



Mock Test

AD America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and Inequality

Answers



Interpretation A

An extract from A People And A Nation: A History of the United States, chapter 30, a book written by several historians in the 2000s. This extract discusses the Black Panthers after the death of Malcolm X.

To be truly free from white oppression, Carmichael proclaimed, blacks had to “stand up and take over” - to elect black candidates, to organize their own schools, to control their own institutions. “Black Power,” his listeners chanted. [...]

Blending black separatism and revolutionary communism, the Panthers dedicated themselves to destroying both capitalism and “the military arm of our oppressors,” the police in the ghettos. In direct contrast to earlier, nonviolent civil rights protestors, who had worn suits and ties or dresses to demonstrate their respectability, male Panthers dressed in commando gear, carried weapons, and talking about killing “pigs” - and did kill eleven officers by 1970. Police responded in kind most infamously, Chicago police murdered local Panther leader Fred Hampton in his bed.

Interpretation B

Scholar Darryl Robertson writing in 2016 on the Black Panther Party, which was part of the wider Black Power Movement.

Originally called the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, the BPP set out to monitor police activities and protect black residents from police brutality. One of the fundamental aspects of the BPP was their commitment to serving black communities through a variety of social programs including ambulance services, health clinics, and the creation of schools.

[...]

Along with propaganda, infiltration, and various attempts to discredit the organization, the FBI also targeted the BPP's Free Breakfast for Children Program. Melvin Dickson, a former member of the BPP, has argued that the FBI disliked the BPP because the Party helped to shed light on the failure of the U.S. government to address issues of poverty.

Source: Darryl Robertson (2016), 'The Black Panther Party and the Free Breakfast for Children Program' <<https://www.aaihs.org/the-black-panther-party/>>.

1. How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about the Black Power Movement?

**Explain your answer based on what it says in Interpretations A and B.
(4 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Developed analysis of both interpretations' content to explain difference Answers show extended reasoning to explain difference
Level 1 1-2 marks	Simple analysis of one or both interpretations' content to identify differences

Indicative content:

- Interpretation A suggests that the BPP's primary aim was the violent overthrow of the capitalist state, of which they saw the police as a military arm. This would paint the wider Black Power Movement as violent.
- Interpretation B suggests that the Black Panthers' main aims were to improve the living conditions and social position of African Americans through social programs and protect the black working class from police brutality, and were targeted by the FBI for doing so, who saw the Black Power Movement as a threat.

Other relevant material should be credited

2. Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about the Black Power Movement?

Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge.
(4 marks)

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Developed analysis of both interpretations' provenance to explain reasons for differences Answers progress from identification of differences to explanation of differences
Level 1 1-2 marks	Simple analysis of one or both interpretations' provenance to identify reasons for differences

Indicative content:

- Interpretation 1's author was a politician at the time of the events as vice-president of the Confederacy - this may be why he sees the cause of the war as political differences. Interpretation 2's author wrote in 1977 so would not have been personally involved in the politics - he has a different focus (slavery) afforded by this detachment from the events.**

Other relevant material should be credited

**3. Which interpretation gives the more convincing opinion about the Black Power Movement?
Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and using what it says in Interpretations A and B.
(8 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 4 7-8 marks	<p>Complex evaluation of interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding</p> <p>A clear judgement is sustained throughout</p> <p>Answers at this level could analyse the relationship between the interpretations, supported by factual knowledge/understanding</p>
Level 3 5-6 marks	<p>Developed evaluation of interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding</p> <p>Answers may show extended reasoning</p> <p>Answers may make a judgement</p>
Level 2 3-4 marks	<p>Simple evaluation of one interpretation based on contextual knowledge/understanding</p> <p>They may be basic comments about the other interpretation</p>
Level 1 1-2 marks	<p>Basic evaluation of one or both interpretations based on contextual knowledge/understanding</p>

Indicative content:

Arguments in favour of Interpretation 1:

