

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY

2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

Analyze the origins and outcomes of the intense cultural conflicts of the 1920s. In your response, focus on TWO of the following.

- Immigration
- Prohibition
- Religion

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that addresses the origins and outcomes of the intense cultural conflicts of the 1920s regarding two issues.
- Develops the thesis with substantial and specific relevant historical information related to two issues.
- Provides effective analysis of the origins and outcomes of the intense cultural conflicts related to two issues; treatment of the two issues may be somewhat uneven; treatment of origins and outcomes for each issue may be somewhat uneven.
- May contain minor errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Is well organized and well written.

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a partially developed thesis that addresses the origins and outcomes of intense cultural conflicts of the 1920s regarding two issues.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant historical information related to two issues.
- Provides some analysis of the origins and outcomes of the intense cultural conflicts related to two issues; treatment of the two issues may be substantially uneven; treatment of origins and outcomes for each issue may be substantially uneven.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- Contains an undeveloped, confused, or unfocused thesis or simply paraphrases the question.
- Provides minimal relevant information or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- Describes two issues in a general way or addresses outcomes and origins of only one issue.
- May contain major errors.
- May be poorly organized, poorly written, or both.

The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response or is off topic (zero).
- Contains numerous errors.
- Is poorly organized, poorly written, or both.

The — Essay

- Is blank.

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Question 4 (continued)

Potential Outside Information

Immigration

Origins

- Increased immigration from southern and eastern Europe (“new immigrants”) between 1891 and 1920 (25 million between 1865 and 1915, more than four times the number in the previous 50 years; 3.2 million arrived after the First World War); increased immigration from Mexico, 1921–1930.
- Immigrants arrived with little money and little education; lived in tenements (crowded, unsanitary, with inadequate public services); clustered in ethnic communities (“immigrant ghettos”); created organizations around ethnic/religious identities (Irish: Roman Catholic parish; Jews: synagogues, Hebrew schools; Germans: singing societies) that were seen as a barrier to assimilation.
- Labor unions feared immigrants would act as strikebreakers; immigrants were seen as difficult/undesirable to unionize.
- Nativism prior to 1920 and in 1920 seen in the following:
 - Some Progressives favored immigration restriction as a way to solve urban problems (poverty, overcrowding, social unrest, unemployment, drug use); also wanted to assimilate immigrants through Americanization.
 - American Protective Association (anti-Catholic) advocated immigration restriction (1890s).
 - Immigration Restriction League 1894
 - 1917 Immigration Act did the following:
 - Required literacy test (earlier attempts to pass literacy tests vetoed by Grover Cleveland in 1896, by William Howard Taft in 1913, by Woodrow Wilson in 1915; in 1917 Wilson vetoed another; this act was passed over his veto); prohibited certain political radicals.
 - Created “Asiatic Barred Zone” (Japan and Korea were left out, but prior limitations on laborers from China and Japan still applied).
 - Mexicans were exempted temporarily.
 - Antiforeign sentiment during First World War, particularly against German Americans; focus on “100% Americanism.”
 - Post–First World War depression blamed unemployment on increased immigration; AFL proposed halting immigration for two years; fear that immigrant workers raised unemployment and lowered wages.
 - Red Scare 1919–1920: fear of radicalism and association of immigrants with radicalism; fear of Bolshevik Revolution; 1920 bombing on Wall Street killed 38 and was blamed on immigrant anarchists.
 - Anti-Chinese and anti-Japanese attitudes arose in the United States, particularly in the West, during late 19th–early 20th centuries.
 - Fear of southern and eastern Europeans grew.
 - Race-thinking and eugenics became popular (Madison Grant, *The Passing of the Great Race*, 1916).
 - Some western states forbade Asian immigrants to own or lease land: California’s 1913 Alien Land Act stated “aliens not eligible for citizenship” could not purchase or lease land for longer than three years.
- Ku Klux Klan became more powerful in the 1920s:
 - Revived in 1915: William J. Simmons, *The Birth of a Nation*, Edward Clarke, Elizabeth Tyler.
 - Hiram Wesley Evans became imperial wizard in 1922.
 - Advocated “100 percent Americanism.”
 - Championed white supremacy (slogan: “Native, White, Protestant Supremacy”).

