

America: A Nation of Contrasts, 1910-29 – Exam technique booklet

If there is anything you are unsure about or if you need answers you need marked, email your teacher:

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Question 1 – Use source A and your own knowledge to describe... (6) 5 MINUTES

Success criteria

- Describe what you can see or read in the source. Make use of the information written with a visual source. Aim to state two things the source shows. 2 things the source shows.
- Use detailed own knowledge about the source for historical context.
- Aim to make at least 2 developed points of own knowledge about the key feature.

	AO1 4 marks		AO3 2 marks	
BAND 2	Demonstrates detailed understanding of the key feature in the question.	3-4	Accurate analysis of the source set within its historical context.	2
BAND 1	Demonstrates some understanding of the key feature in the question.	1-2	Source is analysed through reference to its content only.	1

Use 0 for incorrect or irrelevant answers.



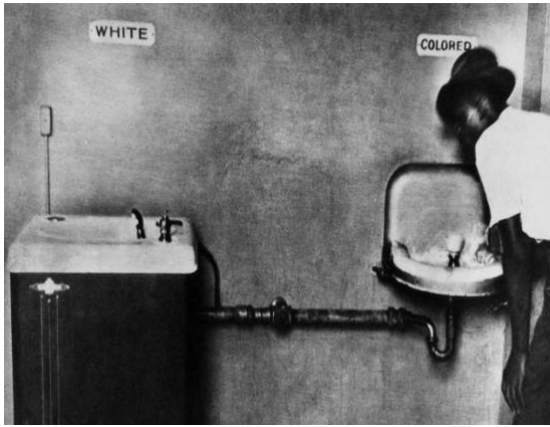
[A photograph taken at Carroll Dickerson's Jazz Floor Show, Chicago, 1924]

Use source A and your own knowledge to describe popular entertainment in the 1920s. [6]

Model Answer

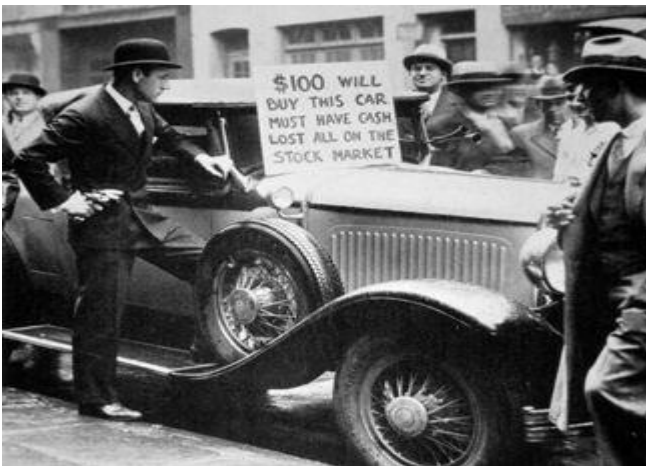
Source A shows a popular form of entertainment of the period. It shows jazz music which became very popular greatly helped by the development of radio and the gramophone. **Source A also shows** an organised floor show, supported by a large band and dancers, made up of white and black people; this demonstrates the cross-culture appeal of this form of entertainment. The 1920s was known as the Jazz Age and a famous jazz musician was Louis Armstrong. Another name for jazz was 'rags'. There were also other forms of popular entertainment. The cinema was very popular in the 1920s. There were around 17000 cinemas in America in 1926. The cinema was popular for a number of reasons such as improved transport and the attraction of the movie stars. Stars such as Clara Bow and Charlie Chaplin drew in millions. The radio was also very popular in this period. By 1930 there were around 600 cinemas. Radio enabled people to listen to sporting events, music and adverts. It made events accessible to those who couldn't afford it. Radio reached more than 50 million people by the end of the 1920s.

Possible Q1 sources



Source A: A segregated drinking fountain

Use source A and your own knowledge to describe the treatment of minorities. [6]



Source B: A stockbroker trying to sell his car in late October 1929 following the events of the Wall Street Crash.

Use source B and your own knowledge to describe the effects of the Wall Street Crash [6]

Source A



[Photographs showing Native American children before and after attending an American boarding school in 1923]

Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe how some Americans were treated due to their race. [6]

Source A



[A photograph showing a bomb attack by anarchists in New York on the 16th of September, 1920. It killed 38 people and injured hundreds more]

Use Source A and your own knowledge to describe the Red Scare. [6]



Source A: Women Workers at the Boston Navy Yard, 1917

Use source A and your own knowledge to describe the changing role of women. [6]

This question is about the role of women.



Source A – A Flapper dancing at a speakeasy in 1926.

Use source A and your own knowledge to describe the changing role of women during the period 1910-29. [6]



A cartoon which appeared in a national newspaper in July 1925.

