

Paper 1: America 1920 – 1973, Equality and Opportunity

In this 'How To' guide, I'll briefly run through how we should approach each question in the America paper. I've included some model answers so you can see what a good one looks like.

For questions 1, 2 and 3 the interpretations used are below.

This is the provenance of the interpretation

Interpretation A

John Smith "The USA economy in the 1920's" Published in 1960. John Smith is an American economic historian.

"The eighteenth amendment was passed because employers like Henry Ford felt until booze was banned factories would never be totally productive. It was not a matter of morals but a matter of dollars."

Interpretation B

Jane Doe "The Role of Women in the 1920's" Published in 2015. Jane Doe is a feminist historian focused on the 1920's period.

"Women's temperance groups played a huge role in persuading the American government to bring in the eighteenth amendment. They argued that alcohol caused big social issues such as poverty"

This is the content of the interpretation

Question 1:

How does interpretation B differ from interpretation A about _____

Explain your answer using interpretations A and B [4 marks]

How to answer:

- 1 paragraph, 5 mins
- *"It's all about the source, about the source, no author"*.
- Answer the question – explain difference between the **content** of Interpretation A and Interpretation B
 - Describe the specific message of interpretation A in 1 sentence
 - Use an example from the interpretation to support this
 - Describe how the specific message of interpretation B is different to that of A
 - Use an example from the interpretation to support this

Example Answer:

How does interpretation A differ from interpretation B about the reasons why prohibition was introduced?

Interpretation A differs from interpretation B as suggests prohibition was introduced for economic reason. For example, it states the law was introduced due to "a matter of dollars" meaning it was put into place to improve the productivity of the country. This contrasts interpretation B, as it suggests social reasons were the reason behind prohibition, for example it says "alcohol caused big social issues". Therefore, the sources differ as A suggests the main reason for prohibition was to make businesses more money whereas B argues and it was to solve moral issues such as drunkenness.

Question 2:

Why does interpretation B differ from interpretation A about _____

Explain your answer using interpretations A and B [4 marks]

How to answer:

- 1 paragraph, 5 mins
- “it’s all about the prov, bout the prov, no content”.
- Answer the question – explain why the interpretations say different things about the topic in the question
- ONLY TALK ABOUT THE PROVENANCE (who wrote it/when)
 - Describe the provenance of interpretation A, one aspect at a time
 - Explain how this affects what it says
 - Describe the provenance of interpretation A, one aspect at a time
 - Explain how this affects what it says
- Avoid saying “This is biased”. Instead, say “This make the interpretation more likely to support X because...”

Example Answer:

Why does interpretation A differ from interpretation B about the reasons why prohibition was introduced?

Interpretation A was written by John Smith, who is an economic historian. This means he is much more likely to emphasise the economic reasons behind the introduction of prohibition and focus on things to do with money. This contrasts with interpretation B, which was written by a feminist historian. As a feminist historian, interpretation B’s author is more likely to focus on the role of women in causing prohibition so she is more likely to bring up the importance of the temperance movement. B was also written in 2015, a time when men and women were viewed much more equally, whereas A was written in 1960 when society gave less importance to women. This can also explain why B is more focused on the actions of women.

Question 3:

Which Interpretation do you find most Convincing About _____?

Explain your answer using interpretations A and B [8 marks]

How to answer:

- Here you are being asked to say which interpretation best matches with what you know about the topic
- *“it’s all about the content, bout the content. Own knowledge”*
- Focus only on the content of the interpretation, talking about the provenance only scores 2/8
- 2 paragraphs + short conclusion, 10 minutes, COCOA structure

Content: Interpretation A is convincing because it argues...

Own Knowledge: This is convincing because I know that... (*explain how you know this to be true using own knowledge*)

Content: This interpretation also claims...

Own Knowledge: I find this convincing because...

Repeat for interpretation B

Analysis; Overall ... is more convincing because...

Example Paragraph:

Which Interpretation do you find most Convincing About why Prohibition was introduced? Explain your answer using interpretations A and B [8 marks]

Interpretation A is quite convincing as it argues prohibition was introduced for economic reasons. This is convincing as financial decisions did influence the government to ban alcohol. For example, in 1919 the government predicted sales in other industries, like clothing and entertainment, when people spent their old alcohol money in new places. They also felt people would be more efficient at work as there would be less hangover so the prohibition would help the economy grow. This was not the case however as people just spent their money on illegal alcohol (moonshine) which caused the government to lose hundreds of millions of dollars in tax.

Interpretation B is convincing as it suggests prohibition was introduced because of the temperance movement. This is convincing because women did play big part in the campaign against alcohol. For example, as women were most negatively affected by drunkenness of their husbands, women were some of the strongest campaigners in favour of prohibition. Women’s temperance groups argued that alcohol threatened families because drunk men abused their wives and children and often neglected their families in favour of getting drunk. They also stated that 3,000 babies were smothered each year by drunk parents. These arguments gained lots of support, especially in the more conservative southern states, and did help bring about prohibition.

Overall, I find interpretation B to be the most convincing as lots of Americans would have agreed with the social reasons for prohibition whereas only businessmen would be interested in the economic reasons. This makes B more convincing as it gives the view of most people rather than a select few.

