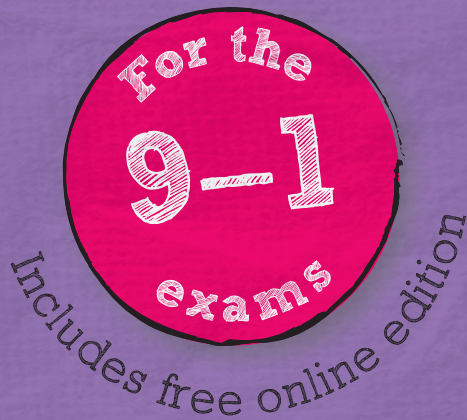


REVISE AQA GCSE (9–1)

History

**AMERICA, 1920–1973:
OPPORTUNITY AND INEQUALITY**

REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK



Pearson

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AND INEQUALITY**

REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK

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Author: Sally Clifford

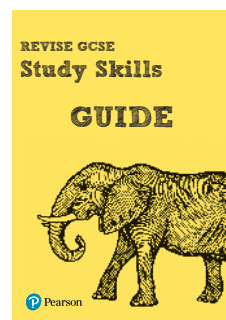
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A small bit of small print

AQA publishes Sample Assessment Material and the Specification on its website. This is the official content and this book should be used in conjunction with it. The questions and revision tasks in this book have been written to help you revise the skills you may need for your assessment. Remember: the real assessment may not look like this.

The American people

This period study focuses on the changes that took place between 1920 and 1973, and on the impact these changes had on the American people. So it is useful to understand who the American people were.

A British colony

- In the 1600s, British settlers set up 13 colonies along the east coast of America. The settlers established plantations and grew cotton and tobacco.
- By the late 18th century, the colonists began to resent the way Britain ruled them – taxing them and making laws but refusing to allow them representation in parliament.
- On 4 July 1776, the 13 colonies declared independence from Britain and joined together to form the United States of America.

A new nation

The new American government drew up a constitution (set of rules) which laid down how the country should be run:

- a state government for local affairs
- a second level of government – an overarching federal government – for matters involving all states, led by a president elected every four years
- a Bill of Rights guaranteeing everyone key freedoms, such as freedom of speech and worship, access to the law, the right to own weapons and the right to access information.

Who were the American people?

By the 1920s, the opportunity for a new life had been attracting people to America from all over the world for nearly 300 years. The 'American' population of around 110 million was, in fact, made up of over 100 different nationalities. America is often described as a 'melting pot' – this compares a multi-cultural society to a pot where different metals are melted together to form a new material.

Recent immigrants:

From the mid-19th century, more immigrants came to America. Some were Mexicans and Cubans looking for work, others were Jews fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe, or people escaping poverty in Italy and Greece. About a million Irish people emigrated to America as a result of the Irish Potato Famine (1845–49). There were also immigrants from China and Japan. Many of these immigrants were poor and low-skilled, and settled in large towns and cities where they tried to find work.

African Americans:

Millions of slaves were brought from Africa to work on the plantations in the colonies between 1600 and 1860. Slavery officially ended in 1865 and the slaves were free but they still faced huge discrimination. They could not vote, had little access to education, and had only low-paid jobs and low-quality housing. By 1920 there were about 10 million African Americans in the USA, mostly in the South.

The 'melting pot'

Native Americans:

Before the arrival of European settlers, there were tribes of native people who had lived across America for thousands of years. Over time the white settlers forced Native Americans off their land and made them live in small 'reservations'. This had a huge impact on the native population, which dropped to just 5% of its original level in less than 300 years.

Descendants of early settlers:

From the 1600s onwards, white settlers came to America from Europe – mainly Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. These groups became the richest and most powerful people in America. From the 1960s they were often known as WASPs (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants). People from this group formed the bulk of the government well into the 20th century.

Now try this

Suggest **two** challenges that might come from a 'melting pot' of different groups.

Causes of the boom

A period of low unemployment, high wages and high sales is called an 'economic boom'.
1920s America was booming – many people benefited from an improved standard of living.

The First World War

- When war broke out in 1914, the US government did not get involved. Instead, American banks lent money to Britain and its allies to buy food and weapons – mostly from America. This created a lot of jobs and wealth.
- The USA joined the war in 1917, but it was not as badly affected as its European allies. The war also damaged some of Germany's key industries, allowing America to overtake them and become the biggest producers of chemicals such as medicines and dyes.

Consumer society

- By 1920, America was producing 70% of the world's petrol, 40% of its iron, 50% of its timber and 55% of its cotton. Access to this amount of raw materials meant that more 'consumer goods' like cars and household gadgets could be produced.
- Nearly 70% of American homes had electricity by 1929 – up from 15% in 1916. This increased demand for new inventions like radios, fridges, washing machines and cars, which created manufacturing jobs.

Advertising and hire purchase

- The growing demand for consumer goods was increased by widespread advertising campaigns in newspapers and on billboards, as well as on the radio and in cinemas. People who lived a long way from the shops could see what was available in catalogues.
- Another development was **hire purchase** (a credit agreement where goods could be paid for in instalments). In the 1920s, 60% of cars were bought in this way.

Industry and mass production

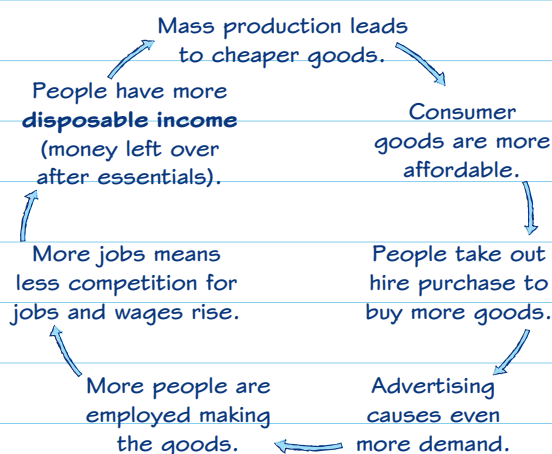
- American businesses took advantage of new ways of manufacturing goods.
- One of the key changes was the introduction of the **assembly line** – instead of workers making a whole product, each stage of the process was done by a different person.
- This made production much faster and allowed goods to be sold at cheaper prices.

