

2025



AP[®] United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Short-Answer Question 2

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Question 2: Short Answer Primary 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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 the author’s purpose as expressed in the excerpt. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Terrell’s purpose was to celebrate the achievements of African Americans since emancipation.
- Terrell challenged African American women to continue participating in public discussions regarding equality.
- Terrell sought to oppose racial discrimination in the United States.

B Briefly explain how one historical development between 1865 and 1897 contributed to the ideas expressed in the excerpt. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The emancipation of enslaved people resulting from the Civil War gave African Americans their freedom, which allowed many African Americans to make unprecedented advancements in the postbellum era, a point that Terrell acknowledges in the excerpt.
- The passage of constitutional amendments during Reconstruction led to the temporary political and social gains for African Americans celebrated by Terrell in the excerpt.
- Supreme Court decisions such as *Plessy v. Ferguson* enforced racial segregation, leading activists such as Terrell to organize to advocate for civil rights.
- The fight for equality continued for African Americans in the decades following emancipation, which supports Terrell’s suggestion that women of color should continue to participate in public advocacy for equality.

- Women contributed to larger conversations regarding temperance and morality in the late nineteenth century, an idea that is expressed in Terrell’s call to better humanity.

C Briefly explain how the ideas expressed in the excerpt contributed to one historical development between 1897 and 1945. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Calls for temperance, such as those expressed by Terrell, eventually led to the constitutional amendment establishing Prohibition from 1920 to 1933.
 - The fight for equality for women, as illustrated in Terrell’s arguments, eventually resulted in a women’s suffrage movement that achieved voting rights through the Nineteenth Amendment.
 - Efforts to reform United States society contributed to the rise of the Progressive movement in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
 - The formation of organizations such as the National Association of Colored Women eventually led to a broader civil rights movement against legal segregation in the United States.
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a) Terrell's purpose in this excerpt is to say that the colored women of America have come together to argue for equality and equal rights and uplift the Black race with the goal of improving humanity as a whole. She says "let us engage intelligently and continuously, whenever and wherever it is possible to strike a blow for equality and right... in our effort to better humanity and elevate the race." Terrell's claim is to fight persistently with words and intelligence for more equal for the entire Black race. This goal is what made this association of colored women join hands to work together towards this goal of equality and pride in their own race.

b) The Reconstruction Era contributed to the ideas expressed by the passage. Reconstruction had the passage of the 15th amendments that gave Black Men the right to vote across the country. This Era also used military force to enforce equal rights for Black men in the South, protecting their right to vote and even resulted in the elections of the first Black legislators like Hiram Revels. Even with the efforts of the Reconstruction, the legacy of racism in America persisted and white people tried reversing newly given rights such with the Literacy Tests and Grandfather Clause, etc. The efforts to improve racial inequality and resistance to that movement influenced the ideas expressed in the excerpt for the continued fight for equality and pride in the Black race

c) Terrell's ideas contributed to the creation of the NAACP by WEB DuBois and Ida B Wells. These activists argued for the improvement of Black people and the organization raised funding and helped Colored people in education and jobs and fought for more equality in the Country. The founders' goals reflect Terrell's ideas of the elevation of the entire Black Race and continued the struggle for equal rights.

A. The author's purpose as expressed in the excerpt is to rally support for racial and gender equality and the improvement of rights. The Movement sought to preach and practice racial unity, racial pride, and reverence and respect for those leading which contributed to the spread of racial equality and equality for women.

B. One historical development between 1865 and 1987 that contributed to the ideas expressed in the excerpt was the Plessy vs Ferguson supreme court decision. This court decision ruled segregation was allowed and didn't contradict the reconstruction amendments, sparking debates over equal treatment of African American. This court case, contributed to the ideas expressed in the excerpt because it caused the creation of African American movements to bring racial unity in the United States.

C. The ideas expressed in the excerpt contributed to the creation of the civil rights movement between 1897 and 1945. The Civil Rights movement was responsible for the advocacy of equal treatment of African Americans and organized boycotts and protest. The Civil Rights movement was popularized due to the mistreatment of African Americans the ideals it preached was similar to the ideas expressed in the excerpt.

A. The author's purpose of this speech is to gain support to advocate equal rights for colored women in the United States. Terrell's speech was targeted towards colored women to come together and have pride in their racial identity. This support would lead them to becoming stronger in advocating for their rights.

B. One historical development that supports this is the Civil Rights Movement gaining momentum among women and colored people. This movement inspired colored women to advocate during a time of change. This movement gave power to those who didn't have any because of their strength in numbers.

C. One historical development that this idea contributed to was changing gender roles in the U.S. as women began to get hired in industrial jobs, even black women. This allowed for colored women to be able to provide for themselves and become independent as mentioned in the text as something they were advocating for.

Short Answer Question 2

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

Overview

NEW for 2025: The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses on AP Central*.

Sample: 2A

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 1

SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 3

The response to Part A earned 1 point by accurately describing that Terrell’s purpose was to encourage women to “join hands to work together,” improve humanity, and achieve racial equality.

The response to Part B earned 1 point by accurately explaining that the resistance of some White Americans in the South to Reconstruction-era attempts to grant civil rights to African Americans influenced leaders such as Terrell to fight for racial equality.

The response to Part C earned 1 point by accurately explaining how Terrell’s ideas about equal rights contributed to the founding of organizations such as the NAACP by W.E.B. DuBois and Ida B. Wells.

Sample: 2B

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 1

SAQ Part C Score: 0

Total Score: 2

The response to Part A earned 1 point by accurately describing that the purpose of Terrell’s speech was to “rally support for racial and gender equality.”

The response to Part B earned 1 point by explaining how the doctrine of separate but equal established by *Plessy v. Ferguson* created distinct racial spheres of inequality that spurred demands for change among organizations such as the National Association of Colored Women.

The response to Part C did not earn a point because it is discussing the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s rather than civil rights movements within the time frame of the prompt.

Short Answer Question 2 (continued)

Sample: 2C

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 0

SAQ Part C Score: 0

Total Score: 1

The response to Part A earned 1 point by accurately describing the purpose of Terrell’s address, which called on African American women to “advocate equal rights” for Black women. The response correctly states that Terrell instructed African American women to “have pride in their identity.”

The response to Part B did not earn a point because the explanation about the Civil Rights movement is outside the time period of the prompt.

The response to Part C did not earn a point because the response is vague. The reference to changing gender roles and the nature of industrial work offers no specifics and fails to explain how this development related to the ideas expressed in the excerpt.