Use source A and your own knowledge to describe religious intolerance. [6]

Describe... [8 marks] 5 minutes

Success criteria

- Start answer with the words of the question.
- Include specific details such as dates, events, names of key people.
- Cover at least 3/4 key points.

	AO1 8 marks	
BAND 3	Demonstrates detailed knowledge to fully describe the issue set within the appropriate historical context.	6-8
BAND 2	Demonstrates knowledge to partially describe the issue.	3-5
BAND 1	Demonstrates limited knowledge to describe the issue.	1-2

Describe the changing lifestyles and status of women during the period 1910 - 1929. [8 marks]

Model answer

Women's lifestyle and status changed greatly during this period. Before the war, women were not allowed to play a part in politics. They had no vote. It was thought to be unladylike for a woman to smoke or drink in public and women would only go out with a chaperone.

This started to change because of WW1. Women were important in helping the US war effort. Between 1917-18, 90,000 women served in the armed forces. Women also worked in jobs traditionally done by men, such as heavy industry, engineering and transport. More than 1 million women helped with the war effort.

Another significant change came with the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote in 1920. After securing vote, some women did make progress in gaining political power. In 1924, Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming became first woman to be elected governor of state.

However, the greatest change was experienced by the 'flappers'. These were generally women from middle and upper class families. These women became more independent in their social life, and took a freer approach to their behaviour and appearance. They would smoke in public, visit pubs and wear short skirts.

Possible questions

- Describe religious fundamentalism during the period 1910-29. (8)
- Describe the Monkey Trial. (8)
- Describe the treatment of black Americans during the period 1910-1929. (8)
- Describe the treatment of minorities during the period 1910-29. (8)
- Describe the treatment of Native Americans during the period 1910-29 (8)
- Describe the black reaction to their treatment during the period 1910-29. (8)
- Describe organised crime during the period 1910-29. (8)
- Describe prohibition during the period 1910-29. (8)
- Describe political corruption during the period 1910-29. (8)
- Describe the end of prosperity. (8)
- Describe the effects of the Wall Street Crash. (8)
- Describe the development of popular entertainment during the period 1910-29. (8)
- Describe the cinema in the 1920s. (8)
- Describe the changing role of women between 1910-29. (8)

Question 3 – What was the purpose of source B? [8 marks]

Success criteria

- Give a main purpose of the source.
- Discuss the content of the source (source A shows). Use this to give a purpose. (The purpose of this was...)
- Discuss the origin (WHO? WHEN? WHAT?). Use these to give a purpose.
- Discuss your own knowledge (at least 2 detailed points). Use this to give a purpose.
- Conclude with a main purpose giving a reason why you think this.
- THINK JEEP (Justify? Entertain? Educate? Persuade?) Each source will have at least one of these.

	AO1 4 marks		AO3 4 marks	
BAND 3	Demonstrates very detailed understanding of the historical context.	3-4	The purpose of the source is fully analysed and evaluated. A substantiated judgement regarding purpose is reached.	3-4
BAND 2	Demonstrates some understanding of the historical context.	2	The purpose of the source is partially analysed and evaluated. A judgement regarding purpose is reached.	2
BAND 1	Demonstrates only basic understanding of the historical context.	1	Answer mainly describes or paraphrases the source material with little analysis or evaluation.	1



A cartoon published in 1920 in an American newspaper

Model answer

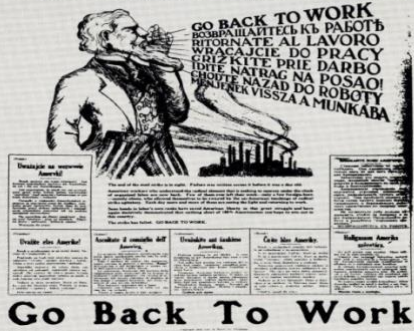
The purpose of Source B is to demonstrate the American people's opinions of immigrants and the 'Open Door' Policy which was in effect at the time. The source was released in 1920. This was around the time when public opinion of immigration and the 'Open Door' Policy was changing. The purpose of the source is to show how unhappy people were with the high levels of immigration into America. They believed that immigrants were taking jobs off Americans because they were willing to work for low wages. They also blamed immigrants for the increase in crime. The source was published in an American newspaper, the purpose of this was to inform the American public of the 'dangers' of the 'Open Door' Policy. Immigrants were considered a threat and 'undesirable'. There was a fear of communism in America in 1920 as a result of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917. It was believed that the immigrants were bringing these dangerous political beliefs with them. The overall purpose of this source is likely to encourage the American government to limit immigration into America because it shows the apparent dangers that come with allowing immigrants into America.

The sentence 'The purpose of source B is...' must be in your answer at least 3 times.

Reach a judgement on the main purpose.

