

2024

AP[®]



AP[®] African American Studies

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Short-Answer Question 3

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3. Respond to parts A, B, C, and D.

- a. Describe one specific example of a nineteenth-century African American woman who fought against slavery.
- b. Using a specific example, explain how a twentieth-century African American woman artist, author, or activist influenced public perception about the oppression African Americans experienced.
- c. Using a different specific example, explain how African American women influenced the ideas or strategies of the modern Civil Rights movement.
- d. Describe one specific example of a new opportunity for African American women that emerged following the twentieth-century freedom movements.

Question 3: Non-Stimulus/Source**4 points**

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- (A) Describe one specific example of a nineteenth-century African American woman who fought against slavery. 1 point

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Maria Stewart was one of the first women to make a public speech. She condemned slavery and racism in speeches and in her writings.
- Harriet Tubman was one of the most well-known conductors on the Underground Railroad, freeing many African Americans from enslavement.
- Sojourner Truth was an activist who sold her portraits to raise money for the cause of abolition. She conducted speaking tours and recruited Black soldiers to the Union army.

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- (B) Using a specific example, explain how a twentieth-century African American woman artist, author, or activist influenced public perception about the oppression African Americans experienced. 1 point

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Ida B. Wells-Barnett was an activist and journalist who highlighted the violence African Americans faced. Through her work in writings, she exposed the racial violence African Americans experienced in the South at the hands of white mobs.
 - Josephine Baker was an international performer who used her platform to advocate for African Americans' equality. Baker critiqued the United States for promoting democracy abroad while at home African Americans continued to fight for their rights as citizens.
 - Maya Angelou was a writer and activist known for her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and poems such as "Still I Rise." Angelou's work often focuses on themes of racism and discrimination that highlight the challenges African Americans face in daily life.
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- (C) **Using a different specific example, explain how African American women influenced the ideas or strategies of the modern Civil Rights movement.** **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Rosa Parks was an activist working for the NAACP whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Park’s arrest and the boycott of the Montgomery city buses highlighted the unequal treatment of African Americans in the South.
- Kathleen Cleaver is a legal scholar and was an activist of the Black Panther Party and the Black Power movement. She encouraged Black people to embrace their natural beauty and become comfortable in their own skin.
- At 15 years old, Claudette Colvin refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger and was arrested for violating Montgomery, Alabama’s segregation laws. This occurred nine months before Rosa Parks. Colvin then became one of four plaintiffs to challenge these laws in court. In doing so, the court ruled Montgomery’s segregated bus system unconstitutional in 1956.
- Ella Baker was key in several civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, SCLC, and SNCC. She emphasized using grassroots organizing, student activism, and empowering local communities. These strategies became important in the SNCC's emphasis community-based, and nonviolent strategies.
- Fannie Lou Hamer was critical in getting African Americans in the South engaged in the voting process. Hamer's tireless efforts expanded African American political participation and brought attention to the broader struggle for civil rights and equality, inspiring the movement to address racial and gender injustices.
- Pauli Murray was a lawyer who provided guidelines for desegregation. Her guidelines were critical to proving the case in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which led to the Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

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- (D) **Describe one specific example of a new opportunity for African American women that emerged following the twentieth-century freedom movements.** **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Following the Civil Rights movement, Black voting power increased, which led to the election of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman in Congress.
 - The increase in Black political power and representation led to the appointment of Condoleezza Rice, the first Black woman to hold the position of secretary of state of the United States.
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- The increase in Black political power and representation led to the election of Kamala Harris as the first Black woman vice-president of the United States.
- African Americans' increased access to educational opportunities following the twentieth-century freedom movements led to African Americans' continued contributions to medicine, with Kizzmekia Corbett being a leading scientist in the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Total for question 3 4 points

Sojourner Truth, a nineteenth-century African American woman, fought against slavery through her activism and direct aid to enslaved African Americans. As an activist, Truth expressed the injustice of slavery and discrimination towards enslaved people, especially women, in public speeches such as her speech “Ain’t I a Woman,” which showed the intersectionality between being a woman and being African American. To directly aid enslaved African Americans, Truth worked with the Underground Railroad, which helped enslaved people escape bondage.

Author Gwendolyn Brooks influenced public perception about the oppression that African Americans experienced by publishing stories that showed what African Americans faced in their daily lives. In stories such as *Maud Martha*, Brooks shows the silent and normalized discrimination that African Americans faced, which helped raise discussion about the issue of oppression.

Activist Ella Baker influenced the strategies of the modern Civil Rights movement by creating and fostering early civil rights organizations that aimed to spread awareness and combat this issue. Regarded as the “mother” of the civil rights movement, Ella Baker helped create organizations such as SNCC, where students used non-violent tactics to fight for change and held public campaigns for this cause.

Following the twentieth-century freedom movements, African American women gained the opportunity to run for political offices. This was a monumental opportunity and gave way for many Black women to advocate for political and legal change in manners which had not been possible before. Women such as Condoleezza Rice and Kamala Harris have been able to use this opportunity to advocate for true equal rights for Black women.