- **Debates around federalism were an important source of tension between the northern and southern states**
- **Some southern states felt their liberty to make laws was being threatened - this was a reason they wanted to secede from the Union**
- **Political attempts to resolve tension didn't work - the Supreme Court declared the 1854 Missouri Compromise unconstitutional which aimed at creating a balance between free and slave states**
- **This evidence could support the author's argument that slavery was a secondary issue to the political tensions**

Arguments in favour of Interpretation 2:

- **The author taps into a real ideological need at the time to establish America's national identity**
- **Both sides saw slavery or abolition as freedom as those goals were necessary for each to advance their economies - the North needed abolition for the free development of capitalism whereas the southern economy relied on slave labour**
- **Even though the author of Interpretation 1 states that slavery was not the key issue, it is evident through the provenance information given that racist attitudes in support of slavery were fundamental to southern states' sense of identity, which would be in favour of Interpretation 2**

Other relevant material should be credited

4. Describe two problems faced by Americans during the Depression. (4 marks)

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 2 3-4 marks	Answers show knowledge and understanding Answers may show extended reasoning
Level 1 1-2 marks	Answers show knowledge

Indicative content:

- **Many farmers were evicted during the Depression. Those that survived also faced severe drought and soil erosion which made farming difficult.**
- **By July 1932 23% of the working population were unemployed. This caused a rise in poverty and homelessness.**
- **Around 9,000 banks closed between 1930-33 and many businesses shut down. This caused a huge rise in poverty and unemployment.**

Other relevant material should be credited

5. In what ways were the lives of people living in America affected by the New Deal? (8 marks)

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 4 7-8 marks	<p>Complex explanation of changes</p> <p>Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Answers at this level could explain the complex nature of change affected by differences such as time, group or social/economic factors, supported by knowledge and understanding</p>
Level 3 5-6 marks	<p>Developed explanation of changes</p> <p>Answers show a range of relevant, accurate knowledge and understanding (of 2 or more identified consequences)</p>
Level 2 3-4 marks	<p>Simple explanation of change</p> <p>Answers show specific knowledge and understanding about one of the identified changes</p>
Level 1 1-2 marks	<p>Basic explanation of one or more changes</p>

Indicative content:

- **Roosevelt's New Deal aimed to help America recover from the Depression and high unemployment rates**
- **FCA gave money to farmers in debt and the AAA paid farmers to produce less to increase profits**
- **CCC gave 3 million men jobs (18-25 years old), PWA gave unemployed people jobs building schools, dams and bridges, WPA created millions of jobs**
- **NRA set fair wages, prices and working conditions**
- **However, the New Deal did have limitations - women's wages were set lower than men's by the NRA, the CCC had racially segregated camps and wage inequalities, and Native Americans still faced high levels of poverty**

Other relevant material should be credited

6. Which of the following had the biggest impact on life in American society in the 1920s?

-The Stock Market

-Prohibition

**Explain your answer with reference to both bullet points.
(12 marks)**

Mark Scheme

Level/mark	Description
Level 4 10-12 marks	<p>Complex explanation of both points leading to a sustained judgement</p> <p>Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Answers at this level could explain the relationship between causes supported by knowledge and understanding leading to a sustained judgement</p>
Level 3 7-9 marks	<p>Developed evaluation of both points</p> <p>Answers show a range of relevant, accurate, detailed knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Answers show extended reasoning</p>
Level 2 4-6 marks	<p>Simple explanation of one or both points</p> <p>Answers show specific relevant knowledge and understanding</p>
Level 1 1-3 marks	<p>Basic explanation of one or both points</p>

Indicative content:

- **Confidence increased in the stock market which caused an economic boom**
- **Through 1927 the number of shares traded on Wall Street rose to around 577 million**
- **The economic boom increased living standards - although not everyone benefited equally, as African Americans faced discrimination and continuing economic inequality**
- **Even though shares and manufactured goods were booming, farmers' prices suffered and by 1928 1/2 of farmers in the US were in poverty**
- **Prohibition became federal law in 1920 and was very unpopular**
- **Prohibition caused a rise in bootleggers and in 192 there were twice as many bars in NYC than there had been before prohibition began - alcohol trade also led to a rise in crime and gangsters such as Al Capone**

Other relevant material should be credited