees were laid off (1 x 1) (1)

1.2.3 Using the information in the source and your own knowledge, explain what former President Calvin Coolidge meant by: 'This country is not in good condition (2 x 2) (4)

1.2.4 What do you think is implied by the statement 'We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than be for in the history of any land'? (1 x 2) (2)

1.2.5 Quote any THREE pieces of evidence from the source suggesting that the poor Americans were the one's mostly affected by the 1929 Great Depression? (1x 1) (1)

1.3 Consult Source 1C.

1.3.1 Explain the message that the cartoon conveys about Hoover's attitude towards the Great Depression? (2 x 2) (4)

1.3.2 What, in your view, does the figure shown as: 'I 'm ruined' represent? (1 x 2) (2)

1.4 Compare Sources 1B and 1C. Explain how the information in Source 1B supports the evidence in Source 1C regarding the effects the Great Depression had on the Americans. (1 x 2) (2)

1.5 Read Source 1D.

1.5.1 Quote TWO pieces of evidence in the source to show that there was also unemployment in towns. (2 x 1) (2)

1.5.2 How, according to the source, were the unemployed and poor relieved from poverty? (1 x 2) (2)

1.5.3 Use the source and your own knowledge how will you describe Hooverville. (2 x 2) (4)

1.6 Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, write a paragraph of about Six lines (about 60 words) explaining the effects that the Great Depression of 1929 had on the Americans (6)

[50]

SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 2: CAPITALISM IN USA 1900 TO1940: ROOSEVELT'S NEW DEAL

President Roosevelt promised a 'New Deal for the forgotten man' during his election campaign in 1932.

To what extent did he keep to his promise? Substantiate your line of argument with relevant evidence.

(50)

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ANNEX

Stanmorephysics.com

This ADDENDUM consists of 5 pages.

QUESTION 1: WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF 1929 ON THE AMERICANS?

SOURCE 1A

This source below analyzes the buying and selling of shares on the New York Stock Exchange in the United States of America in the 1920s, which led to the collapse of the American economy.

A company can sell shares in its business on the stock exchange to raise money. The company then uses the money from these shares to expand its business or to buy more factories to make higher profits. When the company is doing well, more people will buy shares in that company so that they can earn dividends (a type of profit). As more people buy shares in a company, the value of the company increases. There is a greater demand for shares in the company and the price of the shares increases. In the 1920s, the price of shares on the stock market rose rapidly. People believed that buying and selling shares and speculating (buying and selling shares) on the stock market was an easy way to make money quickly. Speculation is a form of gambling. Speculators buy shares without holding them for long. They buy shares that they believe will make a quick profit and sell them as the price increases.

In the 1920s, speculative stocks were widespread. Speculators often borrowed money to buy stocks or bought stocks on margin. This meant that they bought stocks with money they did not have. It also meant that the value of the stock was based on people's willingness to buy that stock rather than on the actual value of the company. By 1928, stock prices had risen far above their true value, and this rise was not supported by real industrial expansion. Financial experts warned that this false prosperity (wealth) would not last, but most speculators and the public ignored them. People's confidence in their ability to make money on the stock market lasted well into 1929, and the public could be criticized for this. In September, however, stock prices began to fall and panic set in. People were hesitant or unwilling to invest in dubious companies.

In many ways, the investors caused the stock market crash. Confidence is essential for successful speculation. However, some investors began to lose confidence in the market that was promising them. They believed that something must be wrong, so they decided to sell their shares while the price was still high. This caused stock prices to fall. When people saw this, they also started selling their shares and prices fell even further. On October 29, 1929, shareholders sold 13 million shares and this was the trigger (start) that led to the collapse of the American economy.

[Of *The USA in the Twentieth Century by P Lane*]

SOURCE 1B

The source below is an excerpt from historian Howard Zinn's book *A People's History of the* United States: 1942–present. It focuses on the effects of the Great Depression of 1929 on Americans.

After the crisis, the economy was stunned (negatively affected), barely moving. More than five thousand banks closed, and a large number of businesses, unable to get money, also closed. The businesses that continued laid off employees and repeatedly cut the wages of those who remained. Industrial production fell by 50 percent, and by 1933 perhaps 15 million (no one knew exactly) – a quarter or a third of the workforce – were unemployed. The Ford Motor Company, which employed 128,000 workers in the spring of 1929, had fallen to 37,000 by August 1931. By the end of 1930, nearly half of the 280,000 textile mill workers in New England were unemployed. Former President Calvin Coolidge, with his cliental wisdom, commented: 'When more and more people are thrown out of work, that is unemployment.' He spoke again in early 1931. 'This country is not in a good condition.'

It is clear that those responsible for organizing the economy knew what was happening, were bewildered by it, refused to acknowledge it, and found reasons other than the failure of the system. Herbert Hoover said shortly before the crash: 'We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than we have ever been in the history of any country.' Henry Ford said in March 1931 that the crisis was here because 'the average man will not really do a day's work unless he is caught and cannot get out. There is a lot of work to be done if people would do it.' A few weeks later he laid off 75,000 workers. There were millions of tons of food lying around, but it was not profitable to transport or sell it. Warehouses were full of clothes, but people could not afford them. There were many houses, but they remained empty because people could not pay the rent, were evicted, and now lived in shacks in quickly formed 'Hoovervilles' built on garbage dumps.

[Of *The online version on the History is a Weapons website: http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1zinnselhel15.html*]

SOURCE1C

The cartoon below depicts President Hoover's response to the Great Depression of 1929.



[Of *http://www.history1900s.about.com.*]

SOURCE 1D

The excerpt below was written by a novelist, John Steinbeck (author of "The Grapes of Wrath"). He described the social effects on American families during the Great Depression.

The situation was not much better in the towns. In the steel city of Cleveland, 50% of the workers were unemployed. In Toledo, the figure was closer to 80%. At night, the parks were full of homeless and unemployed people. In the worst case, there was no social welfare or unemployment benefits that could have alleviated the poor and the needy (extreme poverty). The unemployed and the poor were dependent on bread lines and charity soup kitchens.

Every town had a so-called Hooverville, a shantytown of dilapidated shacks where migrants and the poor lived. Jon Steinbeck's novel, "The Grapes of Wrath," captured the poignant (and painful) scenes of these shantytowns. The ragtag town lay near water; and the houses were tents, and weed=thatched fences, paper houses, a great heap of rubbish. The man drove his family in and became a citizen of Hooverville. He scoured the countryside for work and the little money he had was used for gas to find work. "The towns were named after President Herbert Hoover, who seemed to do nothing to help the poor."

[Of http://www.buzzle.com/articles-of-thegreat-depression .]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Visual sources and other historical evidence were taken from the following:

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http://www.history1900s.about.com