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Question 4 (continued)

- Became a force in Democratic Party politics, particularly in Midwest and small-town United States.
- Practiced systematic terror against blacks, Jews, Catholics, foreigners.
- Faded after D. C. Stephenson affair, Indiana, 1925.
- Lothrop Stoddard, in *The Rising Tide of Color Against White World Supremacy*, 1924, warned against “weakening” of white race through immigration and “mongrelization”; believed in “race types.”
- Anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism were popular.
- Many small-town and rural Americans feared urbanization.

Outcomes

- Ku Klux Klan expanded in the 1920s.
- Challenges arose to race-thinking and nativism: cultural pluralism (Horace Kallen’s term in 1924); anthropologists argued that no scientific evidence existed for racial theories or hierarchical order of societies from “primitive” to “civilized” (Franz Boas, Ruth Benedict).
- Some immigrants championed the idea of ethnic Americans; B’nai B’rith and National Catholic Welfare Council lobbied against discrimination against immigrants by employers, colleges, or government.
- Trial of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, 1921, and execution, 1927, showed fear and association of immigrants with political radicalism.
- California’s 1920 Alien Land Act prohibited land rentals by aliens ineligible for citizenship or by corporations with stock held by aliens ineligible for citizenship.
- Immigration Act (Emergency Quota Act) of 1921 included the following:
 - Established overall maximum of 357,000 immigrants per year.
 - Established quotas based on national origins: 3 percent of each country’s nationals residing in United States in 1910.
- Married Women’s Act (Cable Act) of 1922 said that “any woman citizen who married an alien ineligible for citizenship shall cease to be a citizen of the United States”; women could not acquire citizenship by virtue of spouse’s status but instead had to apply on their own.
- *Ozawa v. United States* (1922) decided that Japanese immigrants were inassimilable aliens and racially ineligible for United States citizenship; Supreme Court ruled that the definition of race was not a scientific one but was based on the “understanding of the common man”; therefore “white persons,” the phrase in the law, meant northern and western Europeans.
- In *Myer v. Nebraska* (1923), the Supreme Court struck down state laws prohibiting teaching in a language other than English.
- In *United States v. Thind* (1923), the Supreme Court ruled that Asian Indian immigrants were inassimilable aliens and racially ineligible for United States citizenship.
- Johnson-Reed Immigration Act (National Origins Act) of 1924 established National Origins Plan to begin 1929:
 - Cut maximum to 164,000 and reduced European quotas to 2 percent of nationality in United States in 1890, thereby discriminating against southern and eastern Europeans.
 - Excluded “aliens ineligible for citizenship” (East and South Asia, Japan; Chinese already excluded by law 1882, 1892).
 - Filipinos, Mexicans, Canadians (Western Hemisphere) exempted.
 - Prevented Asian women from joining their husbands in United States.
 - Allowed foreign-born wives and children of United States citizens to enter as nonquota immigrants.
 - Divided balance of world into so-called five colored races (black, mulatto, Chinese, Japanese, Indian).

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Question 4 (continued)

