

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

While the United States appeared to be dominated by consensus and conformity in the 1950's, some Americans reacted against the status quo.

Analyze the critiques of United States society by TWO of the following:

- Youth
- Civil Rights Activists
- Intellectuals

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis relating to consensus and conformity that analyzes critiques of the status quo in the 1950's by TWO of the three groups.
- Develops the thesis with substantial, relevant historical information concerning TWO of the three groups and their critique of the status quo in the 1950's.
- Provides effective analysis of the TWO groups and their critique of the status quo in the 1950's; treatment of the groups may be somewhat unbalanced.
- 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 thesis, which may be partially developed, that addresses critiques of the status quo in the 1950's by TWO of the three groups.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant supporting information concerning TWO of the three groups and how they critiqued the status quo in the 1950's .
- Provides some analysis of TWO groups and their critique of the status quo in the 1950's; treatment may be unbalanced.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- Contains a weak or unfocused thesis or simply paraphrases the question.
- Provides few relevant facts or lists facts with little or no application to the question.
- Provides simplistic analysis that may be generally descriptive or addresses only ONE group.
- May contain major errors.
- May be poorly organized and/or poorly written.

The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- Demonstrates an incompetent or inadequate response.
- Has little or no understanding of the question.
- Contains substantial factual errors.
- Is poorly organized and/or poorly written.

The — Essay

- Is blank or completely off task.

**AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 5 Information List

Youth

American Bandstand
Beats (Beatniks, Beat Generation)
Coffee houses
“Wild Ones”
Allen Ginsberg, *Howl* (1955)
Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (1957)
J. D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye* (1951)
Rock and Roll
Alan Freed
Elvis Presley
Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly, Bill Haley

Rock music integrates world of youth
Little Richard
Chuck Berry
B.B. King
Chubby Checker
Perception that juvenile delinquency was on the rise
Blackboard Jungle
Marlon Brando, *The Wild One*
James Dean, *Rebel Without a Cause*
Mad magazine
Youth fashion

Civil Rights Activists

Legacy of World War II
Impact of the integration of the military and Truman’s Committee on Civil Rights
White citizens’ councils
Re-emergence of the Ku Klux Klan
Poll taxes
Prosperity not shared by most African Americans
De Facto versus *De Jure* segregation
Brown v. Topeka Board of Education (1954)—Thurgood Marshall
Brown II “With all deliberate speed” (1955)
CORE
Martin Luther King
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), 1957
Civil Rights Voting Act of 1957
Eisenhower, Little Rock—Governor Faubus
Integration of youth music
Medgar Evers
Emmitt Till
James Baldwin
Emergence of Malcolm X at the end of the 1950’s
Sports—Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Joe Louis, Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell
Nation of Islam
Greensboro lunch counter (February 1960)
Women
Anti-McCarthy backlash

Intellectuals

Truman veto of the McCarran Act (1950)—passed over his veto
Anti-McCarthyism (Joseph Welch—the lawyer who did the televised smack down with McCarthy)
Edward R. Murrow
William F. Buckley, Jr.
Rosenberg execution backlash
Existentialism
C. Wright Mills
Alfred Kinsey

**AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 5 Information List (continued)

J. D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye* (critique of introversion)
Allen Ginsberg, *Howl* (1955)
Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible*
Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (1957)—search for authenticity
William Wythe, *Organization Man*
David Riesman, *The Lonely Crowd*
Joseph Heller, *Catch 22* (1953), (critique of war)
C. Wright Mills, *White Collar* and *The Power Elite*
Ayn Rand, *Atlas Shrugged*
Sloan Wilson, *Man in the Gray Flannel Suit* (conformity in the work place)
Bishop Sheen, *Life Is Worth Living* (power of the individual to control his/her own fate)
Jackson Pollock
Critics of “affluent society”
Impact of television (many felt excluded from perfect world TV, stereotypes sitcoms portrayed;
also, spread news of social and political upheaval), impact of advertising on youth
Television: Ernie Kovacs
Filmmakers: Nicholas Ray, Elia Kazan, Charlie Chaplin, and Howard Hawks
Mad magazine
Music: Paul Robeson, Protest Folk Music (mostly suppressed), but Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and
Malvina Reynolds best representations