For more about mass production, turn to page 3.

Republican government policies

- Generally, the Republican government believed in **laissez-faire** (minimum interference) and wanted to let businesses operate without rules and restrictions. They did not regulate the stock market, which contributed to the **stock market boom**.
- Many Republicans believed in 'rugged individualism' – that people should look after their own needs and support others, not rely on the government.
- However, the Republican government did act to support American businesses, for example by cutting taxes, and by introducing **tariffs** (taxes on imported goods).

Cycle of prosperity



The 1922 Fordney-McCumber **Tariff Act** imposed high taxes on a wide variety of imported goods. This made American goods cheaper.

Low unemployment, high wages and high sales led to increased wealth. This meant more demand for goods, which raised profits.

Now try this

Explain **three** ways in which ordinary people's lives were affected by the growth of the consumer society in the 1920s.

Ford and the motor industry

During the 1920s, Henry Ford was one of the richest men in the world, making the equivalent of £2 million a day. He did this by adopting a method called 'mass production' to make his car factories more efficient. This method quickly spread to other industries.

Henry Ford (1863–1947)

- Ford came from a farming family. His parents were immigrants from Ireland and Belgium. He did not like farm work and in 1879 he left to become an apprentice machine operator in Detroit, Michigan.
- He founded the Ford Motor company in June 1903. His first car was the Model A, and by October he had made a profit of \$37 000 – the equivalent of about \$3 million today.
- He introduced the system of **mass production**, which revolutionised industry in the USA.
- He paid his workers nearly three times as much as other factory owners. This meant he attracted skilled mechanics, reducing training costs. It also meant that his employees could afford his cars!



Mass production and the Model T

- In 1911, Ford introduced the assembly line (previously used in food packing plants) to car-making. Rather than workers building a car from start to finish, the car moved on a conveyor past workers who were each responsible for a small part of the process.
- The Ford Company concentrated on mass-producing a single type of car – the Model T. It was quick and cheap to build because they were all the same, and one colour (so they didn't have to spend time changing the paint in the spray guns).
- Faster production meant lower costs and cheaper cars – between 1911 and 1928 the cost of a car fell from \$800 to \$295. Mass production was soon adopted in other industries, which increased production and reduced prices, which further increased the boom.



The Ford Model T was available in black only. Black was chosen because black paint dried fastest!

The car industry created jobs – 500 000 people worked in car plants by the mid-1920s. In addition, factories making glass, tyres, leather and steel employed millions more.

By 1926 there were 20 million cars in America – this led to congestion on the roads.

Increased car use led to pollution.

The impact of the motor industry

Cars were new and many people were not very good drivers – car accidents were frequent.

City suburbs grew because people could drive to work and no longer needed to live near their place of work.

Cars brought a sense of increased freedom and independence and also increased trade for roadside businesses like restaurants and hotels.

Mass production was widely adopted and soon everything from fridges to weapons was made on assembly lines. However, the spread of the motor car was mass production's biggest impact.

Now try this

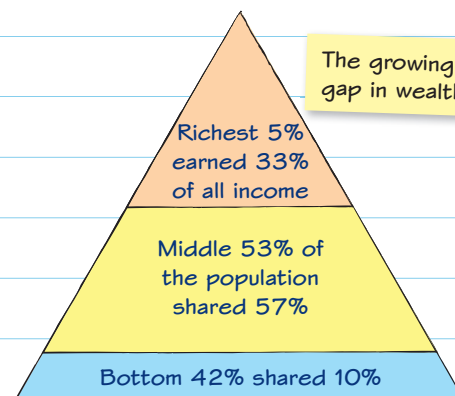
Write a paragraph to explain the impact mass production in the motor industry had on the economy. Give at least **two** examples in your answer.

Inequalities of wealth

The boom created a great deal of wealth in 1920s America, but it didn't get shared around equally. There were groups who didn't benefit at all.

Growing inequalities

- The 1920s saw a growing number of millionaires in the USA – 15 000 by 1927 – but there were also 6 million families living on less than \$1000 a year. This was about 42% of the population.
- This was partly because there were lots of people who were looking for work in factories, so large firms were able to keep wages for unskilled workers low. This made the companies more profitable.



Farmers

- American farmers had benefited from the First World War – European countries had imported American food because they couldn't produce their own. By the 1920s, Europe was recovering and demand for American goods was falling. Some companies added tariffs to American food prices, making them more expensive.
- New machinery meant that American farmers were making a lot more food – more than they could sell. Many had taken loans to buy the machinery and couldn't repay them, leading to eviction. In 1924 alone, more than half a million farmers lost their farms – and their labourers lost their jobs.

The impact of new industries

- ✓ New products created jobs and wealth, but they also caused a drop in demand for traditional products.
- ✓ Skilled workers in these industries found that their skills were no longer needed, and they had to take unskilled, lower-paid work.
- ✓ The growing use of oil and petrol for cars, gas and – especially – electricity meant that demand for coal dropped, leading to the closure of coal mines.
- ✓ New synthetic fabrics like nylon pushed down the demand for cotton and wool, and workers in those industries saw their wages fall or their jobs disappear completely.

African Americans

- Most African Americans lived in the southern states. They worked as farm labourers or rented small farms as **sharecroppers** (farmers who have to give a share of their crop to their landlord).
- Most African Americans were living in extreme poverty and their living conditions were awful. The problems that hit the farming industry hit the sharecroppers especially hard.

For more about the experiences of African Americans, see page 12.