- Created a new category: “illegal alien.”
- In *Hidemitsu v. United States* (1925), Supreme Court forbade naturalization of Japanese (to maintain distinction of race and color in naturalization laws).
- Hispanic immigration included the following:
 - Legal arrivals from Mexico peaked at 89,000 in 1924, after which the Mexican government restricted emigration to United States.
 - Illegal immigration increased because of southwestern agricultural productions and the demand for “stoop labor.”
 - Hispanics were the fastest growing minority in the United States, especially from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.
 - Mexican communities grew in San Antonio, Denver, El Paso, and Los Angeles; smaller communities existed in Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, and Gary; Spanish Harlem in New York City; barrios.
 - Formation of mutual aid societies (*mutualistas*), which became centers of resistance to civil rights violations and discrimination.
 - Federation of Mexican Workers Unions was formed in 1928.
 - League of United Latin American Citizens was formed in 1929 by middle-class Mexican professionals.
- United States Border Patrol was established in 1925; made border crossing from Mexico more difficult (head taxes, visa fees, literacy tests, document checks).
- National Origins Act was revised in 1927; established new quotas to begin in 1929:
 - Set annual limit of 150,000; completely excluded Japanese immigrants.
 - European quotas were decided in proportion to “national origins” (country of birth or descent) of continental United States inhabitants in 1920.
 - Immigrants from Western Hemisphere (except potential paupers as defined by Labor Department) were excluded from quotas.
- In *Buck v. Bell* (1927), Supreme Court upheld Virginia’s law requiring compulsory sterilization of so-called unfit people, including people who were mentally retarded, “for the protection and health of the state”; more states began to pass compulsory sterilization laws; sterilization was used as a method of dealing with the immigrant population.
- Mexicans were subjected to discrimination in employment and residence patterns:
 - Often confined to barrios; legal restrictions in some states on employment, such as teaching, legal profession, public works projects.
 - Agribusiness interests tried to keep borders open, using racial stereotyping as their weapon (only Mexicans could perform physically demanding work “owing to their crouching and bending habits”).
- Anti-Filipino riots in California took place in 1929, resulting in 1934 legislation to eliminate immigration from the Philippines.

Prohibition

Origins

- Prior to 1920 the following took place:
 - Temperance movement (Women’s Christian Temperance Union) arose.
 - Some Progressives supported prohibition; temperance was partly an expression of the belief that immigrants’ use of liquor had to be disciplined.
 - Anti-Saloon League (1893, 1895), supported by Methodist and Baptist clergy, worked for prohibition; challenged by brewing associations in battleground states (e.g., Texas) to get “wet” voters to polls.
 - Jubilee Convention, 1913, of the Anti-Saloon League endorsed constitutional amendment.

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Question 4 (continued)

- Webb-Kenyon Act of 1913 outlawed shipment of alcohol into dry states; vetoed by Taft, overridden by Congress.
- In 1914 Anti-Saloon League began push for constitutional amendment and advocated making states liquor free.
- In 1916 election two-thirds majorities in both houses of Congress were prohibitionists.
- By 1917 three of four Americans lived in dry counties; by 1920, 26 states had prohibition laws; almost two-thirds of states adopted laws forbidding manufacture and sale of alcohol.
- First World War saw no use of grain for liquor; brewing industry was connected to German immigrants.
- Eighteenth Amendment was passed by Congress in December 1917, was ratified in 1919, and took effect in January 1920: prohibited manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages; supported by every state except Connecticut and Rhode Island (large Catholic populations).
- Volstead Act of 1919 (passed over Wilson’s veto) said “no person shall manufacture, sell, barter, transport, import, export, deliver, or furnish any intoxicating liquor except as authorized by this act.” Did not prohibit the use of intoxicating liquors. Defined intoxicating liquor as any beverage containing more than 0.5 percent alcohol by volume. Established federal Prohibition Bureau for enforcement.
- Prohibition as the “noble experiment” involved the following:
 - Arguments against drinking: family decline; liquor interests corrupted state legislatures and helped political machines (bosses worked in conjunction with saloons, brothels, and gambling clubs and exploited “ignorant”); eroded workforce and business/labor efficiency; declining morals and religious values; poverty, crime, unemployment, bad labor conditions, unrestrained sexuality.
 - Arguments for Prohibition: moral reform to regenerate society.
 - Ku Klux Klan supported Prohibition.
 - Wets vs. Drys; small-town and rural Americans’ fear of urbanization, “wet” culture, and immigrant culture.