Consensus and Conformity in the 1950's

The American Dream
“We Like Ike”
Conservatism
Prosperity
Anti-communism—Joseph McCarthy
Importance of conformity—housing (Levittown, suburbs), clothing (gray flannel suits, poodle skirts,
shirt dresses, saddle shoes, etc.), hair styles, fads (Barbie Dolls, hula hoops)
Return to traditional gender roles after World War II
Children “seen but not heard”
The 1950's cult of domesticity
Role of television in reinforcing image of perfect, homogenized middle class (*Father Knows Best*,
Leave It to Beaver, *Ozzie and Harriett*, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *The Roy Rogers & Dale Evans Show*)
Wholesome Pat Boone

Note: May be extensive crossover between categories (e.g., Beatniks—youth Beats—intellectuals)

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

1 of 3

By the 1950's the United States of America was dominated by consensus and conformity. The double effects of the Great Depression of the 20's and 30's, coupled with the World War Two had left many weary and shell shocked. All the society wanted was undisturbed peace and relative monotony; where indirect appeal did not work, the "red scare" and fear of persecution from the anti-Communist hysteria kept many people with their heads tucked under their shells. However some groups in the society were feeling just the opposite. The youth were rising in "mass" rebellion" and trouble making. Civil Rights Activists saw their time as the right time to launch their campaigns.

With the end of the war came the "Baby Boom", the momentous rise in the infant population brought about by record setting marriages and births. Not only the baby boom will bring about a wave that would rock the ~~society~~ ^{nation}, economically, socially and physically. As babies they created a boom for the makers of infant formula and diapers, and as toddlers, whole toy lines were made just for them, and as adolescents, the ballyhooed "Youth Culture" came into existence just for them. Clothing manufacturers sent about a change in attire; gone were the corduroys and dress slacks which their parents wore, in with the jeans and tee shirts. The music industry

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

was not spared as the "blue grass" music of the parents was replaced by rock and roll, and teenagers all over the nation fell into the beat of Elvis Presley. With all these changes also came a psychological shift. The youths were ^{born} with an intrinsic distrust for adults and resistance to all forms of authority. They joined in the civil rights activities and brought about momentous change in the American society. The youths had a hand to play in the bringing down of segregation, especially in ~~schools~~ colleges and high schools and at last the ear of the government to their needs; a first in American history.

The Civil Rights Activism of the 1950's was based solely on one issue; desegregation, while ~~the laws~~ they had a champion in the Supreme Court. Under the leadership of Chief Justice Earl Warren, the Court made landmark decisions, like the Brown v Board of Education which declared the former decision of Plessy v Ferguson unconstitutional, and the and proved favorable to the activists. Activism also ~~+~~ witnessed a new method, called civil disobedience. The use of Alabama minister Martin Luther King brought a new direction to Civil Rights activism, as his boycotts, like the Alabama Boycott brought on by the courage of Rosa Parks, sit-ins and rallies finally brought the attention of the formerly

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

3 of 3

Indifferent legislative branches. The Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Acts were passed in favor of black voters who still faced persecution in the deep South.

The executive branch of government also was influenced by the Civil Rights Activism as the Administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower got about desegregating schools and the Army. One of such cases is the military escorting of black students into a high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, despite the posting of the National Guard around the school by the state governor.

The American Society hoped for calm and conformity as the 1950s rolled in, but instead witnessed the onset of several of the major ruptures that would rock the nation and bring about change in the way America would set ~~the~~ her path for decades to come.

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

Many people say that the fifties were a decade of conformity. This is very true in many ways. A perfect example of this is the chaos caused by Joseph McCarthy. Although this idea of conformity was prominent in many ways, there were often groups that began to speak up & break apart from the norm. The youth of this generation was a prime example of this, as are the Civil Rights activists of the time.

In the fifties, a popular radio personality invented the word "teenage". During this decade kids began to be more independent from their parents. They began to have their own interests, clothing styles & music tastes. This new rock and roll music played a large role in the departure from their parents & created a large generation gap. Also, kids started getting part time jobs which meant they had their own money. They began buying their own cars so that they could go places & spend this money. This independence wasn't like anything the world had seen before.

