

Note: The following document is adopted from the AP U.S. History College Board Examples

United States History
Section II
Total Time – 1 hour, 30 minutes

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

Suggested reading period: 15 minutes

Suggested writing period: 40 minutes

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following:

- **Thesis:** Present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or in the conclusion.
- **Argument Development:** Develop and support a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradiction, corroboration, and/or qualification.
- **Use of Documents:** Utilize the content of at least six documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument.
- **Sourcing the Documents:** Explain the significance of the author's point of view, author's purpose, historical context, and/or audience for at least four documents.
- **Contextualization:** Situate the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question.
- **Outside Evidence:** Provide an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument.
- **Synthesis:** Extend the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and one of the following
 - A development in a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area.
 - A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual history).

1. How did the Civilian Conservation Corps address the challenges faced by the United States during the Great Depression? To what extent did it address racial and gender inequalities in American society?

Background Information

The summary below is for background information. Analysis of it is not required and will not count toward the required documents.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a work relief program that gave millions of young men employment on environmental projects during the Great Depression. Created initially through Executive Order and later made an independent agency by an Act of Congress, the CCC planted more than three billion trees and constructed trails and shelters in more than 800 parks nationwide during its nine years of existence. Considered one of the most successful programs of the New Deal, the CCC helped to shape the modern national and state park systems we enjoy today.

The United States Army helped to solve an early logistical problem – transportation. Most of the unemployed men were in Eastern cities while much of the conservation work was in the West. The Army organized the transportation of thousands of enrollees to work camps around the country. By July 1, 1933, 1,433 working camps had been established and more than 300,000 men put to work. It was the most rapid peacetime mobilization in American history.

Under the guidance of the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, CCC employees fought forest fires, planted trees, cleared and maintained access roads, re-seeded grazing lands and implemented soil-erosion controls. Additionally, they built wildlife refuges, fish-rearing facilities, water storage basins and animal shelters. To encourage citizens to get out and enjoy America's natural resources, FDR authorized the CCC to build bridges and campground facilities.

The CCC enrolled mostly young, unskilled and unemployed men between the ages of 18 and 25. The men came primarily from families on government assistance. Men enlisted for a minimum of six months. Each worker received \$30 in payment per month for his services in addition to room and board at a work camp. The men were required to send \$22 to 25 of their monthly earnings home to support their families. Some corpsmen received supplemental basic and vocational education while they served. In fact, it's estimated that some 57,000 illiterate men learned to read and write in CCC camps.

Women were excluded as direct participants in the CCC. Despite her efforts, Eleanor Roosevelt was unable to gain their inclusion. However, she was successful in helping to establish more than 90 Federal Emergency Relief Association camps, or "She-She-She" camps that cumulatively served 8,500 women.

Enrollment in the CCC peaked in August 1935. At the time, more than 500,000 corpsmen were spread across 2,900 camps. It's estimated that nearly three million men – about five percent of the total United States male population – took part in the CCC over the course of the agency's nine-year history.

Document 1

Source description: An Act “To establish a Civilian Conservation Corps...” January 5, 1937

**Seventy-fifth Congress of the United States of America;
At the First Session,**

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fifth
day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

AN ACT

To establish a Civilian Conservation Corps, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby established the Civilian Conservation Corps, hereinafter called the Corps, for the purpose of providing employment, as well as vocational training, for youthful citizens of the United States who are unemployed and in need of employment, and to a limited extent as hereinafter set out, for war veterans and Indians, through the performance of useful public work in connection with the conservation and development of the natural resources of the United States, its Territories, and insular possessions: *Provided,* That at least ten hours each week may be devoted to general educational and vocational training: *Provided,* That the provisions of this Act shall continue for the period of three years after July 1, 1937, and no longer.

SEC. 2. The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, is authorized to appoint a Director at a salary of \$10,000 per annum. The Director shall have complete and final authority in the functioning of the Corps, including the allotment of funds to cooperating Federal departments and agencies, subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the President in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. In order to carry out the purpose of this Act, the Director is authorized to provide for the employment of the Corps and its facilities on works of public interest or utility for the protection, restoration, regeneration, improvement, development, utilization, maintenance, or enjoyment of the natural resources of lands and waters, and the products thereof, including forests, fish and wildlife on lands or interest in lands (including historical or archeological sites), belonging to, or under the jurisdiction or control of, the United States, its Territories, and insular possessions, and the several States: *Provided,* That the President may, in his discretion, authorize the Director to undertake projects on lands belonging to or under the jurisdiction or control of counties, and municipalities, and on lands in private ownership, but only for the purpose of doing thereon such kinds of cooperative work as are or may be provided for by Acts of

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year from the date of accrual thereof: *Provided further*, That acceptance by any claimant of the amount allowed on account of his claim shall be deemed to be in full settlement thereof, and the action of the Director or of the head of a cooperating department or agency upon such claim so accepted by the claimant shall be conclusive.