Outcomes

- Fewer arrests were made for drunkenness; deaths from alcoholism declined.
- As problems associated with drinking declined, its urgency as a social issue receded.
- Drinking was still pervasive in United States society (lawbreaking, speakeasies, increased drinking among women and college students, bathtub gin, home brew, home-made stills, moonshiners, hip flasks), but alcohol consumption was reduced by almost half; “Jake Walkers,” nervous disorder from drinking methyl and wood alcohol, were especially common during Prohibition.
- Bootlegging grew (took in about \$2 billion/year, about 2 percent of GNP); rumrunners flourished, particularly from Canada, Mexico, and West Indies.
- Prohibition Bureau tried unsuccessfully to enforce it the law but had few employees and little federal money.
- Organized crime rose: gang wars of Chicago; Scarface Al Capone; became a permanent part of United States society.
- Eliot Ness and the FBI emerged as key figures in law enforcement.
- Problems surfaced for the Democratic Party (e.g., election of 1928: Wets vs. Drys; Democrat Alfred E. Smith opposed Prohibition).
- Liquor and brewing interests wanted repeal, as did the Association Against the Prohibition Amendments (founded in 1918, undertook publicity campaign in 1928).
- In 1923 New York repealed its enforcement law; by 1930 six more states followed.

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Question 4 (continued)

- Report of Wickersham Commission, 1931, was appointed by Herbert Hoover; recognized widespread evasion of Prohibition and its negative effects on United States society, but still recommended additional enforcement of laws against alcohol (favored revising but did not call for repeal).
 - Reaction to Wickersham Commission report by Franklin P. Adams, *New York World* columnist:

Prohibition is an awful flop.
It's left a trail of graft and slime,
We like it.
It don't prohibit worth a dime,
It can't stop what it's meant to stop.
It's filled our land with vice and crime.
We like it.
Nevertheless, we're for it.
- In 1932 the Democrats and Franklin Roosevelt strongly urged repeal in their election campaign.
- Beer-Wine Revenue Act of 1932 allowed manufacture and sale of beer and light wine with a 3.2 percent alcohol content (with a tax levied on both) as an interim measure pending the repeal of Prohibition.
- Prohibition was repealed in 1933 via the Twenty-first Amendment.

Religion

Origins

- Modernism began in the 1870s as an attempt by liberal Protestants to make Christianity more relevant to contemporary life; Harry Emerson Fosdick.
- Fundamentalism began to grow (conservative Protestants who tried to counter Modernism):
 - Fundamentalists wanted a return to fundamentals of Christian faith, e.g., virgin birth, resurrection of Jesus, literal reading of Bible.
 - Publication of *The Fundamentals*, 1910–1915, a series of essays affirming orthodox Protestant belief.
 - After 1920 some conservative Protestants began calling themselves “Fundamentalists.”
 - Fundamentalists rejected modern science, particularly Darwinian evolution, as inconsistent with revealed word of God; also rejected the Social Gospel.
- William Jennings Bryan was seen as the foremost national leader of fundamentalism and opposition to evolution because of his prestige and eloquence.
- Ideas that appeared to threaten biblical faith and religion included Darwinism, pragmatism, science, relativism of moral values, and psychology (Sigmund Freud).
- Rural and small-town Americans felt threatened by urban, secular culture.
- The Ku Klux Klan appealed to “traditional” Protestantism; anti-Catholicism (Hiram Wesley Evans), anti-Semitism; argued it was protecting traditional Protestantism and morality.
- Anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism made an appearance in larger society:
 - Clubs, resorts, and fraternal organizations prohibited Jews and Catholics.
 - Henry Ford sponsored the anti-Semitic *Dearborn Independent*.
 - Quotas were placed on Jews admitted to colleges and medical schools; Catholics created their own schools and colleges.
 - Some suburbs limited residents to “Christians.”

Outcomes

- Ku Klux Klan grew in the 1920s; it tried to institute compulsory Bible reading in schools and restrict parochial schools.