A) An African American woman who fought against slavery was Harriet Tubman. She worked as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, leading groups of enslaved individuals to freedom on long and dangerous journeys to free territories. Tubman became free and escaped from a plantation at a young age, and continuously risked her life and freedom by returning to plantations and freeing more people. She used her knowledge of the natural world on these trips, relying on constellations to navigate and landmarks to guide her.

B) Following the publication of the *Feminine Mystique*, bell hooks, an African American author, published a response that changed the perception about the oppression that African Americans, women specifically, faced. hooks argued that the *Feminine Mystique* centered around the middle-to-upper-class white female perspective and overlooked the struggles of Black women. She pointed out that the *Feminine Mystique* focused on sexual rights rather than general rights, and it was important for African American women to first be granted general rights rather than domestic rights. hooks changed the perspective of African American oppression by highlighting the fact that Black women were doubly marginalized due to their racial and gender identities, and therefore faced even more oppression than African American men. She also warned them to be wary of the feminist movement as it could create a divide between African American men and women and take focus away from the Civil Rights Movement.

C) An African American woman that influenced the strategies of the modern Civil Rights movement was Rosa Parks. Embodying principles of nonviolent resistance, Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery Bus. By doing this, she protested the policy that required African Americans to sit at the back of the bus and give up their seat for a white person when all seats were occupied. Park's powerful act of protest was a catalyst for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted several months and ultimately resulted in the desegregation of Montgomery busses and the removal of these racist policies.

D) Following the twentieth-century freedom movements, the Black Panther Party offered a new opportunity for African American women. Frustrated with widespread poverty in Black communities, the Black Panther Party implemented a series of social welfare programs such as free medical clinics and free breakfasts for children. Women joined the party in resounding numbers, making up 70% of party members. In addition to organizing these programs, African American women modeled the BPP's philosophy of self-defense by carrying weapons to defend their community.

A. One specific example of a nineteenth-century African American woman who fought against slavery was Harriet Tubman. Harriet Tubman had a very big part of the Underground Railroad and helped lead people through their journeys. She herself traveled back 19 times to guide people and help fight against slavery.

B. Using a specific example, Zora Neale Hurston was an author who influenced public perception about the oppression African Americans experienced. Zora Neale Hurston who wrote many novels, specifically "Their Eyes Were Watching God," highlighted oppression that not just men, but also women faced through the story of a woman named Janie who followed the lives of three of her husbands. Many times Hurston as an author was talked down by African American men during the Harlem Renaissance who felt she did not write enough on oppression. After her death, Zora Neale Hurston became even more popular than when she was living and proved those men wrong due to many women being inspired by her and wrote more on stories about Hurston's life, but also more struggles about oppression that African Americans felt.

C. African American women influenced the ideas or strategies of the modern Civil Rights movement through the use of different forms of art. Many of these were seen throughout music, but also through novels and stories. Ida B. Wells was an author who fought for the rights of African Americans and also women. She constantly wrote on stories about African American's daily struggles, and also fighting for equal rights for all African American men and women throughout the Civil Rights movement. Many forms of art, specifically novels were ways in which many women and authors wrote and fought or influenced the ideas of the Civil Rights movement.

D. One specific example of a new opportunity for African American women that emerged following the twentieth-century freedom movements was the right to vote. Throughout history, African Americans went through a very long process to be able to vote, while eventually only allowing African American men to vote and later mandating literacy tests to be taken to be allowed this right. Following this opportunity for men, and later taking away the various tests required to be taken, women pushed for equality, and finally African American women as well as men were allowed to vote. This right to vote was one specific example of a new opportunity for African American women that emerged following the twentieth-century freedom movements.

Question 3 - Commentaries

Sample Identifier: 3A

Score: 4

- The response earned 1 point for accurately describing Sojourner Truth as an anti-slavery activist.
- The response earned 1 point for explaining how Gwendolyn Brooks used her platform to influence public perception about discrimination and oppression.
- The response earned 1 point for explaining Ella Baker’s work with students in creating the SNCC and their efforts to use “non-violent tactics to fight for change.”
- The response earned 1 point for describing how former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Vice President Kamala Harris benefited from political opportunities for Black women that emerged following twentieth-century movements.

Sample Identifier: 3B

Score: 3

- The response earned 1 point for describing an African American woman, Harriet Tubman, as someone who fought against slavery.
- The response earned 1 point by providing an example of a twentieth-century African American female author, bell hooks, and explaining how bell hooks influenced public perception.
- The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining how an African American woman, Rosa Parks, influenced the Civil Rights movement, describing the methods she used in her activism.
- The response did not earn a point for Part D because it does not describe a specific opportunity for African American women that resulted from the freedom movements of the twentieth century.

Sample Identifier: 3C

Score: 2

- The response earned 1 point for describing Harriet Tubman as Black woman who fought slavery in the nineteenth century.
- The response earned 1 point for explaining how Zora Neale Hurston was a twentieth-century Black woman who changed public perception about the oppression of African Americans.
- The response did not earn a point for Part D because Ida B. Wells (1862–1931) was not alive during the Civil Rights movement.

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- The response did not earn a point for Part D because it did not specifically describe a new opportunity for Black women in the twentieth century following the freedom movements; the reference to the right to vote occurred before the time period named in the prompt.