

## Chapter 25

# The Great Depression and the New Deal, 1929-1939

### Practice Test

1. What occurred on "Black Tuesday"?
  - A) Germany attacked Poland
  - B) A stock market crash wiped all the gains of the previous year
  - C) Hoover announced he would take no action regarding the faltering farm economy.
  - D) U.S. steel announced a layoff of over half its workers
  
2. The Wall Street crash
  - A) was triggered by excessive government spending.
  - B) only affected middle-class Americans.
  - C) marked the beginning of the depression, but did not cause it.
  - D) was caused by the low level of investment in the 1920s.
  
3. All of the following were causes of the Great Depression EXCEPT
  - A) unequal distribution of wealth.
  - B) a drop in agricultural production in the mid-1920s.
  - C) the dominance of oligopolies in the American economy.
  - D) reckless banking and speculation unchecked by regulation.
  
4. In the early years of the depression,
  - A) foreign markets for American goods shrank.
  - B) voluntarism was rejected by the Hoover administration.
  - C) unemployment had not emerged as a major problem.
  - D) farmers' incomes rose dramatically.
  
5. The depression was prolonged when
  - A) the government ordered that more exports be sold in Europe.
  - B) banks voluntarily submitted to regulatory policies.
  - C) the Federal Reserve Board restricted the nation's money supply.
  - D) unemployment skyrocketed.
  
6. In the first years of the depression, personal income
  - A) remained steady, but prices rose.
  - B) did not emerge as a major problem area.
  - C) dropped by more than half.
  - D) reflected the relative strength of the industrial economy.

7. What were Hoovervilles?
- A) Squalid collections of shacks where the homeless of America's cities lived.
  - B) The numerous soup kitchens that were constructed to feed the nation's hungry.
  - C) Rich sections of town where wealthy Republicans lived.
  - D) Suburban towns that experienced sharp downturns during the depression.
8. Which statement about women during the depression is NOT true?
- A) Women were generally less likely to be fired than men.
  - B) Many of the nation's school districts refused to hire married women.
  - C) Opposition to women doing "men's jobs" stiffened during the depression.
  - D) Firing women usually opened up more job opportunities for men.
9. Social effects of the depression included all of the following EXCEPT
- A) lower birthrates.
  - B) higher divorce rates.
  - C) loss of self esteem by unemployed workers.
  - D) an increase in the number of men who deserted their families.
10. During the Depression many teens
- A) left home to allow for others in the family to eat.
  - B) attended school with hopes of going to college.
  - C) made their own clothes.
  - D) left home to escape parental authority.
11. Which statement about conditions for African-Americans during the depression is true?
- A) Unemployment rates for blacks stayed at the same high pre-depression rate.
  - B) Blacks received equal treatment in receiving aid from relief programs.
  - C) Blacks were generally the first workers to be fired and the last to be hired.
  - D) Religious charity groups provided help for blacks.
12. During the depression, Hispanic Americans
- A) were able to move up to middle-class status.
  - B) experienced little discrimination in finding work.
  - C) always resisted returning to Mexico.
  - D) lost many jobs due to prejudice against them.
13. Which statement best summarizes protest movements in the early years of the depression?
- A) Demonstrations were virtually nonexistent despite the awful conditions.
  - B) The government passed a law that made it illegal to stage any type of protest.
  - C) Protesters came from a vast range of social, political, and economic interests.
  - D) Conservative Republicans dominated the ranks of those who led protest movements.

14. One of Herbert Hoover's few relief measures was creation of the
- A) Works Progress Administration.
  - B) Farm Credit Act.
  - C) Emergency Banking Act.
  - D) Reconstruction Finance Corporation.
15. Franklin Roosevelt defeated Herbert Hoover in 1932 for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
- A) the public viewed Hoover as cold and ineffective at dealing with the depression.
  - B) Roosevelt had announced the specifics of his New Deal package of legislation.
  - C) Hoover's public image was damaged by the way he handled the Bonus Army incident.
  - D) Roosevelt's confidence and charisma provided hope for many American voters.
16. During the 1920s, Franklin Roosevelt
- A) married Eleanor.
  - B) served as assistant secretary of the navy.
  - C) bravely fought back against the ravages of polio.
  - D) switched from the Republican to the Democratic Party.
17. In the election of 1932,
- A) third-party candidates played a major role.
  - B) Roosevelt won by less than 5% of the vote.
  - C) Hoover's active campaigning was a major factor.
  - D) Roosevelt won every state south and west of Pennsylvania.
18. Which of the following acts was part of FDR's Hundred Days campaign?
- A) Glass-Steagall Act
  - B) Emergency Banking Act
  - C) Farm Credit Act
  - D) All of the above
19. "The 100 Days" refers to
- A) the active first three months of FDR's first term of office.
  - B) the "lame duck" final few months of Hoover's presidency.
  - C) the immediate after-effects of the Stock Market crash.
  - D) the length of the sitdown strike at Fisher body plant.
20. Franklin Roosevelt's first goal as president was to
- A) strengthen the faltering bank industry.
  - B) provide pensions for the elderly.
  - C) balance the national government's budget.
  - D) cut income taxes for the wealthy.