SEC. 17. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the purposes of this Act: *Provided*, That no part of any such appropriation shall be used in any way to pay any expense in connection with the conduct, operation, or management of any camp exchange, save and except such camp exchanges as are established and operated, in accordance with regulations to be prescribed by the Director, at such camps as may be designated by him, for real assistance and convenience to enrollees in supplying them and their supervising personnel on duty at any such camp with articles of ordinary use and consumption not furnished by the Government: *Provided further*, That the person in charge of any such camp exchange shall certify, monthly, that during the preceding calendar month such exchange was operated in compliance therewith.

SEC. 18. This Act, except as otherwise provided, shall take effect July 1, 1937.

W. H. Bausch
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Reynolds
President of the Senate pro tempore.

Approved
June 28 - 1937
Franklin D. Roosevelt

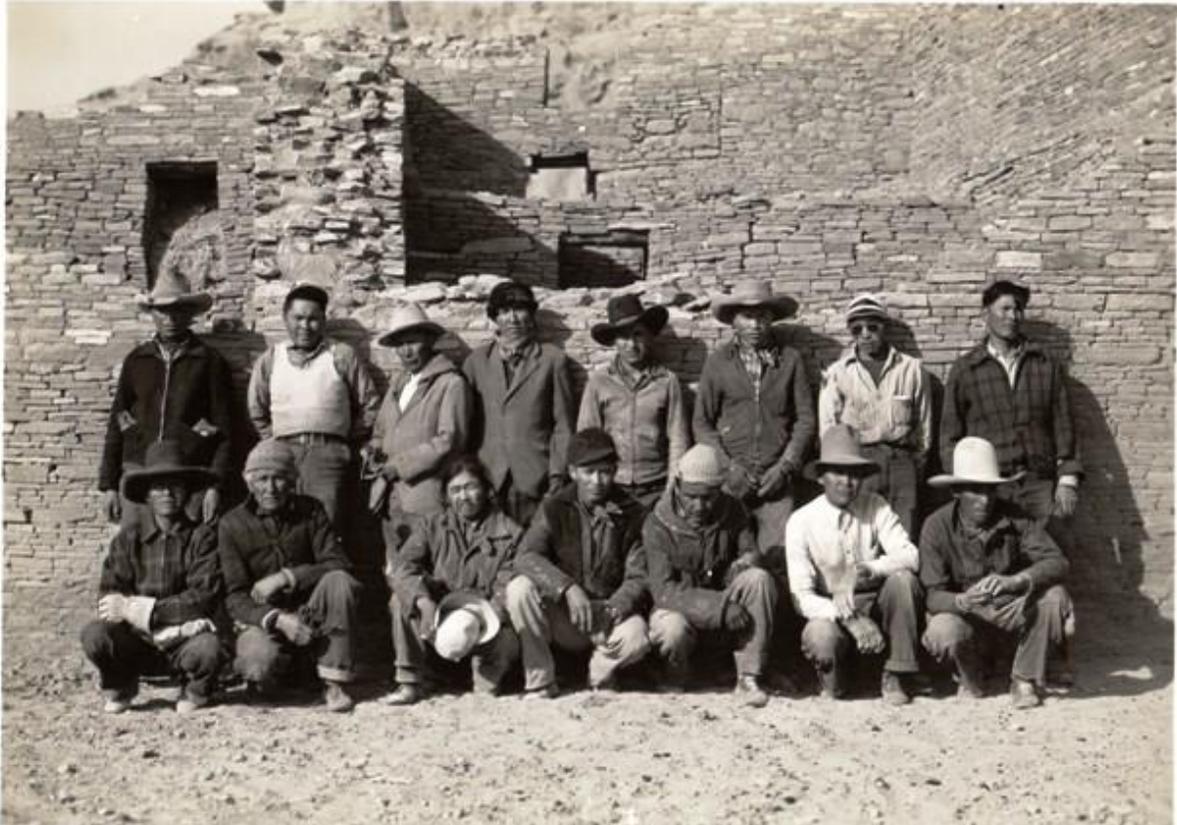
Document 2

Source description: CCC Recruitment Poster from the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission



Document 3

Source description: Photograph of Navajo enrollees of the CCC Indian Division posing in front of completed work at Chaco Canyon National Monument, New Mexico



Document 4

Source description: Robert Fechner to Thomas L. Griffith, 21 September 1935

September 21, 1935

Mr. Thomas L. Griffith, Jr.
President
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
1105 E. Vernon Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Griffith:

The President has called my attention to the letter you addressed to him on September 14, 1935, in which you ask for information relating to the policy of segregation in CCC camps.

The law enacted by Congress setting up Emergency Conservation Work specifically indicated that there should be no discrimination because of color. I have faithfully endeavored to obey the spirit and letter of this, as well as all other provisions of the law.

At the very beginning of this work, I consulted with many representative individuals and groups who were interested in the work, and the decision to segregate white enrollees, negro enrollees, and war veterans, was generally approved. I believe that the record of the past thirty months will sustain the wisdom of our decision.