Native Americans

- The native people had lost most of their land as it had been seized by mining and ranching companies.
- Native Americans were forced to live on reservations. The reservations were often on the worst land where it was difficult to grow crops. They also made it harder for Native Americans to follow their traditional way of life.
- Most Native Americans lived in extreme poverty, and had lower-quality education. They had a shorter life expectancy than any other ethnic group in the USA.

Now try this

Write a paragraph explaining why some groups of people did not benefit from the boom in the 1920s.

The stock market boom

One of the main ways that people made money during the boom was by buying and selling shares.

How did the stock market work?

During the 1920s, lots of people started businesses. Starting a business takes money – for example, for wages, materials and land. Some of these business people were rich enough to use their own money, but others needed to borrow.

America's stock exchange is in New York.

Investors lend money to a business. In return, the investors own a share of the business. These investors are called **shareholders** and they are paid a **dividend** (a share of the profits) every year.

If a company does well and makes large profits, it becomes worth more. This means that the shares become more valuable. Shareholders can make money by selling shares for more than they have paid for them.

During the 1920s American companies earned record profits. Most companies invested their profits in further expansion. This made share prices rise.

Shares (also called stocks) are bought and sold in the **stock market** at a **stock exchange**.

A booming stock market

Buying shares became hugely popular during the 1920s. Stock prices were rising and rising, so it wasn't just the rich who got involved – millions of ordinary Americans bought shares too, hoping to make money from rising share values.

Lots of these people used borrowed money to buy shares, or paid a 10% deposit, hoping to pay back the loan when the shares were sold for a profit. This was called **buying on the margin** and was a good (but risky) way to make money – as long as the price of shares kept rising.

1 The American presidents during the boom – Warren G. Harding (1921–23), Calvin Coolidge (1923–29) and Herbert Hoover (1929–33) – were Republican, and believed in *laissez-faire* – that the government should not interfere in the running of the economy, leaving it to businesses to create wealth.

2 The government helped by keeping taxes as low as possible. This allowed businesses to invest more in expansion, and gave ordinary people more money to spend.

Government policies

3 The government also tried to help economic growth by making it easier to borrow money.

4 The government banks relaxed the rules for credit. The American public took out loans totalling \$4 billion. Some of this money was invested in shares.

Controlling the stock market

The government's *laissez-faire* approach also meant that there were hardly any controls. Anyone could set up a company and sell shares. Some companies did not actually produce anything, they just bought and sold shares. This meant that the shares were not attached to anything with a fixed value. Some companies didn't actually exist at all. But while prices were rising, it didn't matter, so the government made no attempt to regulate (make rules for) the stock market.

Now try this

Give **one** example of possible problems with the stock market.

Entertainment

During the economic boom of the 1920s, many people had more money and leisure time. They looked for ways to enjoy themselves. This led to social and cultural changes, and the 1920s became known as the 'Roaring Twenties'.

The 1920s saw a boom in the film industry. Cinema was already popular, but audiences tripled during this period.

The movie business was based in Hollywood, outside Los Angeles on the West Coast. This area had good weather all year, which made it ideal for producing films. By the end of the decade, Hollywood studios were producing more than 500 films a year.

The growing popularity of cinema caused some concerns. Campaigners worried that the sexual content of some films would damage young people's morals. There were moves to ban certain films in several states. The industry responded by introducing the Hays Code, which banned screen kisses lasting more than three seconds and ensured that no character benefited from criminal behaviour.

The growth of cinema

Before 1927, films were silent. Captions appeared at regular intervals, and a pianist played music to accompany the film. In 1927, the first 'talkie' was released. 'Talkies' increased the demand for cinema even more.

Movie studios promoted their starring actors as well as their films. Actors were often presented as sex symbols to attract fans, and they were interviewed in magazines and made public appearances. Stars like Charlie Chaplin, Rudolf Valentino and Clara Bow quickly attracted fans who would pay to see their idol's films whatever the storyline, and whether or not the film was any good.

The 'Jazz Age'

What is jazz?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz is a musical style that combines several different musical types, including African spirituals, blues and brass band.
Where did it come from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It began among African-American musicians in the South. African Americans who moved to New York and Chicago to look for work brought jazz with them.
Why was jazz popular?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz was new and many people found the loud, lively music very exciting. Jazz music had a strong rhythm, which was good for dancing. Jazz rejected the rules of traditional music, and featured improvisation, which made every performance different.
What was different about jazz clubs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz clubs attracted both black and white young people at a time when it was unusual for them to socialise together. Jazz music led to new dance styles. Formal dances like the waltz were replaced by the Charleston, the tango and the lindy-hop.
Did everyone like jazz?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz's African-American roots meant that some people thought it was immoral. Some even called it 'the Devil's music'. By the end of the 1920s, at least 60 communities had passed laws banning jazz in public dance halls.

Sport

Sport grew in popularity during the 1920s, and sports news was carried in newspapers, magazines and on the radio. Sportspeople like the baseball player Babe Ruth became celebrities and earned huge salaries from playing, and from endorsing products.

An age of 'crazes'

The 'roaring twenties' was a time of rapidly changing crazes (something that is very popular for a short time).

There was a craze for playing the game mahjong, then for crosswords, book clubs, dance marathons – the list went on.

Now try this

You might also find page 2 helpful for this question.

Why do you think there was a growth in different kinds of entertainment in the 1920s? Explain your ideas in a short paragraph.

Women in society

The 1920s were a period of great change – and this change affected American women, too. A particular change was women's position in society.

The effects of the First World War

Before the First World War	As a result of the First World War
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the early 1900s, women had few opportunities. They couldn't vote and most couldn't work. Middle- and upper-class women had to obey many rules (for example, they were not allowed to be alone with men unless they were family members). Make-up was forbidden and many women were discouraged from playing sports. Poorer women had to work, but they could only do low-paid, unskilled work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When America joined the war in 1917, men left to fight and women took over the jobs that they left behind. Women got the vote in 1920. Work gave women financial independence which meant that they had more options. The divorce rate doubled in the 1920s as women realised that they did not have to stay in unhappy marriages.