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Question 4 (continued)

- Some southern states attempted to prohibit teaching of evolution: by 1925 five southern states had passed laws restricting such teaching.
- Scopes Trial took place in Dayton, Tennessee, in 1925 (ACLU; John T. Scopes; Clarence Darrow; William Jennings Bryan, who was hired by World Christian Fundamentalist Association; H. L. Mencken. Tennessee Supreme Court overturned Scopes's conviction on a technicality.
- Bryan Bible League was founded to support an amendment to the United States Constitution opposing evolution (also supported by Anti-Evolution League).
- Fundamentalism remained a force in United States religion:
 - Southern Baptist Convention was the fastest-growing Protestant church.
 - Fundamentalists created their own independent subculture, with schools, camps, radio ministries, missionary societies, periodicals, and newspapers.
 - Churches of Christ, Pentecostals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and other fundamentalist sects grew.
- Evangelical revivalism arose (not necessarily rejecting urban, consumer culture):
 - Aimee Semple McPherson, International Church of the Four-Square Gospel, Los Angeles, 1927, was the first woman to hold a radio license; had second most popular radio show in the city — *The Old Fashioned Revival Hour* — which was carried on 356 stations with an audience of over 20 million.
 - Billy Sunday, ex-baseball player (Chicago White Sox), became a national celebrity evangelist; worked with YMCA.
 - Father Divine was popular in Long Island, New York.
- In the election of 1928, Democrat Alfred E. Smith's Catholicism became an issue; first Roman Catholic to run for president on a major party ticket, he did better with urban, ethnic voters but lost southern and rural voters.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4 A
1 of 5

Part A — Mandatory
1

Part B — Circle one
2 or 3

Part C — Circle one
④ or 5

4 A
1 of 5

The 1920s were a time of significant cultural conflicts in the United States. The causes of these conflicts came with the massive ~~shifts~~ changes that were occurring in America at the time, such as the spread of the radio and mass media, and the ~~growing~~ growing shift of populations from rural to urban lifestyles. The different values and ways of life in these different places led to significant conflict in how certain matters were to be seen and handled, particularly ~~the~~ Prohibition and Religion. The ultimate outcome of all of these movements was generally the same — while neither side of the conflict strictly "won", the end result was a gradual progression from the old ways into the new ones that had resulted from mass culture and urban population shifts.

Prohibition was one of the most interesting issues of the 1920s, having its

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4A
2 of 5

Part A — Mandatory
1

Part B — Circle one
2 or 3

Part C — Circle one
④ or 5

4A
2 of 5

roots in problems resulting from (mostly men; prohibition was largely advocated by women) ~~men~~ people, often heads of family becoming dependent on alcohol and essentially drinking away the family's money and food. This had become such an issue by the 1920s that an amendment did pass ~~to~~ to enact Prohibition, and so setting the stage for one of the major societal conflicts of the 1920s.

Religion was another major issue ~~that~~ of intense cultural conflict in the 1920s. Unlike the result of a long-desired change, however, the cultural conflict that ~~became~~ religion in the 1920s was the result of new changes that were occurring in society at the time. One major factor of this was the major demographic change that was occurring at the time — 1920 was the first year in American history when more Americans lived in urban areas than in rural ones. This meant that over 50% of

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4 A
3 of 5

Part A — Mandatory
1

Part B — Circle one
2 or 3

Part C — Circle one
④ or 5

4 A
3 of 5

the country's population was new in cities. This demographic shift, along with the intensely different culture that existed in cities, served to spark religious conflict, particularly since the difference in the way religion was regarded was very different in urban areas. The other major cause of the religious cultural conflict ~~was~~ was ~~that~~ the establishment of mass culture for the first time in the 1920s, with the rapid emergence of the radio. As a result, the culture of the cities also spread to rural areas by way of radio, creating ~~a~~ a tension caused by the infiltration of new ideas and values into more traditional climates.

Prohibition's reality proved a very different from its original plan, sparking a conflict over whether it ~~was~~ was worth the effort to maintain or perhaps it shouldn't have even passed in the first place. The attitude

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4A
4 of 5

Part A — Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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4A
4 of 5

established to enforce prohibition was
tiny, so right at the bat people began to
ignore or circumvent its existence. Secret
bars opened up in the backs of buildings,
offering alcohol, very rarely being detected.
Illegal "moonshine" sales exploded. Even
affluent or upper-class americans drank;
even with prohibition, alcohol was
easy to acquire discreetly. ~~For the reason~~
So, prohibition was rather ineffective at
achieving the goals it was created
to do. Furthermore, prohibition led to
the quick success of illicit entrepreneurs,
and ~~the~~ gangs such as the famous one headed
by Al Capone quickly grew in wealth and
power, leading to gang conflicts like the
St. Valentine's massacre in Chicago. Other
similar gangs emerged elsewhere — in the
era, after a decade of such conflict,
prohibition was ultimately repealed
with a second amendment made to nullify
it.