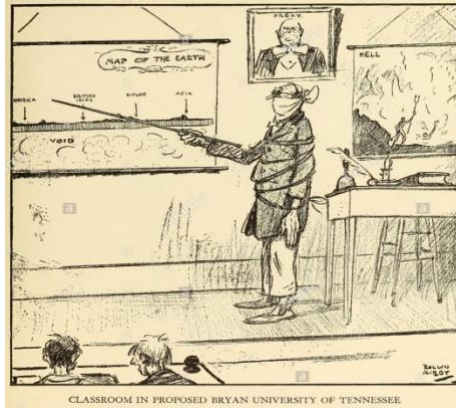
What was the purpose of source B? [8 marks]

The Strike Has Failed



Go Back To Work

An advertisement in a US newspaper encouraging steelworkers to return to work, 1919. It was written in 8 languages, which linked union leadership with foreigners and the un-American teachings of radical strike agitators.



A cartoon which appeared in a national newspaper in July 1925.

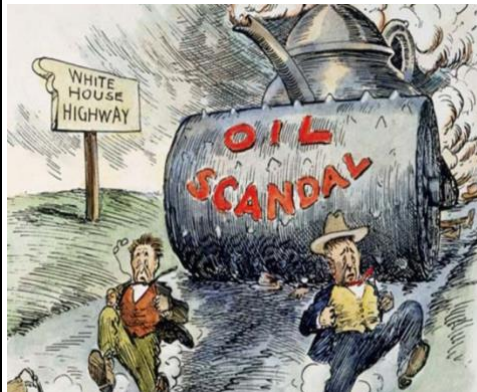


A cartoon published in the Heroes of the Fiery Cross, a magazine of the Pillar of Fire Church during the presidential campaign of 1928. The Democrat candidate, Alfred Smith, was Roman Catholic. The Pillar of the Fire Church was closely linked to the KKK in the 1920s.

Daddy's in There---



A poster issued by the Anti-Saloon League in 1917 to highlight the evils of alcohol (caption reads 'Daddy's in there. And Our Shoes, clothes and Food, and they'll never come out'.



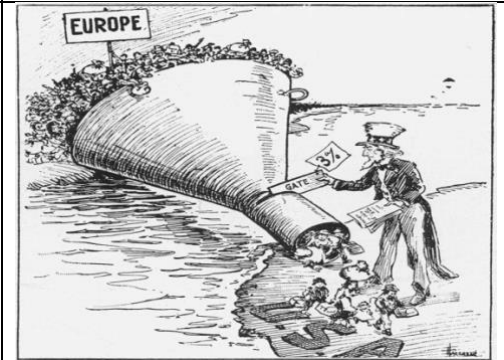
A cartoon that appeared in an American newspaper in 1922 showing the Teapot Dome Scandal. One of the figures running away is Albert Fall



An advertisement from 1927 for the film The Jazz Singer



The cover of a fashionable American magazine from 1925 showing the new jazz culture



An American cartoon of 1921 commenting on the immigrant quotas

What was the purpose of Source B?

Question 4 – Which source is most useful to an historian studying...? [12 marks]

Success criteria

- You have to evaluate the USEFULNESS of two sources to the historian studying the key issue named in the question.
- You must consider usefulness in terms of:
- CONTENT value - what the source tells you about the key issue. Why is this useful?
- ORIGIN - who said it and when? What type of source is it? Is this reliable? How does this impact usefulness?
- PURPOSE - why was the source produced and what was its purpose? Is this useful?
- OWN KNOWLEDGE - link the source to your own knowledge of what was happening at the time.
- LIMITATIONS – Is there anything missing from the source? How could it have been more useful?
- DO COPLOK FOR BOTH SOURCES
- CONCLUSION - which source is most useful to an historian studying the topic and why? Why is one source more useful than the other?

	AO1 6 marks			AO3 6 marks	
BAND 3	Demonstrates detailed understanding of the key feature in the question.	5-6	BAND 3	The relative usefulness of the source material is fully analysed and evaluated. Analysis of the content and authorship of the source material is undertaken to produce a clear and well substantiated judgement, set within the appropriate historical context.	5-6
BAND 2	Demonstrates some understanding of the key feature in the question.	3-4	BAND 2	The usefulness of the source material is analysed and partially evaluated. Analysis of the content and authorship is undertaken to reach a supported judgement, set within the appropriate historical context.	3-4
BAND 1	Demonstrates limited understanding of the key feature in the question.	1-2	BAND 1	Copies or paraphrases the source material with little or no analysis and evaluation undertaken.	1-2

<i>Source A: Part of a speech given by Pauline Sabin in 1929 in which she called for the repeal of Prohibition. Sabin founded the Women's Organisation for National Prohibition Reform in Chicago in 1929.</i>	<i>Source B: Part of an interview with a gangster about true-life American crime for a magazine article which was published shortly after Prohibition ended in 1933.</i>
Prohibition has led to more violation of and contempt for the law, to more hypocrisy among private citizens as well as police officers than any other thing in our national life. It is responsible for the greatest organised criminal class in the country... it is time to replace the present corruption, lawlessness and hypocrisy with honesty	We made our money by supplying a public demand. If I was supposed to have broken the law, my customers, who numbered hundreds of the best people in Chicago, were as guilty as I am. The only difference between me and them was that I sold and they bought. Many people called me a gangster and bootlegger. Others saw me as a businessman supplying their need.