While segregation has been the general policy, it has not been inflexible, and we have a number of companies containing a small number of negro enrollees. I am satisfied that the negro enrollees themselves prefer to be in companies composed exclusively of their own race.

This segregation is not discrimination and cannot be so construed. The negro companies are assigned to the same types of work, have identical equipment, are served the same food, and have the same quarters as white enrollees. I have personally visited many negro CCC companies and have talked with the enrollees and have never received one single complaint. I want to assure you that I am just as sincerely interested as anyone in making this work of the greatest possible value to all who have a part in it.

Sincerely yours,
(Sgn) ROBERT FECHNER
ROBERT FECHNER
Director

RF/bp

Document 5ty

Source description: Article from *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 13 January 1934: 7.

NEW YORK, N.Y. —It required just one month and six days to get an honorable discharge from the Civilian Conservation Corps and his last month's pay for Eddie Simons, Harlem youth, after the N.A.A.C.P. took up his case. The story is an interesting one, illustrating as it does some of the difficulties confronting young Negroes in the forestry service officered largely by white Southerners, as well as the Willingness of the administration to do justice when pressed for action.

Young Simons was dishonorably discharged and his last month's pay withheld at Camp No. 5, North Lisbon, N.J., on September 26, when he refused to stand and fan flies from a white officer, Lt. J. A. Elmore of the 16th Infantry, temporarily in charge of the camp.

Simons told the officer he did not think fanning flies was part of his duty. Lt. Elmore thereupon dishonorably discharged the lad and denied him his last month's pay although admitting that Simons' record was good.

The N.A.A.C.P. immediately took up the case and protested to Robert Fechner, director of the Emergency Conservation Work, who acknowledged his letter, and promised investigation. Three weeks later director Fechner again wrote the N.A.A.C.P. that he had directed that Eddie Simons be given an honorable discharge "free from any charge of insubordination" and that "he be paid all cash allowances and allotments due."

Document 6

Source description: Article from Civilian Conservation Corps newspaper "Happy Days" about a Federal Emergency Relief Association Camp for Women, August 12, 1933

Girl Campers Get "Fatigue"

K. P. Is Not Unknown at Camp Tera on the Hud- son River

At Camp Tera, On-The-Hudson. In the mornings the girls make up their bunks and polce up their tent decks. During the rest of the day they sew and practice typing, book-keeping and dancing and drama. There are some 200 in camp. Miss Marlon Tinker is camp director. This is at Mrs. Roosevelt's girl camp in the Bear Mountains, N. Y.

The girls make much less than do members of the C. C. C. They are allowed \$5 a week and their rations must come out of this. They eat less solid food than do the peavies and they go in for a lot of pastries and things like that.

The name of their camp is Tera. It is pronounced like terror. The letters in the name stand for The Emergency Relief Association.

Some of the girls are pretty. All are happy. They say they never want to go back to New York from where they came. Life has been tough to most of them.

A striking thing about the camp is that the double-deck bunks are not made up any better than are bunks in the average C. C. C. camp.

Stews and clowns make a practice of calling the camp over the phone and trying to date the girls. You can't date the girls.

Many peavies have written wanting to know about the camp. One of our reporters was in the neighborhood of the camp in New York and went by. He just happened to be near the camp.

Document 7

Source description: Excerpts from Final Report of the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, April 1933 through June 30, 1942, by J.J. McEntee

...The CCC left the nation a vastly improved natural resources balance sheet which carried such items on the asset side as three billion of trees planted, 125, 000 miles of truck trails built, 89,000 miles of telephone lines, 800 new state parks developed, 40,000,000 million acres of farm lands benefitted through erosion control, and the rehabilitation of drainage ditches, better grazing conditions on the public domain and an increasing wildlife population. The present and future value of the work completed was estimated as having a present and future value of \$2,000,000,000.

...The Corps built up the bodies and minds of millions of young Americans against a day of need – which is now – made them better able and more willing to fight for their country. It also gave them invaluable training to thousands of regular and reserve officers (60,000 reserve officers served in the Corps) against the same day of need. There are thousands of men now better army officers and hundreds of thousands of youths now better non-commissioned officers and soldiers because of their training and experiences in the CCC. They are better citizens, better Americans, because of the CCC – and America is a better place to live in because of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

...During the nine and a quarter years it operated, the CCC afforded direct employment to approximately three million men – most of them aged between seventeen and twenty-three. Roughly, five percent of the total male population has at some time worked with the CCC. In the lower age bracket – as high as ten to fifteen percent have had this employment. Conservatively, each of the men employed directly affected (largely by supporting) about three other people -- meaning that through its operations, nearly ten percent of the total population of the country has, for some period of time, been affected by the Civilian Conservation Corps economically or socially.

...Of all the by-products of the depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps may prove to be the most worthy of a permanent place in the American way of life in the years after the War.