Changes in dress and appearance

Pale skin,
no make-up

Long sleeves
and gloves

Long dress to
cover ankles



Long hair
under a hat

High neckline

Corset to give
a small waist

Long
beads

Dress with
natural shape
(no corset)

Shorter skirt



Short hair,
lipstick

Flesh-coloured
stockings

High-heeled
shoes.

Before the First World War, the ideal woman was the 'Gibson girl', made popular by the artist Charles Dana Gibson.

A flapper in the 1920s.

Flappers

- As women had more opportunities, the strict rules about 'proper' behaviour began to be relaxed.
- Many young women began to wear more revealing clothes, to smoke and drink (which were considered male habits), and to go out alone.
- They rode motorbikes and went dancing until the early hours of the morning. These young women became known as 'flappers'.

Many older Americans were shocked by the flappers, and saw them as a symbol of the immorality of modern life. They thought the flappers were a direct attack on religious values and family life. There was even an 'Anti-Flirt League' to protest against the flappers and their 'immoral' behaviour!

Life was changing for some women in America, usually middle- and upper-class and living in the northern cities. Many other women found their lives changed very little – even though they could vote and work, they were not equal to men. Although around 10 million women had jobs in 1929, this was only 20% of women in America, and even then they were mainly in unskilled jobs and were paid less than men for the same work.

Now try this

Give **two** examples of how women's position in society changed as a result of the First World War.

Prohibition

In January 1920, the government passed a law that was immediately broken in practically every town in America. This law was known as '**prohibition**' and it banned the sale, transport or manufacture of alcohol. The impact of prohibition on society was significant – it contributed to the sense of America as a divided society.

Enforcing prohibition

1500 'Prohibition Agents' were employed to find out where alcohol was being made or sold. They then arrested the people responsible and confiscated the alcohol.

The agents also had to stop smugglers bringing alcohol into the country. This was not easy – the USA had about 18 700 miles of border and coastline. Although the number of agents doubled between 1920 and 1930, they struggled to stop alcohol being smuggled from Canada and Mexico.

'Prohibition' was a nickname – officially it was the 18th amendment to the US Constitution.

It was not illegal to buy or drink alcohol – but it was illegal to make, transport or sell it.

The case for prohibition

There had been campaigns against alcohol for several years before prohibition, led by groups such as the Anti-Saloon League, and supported by churches.

Opponents of alcohol claimed that it led to a decline in moral values and caused social problems like:

- violence and crime (including disorder and drink-driving)
- poverty and debt
- addiction and illness.

They thought a ban would make America a better country.

As a result of these campaigns, 33 states had already passed their own restrictions on alcohol. The new law made the ban complete and imposed it all over the country.

The reaction to prohibition

- People liked to drink and wanted to buy alcohol – and there were people who were prepared to break the law to sell it to them. Many people felt that the government had no right to interfere in their private lives in this way.
- The demand for alcohol attracted criminals. Before long, gangs were running illegal bars called '**speakeasies**' in basements and hotel rooms. During prohibition, New York had twice as many speakeasies as it had bars before 1920.
- Speakeasies got alcohol from 'bootleggers' who smuggled it into the country. This was called 'bootleg' alcohol. They also sold 'moonshine', a strong home-made spirit. Cases of alcohol poisoning increased by over 700%.

Impact of prohibition: Gangsters and corruption

Criminal gangs were soon making millions of dollars from smuggling and selling alcohol.

This meant that they could afford to bribe or intimidate police and judges to turn a blind eye.

Knowing they could buy off the law, the gangs began fixing races, running brothels and extorting money through **protection rackets**.

Because crime was so profitable, the gangs began to fight with each other. There were murders, gunfights and bombings.

Many people were frightened of the gangs and worried about official corruption. However, they didn't want to stop buying the alcohol that made the gangs so powerful.

A **protection racket** involved offering to 'protect' businesses from damage in exchange for a fee – and if they didn't pay, smashing up their shops.

This became known as '**organised crime**'. You can find out more on page 9.

Now try this

Give **two** reasons why enforcing prohibition was difficult.

Organised crime

Prohibition led to corruption and organised crime. In turn, organised crime had a significant impact on American society, creating more divisions. There were several crime organisations, but the Mafia was by far the biggest.

Immigration and organised crime

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Italian immigrants came to America looking for a better life. There were 500 000 Italians in New York City by 1910.

Most were farmers and unskilled labourers, although some were skilled craftsmen.

Most were law-abiding people, but any large group of people includes some criminals. Italian criminals tended to prey on the Italian community rather than other New Yorkers.

When Benito Mussolini became prime minister of Italy in 1922, he tried to get rid of the Italian **Mafia** (organised crime association).

Some Italian Mafia members escaped to the USA, where they became involved in bootlegging and ran gangs in American cities such as New York and Chicago. They became known as the American Mafia or 'the Mob'.

The St Valentine's Day Massacre: Al Capone wanted to get rid of his rival, George 'Bugsy' Moran, for control of bootlegging in Chicago. On 14 February 1929, Capone's gang killed seven members of Moran's gang. Moran escaped, but decided to retire.

Impact on society

- **Gang violence:** Gangs fought each other for control of specific areas. These fights involved murder, gun battles and bombings, which frightened people nearby.
- **Intimidation:** The Mafia kept the Italian Mafia tradition of '**omerta**' (silence and secrecy). The punishment for going to the police was death. Bars that refused to buy alcohol from the Mafia were blown up.
- **Spread:** The Mafia got everywhere. They fixed horse races, ran brothels and operated protection rackets. This made them even harder to challenge.
- **Corruption:** Mafia bosses like Al Capone bribed city mayors and the police, which protected them from law enforcement. This meant that many people felt that they could not trust the police or the authorities to protect them.
- **Suspicion of immigrants:** The Mafia made many people link immigration with crime.