Which of the sources are more useful to an historian studying the impact of Prohibition upon American life? [12]

Source A is useful because it clearly highlights the problems caused by Prohibition and the impact it had on American life. The author suggests the many people have violated the act, ordinary people as well as those in authority such as police officers. The breaking of the Prohibition laws was the primary cause of the increase in organised crime which resulted in the rise of powerful gangsters. These gangsters or bootleggers supplied the illegal alcohol to whoever wanted it, making large profits in the process. The author of the source is Pauline Sabin who led a campaign against Prohibition. Sabin wished to justify why she wanted an end to prohibition. The reliability is limited as she may have exaggerated. However, it is useful as it is showing the opposition to Prohibition. The source is limited as she makes generalised points which were not backed up with specific details. However, it is useful for showing the arguments used by the anti-Prohibition movement to bring about reform.

Source B is useful because it provides a very contrasting viewpoint. It is the view of a former gangster who was interviewed in the 1830s, shortly after the ending of Prohibition. The source is useful as it states that they saw themselves as business men over gangsters. He believed he was providing a well sought after service. There was a demand for alcohol and he was supplying that demand. Although the reliability is limited as it is the point of view of a gangster, it is useful for showing how those committing the crime felt about the process. He saw himself as providing a service. However, the former gangster could be glamorising his past achievements to justify his breaking of the law. The purpose of the source was to discuss his experiences so he may have wanted to glamorise it and justify what he was doing. However, it is very useful to see how gangsters saw their part in the process of bootlegging.

Although both sources are useful, source B is clearly the most useful to an historian studying the impact of Prohibition upon American life. This is more useful as it shows how many people were involved with the process of bootlegging. It suggests that people did not see it as a crime because it was not only the gangsters who were involved, but also ordinary people. If there was no one to buy the alcohol, the gangsters would not have made as much money from it. It is also very useful as he was involved with the process himself.

Model 2 - Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the end of prosperity? (12)

QUESTION 4

This question is about the end of prosperity.

SOURCE C - The New York Times, 30 October 1929 Stock prices virtually collapsed yesterday, swept downwards with gigantic losses in the most disastrous trading day in the stock market's history. Billions of dollars in market value were wiped out. It wasted fortune after fortune yesterday and financially crippled thousands.	SOURCE E - American writer, Carl Sandburg, describes the collapse in share sales in The People Yes, 1936 Shares in a cigar company at the time of the crash were selling for \$115. The market collapsed and the share dropped to \$2 and the company president jumped from his Wall Street office window.
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Which of the sources is more useful to an historian studying the end of prosperity?
[12]

Source C is **useful** to an historian studying the end of prosperity because it tells us that it was the worst day in the stock markets trading history. It is also **useful** because it tells us that billions of dollars were wiped out. It is also **useful** because it tells us that loads of people were financially crippled. **(CONTENT)** Source C is from a newspaper in 1929. This is **useful** because it shows us the reaction directly after the event. This would be useful for finding out the initial impact from a journalists point of view. This could limit the value of the source as newspapers generally sensationalise information to make it more interesting to readers. The purpose of this source was to inform people what was happening straight after the crash. This is **useful** because it shows us what a massive event this was. This source is aimed at the New York people. This is useful because it shows that it had a massive impact on those in New York. It is from a newspaper which means it may sensationalise the story. **(ORIGIN – WHO? WHEN? WHY? TYPE OF SOURCE? AUDIENCE?)** This source could be more useful if it considered the long-term effects of the Wall Street Crash such as the Depression.

(LIMITATIONS) From my own knowledge I know this source is accurate because people did panic sell their shares. When experts started to sell their shares heavily before their value fell even further, small investors panicked. They saw the fall in prices and rushed to sell their own shares. On Black Thursday, prices fell so quickly that people rushed to sell their shares. Nearly 13 million shares had been traded. This led to a complete collapse of prices and thousands of investors lost millions of dollars. **(OWN KNOWLEDGE)**

