

# US History Unit 5 Test-A

61 Total Points on this Test

## Part 1 Short-Answer Questions: ONLY DO 4 out of 5

Remember you should cross out 1 question (a and b of the same number) you do NOT want to answer.

You may only write inside the boxes provided. (16 points)

1. Question #1 is about World War I. (4 pts)

a. Explain 1 Long-Term Cause of World War I?

The rise of nationalism and militarism increased tensions. Kaiser Wilhelm II endorsed chauvinism, the belief that Germany is militarily superior and should thus seek more ambitious land expansion. This caused him to issue the Blank Check to Austria-Hungary, encouraging A-H to declare war on Serbia.

b. Explain 1 Short-Term Cause of World War I?

The promised ~~neutrality~~ <sup>Belgian</sup> neutrality of Belgium <sup>by Britain</sup> was violated when German troops crossed ~~German~~ <sup>Belgian</sup> territory to attack France. The bold act prompted England to declare war on Germany, which initiated to bloody wars of WWI.

2. Question #2 is about the USA's attempts at world leadership during & after World War I. (4 pts)

a. Explain one 'positive' thing about the USA getting involved as a world leader in/after World War I?

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b. Explain one 'negative' thing about the USA getting involved as a world leader in/after World War I?

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3. Question #3 is about the cultural changes in the USA during The Roaring 20's. (4 pts)
- a. Explain one way in which the 1920s represented a clash between traditionalism (older ideas) and modernism (newer ideas).

The change in women's identity and role in the family could be seen in Margaret Sanger's advocacy of effective contraceptives and reproductive rights. Through opening America's first birth control clinic in Brownsville, Brooklyn, she confronted the clash with traditionalism in women's autonomy.

- b. Explain ANOTHER different important cultural debate in the 1920s in the USA.

The rise in <sup>organized</sup> criminal activities was a result of the much-debated Prohibition. ~~Due~~ <sup>While</sup> advocates of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment argued that alcohol was the root of crimes, crime rates actually soared during Prohibition; for example, Al Capone's Chicago Outfit earned \$60 million per year from bootlegging, gambling, and prostitution.

4. Question #4 is about the Harlem Renaissance & Mr. C's favorite speech (4 pts)
- a. Explain 1 FAMOUS person from the Harlem Renaissance and something about their work.

Zora Neale Hurston was the first African American woman to attend Barnard College. As an activist, she wrote plays and short stories about how Black people languished in the bottom of society and celebrated her pride in how they "had nothing... but refused to humble".

- b. Explain the main idea of Fredrick Douglass's speech 'The Myth of Yellow Peril?'

America is on its way to its "grand ending" of becoming an unique blend of "unity and dignity of the human family". Thus he emphasizes unity and the abandonment of the Race Theory.

5. Question #5 is about the causes of the 1930s USA Great Depression. (4 pts)

a. Explain one cause of the Great Depression.

The long term economic trouble stemmed from unequal wealth distribution. While the top 1% increased their income by 75%, 70% of Americans still struggle to meet the poverty line of \$ 2500 per year.

b. Explain ANOTHER different cause of the Great Depression.

The rise of speculators in the stock market devastated small companies as they seek a means of quick personal profit. Through buying on margins, the speculators quickly inflated the stock market values. <sup>What's worse is that</sup> When stock prices drop, the speculators cannot pay back the loans, plunging America into further trouble.

**Part 2 Long Essay:** Select one of the two essay prompts to answer. Write your answer on the lined paper for 40 points. Before you write your answer, you must show me some "prewriting notes" for 5 points.

**Choose only 1 of these prompts to answer:**

**Essay Option A prompt:** What were the effects of World War I on the United States of America?

**Essay Option B prompt:** What were the causes of the Great Depression in the USA?

# A+ Essay #1

WWI was the first war to involve countries internationally.

It became the deadliest war of its time. WWI affected the

Developed US economy both positively by increasing war demands & boosting market  
Thesis → and negatively as the economy became over reliant, and impacted  
society by giving minorities chance to prove themselves & spread culture.

Strong Topic sentence WWI affected the economy ~~by~~ both positively and negatively by increasing domestic market through war demands but causing the economy to rely on war. WWI was the 1st war requiring modern mechanization which increased production demands. WIB

Manufacturers gained more profit & worker's weekly wages doubled.

Unemployment rates dropped from 16.3% to 6.4% This showed that

Amazing specific Examples + details the war benefited the economy as market increased and more people were allowed income & stable jobs for a living. Additionally, Liberty bonds were issued to fund the war. Bonds priced at \$50, borrowing

money from those willing to show patriotism & promising an interest rate of 3.5% to 4.25% Despite its high price, it was able to fund

\$2 billion for the war. This impacted US economy as the government

earned a profit due to the low interest rate vs huge purchase. It also

introduced the government to successful investment, and paved the way for investing, especially in stocks to the people. It also inspired

the creation of margin loans that exist to this day.