Al 'Scarface' Capone (1899–1947)

Background: Born in New York, the son of Italian immigrants. In 1919, Capone moved to Chicago and was offered a job by gang boss Johnny Torrio. He became Torrio's right-hand man and they took over other gangs, forming the 'Chicago Outfit'.

Crime boss: Torrio retired in 1925 and handed over to Capone. Capone expanded the business using more violent methods. He enjoyed his criminal reputation and showing off his wealth with clothes, jewellery and cigars. He gave money to charity and portrayed himself as a 'Robin Hood' figure. At one time he made \$2 million a week.

Trial and prison: After the St Valentine's Day Massacre, public opinion swung against Capone. The FBI (US law enforcement) declared him 'Public Enemy No 1'. However, no witnesses to any of Capone's crimes could be persuaded to come forward. In the end, the police charged Capone with tax evasion, which needed no witnesses. Capone was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

After prohibition

Prohibition had allowed organised crime to flourish, but the end of prohibition didn't mean the end of 'the Mob'. The criminal gangs simply moved into other areas, such as drug trafficking and illegal gambling. They also got involved in legitimate businesses such as construction and the clothing industry. The Italian Mafia is still operating today.

Now try this

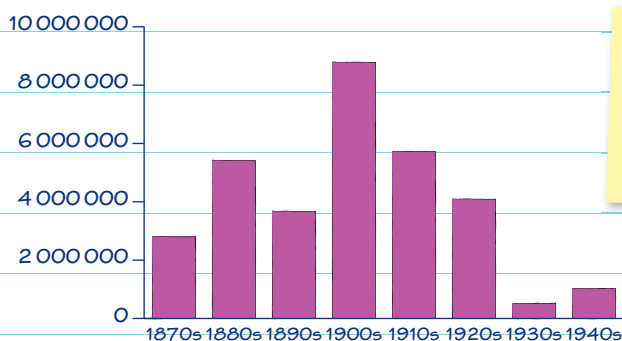
Give **two** reasons why the FBI found it difficult to convict Al Capone for his 'Mob' activities.

The experiences of immigrants

Between 1850 and the First World War, about 40 million people came to America hoping for a better life. Many were attracted by advertisements offering farmland, while others were escaping poverty or persecution. America was seen as a land of opportunity.

Immigration from Europe

Immigration to America in the 19th and early 20th centuries was the biggest movement of people in history. The equivalent of 10% of the population of Europe came to America.



Number of immigrants by decade.

In 1920, there were twice as many Irish people in New York as there were in Dublin! For more about the Irish immigrants, see page 1.



This poster from the 1870s encouraged migrants with the offer of free farmland in Dakota. As travel became easier, the government wanted people to settle in these areas and produce crops.

Experiences of immigrants: expectation vs reality

What immigrants expected	The reality of life in America
Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> America is huge and there were millions of acres of cheap farmland. Immigrants were attracted by the offer of free 'homesteads' (land claimed under the Homestead Act of 1862). 	Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the land that was available was in the far West and South. These areas were remote and desolate – the journey there was dangerous and often took months. Life for homesteaders was extremely hard and many suffered extreme poverty.
Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> America's new industries (such as cars and chemicals) and booming factories meant there were opportunities for work. Pay and conditions were generally better than in Europe. 	Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many immigrants found good jobs and others started successful businesses and made a good living. Some were not so lucky. Many were not well educated and spoke little English, and could find only low-paid jobs.
The 'American Dream' America was founded on the principles of liberty and equality. The 'American Dream' was the idea that anyone who was prepared to work hard could be successful and wealthy.	The 'American Dream' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many immigrants worked hard but were still poor. They were often paid less than Americans. Many immigrants lived in poor housing due to poverty and prejudice. Thousands lived in slums in the early twentieth century. Despite the idea of equality in America, many immigrants faced prejudice from American citizens.
Freedom The Declaration of Independence stated that all men had the right 'to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'. America had freedom of worship for people of all faiths.	Freedom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was attractive to many immigrants who did not have these freedoms at home, such as Eastern European Jews. This freedom did not protect immigrants from religious or political prejudice.

Now try this

Imagine you are an immigrant in America. Write a paragraph to describe your experience. Give **one** reason why life isn't how you expected it would be.

The impact of immigration

The first immigrants to America were generally welcomed. The impact of immigration began to change in the late nineteenth century, when 'new immigrant' groups began to arrive.

The new immigrants

The first immigrants were usually welcomed because they came from the same northern European countries as the original colonists. They were therefore not seen as 'foreign'.

The immigrants who began to come to America in the late nineteenth century came from poorer countries of eastern and southern Europe. These immigrants were considered to be more 'foreign' and different.

Many of these immigrants didn't plan to stay in America. Most of them were young men who hoped to stay for a few years and earn enough money to live a better life in their homeland.

More than half of immigrants who came to America between 1880 and 1920 are believed to have eventually returned to their countries of origin. This lack of desire to become 'American' increased the feeling that the immigrants were different from Americans.

Impact of immigration on society

By the 1920s, people in America spoke more languages and practised more religions than any other country in the world.

The 'new immigrants' rapidly formed new communities in major cities. Neighbourhoods called 'Little Italy', 'Greektown' and 'Irish Town' began to develop. These were close-knit communities with their own ethnic shops, banks, cinemas and restaurants. This gave immigrants a supportive network, but it often made integration into wider American society difficult.

The vast majority (at least 85%) of the American population was always people who had been born there. However, a concentration of immigrants in major cities created the feeling that foreigners were taking over. By 1920, more than 40% of the people in New York, Chicago and San Francisco had been born abroad.

Causes of racial tension

The fact that many immigrants were seen as more 'foreign' contributed to prejudice against them. As a result, they were often blamed for social problems such as disease, crime, alcoholism and gambling.