~~Re: The cultural~~

The overall outcome of the cultural
issue of religion, however, was not as

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4A
5 of 5

Part A — Mandatory
1

Part B — Circle one
2 or 3

Part C — Circle one
4 or 5

4A
5 of 5

clear-cut significant movements with disregard for traditional religious values, like the emergence of flappers, independent young women who wore "scandalous" fashions and participated in "amoral" activities. These movements found their way back to rural areas too, by way of radio, creating conflicts there as well. The Scopes Monkey Trial was another such issue — a court case over the legality of a law forbidding the teaching of evolution in Tennessee schools. A teacher, Mr. Scopes, volunteered to teach this illegally so he took to court to publicize the issue. The matter was huge — thanks to the radio, people all over the ~~note~~ nation were paying attention to the event. At the trial William Jennings Bryan argued against ~~the~~ Scopes, and was ultimately reduced to sounding like a fool by the detented lawyer. While Scopes legally lost the case, ~~the~~ traditional, fundamentalist religious lost the real battle, the entire nation watching Bryan being essentially detented in his detente (he died 4 days later). While the conflict was the team over, the ultimate outcome at the 20's on religion was a progression to a new, less strict view on religion in general.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4B
1 of 3

Part A — Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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4B
1 of 3

The 1920's were a period of rapid change as businesses and citizens ~~flourished~~ flourished in newfound wealth and prosperity. However, many people worried about the deteriorating nature of society and blamed the problems of crime, corruption and poverty on alcohol and the new influx of immigrants from around the world. Although attempts to regulate alcohol and immigration came out with mixed results, they still represent a remarkable attempt by American citizens to rectify society.

For many Americans, particularly religious people and reformers, alcohol was a source of corruption and misjudgement in society. These people, known as prohibitionists, advocated the complete removal of alcohol from society. Shortly before 1920, the United States ratified the 18th Amendment, which banned the sale and production of alcohol everywhere in the United States. However, these effects were limited. Many people began smuggling alcohol from foreign countries (bootleggers) and some ~~continued~~ continued to brew beer, whiskey and wine right at home. A series of secret taverns ~~known~~ known as speakeasies became commonplace, and organized crime led by legendary criminals such as Al Capone grew rampant. Dissatisfied ~~that~~ that Prohibition had caused more problems than solutions, the 18th Amendment was quickly repealed by the 21st Amendment.

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4B
2 of 3

Part A — Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one ④ or 5
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4B
2 of 3

Immigration marked a similar problem in cultural conflict in the 1920's. A new wave of immigration brought in the poor, battered, and dejected masses from Eastern and Southern Europe, such as Italy and Russia. Millions poured into the East Coast at Ellis Island, and many more came to the West Coast from Asia to Angel Island. As the population swelled, many immigrants lived in slums and urban tenements, where crime was rampant and jobs were cheap and exhausting. The "old" immigrants, from northern and western Europe, considered these newcomers to be cultural and economic threats to their livelihoods. As a result, racial ~~and~~ Annual quotas on immigration were established, and Chinese immigrants were barred completely with the Chinese Exclusion Act. Margaret Sanger, founder of the birth control movement, advocated birth control as a means to prevent the "lesser" races and immigrants from reproducing. In the 1920s, membership in the Ku Klux Klan also soared, and the organization began to target Jews and ethnic minorities in addition to African Americans. In response to the influx of immigration in the 1920s, nationalistic nativism and racism abounded.