There was a 22% increase in investment banks and

people earned quick cash fastly, improving living standards. However,

Counter-argument with prosperity comes equal destruction — The great depression

Analysis Like how war created demands and bonds that

pushed the economy to #1 in the world, as the war

ended, all profits gradually declined. Overproduction resulted,

specific details for counter argument especially seen in farmers who lost 1 billion annual salary.

Taxes increased through war revenue act where some tax

increased. This greatly depend the wealth disparity existing to this day as taxes cancelled out the increased wages people had and only the top 1% gained 15% income increase. Manufacturers, desperate for revenue raised prices on goods, leading to inflation & falling stocks, eventually the great depression. This, this shows that the over effect of WWI was both positive and negative as it boosted the economy to a new height, but as it was oversimplified & reliant solely on domestic market and going quick profit, it nonetheless fell after war ended, and the benefits were cut back to an equal distribution, where civilians suffered to live a comfortable life. WWI impacted the economy both positively and negatively by increasing production but making economy rely on war excessively.

### Final Analysis to Support 1

WWI also impacted society positively by giving minorities opportunities to their equal abilities as white men & spread cultural appreciation. As men left to fight combat in WWI, job opportunities were left to women who nursed & manufactured. The **NANSA** took the chance and obtained jobs did not masculinate women but benefitted the country. Women showed that they were equally as powerful as men in the workforce. For instance **Lena Higbill** who was the leader & first woman in the **Navy Nurse** and awarded a cross second to the medal of honor. This showed that the war benefitted minorities.

### Strong Topic Sentence Support 2

were finally given opportunities that cannot be denied and eliminated any restriction by publicizing their abilities, which forced men, like Woodrow Wilson to recognize them as beings and sign the 19th amendment, granting women a voice. The war also benefitted minorities like AA. In the war, AA fought alongside France, experiencing less racism and combat fights. The **369th black infantry** of Harlem Hell fighters fought 191 days in the trench and was awarded with the *medaille de guerre* medal. After the war ended, AA, who finally saw their full potential that did not go below white males and had a task of equality from the French, migrated South to Harlem, launching the Harlem Renaissance.

The Nansen Renaissance was a black art movement where people stood up against prejudice & expressed cultural pride. For instance, Langston Hughes, an author, wrote a poem, "The Negroes speak of rivers" about how AA roots traced from bathing in the Euphrates when civilization started to witnessing Lincoln's election. This showed Hughes pride in his rich heritage that AA not only witnessed history, but also pride civilization through evident & known labor, screaming pride and appreciation of black culture to the country. A singer, Billie Holiday thus sang against oppression with the song "Strange fruit" where she describes the horrors of lynching, "bulging eyes and twisted mouths, scent of magnolias, ... suddenly smell of rotten flesh". This describes how many AA were brutally suffocated to death and disposed to rot like fruits. It not only popularized blues music but spread awareness, become a protest song. Thus, this shows the effects of WWI

Many specific examples + Details

on society as without the war, women and AA would never have a chance and proving to the world of their abilities. Without the war AA would never been able to spread black culture which gained popularity from its music & literature, slowly getting away prejudice to black culture and towards equality. The war acted as a lever to help push minorities up the first step to the much more equal world we live in today. Thus, the war impacted society positively by allowing minorities to show their abilities and spread their culture.

Final Analysis to Support  
2

### FINAL CONCLUSION + ANALYSIS

In conclusion, the war both devastated and boosted the economy which depended solely on its massive demand increase. Even Liberty bonds issued as a product of war. However, one can also say the war neither gave positive or negative impacts but was rather a catalyst for the flip of the already flawed & fragile US Economy. It brought out the underlying problem

the US economy was oversimplified and relied solely on production, which led to quick depression, but not before. It lacks back up and stability. Though this also becomes a lasting impact which led to quick rises and falls especially through the war but not before the illusion of an extravagant gilded age. Though, it still provided lasting impacts like investments, the risks of investing and inflation, and the idea of savings & economic stability when a woman quoted it is her major goal to "never be poor again". Minorities were given a chance no one had an excuse to dismiss. Although some may say the war worsened racial scrutiny due to the red summer where N. Americans neglected migrating AA, it was what ultimately made them land in Harlem & start a new culture appreciation & rediscover racial pride. Without the war, women would still remain domestic households, mute and objectified. AA may still remain oppressed or even enslaved again. We wouldn't have been able to see women political leaders or the ~~amazing~~ <sup>amazing</sup> arts that originated from AA culture like Jazz & Blues ~~and~~ ~~creative~~ ~~never~~. The war allowed us and pushed a more equal and accepting society we have and are still improving to this day. <sup>changing the lasting legacy of minorities</sup> Thus, WWI impacted the economy through its increase in demands which exposed the economy's shortcomings led to downfall, and society by introducing minorities as equal to the world & shape the diverse modern society.