Source E is **useful** to an historian studying the end of prosperity because it reveals that one company's shares dropped from an impressive \$115 to \$2. This is also **useful** because it tells us that a company President committed suicide by jumping out of a Wall Street Window. **(CONTENT)** This was written by an American writer in 1936. This is **useful** because it was written 7 years after the Wall Street Crash which means it can address the long term effects of the Wall Street Crash. However, the source may be of less use to an historian because, as a writer, Carl Sandburg might try to sensationalise the events to make them more interesting to his readers. He is writing this to reveal how bad the Wall Street Crash was to readers. This is **useful** because it shows how people were still discussing the WSC after 7 years. **(ORIGIN – WHO? WHEN? WHY? TYPE OF SOURCE? AUDIENCE?)** This source could be more **useful** if it considered more of the effects of the Wall Street Crash and considered why the market collapsed. **(LIMITATIONS)** From my own knowledge I know the source is accurate because the Wall St Crash did have negative effects. One of the effects of the Wall Street Crash was that By the end of 1929 there were about 2.5 million unemployed in the USA. Those who had money were unwilling to spend. Unemployment began to gather pace as fewer consumer goods were purchased. USA was full of unemployment, tramps, bread queues and soup kitchens. Many people were evicted from their homes and lived on the streets – children included. This was known as the Time of the hobo. Thousands of men travelled the country hitching rides on railcars & freight wagons. America fell into a Depression. **(OWN KNOWLEDGE)**

Source E is more **useful** to an historian as it was written later than source C which means the author has had time to reflect on the events that took place rather than being written while the event was taking place. Source E also provides factual information such as the costs of shares before and after the Wall Street Crash. This is more **useful** than a newspaper article as this would be sensationalised.

Which of the sources is the most useful to an historian studying

		Source A	Source B
	Summarise the source in one sentence.		
C	CONTENT – what does the source tell you about the key issue? Why is this useful?		
O	ORIGIN – who said it and when? Why is this useful? Audience? Type of source? How is this useful?		
P	PURPOSE – who were the intended audience? Why was it produced?		
L	LIMITATIONS – is there anything missing from this source?		
Ok	OWN KNOWLEDGE – link the source content to the bigger picture of what was happening at the time.		
C	CONCLUSION – provide a judgement about which source is most useful to an historian studying the key issue and why.		

Question 5 - Essay question – Was the... [16 +3] 20 minutes

Success criteria

- Start by discussing the key issue in the question. Use your knowledge to explain why this is important.
- Discuss the counter-argument. Cover a range of other factors using factual detail (at least 3). Explain why these are important.
- Analyse importance of counter factors in relation to the key feature.
- Conclude with a judgement. How important is the factor in the question compared with other factors?

	AO1 4 marks		AO2 12 marks	
BAND 4	Demonstrates very detailed knowledge and understanding of the key feature in the question.	4	Fully analyses the key issue. There will be a clear analysis of other factors and their relative impact set within the appropriate historical context.	10-12
BAND 3	Demonstrates detailed knowledge and understanding of the key feature in the question.	3	Partially analyses the key issue along with a consideration of the impact of other factors in the historical context.	7-9
BAND 2	Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of the key feature in the question.	2	Basic analysis while considering some other factors and their impact.	4-6
BAND 1	Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of the key features in the question.	1	Offers a generalised response with little analysis of impact.	1-3

Possible question 5 essays [16 +3]

Topic Area 2: Religion and race

Was/were the _____ the worst examples of intolerance in the USA between 1910 and 1929?

- The KKK
- The Jim Crow Laws (Treatment of Black Americans)
- The treatment of Native Americans
- The Monkey Trial (Butler Act)
- Fundamentalists

Topic Area 3: Crime and corruption

Was/were _____ the worst example of crime and corruption during the 1920s?

- Prohibition
- Organised Crime
- Political Corruption

Topic Area 5: The end of prosperity

Was/were _____ the main reason for the end of the economic boom in the 1920s?

- Over-production
- Falling consumer demand
- Over-speculation
- The availability of easy credit
- The Wall Street Crash

Topic Area 6: Popular entertainment

Was/were the _____ the most important change in popular entertainment in the USA during the 1920s ?

- Jazz
- Cinema
- Radio
- Dancing
- The speakeasy culture

Topic Area 7: The role of women

Was/were the _____ the most important change in the lifestyle and status of women during this period?

- Role of women in WW1
- Political change - The granting of the vote
- Social change – Jazz culture, work, social lives
- The Flappers

Topic area 2 Essay

Were the Jim Crow Laws the worst example of intolerance in America during the period 1910-29?

The Jim Crow Laws were the segregation Laws introduced in America after slavery ended in the 1860s. These were named after a comedian, Jim Crow, who ridiculed black people. Black people were segregated in many places such as schools, churches, swimming pools, boxing matches and water fountains. This could be considered the worst example of intolerance because it led to discrimination in every aspect of Black Americans lives. This could also be considered the worst example of intolerance because it meant that all aspects of Black Americans lives were in a worse condition. For example, the schools of Black Americans would be worse than schools of white Americans. They could also be considered the worst example of intolerance because they meant black people did not get the vote. This could be considered the worst example of intolerance because this meant they had no way of improving their lives.