Civil Rights also returned to prominence during the fifties. Segregation was beginning to cause problems as blacks questioned the constitutionality of it. The idea of separate but equal was constantly being questioned. These issues were mainly down South where segregation was most prominent. People like Rosa Parks led to movements like the Montgomery Bus Boycott. These huge protests turned the heads of many people who'd been ignoring

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

5B

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

2 of 2

the issues

The youth movement & civil rights movement are tied closely together. This new generation were raised with much more open minds. Suburban white kids ~~some~~ were listening to Ray Charles or Little Richard. This exposure & interest desensitized them to the racial barrier. However, parents still didn't understand & segregation would continue to be a problem for some time.

Due to popular belief systems & new developments such as Levittown the fifties was very marked by conformity. However, ~~this~~ this label mostly only holds true for the older people & professional class. Out of this decade came a generation that would revolutionize the country. It was the cause of the flower children of the 60's & for the way teenagers are even today.

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

5C

Mandatory 1	Part B — Circle one 2 or 3	Part C — Circle one 4 or (5)
----------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------

1 of 2

What would society be like without nonconformists?

In the 1950's, those few Americans who reacted against the status quo made history. Youth at Kent University voiced their opinions in a controversial rally against the Vietnam War. Civil rights activists fought for what was right. Though most Americans sided with the majority in the 1950s, those that stood by their beliefs were the true heroes.

Anticonformists have shaped today's America. Those first colonists who stood by their values and escaped to America had no idea what they would begin. Please ask yourself, what would your life be like without the laws and theories of people like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, even Alexander Graham Bell! All of those men in history followed their instincts and helped make America great.

In the 1950s, it was the students at Kent University who followed the beat of a different drum and organized a huge rally against the war in Vietnam. The protest got major media review when four students were killed by the National Guard. Though the killings were tragic, the students certainly got their point across. Also in the fifties, Elvis Presley and his suggestive dancing make a memorable debut. Elvis wasn't the typical singer, he went one step further and helped greatly shape pop culture in America today. He took the risk of being outcasted, but ended up being a historical icon!

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

5C

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

2 of 2

Famous Civil Rights activists like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. took the Nation by surprise with their bold stances on racism. When races were segregated, Rosa Parks took a seat in the area for whites to sit on a public bus. It was a silent protest, and highly effective. It must have taken her a long time to muster up the courage to stand up for something millions of people opposed. However, the results were positive, and America was taking steps toward racial equality.

The true icons of the fifties and sixties are those that risked everything, even lives, to make a difference. Without the acts of youth and Civil Rights activists during these times, America today would be a very different place. These people have showed the importance of always staying true to your personal ethics and morals, even if the majority is against you. Nonconformity holds great rewards.

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY 2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview

The intent of this question was to enable students to demonstrate an understanding of underlying tensions in American society in the 1950's. The status quo, rendered here as consensus and conformity, which were two useful prompts, was supposed to provide a baseline against which critiques of the status quo could be assessed. Students were asked to demonstrate not only an understanding of the 1950's but also awareness that events of the period had consequences beyond that decade.

Sample: 5A

Score: 8

This essay has a strong thesis and an introduction that shows a good understanding of the question. It briefly accounts for pressures to conform during the 1950's and then indicates that youth and civil rights leaders would not conform to this pressure. Additionally, the essay makes an effort to explain why both groups would not conform, going on to give examples of this nonconformity. The section on civil rights is a bit more thorough, but both sections are effectively done and develop the thesis. This essay is thoughtful and sophisticated.

Sample: 5B

Score: 5

This essay meets the standard for a 5 as it has a partially developed thesis that mentions two groups that reacted against the status quo. It briefly describes the status quo of the 1950's and provides some limited factual information. The information on youth is limited, while that on civil rights activists is slightly better. The analysis in the last two paragraphs brings this essay into the 5–7 score category.

Sample: 5C

Score: 2

This essay, which has a weak thesis, briefly describes youth and civil rights activists. The first section has major errors, such as locating Kent State in the 1950's. The section on civil rights activists is a bit better, though not adequate. The level of analysis is simplistic.