- Because they were willing to work for low wages, immigrants were accused of 'stealing' work from Americans.
- Immigrants were used to break strikes and were blamed for worsening wages and working conditions.
- Immigrants also increased demand for scarce housing, so they were blamed for pushing up rents.
- The language barrier increased tension.
- Most old immigrants were Protestant and many new immigrants were Catholic or Jewish.

Political differences caused tension too.
Find out more on page 14.

Government response to immigration

Suspicion of the new immigrant groups was shared by the government, who passed legislation to restrict the numbers allowed into America.

1917: Literacy rules meant that immigrants had to be able to read a 40-word sentence. This excluded uneducated migrants from Eastern Europe.

1921: Immigration Quota Law set a limit of 350 000 immigrants a year. It also limited the numbers of immigrants from any country to 3% of the total population that was already in the USA. This was aimed at restricting the numbers from 'new immigrant' groups.

1924: The National Origins Act cut the number of immigrants to 150 000 a year and reduced the national quota to 2%.

Now try this

Give two examples of problems faced by new immigrants to America.

Experiences of African Americans

All ethnic minority groups faced prejudice and discrimination, but it was particularly severe for African Americans. Slavery had been abolished in 1865, but in the 1920s, African Americans were still severely discriminated against by the white population.

Racial division

After the abolition of slavery, the southern states where slaves had worked on cotton and tobacco plantations had a black majority. The white minority were frightened of the power that the black population would have if they were not 'controlled', so in 1877 they began to pass laws to keep African Americans **segregated** (separate) from white people. More and more of these laws were passed over the following decades. They were known as 'Jim Crow' laws, after an insulting name for an African American.

African Americans could not use the same hotels, restaurants, swimming pools, water fountains or taxis as white people. They even had separate cemeteries.

Difficult 'literacy tests' were introduced to try to stop African Americans from voting.

Some states banned marriages between people of different races.

The impact of racial division on African Americans

There were separate blood banks for black and white people.

Schools were segregated – black children had fewer teachers and resources.

Black people were only able to rent houses in less desirable neighbourhoods.

Black and white soldiers were segregated in the military.

Lynching

Many black Americans were murdered (usually by hanging) for supposed 'crimes' without a trial. This was called '**lynching**'. Lynching had taken place since the end of slavery, but was still common in the 1920s – 61 people were lynched in 1921. The police mostly turned a blind eye. Most victims had done nothing wrong. Lynchings were often attended by thousands of people and sometimes postcards were sold showing the murder. The purpose of lynching was to show black Americans that white people were 'in control'. This idea is called '**white supremacy**' and was a key factor in creating racial division in American society.

Many lynchings were carried out by an organisation called the Ku Klux Klan. For more about the KKK, see page 13.

Moving north

- Not surprisingly, many African Americans decided to leave the South.
- About 2 million of them – a sixth of the black population – moved north, where there were more jobs.
- They still faced discrimination, were paid less than white people, and had fewer opportunities, but things were still better than in the South.
- The black population of cities like New York and Chicago doubled between 1900 and 1920.

As black people moved north, they took their culture with them, especially their music. For more on this, see page 6.

The NAACP

- ✓ In 1910, W.E.B. Du Bois, whose grandfather had been an African slave, set up the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
- ✓ The NAACP campaigned for better rights for African Americans, such as better housing, the right to vote, and fairer laws.
- ✓ The political class of the 1920s did not accept any of the recommendations, but the NAACP became more influential in the 1960s. It still exists today.

For more about the NAACP and civil rights, see pages 29 and 30.

Now try this

In no more than 40 words, explain how discrimination against African Americans contributed towards a divided society in the 1920s.

The Ku Klux Klan

The 1920s was the time when a white supremacist group, the Ku Klux Klan, was at its strongest. The rise of the KKK is a clear example of the divisions in American society in the 1920s.

What was the KKK?

The Ku Klux Klan was originally founded in the 1860s as a protest against the ending of slavery, usually through violence towards African-American leaders. It faded away within a few years, but regained strength in the early 1900s. In 1915, a film called *The Birth of a Nation* presented the KKK as protecting white people from violent black thugs. By 1921, the KKK had marketing staff and presented itself as a fraternal society (a group where members help each other). It was a secret, Protestant white-supremacist group which targeted African Americans, Jews, Catholics and immigrants. By 1925, there were about 5 million members, mainly in the southern states. Members wore white robes and hoods, used coded language and held secret ceremonies.

The impact of the KKK

- ✓ The KKK's secrecy meant that black people were aware that any white person they met could be a member, which would have been very frightening.
- ✓ KKK members carried out activities aimed at intimidating black people, such as marches and cross-burnings, and took part in violence. Klan members were involved in many murders known as 'lynchings'. Other victims were beaten, whipped or attacked with acid or hot tar.
- ✓ Some police, judges and sheriffs were members, so actions were rarely punished. This increased the feeling that society was divided along race lines.

Why did people join the KKK?

- Poor white people in the South and the West were angry that they were not seeing the rise in prosperity that had happened in the North. They looked for someone to blame.
- White people said that non-white people worked for lower wages, putting white workers out of a job.
- They saw themselves as defenders of the Protestant religion.
- They claimed to want to improve moral standards, and often attacked alcoholics, prostitutes and gamblers as well as immigrants.
- The KKK presented itself as a community organisation, giving opportunities for socialising.
- Some people were attracted by the secrecy and elaborate ceremonies.
- Some people were simply racist and saw the KKK as a way to express their racist beliefs.

The decline of the KKK

- In 1925, David Stephenson, a Klan leader in Indiana, was convicted of kidnapping, raping and murdering a teacher called Madge Oberholtzer. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. During his trial, he revealed several KKK secrets. Membership began to decline rapidly.
- The KKK was damaged further in 1927, when a group of Klansmen in Alabama launched a wave of violent attacks on African Americans and also on white people they thought were immoral. Many people disapproved of these attacks and stopped supporting the KKK. By 1930, KKK membership had fallen from 5 million to 30 000.