Question 4:

Describe two problems faced by _____ in the years _____? [4 marks]

How to answer:

- The question is asking you to describe 2 problems faced by a certain group of people during a certain time
- 1 paragraph, 5 mins
 - State 1 problem faced by the group in the question
 - Supply specific evidence to support your statement
 - State a 2nd problem faced by the group in the question
 - Supply specific evidence to support your statement

Example Answer:

Describe two problems faced by Americans during the Great Depression [4 marks]

One problem faced by Americans during the Great Depression was unemployment. After the Wall Street Crash 1929, unemployment increased dramatically to 15 million people or 30% of the workforce by 1933. This happened as the crash caused hundreds of thousands of businesses to go bankrupt when they had to repay loans they had taken out. A second problem faced by Americans during the Great Depression was homelessness. Many people were unable to pay their mortgages leading to shantytowns called 'Hooverilles' springing up all over the country, including in New York's Central Park. Many of these 'hobos' were reliant on foodbanks and soup kitchens to survive.

Question 5:

**In what ways were _____ affected by _____ in _____?
Explain your answer [8 marks]**

How to answer:

- The question is asking you to explain how a certain event or change affected American people during a certain time period.
- 2 PEEL paragraphs, 10 minutes
- For your point, try to categorise the changes into economic, social or political
- Must include specific facts e.g. names, dates, laws, events
- For grade 9, explore how the changes were linked together felt differently in different places, at different times, by different groups, or on different scales. This in underlined in the example

Example Paragraph: In what ways were women affected by economic boom during the 1920s

One economic effect of the boom was that more women were working. After helping with the war effort in the factories during WW1, some business owners began offering jobs to women. This was especially the case in the cities where the new industries who needed people to work as typists and secretaries. Before this a woman was expected to look after the house and children so the boom really increased their economic position as they were now earning their own money and therefore had more control over their lives. Without these economic changes, women's social status would not have improved as they still would be seen as second-class citizens.

A social effect the economic boom of the 1920s had was that it gave women more freedom. During the boom, a new generation of women emerged who challenged the stereotype of the traditional women. This group, known as flappers, wore revealing clothes, had shorter hair and took part in more daring activities such as sport, which was a huge change as previously all of these activities were viewed as improper for women. Flappers also smoked, drank and socialised with men without a chaperone in illegal speakeasies. However, women in rural areas were less affected by the changes caused by the boom as many had more conservative values so felt a woman should be more reserved. This meant the social changes were not the same everywhere.

Question 6:

Which of the following was the more important reason for _____:

- _____
- _____

Explain your answer with reference to both bullet points [12 marks]

How to answer:

- In this final essay you are asked to look at two factors and come to a judgement on which one was more important in causing a certain event
- Structure:
 - Paragraph 1: The bullet point you think is the most important
 - Paragraph 2: The other bullet point
 - Conclusion: Which bullet point is the most important and why

- Spend 15 minutes on this
- Discuss both bullet points.
- Include at least a 2 ideas in each paragraph – extended PEEL
- Come to a judgement in your conclusion
- For the highest marks, you must have a sustained argument, where you make it clear that you think one bullet point is more important than the other throughout your answer. Underlined in the answer

Example Answer: Which of the following was the most important reason why the American economy improved after the Depression:

- ***New Deal policies***
- ***The Second World War***

Explain your answer with reference to both bullet points.

The New Deal had a major impact on America as Roosevelt did more in his first Hundred Days than Hoover had in his whole presidency. Roosevelt introduced alphabet agencies that involved industry, farmers, unemployed, and land. The alphabet agencies got people back out to work and gave them a reason to get out of bed in the morning Roosevelt worked in order to help the 'forgotten man' which were the homeless, hungry and unemployed. The first thing Roosevelt did was the Emergency Banking Act which resulted in some banks in America re-opening. Roosevelt's alphabet agencies meant nearly everyone could get back to work; he created the PWA which got skilled workers back out there, the WPA which employed photographers, writers and artists. Roosevelt even helped seven states within the TVA as the newly built damn powered electricity for seven states. However, the alphabet agencies did not help all sectors of society. The CCC for example employed 8000 women but 2.5 million men and black Americans still struggled to get work. Roosevelt was also criticised for things like the AAA and NRA as many felt they were unconstitutional even though they did have a positive impact on the American economy.

The Second World War had a positive impact on the American economy because it pulled America out of Depression. In 1936, 3 years after the New Deal began, unemployment was still much high than during the boom. When America got involved in WW2 in 1941 however, mass unemployment was nearly wiped out. This was because war production got everyone back out to work as large industries were making things like planes and smaller industries were making ammunition. Black people and women were also employed in large numbers during the war effort, unlike during the New Deal. American farmers also prospered as they were making 50% of the world's food as they were so far away they couldn't be attacked on the mainland. America was very prosperous after World War Two due to lend lease, in which the loaned countries like Britain, France, Russia and China over \$50 billion worth of equipment and weapons.

The countries didn't have to pay for anything that was destroyed but America benefitted as lend-lease stimulated the economy to a much great extent than the New Deal.

In conclusion, the Second World War had a more positive impact on the American economy after the Depression than the New Deal. This is because The New Deal policies were starting to fail by 1939 and although it helped improve America's position compared to the Depression there were still issues. Second World War however is more important as this rebuilt America's workforce and pulled them out of Depression.