

TEST THREE

SECTION II, Part B

Total Time—1 hour, 35 minutes

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

Suggested reading period: 15 minutes

Suggested writing period: 45 minutes

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes reading and planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

In your response you should do the following:

- State a relevant thesis that directly addresses all parts of the questions.
- Support the thesis or a relevant argument with evidence from all, or all but one, of the documents.
- Incorporate analysis of all, or all but one, of the documents into your argument.
- Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- Support your argument with analysis of historical examples outside the documents.
- Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.
- Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay.

1. Assess the validity of the statement that the U.S. in the 1920s had lost its idealism and was focusing most of its attention on middle-class materialism.



Document 1

“Here was a new generation, a new generation dedicated more than the last to the fear of poverty and the worship of success, grown up to find all gods dead, all wars fought, all faiths to man shaken.”

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *This Side of Paradise*, 1920

Document 2

“The earth is thirsting for the cup of good will, understanding is its fountain source. I would like to acclaim an era of good feeling [American] self-reliant, independent, and ever nobler, stronger, and richer.... Common welfare is the goal of our national endeavor.... We want an America of homes,... where mothers, freed from the necessity for long hours of toil beyond their own doors, may preside as befits the hearthstone of American citizenship. We want the cradle of American childhood rocked under conditions so wholesome and so hopeful that no blight may touch it in its development.... Where genius has made for great possibilities, justice and happiness must be reflected in a greater common welfare.... I accept my part with single-mindedness of purpose and humility of spirit, and implore the favor and guidance of God in His Heaven. With these I am unafraid, and confidently face the future. I have taken the solemn oath of office on that passage of Holy Writ wherein it is asked: “What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”/This I plight to God and country.”

Warren G. Harding, “Inaugural Address,” March 4, 1921

Document 3

Appliances Owned

	1920	1930
Indoor Flush Toilets	20%	51%
Central Heating	1%	42%
Electric Home Lighting	35%	68%
Refrigerators	1%	8%
Washing Machines	8%	24%
Vacuum Cleaners	9%	30%
Radios	1%	40%
Automobiles	26%	60%

Document 4

“Just as he was an Elk, a Booster and a member of the Chamber of Commerce, just as the priests of the Presbyterian Church determined his every religious belief and the senators who controlled the Republican Party decided in little smoky rooms in Washington what he should think about disarmament, tariff, and Germany, so did the large national advertisers fix the surface of his life, fix what he believed to be his individuality. These standard advertised wares—toothpastes, socks, tires, cameras, and instantaneous hot water heaters—were his symbols and proofs of excellence; at first the signs, then the substitutes, for joy and passion and wisdom.”

Sinclair Lewis, *Babbitt*, 1922

Document 5

“It was only a few years ago that the possibility of over saving occurred to anyone as an idea. Now you may hear it discussed as a problem of the utmost importance... unless we demand and consume ... there will be unemployment. We must be careful not to increase our power of production faster than we increase our power of consumption—careful, not to go on adding to our capital means at the expense of our own buying power.... The anxiety of modern business is how to stimulate effective wanting, how to induce people in the average to exert themselves more in order to be able to have and consume more. Installment selling has that motive. Give a man on credit a better house in a better neighborhood, give him credit on a garage and a motor car to put in it.... Will he give up these things, the house, neighborhood, car and all, because he cannot afford them? Not for that reason. Not for any reason whatever if he can help it. He will think of way to increase his income. This mean only that he will exert himself more to produce other things the equivalent of these, and that will be more than he ever produced before.”