However, the KKK could be considered the worst example of intolerance because they carried out lynchings on Black people. In the 1920s they lynched around 430 people. This is the worst example of intolerance because they physically harmed black people. This could also be considered the worst example of intolerance because they would hurt black people through mutilation, tar and feathering and castration. This could also be considered the worst example of intolerance because their large numbers, around 5 million by 1925, would be very intimidating for black people. They would live in fear of the Ku Klux Klan. The KKK could also be considered the worst example of intolerance because their aim was to terrorise black people. ***The KKK is clearly a worse example of intolerance than the Jim Crow Laws because the KKK would physically harm the Black people, rather than separate them from whites.***

Another example of intolerance that could be considered worse than the Jim Crow Laws was the treatment of Native Americans. At the start of the 20th century, Native Americans were placed on reservations. This could be considered the worst example of intolerance because they were told where to live and would have been forced out of their homes. These Native Americans were also forced to reject their identity and culture. This could be considered the worst example of intolerance because they were being controlled by the Americans. Native Americans were also sent to special boarding schools where they would be Americanised. This could be considered the worst example of intolerance because children were forced to leave their families. ***This is a worse example of intolerance than the Jim Crows Laws because this forced them to reject their identity, whereas the Jim Crows did not force people to reject their identity. This was also worse because it mainly impacted children. The Jim Crow Laws did not take black people's children away like the boarding schools did with Native Americans.***

However, the Monkey Trial could be considered the worst example of intolerance because it punished people for giving their own views. For example, John Scopes was taken to court for teaching evolution which went against the Butler Act. This is the worst example of intolerance because people were getting into trouble for giving an opinion on something and teaching something which was seen to be true. This could also be considered the worst example of intolerance because religious fundamentalists would oppose anything they considered modern. This could also be considered the worst example of intolerance because John Scopes was forced to pay a fine for teaching evolution. ***The Monkey Trial was not a worse example of intolerance than the Jim Crow Laws because the Jim Crows impacted a whole race of people, rather than a small group of people who spoke out against the teaching of creationism.***

In conclusion, the worst example of intolerance in America during the period 10-29 was the KKK. This was worse than the Jim Crow Laws because they used violence against black people, whereas the Jim Crow Laws did not physically hurt black people. The KKK would constantly terrorise black people and they would live in fear of the KKK.

Topic Area 3 Essay

Was Prohibition the worst example of crime and corruption in the 1920s? [19]

In 1920, Congress passed the Volstead Act which banned the consumption of 'intoxicating liquors'. This banning of alcohol was also known as Prohibition. This was the 18th Amendment to the American Constitution. Prohibition drove drinkers & drinking underground. It became impossible to stop people drinking alcohol. This could be considered the worst example of crime because it was a very difficult crime to police as it was well hidden. Huge numbers of people were prepared to break the law. They did not feel like they were breaking the law. This could be considered the worst example of crime and corruption because it was not being taken seriously by the American people. To satisfy the demand, organised crime stepped in. By 1930 there were 30,000 speakeasies in New York alone. An owner of a speakeasy had many overheads. As well as purchasing illegal alcohol, they would have to pay off police officers. It could also be considered the worst example because it made so much money due to the large numbers involved in this crime.

However, some would argue that organised crime was the worst example of crime and corruption in the 1920s. These gangs were involved in many crimes such as protection rackets, murders, extortion, smuggling, bootlegging, murder and brothels. This could be considered the worst because it involved a lot of different crimes. When faced with competition they often took over their rivals through violence and murder. This could be considered the worst example because it involved extreme violence. The most famous gangster was Al Capone. Al Capone cemented himself as a leading gangster in Chicago by bribing local officials. He controlled mayor 'Big Bill' Thompson, senior police officials & fixed local elections. He controlled speakeasies, gambling houses, night clubs & brothels. This could be considered the worst example of crime and corruption as it involved most aspects of life such as politics and policing. ***However, Prohibition was a worse example than organised crime because it was Prohibition that gave organised criminals the opportunities to broaden their involvement in activities like bootlegging***

Some would argue that government corruption was the worst example of crime and corruption in the 1920s. When Warren Harding became President in 1921, he surrounded himself with his friends and he became known as the 'Ohio Gang'. This could be considered the worst example of crime and corruption as some of Harding's friends used their position to line their pockets with money. They took advantage of their position when elected by the American people. The head of the Veterans Bureau, Charles R Forbes, was fined and sent to jail for selling off veterans' hospital supplies for personal profit. This could be considered the worst example of crime and corruption as this was meant to be used for veterans who had fought for the country. Albert Fall, leased government oil fields to Harry Sinclair in exchange for bribes. This could be considered the worst example of crime and corruption as these oil fields were meant to be navy reserves. ***However, this was not worse than Prohibition as it did not impact as many people and did not result in the rise of organised crime.***

In conclusion, Prohibition was the worst example of crime and corruption during this period because it impacted most people, it was a lot more challenging to police and it led to the rise of organised crime. Without Prohibition, organised crime would not have flourished as it did in the 1920s. Also, government corruption did not impact as many ordinary people as Prohibition.

