

Grade 9 Answer

Interpretation Differences

4/4
Marks

Question:

How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about McCarthyism? Explain your answer based on what it says in Interpretations A and B.

(4 marks)

Answer:

Interpretation A focuses on how McCarthyism negatively impacted the US government, as the 'government thus suffered from a debility among diplomats'. This suggests that McCarthyism was extremely damaging to the government, and that it created a climate of fear in politics. Interpretation B focuses on how the HUAC was popular within government, as 'liberals and conservatives alike voted to fund it year after year'. This suggests that the actions of the HUAC were popular, and that McCarthyism was welcomed by government officials.

Feedback:

This answer would get 4/4 marks because it recognises a difference between the interpretations, and gives a developed analysis of these differences using content from the interpretations.

Interpretation A

An excerpt from Raymond Gram Swing's autobiography published in 1964. Swing was a liberal journalist and was a strong opponent of Joseph McCarthy.

In those four years he thrived as a demagogue, and frightened many, if not all, diplomats into failing to give their frank opinions to the government for fear of being falsely accused of Communist tendencies. The government thus suffered from a debility among diplomats. Employees in the Information Agency had to smother their political judgments lest they be pilloried by Senator McCarthy's congressional committee.

Interpretation B

An excerpt from Howard Zinn's book 'A People's History of the United States' published in 1980. Zinn was a Professor of History at Boston University, and wrote about the HUAC - a committee that investigated those thought to have communist ties.

In the early fifties, the House Un-American Activities Committee was at its heyday, interrogating Americans about their Communist connections, holding them in contempt if they refused to answer, distributing millions of pamphlets to the American public...Liberals often criticized the Committee, but in Congress, liberals and conservatives alike voted to fund it year after year. By 1958, only one member of the House of Representatives (James Roosevelt) voted against giving it money.