Final Conclusion  
ANALYSIS

## A+ Essay #2

Following World War I, America experienced an era of unparalleled prosperity in the Gilded Age of 1920s. With the soaring economy, and mass production, the lives of Americans seemed to improve. However, WWI brought ~~neg~~ both advances and setbacks in several aspects of America, including the emergence of a total war economy, the rise and fall of minorities, and the change in domestic culture.

During WWI, America shifted its emphasis to producing for the war effort. The War Relocation Authority (WRA) rationed raw materials, constructed new factories, and set prices. The Food Administration sought to increase food supplies by increasing agricultural production and reducing civilian consumption through "Wheatless" Mondays, "Meatless" Tuesdays, etc. In addition, America sold \$20 billion - worth of Liberty bonds, which financed  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the federal spending on WWI. After the war ended, the frugality was abandoned and consumerism was unleashed. For the middle and upper urban class, consumer culture meant leisure and comfort; for example, the production of electric refrigerators skyrocketed from 5,000 in 1920 to 1 million in 1929. Similarly, the lower urban class was encouraged to spend more using installment plans and "layaways" (which the product is reserved for the consumer until the full price is paid). However, as consumer debt tripled, the escalating economic trouble paved the way for the 1929 stock market crash and ~~into~~ the Great Depression.

During and after WWI, America also witnessed the rise and fall of minorities. Due to the war effort, <sup>about 1 million</sup> women occupied both traditional jobs like fund-raising for the war and Red Cross Nurses and new jobs such as chemical plant workers and dockworkers.



African Americans also were able to migrate to northern factories in the Great Migration. Notably, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment (an all-black regiment) was sent to combat in Verdun, France. Likewise, Mexicans that lived in Texas and New Mexico also seized their chance and migrated to northern cities to form barrios (Spanish-speaking neighborhoods). However, racial discrimination still continued to plague America. For example, David Bartley Hernandez had to drop his last name in order to be drafted for the conscription. Tragically, a race riot in <sup>a weaponry plant in</sup> St. Louis in 1918 killed 40 African Americans.

In fact, even Wilson expressed his "concern" over how people "forget there was ever such a thing as tolerance". While some may argue that these racial tensions / oppressions are only an unintentional byproduct of the patriotic frenzy, the policies of America prove otherwise. The endorsement of Espionage and Sedition Act of 1917 in two cases *Schenck v. U.S.* and *Abrams v. U.S.* both exemplified America's fear and intolerance of socialists and communists. Thus America once again oppressed the minorities in fear of different voices.

To combat the irrational fear of "foreigners", cultural changes such as movements like the Harlem Renaissance played an essential role. By embodying the spirit of Jazz, the celebration of triumphs and lament of struggles, artists, poets, writers, <sup>and</sup> musicians all work together to celebrate their identity. As explained by the documentary *A Cry of Jazz*, the fixed harmony and rhythm symbolizes the sternly imposed restrictions while the improvisation of melodies represents the <sup>historically</sup> resilience and desire of African Americans to break free. The same mixture of lament and joy could be observed in poems by the eminent poet Langston Hughes. His poem "Harlem" foreshadows the rise of the artistic and literary boom by asking, "What happens to a

dream deferred?" While the Age of Jazz bloomed, another movement of mass culture emerged simultaneously. As movies became a popular form of entertainment with <sup>an audience</sup> 60 million Americans per week, social criticism found its place in the movies. One of the most ironic symbols is The Tramp played by Charlie Chaplin in The Kid, which portrayed the exhausting <sup>working</sup> conditions in factories. Thus this movie ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> used as a means to condemn manufacturers for crippling humanity as they simply did not care for the workers.

This criticism could be a direct attack on the long working hours during WWI

Another product of mass culture was the automobile. While Model T was repurposed to become Red Cross Ambulances, it became a symbol of "democratization" for the youths as they can afford it too.

~~However~~ With the rapid industrialization techniques, a car can be assembled in 93 minutes. However, while American culture seems to prosper during the 1920s, a group of modernist poets and writers started to question the true meaning of being American. They identify themselves as the "Lost Generation", a generation whose childhood during the Great War caused them to lose all faith. As writer F. Scott Fitzgerald ~~lamented~~ <sup>lamented</sup>, young men have "all wars fought ... [yet] all faith in men shaken". This reflects the traumatic repercussions of the horrifying battles of WWI, further highlighting how WWI leaves its marks both positively and negatively in American culture.

In conclusion, World War I has impacted America by transforming (both positively and negatively) its economic focus, societal structure, and cultural consensus. While it is crucial to understand the gruesomeness of the supposedly Great War, we can also at least learn and appreciate some of its lasting impacts in an American's daily life.