Topic Area 5 Essay

Was the panic selling of shares the most significant cause of the Wall Street Crash in October 1929? [19]

Panic selling could be considered the most significant cause of the Wall Street Crash. In the 1920s, more Americans bought shares on the stock exchange & prices kept rising. Many of these people did not understand the stock market. When experts started to sell their shares heavily before their value fell even further, small investors panicked. They saw the fall in prices and rushed to sell their own shares. On Black Thursday, prices fell so quickly that people have rushed to sell their shares. Nearly 13 million shares had been traded. This led to a complete collapse of prices and thousands of investors lost millions of dollars. This could be considered the most significant cause because the dramatic fall in share prices and the resultant collapse in confidence on the financial system was the immediate short-term cause of the Wall Street Crash. This could also be considered the most significant cause because the market would not have collapsed if people did not panic sell their shares.

However, some would argue that it was the overproduction of agriculture that was the most significant cause of the Wall Street Crash. As farming techniques improved and demand from Europe dropped, farmers were producing too much food. This caused a fall in prices, and drop in profits, so thousands of farmers had to sell their farms. This could be considered the most significant cause because farmers were going bankrupt much earlier than 1929. Also, many farmers borrowed money to pay for these machines. They could no longer afford to pay this money back. This could be considered the most significant cause because it contributed to banks losing money. ***However, this is not more significant than panic selling because it is likely the crash would have happened based solely on the overproduction of agriculture.***

Some would argue that it was overproduction that was the most significant cause of the Wall Street Crash. 1. Fewer products such as cars were being sold which was partly due to over-production. More products made than Americans could afford to buy. Could not sell abroad because foreign companies put taxes on American goods. Sales fell, and bosses cut prices & wages. They cut their losses by sacking workers. This meant fewer workers to buy goods. Factories cut costs & more people lose their jobs. This was significant because it meant that people had less money to buy these goods because they were having wages cut or losing jobs. This was also significant because there was a falling demand for consumer goods because people already had these goods. ***This could be considered more significant than panic selling because overproduction and falling demands for consumer goods was already leading to the end of prosperity, the panic selling was just the spark for this to happen.***

However, some would argue that the boom in land and property value was the most significant cause of the Wall Street Crash. Consequence of increased wealth of the 1920s was a dramatic rise in the value of land and property. People bought this land hoping to make a profit in future. They lent money to do this. However, in 1926, property prices began to fall sharply in Florida & this left many homeowners in negative equity. Now worth less than they paid. This could be considered the most significant cause because this had resulted in many people losing money. This could also be considered the most significant cause because they had lent more money than the house was actually worth. These payments would become difficult to make when the economic boom ended. ***This was not worse than the panic selling because panic selling led to the complete collapse of the stock market whereas the boom in land and property value only impacted certain people.***

In conclusion, it is clear that the panic selling of shares was significant because it was the spark that resulted in the Wall Street Crash but it was a combination of long and short-term causes such as over that ended the prosperity of the 1920s.

Topic Area 6 Essay

Was the cinema the most important change in popular entertainment in the 1920s? [16 + 3]

It could be argued that the cinema was the most important change because it was the most popular form of entertainment in America. This is clearly shown by the large number of cinemas across USA. By 1910, there were more than 8000 cinemas. This rose to a staggering 17,000 in 1926. The visit to the cinema was a part of American life. It was extremely popular as it was a form of escapism. These stories allowed people to escape from the worries of everyday life. It was also very cheap. By 1930, more than 100 million cinema tickets were sold every week. It was an important change as this is something most people would be able to have access to, unlike jazz which would price out many of the working class. The cinema was also an important as it contributed to the economic boom in the 1920s. The importance of the cinema as a form of popular entertainment is shown by people's reaction to movie stars such as Rudolf Valentino. Women would faint when they saw him. He died in 1926 & several people killed themselves when hearing of his death. It is clear that the cinema was an important change in popular entertainment in the 1920s.

