

2024



AP[®] United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

Inside:

Short-Answer Question 1

- Scoring Guidelines**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

Question 1: Short Answer Secondary Source**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

[a] Briefly describe one major difference between Anderson’s and Brennan’s historical interpretations of social change in the 1960s. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Anderson focuses on social activism, whereas Brennan focuses on conservatism.
- Anderson argues that protests were central to social change in the 1960s, whereas Brennan argues that conservative activism caused social change in the 1960s.
- Anderson says the actions of the political left defined the 1960s, while Brennan says the actions of the political right were important.

[b] Briefly explain how one development from 1945 to 1980 that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Anderson’s argument about social change in the 1960s. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Martin Luther King Jr. led a variety of protests against racial discrimination as part of the African American Civil Rights movement.
 - Black and White student activists collaborated closely in the African American Civil Rights movement working together for social change.
 - Debates among civil rights activists about the efficacy of nonviolence increased in the second half of the decade as other civil rights groups, like the Black Panthers, became more prominent.
 - Feminists who participated in the counterculture of the 1960s rejected many of the social, economic, and political values of their parents’ generation.
 - The sexual revolution of the 1960s led to major changes in sexual norms, including the Gay Rights movement.
 - Americans debated the appropriate power of the executive branch in conducting foreign and military policy.
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- Student activists led movements in the early part of the 1960s against nuclear weapons and in the middle and later parts of the decade against the Vietnam War.

[c] Briefly explain how one event or development from 1945 to 1980 that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Brennan’s argument about social change in the 1960s. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 demonstrated the rise of conservatism.
- The rise of the New Right demonstrated conservatives’ desire for significant tax cuts and the deregulation of many industries.
- Conservatives sought to limit the role of the federal government.
- Anticomunist sentiment during the Cold War contributed to the growth of conservatism.
- In the 1960s, conservatives challenged liberal laws and court decisions.
- In the 1960s, conservatives challenged perceived moral and cultural decline.
- Conservatives clashed with liberals over social and cultural issues, the power of the federal government, race, and movements for greater individual rights.

Total for question 1 3 points

- a) One major difference between Anderson's and Brennan's historical interpretations of social change in the 1960s is the relative importance of the activism taking place during the 1960s. Anderson claims that the social activism occurring in the 1960s was one of the most important events of the decade while Brennan claims that the rise of conservatism was a more important event within the decade.
- b) One development that could be used to support Anderson's argument from 1945 to 1980 about social change in the 1960s is the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights Movement used protests and civil disobedience to draw attention to the issue of equality for African Americans and questioning the ideals in the United States. This ultimately led to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, allowing for better equality for African Americans and showing the success of these movements.
- c) One development that could be used to support Brennan's argument from 1945 to 1980 about social change in the 1960s was the running of Barry Goldwater for president. Through his campaign, he introduced new Conservative ideals, such as reducing taxes, which helped organize the Conservative movement and allowed Nixon to become president, showing the importance of this decade on the rise of Conservatism in the United States.

a. One major difference between Anderson and Brennan's historical interpretations of social change in the 1960s was that Anderson believed that the main change was activists and social activism, whereas Brennan believed that conservatives became the dominant force. Anderson believed that the main social change in the 1960s was many people protesting about different things such as equality and inequality, war or peace, and other controversy items. Brennan argued that the main social change in the 1960s was conservatives because they gained control of the Republican Party. He believed that the main social change was just that Americans wanted to have their voices heard and actions brought out based on their thoughts.

b. One development from 1945 to 1980 that could support Anderson's argument is MLK and the peaceful civil rights protest. This shows that a main thing was protests of people trying to gain equality. MLK did a peaceful protest with speeches and other nonviolent things in order to gain black rights since they had been facing inequality for so long.

c. One development from 1945 to 1980 that could support Brennan's argument is people going to the White house and demanding that things should be changed.

how the Vietnam War supports Brennan's argument about an increasing desire for conservatism.

- a) One difference between Anderson's and Brennan's historical interpretations of social change in the 1960's is that Anderson believes social issues and change were the dominating focus of American's in the 1960's, while Brennan believes it was one of many issues faced. Anderson sees social movements as the important topic during the time, while Brennan sees it as taking focus away from other important issues.
- b) One development from 1945 to 1980 that can be used to support Anderson's argument about social change in the 1960's is the Civil Rights Movement. In the 50's and 60's, millions of Americans fought together to combat discrimination and segregation in America. This brought on lots of social change, like *Brown v. Board of Education*, which discontinued segregation in schooling. This can be argued as the most dominating social change in the 1960's.
- c) One development from 1945 to 1980 that can be used to support Brennan's argument about social change in the 1960's is the Vietnam War. During the time period, the U.S. was engaged in a brutal war with Vietnam. Brennan argues that social change movements took away focus from other issues, like the Vietnam War. This can be argued as an important issue that is not focused on due to social change.

Short Answer Question 1

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

- This question asked students to describe the difference between two excerpts from secondary source texts about the social change in the 1960s. The first excerpt, by Terry H. Anderson, argues that social change at this time was driven by activism calling for reform to a corrupted American system to better reflect American ideals. The second excerpt, by Mary C. Brennan, argues that social change at this time was driven by a new conservative movement that rose to prominence.
- Responses had to provide relevant evidence (between 1945 and 1980) and to explain how that evidence supported each of the arguments found in the excerpts.
- This question focused on analyzing historical evidence and secondary sources.
- This question primarily addressed Topics 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, and 8.14.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response to (a) earned 1 point because the response correctly describes Anderson’s argument about the importance of social activism in the 1960s and Brennan’s argument about the importance of the rise of conservatism.

The response to (b) earned 1 point because the response correctly explains how the Civil Rights movement was an example of social change during the 1960s.

The response to (c) earned 1 point because the response correctly explains how the example of Barry Goldwater’s campaign introducing “Conservative ideals,” eventually leading to the election of Nixon in 1968, supports Brennan’s argument.

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response to (a) earned 1 point because it correctly describes Anderson’s focus on social activism and Brennan’s focus on conservatives causing social change through their gaining control of the Republican Party.

The response to (b) earned 1 point by explaining how Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “peaceful civil rights protest” supports Anderson’s argument.

The response to (c) did not earn the point because its attempt to use “people . . . demanding that things should be changed” as evidence to support Brennan’s argument is too general.

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response to (a) did not earn a point because while it provides a minimal description of Anderson’s argument, the response does not correctly describe Brennan’s argument about conservatism as a cause of social change in the 1960s.

Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

The response to (b) earned 1 point because it correctly explains how the Civil Rights movement was a major force creating social change in the period of the prompt.

The response to (c) did not earn a point because the response does not explain how the Vietnam War supports Brennan’s argument about an increasing desire for conservatism.