The 1920s were rife with cultural conflicts which split apart the dynamic melting pot of society. Although attempts at prohibition ~~were unsuccessful~~ and extreme stances against immigration were enacted, neither's acts are still implemented

Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

4C
1 of 2

Part A — Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or 5
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4C
1 of 2

The 1920s was a time of great cultural change in terms of religion and prohibition.

During the 1920s era, religion in America experienced a cultural revolution. The Roaring Twenties were known for many things: flappers, jazz, the Lost Generation - but certainly not for religion. In the midst of all the change in American society and culture that took place in the 20s, religion took a backseat. Religion represented traditional America. The people of the 1920s wanted nothing more than to defy everything traditional they had ever known. The Victorian Era influence was disregarded by young people. Her ~~values~~ religious morals & ideals meant nothing to the new 'hip' generation. Society moved away from religion, therefore moving away from traditional concepts that had previously reigned supreme in America. Religion proved to be one of many intense & highly debated cultural conflicts of the Twenties.

Another cultural conflict that took place during the 1920s era was prohibition. The 18th amendment, prohibiting the buying and selling of alcohol, was meant to have positive & beneficial results in America. Instead, just the opposite occurred. With prohibition came serious corruption throughout America. People could no

4C
2 of 2Part A — Mandatory
1Part B — Circle one
2 or 3Part C — Circle one
4 or 54C
2 of 2

longer purchase alcohol at the store, so bootlegging quickly became a popular hobby. 'Speak-easys' and secret clubs were created so that people could ^{continue to buy} drink. Mobs and gangs rose up in major cities, promoting further crime and corruption. The alcohol business became a dangerous one. Prohibition was ~~created~~ created so that America would return to its former, wholesome ideals, but instead it only pushed them farther away. American culture experienced great change due to Prohibition and the 18th amendment.

The 1920s was surely a time of significant change. American society & culture experienced a revolution through religion and prohibition. The people of ~~the~~ this era ran the opposite way from anything representing old traditions & morals - such as religion and the banning of alcohol. America would go on to have many more radical changes in culture throughout history.

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY 2012 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

This question asked students to analyze the origins and outcomes of the intense cultural conflicts of the 1920s by focusing on two of three issues: immigration, prohibition, and religion. Although students needed to reference information related to the topics chosen, the question asked them to analyze cultural conflict(s) illustrated by the issues rather than to describe the issues themselves.

Sample: 4A

Score: 9

The opening paragraph of this essay contains a well-developed thesis with an overview of the general forces (spread of mass media, growth of urban population, shifting cultural values) that produced cultural conflicts in the 1920s. The essay then discusses origins of specific conflicts over prohibition (alcoholism, threats to families) and religion (urban vs. rural). The third section analyzes the outcomes of conflicts over both prohibition (moonshine, organized crime, violence) and religion (Scopes trial). The thesis is developed throughout the essay. The analysis is sophisticated, and information is used effectively to support the analysis. The organization of the discussion helps make this a solid, superior essay.

Sample: 4B

Score: 5

This essay begins with a thesis that addresses cultural conflicts related to prohibition and immigration. It analyzes and supports the thesis with some relevant information on prohibition, although it is stronger on outcomes (smuggling, continued alcohol production, speakeasies, crime, Capone, eventual repeal) than origins (religious reformers objecting to alcohol). As a result, its treatment of origins and outcomes within that topic is substantially uneven. The discussion of immigration analyzes both origins and outcomes, with some relevant information on both (origins — increased immigration, dislike of new immigrants and Asians, racism; outcomes — immigration quotas, banning of Chinese immigrants, Sanger, Ku Klux Klan, nativism, racism). The error on the Chinese Exclusion Act does not detract from the overall quality of the essay.

Sample: 4C

Score: 3

This essay contains an undeveloped thesis that is stated in its conclusion. It describes two issues, religion and prohibition, in a general way. The discussion of religion says little about origins or outcomes of cultural conflicts related to religion. On prohibition, there is minimal information on the outcomes of prohibition itself (corruption, bootlegging, gangs, crime), but little on the origins of cultural conflict relating to prohibition, except the desire of Americans “to return to [the country’s] former, wholesome ideals.”