

**CHAPTER TEST** *The Great Depression Begins***Part 1: Main Ideas**

Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- _____ 1. Which of the following increased in the 1920s?
a. farmers' debts
b. prices for farm products
c. foreign demand for U.S. farm products
d. domestic demand for U.S. farm products
- _____ 2. Which was **not** a cause of the Great Depression?
a. tariffs on foreign goods
b. the availability of easy credit
c. a growing number of homeless people
d. a crisis in the farm sector
- _____ 3. Which was **not** a cause of the Dust Bowl?
a. drought
b. high winds
c. thick layers of prairie grasses
d. overproduction of crops
- _____ 4. After the stock market crash, how did President Hoover try to help the economy?
a. by closing banks
b. by lowering foreign tariffs
c. by funding handouts of food and clothing
d. by asking businesses not to lay off employees
- _____ 5. Who made up the Bonus Army that marched on Washington?
a. World War I veterans and their families
b. farmers forced off their land by dust storms
c. unemployed industrial workers and their families
d. business and labor leaders who agreed to work together
- _____ 6. Which candidates ran for president in 1932?
a. Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover
b. Calvin Coolidge and Franklin D. Roosevelt
c. Herbert Hoover and Alfred E. Smith
d. Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt
- _____ 7. What does buying a stock on margin mean?
a. purchasing the stock outside the regular stock exchange
b. buying the stock for someone else
c. paying less than the market price of the stock
d. borrowing money to help pay for the stock
- _____ 8. Which of the following was **not** an effect of the Great Depression?
a. Many children had a poor diet.
b. Many families became homeless.
c. Many men became unemployed.
d. Many people started farming.

- _____ 13. Which map symbol indicates the area covered by the May 1934 dust storm?
- a. a striped area
 - b. a shaded area
 - c. a solid line
 - d. a dashed line
- _____ 14. How far did migrants on Route 66 travel from Oklahoma City to Bakersfield, California?
- a. about 300 miles
 - b. about 600 miles
 - c. about 1,200 miles
 - d. about 1,600 miles
- _____ 15. Going from east to west on Route 66, what states did Dust Bowl migrants pass through?
- a. Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, California
 - b. Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, California
 - c. Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California
 - d. Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California

Part 3: Document-Based Questions

Historical Context: As the nation plunged into the Great Depression, people's lives were dramatically altered. In the early 1930s, the sharp effects of economic want were felt across the nation.

Study each document carefully and answer the question about it. (4 points each)

Document 1

The first hard times I remember came in 1933, when I was in the eighth grade. Travis and Son shut down and for six months Dad didn't draw a penny. . . .

. . . For a whole week one time we didn't have anything to eat but potatoes. Another time my brother went around to the grocery stores and got them to give him meat for his dog—only he didn't have any dog. We ate that dog meat with the potatoes. I went to school hungry and came home to a house where there wasn't any fire. The lights were cut off. They came out and cut off the water. . . .

I remember lying in bed one night and thinking. All at once I realized something. We were poor. Lord! It was weeks before I could get over that. . . .

We lost our car and house and kept moving from one house to another. Bill collectors hunted us down and came in droves. Every now and then my brother or Dad would find some sort of odd job to do, or the other brother in Chicago would send us a little something. Then we'd go wild over food. We'd eat until we were sick. . . . The sight and smell of food sort of made us crazy, I guess.

—recollection of a teenage boy

16. According to this recollection, what did a working class family eat during the Depression?

Document 2

With the financial collapse in October 1929, a large mass of Negroes were faced with the reality of starvation and they turned sadly to public relief. . . . Meanwhile men, women and children combed the streets and searched in garbage cans for food, foraging with dogs and cats. . . .

Many families had been reduced to living below street level. . . . Floors were of cracked concrete, and the walls were whitewashed rock, water-drenched and rust-streaked. There were only slits for a window and a tin can in a corner was the only toilet.

Shunted into these run-down sections, Negroes were forced to pay exorbitant rents to landlords who flagrantly violated the city building and sanitary codes. . . . More than half the Negro families were forced to take in lodgers to augment the family income. Frequently, whole families slept in one room. Envied was the family who had a night worker as a lodger, for he would occupy a bed in the day that would be rented out at night. . . . If the family had a bathtub, it, too, was covered with boards and rented out.

—from the autobiography of New York City social worker
Anna Arnold Hedgeman

17. According to this account, where did many African-American city dwellers end up living during the Depression?

Document 3

Detroit, Mich.
September 29, 1931

Mr. Walter Gifford

Dear Sir:

. . . You have told us to spend to end the [economic] slump, but you did not tell us what to use for money, after being out of work for two years you tell us this. Pres. Hoover on the other hand tells the working man to build homes, and in face of the fact nearly every working man has had his home taken off him. . . . This is a radical letter but the time is here to be radical. When an average of two a day has to take their own life right in the City of Detroit because they can not see their way out. Right in the city where one of the worlds riches men lives who made last year 259,000,000 dollars. where hundreds of peoples are starving to death. . . .The other day our Pres. Hoover came to Detroit and kidded the soldier boys out of their bonus. Pres Hoover a millionaire worth about 12,000,000 dollars drawing a salary of 75,000 per year from the government asking some boys to forgo their bonus some of them have not 12 dollars of their own. . . .

—letter from an unemployed tool designer to a member of the President’s Organization for Unemployment Relief

18. According to this letter, what did President Hoover, or those who worked for him, tell people to do to try to end the Depression?

19. During the Great Depression, what hardships did long-lasting unemployment bring? How did people respond to these hardships? Write a brief essay in response to this question, citing examples and evidence from the three documents. You may use the back of this paper or a separate sheet for your essay. (8 points)

Part 4: Extended Response

Answer each of the following questions in a paragraph on the back of this paper or on a separate sheet. (10 points each)

20. What factors contributed to the superficial prosperity of the 1920s?

Think About:

- farming and industry
- the use of credit
- the stock market, speculation, and buying on margin
- attitudes of politicians

21. Write a paragraph describing how the Great Depression affected the daily lives of average Americans. **Think About:**

- employment
- basic needs such as food and shelter
- social and psychological effects
- women, children, and minorities