It is important to remember that the KKK still exists, and still promotes racism and white supremacy.

Now try this

How did the influence of the KKK show that America in the 1920s was a divided society? Give a reason for your answer.

The Red Scare

After the Russian Revolution in 1917, a fear and distrust of communism spread through America. This became known as the 'Red Scare'.

Communist threat

- In 1917, a communist government was established in Russia. This was the beginning of the Soviet Union.
- Americans believed that there were many **anarchists** or communists in America. Many were frightened, especially as President McKinley had been assassinated by an anarchist in 1901.
- The fear of communism increased after a series of strikes in America in 1919. The communists usually got the blame for strikes, which the press presented as conspiracies against the government.
- The blame for strikes and the spread of revolutionary and anarchist ideas was pinned on southern and eastern European immigrants.

Compare this period with the Red Scare of the 1950s, on page 27.

Anarchists wanted to end traditional forms of government and allow people to form groups and decide how to run them. Although the communists and anarchists were different extreme groups, most Americans saw little difference between them.

The Palmer raids

- In 1919, Alexander Mitchell Palmer became Attorney General (chief government lawyer).
- He claimed that communist agents were trying to overthrow the American government. The bomb attacks that Palmer had claimed were about to happen never came.
- On New Year's Day, 1920, Palmer ordered a series of raids on the homes of suspected communists and anarchists.
- Over 6000 people were arrested and put in prison. Many had to be released and only three guns were found in their homes.
- Apart from those arrested, very few people complained that these arrests weren't legal. They were so afraid of communism that they were prepared for the government to use illegal methods to tackle it.

After 1917, the Red Scare led to division in society because people were afraid of secret networks of communists and anarchists. This made them suspicious of other people, especially immigrants.

The Sacco and Vanzetti case

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were Italian immigrants. In May 1920 they were arrested and charged with a robbery in which two guards were killed.

As they didn't speak much English, they didn't understand much of what was said at their trial.

They were known to be anarchists and it is widely believed that this was why they were targeted.

The evidence against them was weak, but the judge at the trial said that whether or not they had committed the crime, they were still guilty because as anarchists they were enemies of the government!

Sacco and Vanzetti were found guilty and sentenced to death. They spent seven years in prison while their lawyers appealed. Despite many protests, both men were executed by electric chair in August 1927.

The significance of the Sacco and Vanzetti case

- When the verdict was reported there was an outcry. There were strikes and protests because many people felt that the men's trial had been unfair.
- The protests continued long after the men had been executed. Protestors claimed that the case showed that the legal system was biased and that many people were not getting a fair trial.
- In December 1927 the state Judicial Council admitted that the trial had not been fair and proposed changes to the system to make sure it didn't happen again.

Now try this

In no more than 140 characters, explain how the Sacco and Vanzetti case is evidence of a 'Red Scare'.

The Wall Street Crash

In October 1929 the boom of the Roaring Twenties ended with a huge stock market crash. This was the beginning of what would become an economic **depression**.

A **depression** is when an economy collapses, causing high unemployment, difficulty in getting credit, people buying far less and far fewer goods being produced.

What was the Wall Street Crash?

Throughout the 1920s, the American economy had been booming. Millions of people had bought shares, often with borrowed money.

During the boom there was huge demand for luxury goods such as cars, radios and fridges. But by 1929, nearly everyone who could afford them had bought them and more were being made than could be sold (overproduction).

Foreign governments had put high taxes on American products (often as payback for American import taxes) so the extra goods could not be sold elsewhere.

On 24 October 1929, 13 million shares were sold on the New York Stock Exchange – five times as many as usual. Share prices fell dramatically. This became known as 'Black Thursday'. Another 16 million shares were sold on 29 October.

As more companies began to look less profitable, more people sold their shares. The share price began to fall. This led to panic as people scrambled to sell shares before the price dropped further.

Company profits started to dip and a few people began to sell their shares because they were worried that they wouldn't get a dividend.

In the Wall Street Crash, American shares lost billions of dollars (89%) in value.

For more on the stock market, turn to page 5.

Why did falling share prices cause a Depression?

- Many people had borrowed money to buy shares. When the share price collapsed, they couldn't repay their loans. The banks had also invested money in shares.
- The stock market crash caused banks to fail – more than 600 banks closed in 1929. The people who had put their life savings in the banks lost everything. Hundreds of thousands of people and businesses lost everything. This caused panic as people rushed to take their money out of the banks and caused more banks to fail.
- The banks that were left were very reluctant to lend money in case the people borrowing it couldn't repay their loans, so it became harder to borrow. Many businesses had to close, which meant many people lost their jobs.
- Unemployment meant that people had less money to spend, making it hard for them to buy food and pay rent.

How does a bank work?

Banks have two functions – savings and loans:

Savings – People deposit money into a bank.

In return, the bank pays them a small amount of interest.

Loans – The bank lends the savers' money to people who want to borrow it. They charge the borrower interest on the loan. This is how banks make a profit.

The Crash stopped banks working because when people removed their savings, the bank could no longer use the money to make loans. Other people could not repay their loans, so the banks ran out of money.



A branch of the Bank of the United States closed after the Crash. Huge numbers of people wanted their money back.

Now try this

In a short paragraph, describe **at least two** effects of the Wall Street Crash on the American people.

The Great Depression: impact

The Great Depression that followed the Wall Street Crash of 1929 hit American society hard and unemployment increased dramatically. Farmers and businessmen were among the groups affected.

How did the Great Depression affect American society?

Impact on business owners

- **Banks** had lent billions of dollars during the 1920s. Many borrowers couldn't pay it back, so banks went bankrupt.
- Banks were reluctant to lend money, making it harder for businesses to keep functioning.
- Between 1929 and 1932, industrial production fell by nearly 45%. Business profits dropped from \$10 billion in 1929 to \$1 billion in 1932.
- During the crash demand for goods fell away even more, meaning that businesses failed and factories closed.