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21. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration
- A) combined work relief work with conservation.
  - B) furnished funds to local and state governments.
  - C) created a regulatory board for settling labor disputes.
  - D) was one of FDR's ideas that was rejected by Congress.
22. Which agency was created personally by FDR and was very popular with the public?
- A) The Wagner-Peyser Act
  - B) The Social Security Act
  - C) The Farm Credit Administration
  - D) The Civilian Conservation Corps
23. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration attempted to
- A) nationalize rail lines that carried farm products.
  - B) raise farm incomes by attacking overproduction.
  - C) decrease the emphasis on scientific agriculture.
  - D) acknowledge farmers' calls for collective bargaining rights.
24. The plight of American farmers during the depression was magnified by
- A) FDR's refusal to develop a comprehensive farm policy.
  - B) the Socialist Party's active role in rural politics of the 1930s.
  - C) devastating droughts and dust storms throughout the 1930s.
  - D) the refusal of large producers to participate in the AAA.
25. The Securities Act
- A) stabilized the private banking system.
  - B) established a national system of relief.
  - C) required full disclosure from stock exchanges.
  - D) guaranteed bank deposits.

### When?

*Directions- Fill in the letter 'A' if the event took place during FDR's first term or 'B' if the event took place during FDR's second term.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ AAA created to regulate farm production
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The Civilian Conservation Corps establishes many jobs in the area of conservation and reforestation projects.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Emergency Banking Act is passed in the effort to stabilize the banking system.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Social Security Act provides old-age pensions for the first time in U.S. history.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Congress, with the active support of labor, passes the Wagner Act.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ AAA ruled unconstitutional
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The Congress of Industrial Organizations is founded.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The Tennessee Valley Authority is created to coordinate regional development.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The Supreme Court rules the NRA unconstitutional.

### **Where?**

#### *Matching*

Match the following people with their home states.

William Lemke  
Francis Townsend  
Charles Coughlin  
Huey P. Long  
Robert Wagner

North Dakota  
California  
Michigan  
Louisiana  
New York

## How and Why?

1. How did Herbert Hoover's voluntarism fail to solve the problems of the Great Depression?
2. Describe the conflict that led to FDR's proposal that the president be given more power in the organization of the Supreme Court. What were the specifics of FDR's "court packing" proposals?
3. Discuss the ways in which the Depression affected the following groups: African Americans, Hispanics, and Mexicans.
4. Describe the important role that Eleanor Roosevelt played in the American political scene of the 1930s.
5. What factors led to a rift in the American Federation of Labor? How was the Congress of Industrial Organizations different from the A.F.L.?

6. In what ways were Herbert Hoover's economic ideas more progressive than his Republican predecessors in office? Despite these ideas, what political failings caused his demise as president?

7. Discuss and analyze the elements that produced Franklin Roosevelt's landslide victory over Herbert Hoover in the election of 1932.

8. Choose three New Deal relief programs and describe them. What were they designed to accomplish? What were the achievements and/or failings of these programs?

9. Many historians have stated that Franklin Roosevelt was "the right man at the right time." Evaluate the thematic evidence that produces this thesis.

10. Arthur Schlesinger has written that FDR's strengths included his ability to unite the nation against a common foe, and his instinct for finding the "vital center" of American thinking. What historical evidence caused Schlesinger to express this thesis?

11. Do you support those members of the black press who said that the National Recovery Administration (NRA) actually stood for “Negro Run Around” or “Negroes Ruined Again?” Why or why not? Cite specific examples of FDR’s reforms for African Americans that either support or refute these slogans.