Although cinema was an important change in popular entertainment, it could be argued that the radio was the most important change in popular entertainment in the 1920s. The radio had a massive impact on the lives of the American people. By 1930, there were more than 600 radio stations and 40% of US homes had a radio set. This shows the importance of the radio as it was so wide reaching. As radio reached more than 50 million people by the end of the 1920s, there was an increase in political awareness. The radio was important as it was giving people access to things they would not have previously had access to. Radio also enabled people to listen to sporting events, music such as jazz, as well as advertisement. These are things that people would not have usually been able to see, but the radio allowed them to access this from home for much cheaper. The radio was clearly the main source of family entertainment. ***It is clear that the radio was a more important change in popular entertainment than the cinema because people were able to access the radio from their own homes.***

Another important change in popular entertainment was jazz. The 1920s were known as the 'Jazz Age' because the most popular music of the time was jazz. It had originated with black slaves who were encouraged to sing to increase production. This was an important development as it led to blacks and white integrating due to young middle class whites' enjoyment of the music. The music was especially popular amongst the flappers. The reaction to jazz shows that the change was very important. Some condemned jazz as another sign of a decline in moral standards. Some cities like New York banned the public performance of jazz in dance halls. However, this only made it more exciting for young people. ***Although Jazz was an important development, it was not as important as the cinema because it was not as accessible to all Americans as many working class would not have experienced the 'Jazz Age' because they could not afford to attend the public performances.***

Finally, it could be argued the speakeasy culture was the most important change in popular entertainment in the 1920s. The introduction of prohibition in 1920 resulted in an increase in drinking clubs referred to as speakeasies. The entertainment in speakeasies was often provided by groups of black Americans playing jazz. This was an important change in popular entertainment as it drew audiences from all social classes and allowed whites and blacks to mingle socially. Despite this, the prices in speakeasies where alcohol was consumed ensured the clientele was mainly middle class. ***This means that the cinema was much more accessible to all Americans than the speakeasies which suggest it was a more important change in popular entertainment.***

In conclusion, although the cinema was an important change in popular entertainment in the 1920s, it is clear the radio was the most important change. Although there were 17,000 cinemas in 1926, around 40% of homes had access to the radio. It was clearly the main source of family entertainment. The radio gave the average American access to things they would not have previously had access to such as sporting events, jazz and politics from their own homes.

Topic Area 7 Essay

Was political change the most important change in the lifestyle and status of women during this period? [19]

In 1920 women in the USA were granted the vote under the 19th Amendment. Prior to this, women were given no say in politics or were not allowed to play a role in political life. Women's suffrage groups such as the North American Women Suffrage Association (formed in 1890) had been campaigning for the vote but had been unsuccessful. Women's crucial role in WW1 made it difficult to deny them the vote. Political change could be considered the most important change in the lifestyle and status of women as they now had a say in who became President which could make a significant difference. After securing vote, some women did make progress in gaining political power. In 1924, Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming became first woman to be elected governor of state. This could be considered an important change because women were now playing a part in politics at a high level, whereas only 4 years previous they could not be a part of politics in America.

However, some would argue that the First World War was the most important change in the lifestyle and status of women during this period. American entry into WW1 in 1917 provided greater opportunities for women: Around 2.8 million men had been drafted into the armed forces which meant more than one million women helped with the war effort on the home front. This could be considered the most important change because they were able to show how capable they were. Around 90,000 women served in the US armed forces in Europe. This could be considered the most important change because they played a crucial role in the war effort. This was an opportunity for the women to show they were as capable as men. ***It is clear that the First World War was a more important change than political change because it was due to this involvement in the war that people realised women deserved the vote.***

However, some would argue that social change (the influence of jazz culture) was the most important change in the lifestyle and status of women during this period. This could be considered the most important change because it provided new jobs for women in cosmetic and clothing industries. This is an important change because they could use this money to live a freer life. Jazz music and the jazz culture gave young women an opportunity to break free from the norm and rebel. This was a significant change as they were able to live a more liberal lifestyle and have more independence than they had before the emergence of jazz culture.

However, this was not as important as political change because not all women were able to live this life. Some rejected the lifestyle because of religious or social beliefs. Others were forced to continue with their role of housewife and mother whereas all women were able to experience political change.

However, it could also be argued that the Flappers were the most important change in the lifestyle and status of women during this period. In the 1920s, a number of women, generally middle- and upper-class families in the northern states, decided to challenge the traditional attitudes towards women. They became known as the flappers. This could be considered the most important change because it was the most extreme example of change. They wore short skirts and bright clothing, wore make-up, cut their hair short. They smoked and drank in public. This was an important change because these women did what they wanted to do. This could be considered the most important change as this caused up a greater stir than the other changes. ***However, this was not as important as political change because the flapper lifestyle did little to further the cause of women's rights in the 1920s as they were seen as too extreme unlike political change which did help improve their situation. Also, some women were unable to afford to live the flapper lifestyle.***

In conclusion, women's role in WW1 was the most important change in the lifestyle and status of women during this period because it allowed women to show how capable they were both at home and on the war front. It is likely that the political and social changes would not have happened without the significant contribution women played in WW1.