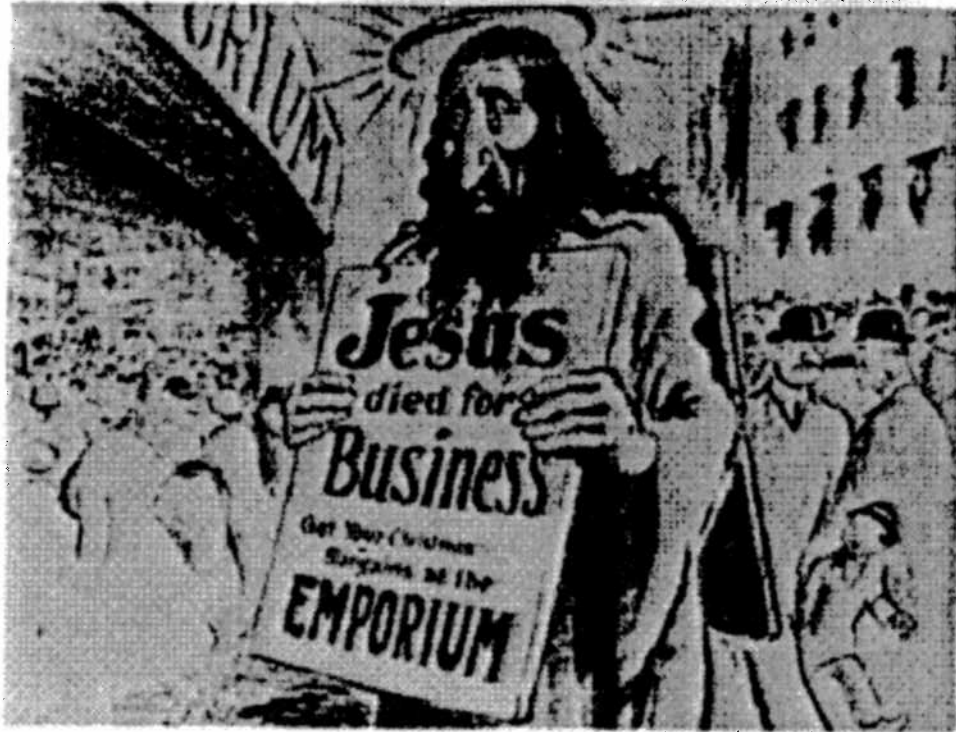
Garet Garrett, *The American Omen*, 1928

Document 6

"If one judges by appearances, I suppose I am a flapper. I am within the age limit. I wear bobbed hair, the badge of flapperhood. (And, oh, what a comfort it is!). I powder my nose. I wear fringed skirts and bright-colored sweaters, and scarfs, and waists with Peter Pan collars, and low-heeled "finale hopper" shoes. I adore to dance. I spend a large amount of time in automobiles. I attend hops, and proms, and ball-games, and crew races, and other affairs at men's colleges. ...I don't use rouge, or lipstick, or pluck my eyebrows. I don't smoke (I've tried it, and don't like it), or drink, or tell "peppy stories." I don't pet.... I want to beg all you parents, and grandparents, and friends, and teachers, and preachers--you who constitute the "older generation"--to overlook our shortcomings, at least for the present, and to appreciate our virtues. I wonder if it ever occurred to any of you that it required brains to become and remain a successful flapper? ... Attainment of flapperhood is a big and serious undertaking! "Brains?" you repeat, skeptically. "Then why aren't they used to better advantage?" That is exactly it! And do you know who is largely responsible for all this energy being spent in the wrong directions? You! You parents, and grandparents, and friends, and teachers, and preachers--all of you! "The war!" you cry. "It is the effect of the war!" And then you blame prohibition. Yes! Yet it is you who set the example there!.... You must help us. Give us confidence--not distrust. Give us practical aid and advice--not criticism. Praise us when praise is merited. Be patient and understanding when we make mistakes. We are the Younger Generation. The war tore away our spiritual foundations and challenged our faith. We are struggling to regain our equilibrium."

Ellen Welles Page, "A Flapper's Appeal to Parents," *Outlook*, December 6, 1922.

Document 7



182. Robert Minor : The Sandwich Man. December 12, 1925. *The Daily Worker*.