The richest people in the country lost money in the Depression, but they were better off than most because they often had lots of property and land, which gave them an income. They did have to cut back on spending, and often did this by sacking staff.

Unemployment

- Factories struggled and many eventually closed, leaving workers without jobs.
- Businesses supplying factories with raw materials such as steel, timber, textiles, rubber and leather also suffered, causing more factory closures and unemployment.
- Workers no longer used restaurants, shops and businesses near the factory, so these businesses began to struggle.
- In 1929, about 3% of Americans were unemployed. By 1932, 20 000 companies had gone out of business and 13 million people – about 25% – of the workforce were unemployed.
- 34 million people were in families with no full-time wage earner. In some industrial cities, such as the car-making town of Toledo, Ohio, there was 80% unemployment.

To make matters worse, the closure of the banks meant that about 9 million people lost their life savings, so they had nothing to fall back on.

Farmers

- During the boom farmers had borrowed money to buy new machinery. The new machinery meant they produced more food than they could sell, so food prices dropped.
- Struggling banks started demanding that farmers pay back their loans in full. Some could no longer afford to repay their debts and had to sack workers or sell their farms.
- Rising unemployment and poverty meant that demand for food fell further. Over 1 million families lost their farms between 1930 and 1934. Those who kept their land then had to struggle with drought. In the Midwest and southern plains, hot, dry weather combined with strong winds meant that millions of acres of topsoil were blown away, creating a Dust Bowl where crops could not grow. Many farmers abandoned their farms and moved away to try to find work. Most worked as labourers on other people's farms.

Many homeless people ended up in camps where they built houses from scrap materials. The camps became known as 'Hoovervilles', as people felt that President Hoover wasn't doing enough to help them. Charities set up kitchens where homeless people queued in 'breadlines' for soup and bread. By 1933, over 60% of Americans were categorised as poor by the government.

Now try this

Which group do you think was most badly affected by the Depression? Explain your answer in a short paragraph.

Hoover's response

Herbert Hoover became president in 1929 – a few months before October's Wall Street Crash. He thought the Depression was a short-term problem and in January 1930 he said America was over the worst. Hoover's response to the Depression made him very unpopular.

Hoover's response to the Depression

Hoover's administration did try to solve the problems in the country's economy, but his belief in laissez-faire limited the amount of intervention he was prepared to make.

- He encouraged businesses to keep wages high to increase the amount available for buying goods. By 1931, however, businesses had no choice but to cut wages.
- Hoover introduced a two-cent tax on bank cheques to raise extra money for the government. People stopped using cheques and started using cash instead. Banks had already closed due to cash shortage, but this reaction to the tax rapidly increased the rate of bank closures.
- He introduced a \$100 million fund to lend to farmers. However, this was a drop in the ocean, and many farmers were in too much debt to take on more loans.
- To combat unemployment among white Americans, he sent over 500 000 Mexicans and Mexican Americans to Mexico.
- He also supported new public works projects to create employment for construction workers.
- In June 1930, despite opposition from many economists, he introduced the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which raised tax on many imported items. The idea was to encourage people to buy American products by increasing the cost of imported goods. However, economic depression had spread worldwide, and many nations responded by raising tariffs on American goods. This damaged international trade and made the Depression worse.



Hoover was US president from 1929 to 1933. He believed in the concept of 'rugged individualism', which meant that his response to the Depression did not help the people who needed it most.

For more on 'rugged individualism', turn to page 2.

Hoover's unpopularity

- Hoover's belief in individualism meant that he vetoed (stopped) several bills that would have provided direct relief to struggling Americans. He argued that the government could not fix the problems by spending money.
- In 1930, the Republicans did badly in the elections to the House of Representatives (part of Congress). Despite the defeat, Hoover refused to change his policies.
- The American people became angry and unrest increased. Protests ranged from factory strikes to farm riots. In 1932, First World War veterans marched to Washington to receive their war pensions immediately, rather than waiting until 1945. Hoover refused and called in the military to disrupt the protest.

Many people thought that Hoover's refusal to provide direct relief was due to indifference or heartlessness, but this was not the case. He genuinely believed that 'rugged individualism' was the long-term solution to the Depression, and encouraged people to help each other rather than rely on the government. He thought that government intervention threatened individual freedom and wanted assistance to be handled on a voluntary basis. He practised what he preached – he didn't take a salary while president, and throughout the Great Depression, he donated an average of \$25 000 every year to relief organisations.

Now try this

In no more than two paragraphs, explain why Hoover had so little impact on the issues faced by the American people during the Depression.

Roosevelt becomes president

In the 1932 presidential election, Herbert Hoover was challenged by a Democrat called Franklin Roosevelt. Roosevelt promised to do more to help America get out of the Depression.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882–1945)

Roosevelt (known as FDR) trained as a lawyer at Harvard University. During the First World War, he had a job in the Navy. In 1921 he caught polio (a disease of the spine) which nearly killed him. Although he recovered, he had to use a wheelchair for the rest of his life. In 1928, he went into politics as a member of the Democratic party and became Governor of New York.



Laissez-faire vs New Deal

Hoover's laissez-faire approach	Roosevelt's New Deal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The electorate were familiar with Hoover's methods of dealing with the Depression. His 'hands-off' approach was very unpopular. After the Depression had run on for several years Hoover began to lend money to businesses and farms and make funding available for states to help the unemployed – but this was widely seen as too little, too late. 	<p>Roosevelt offered the American people what he called a 'New Deal' – a change from the laissez-faire approach taken by Hoover. The New Deal was focused on meeting the needs of the people affected by the Depression. It was made up of the 'three Rs':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief – help for the unemployed, homeless, elderly and sick by providing money and temporary work Recovery – creating jobs by spending on large government schemes such as schools and roads Reform – permanent programmes to avoid another depression and protect people from economic disasters (such as protecting bank accounts).

For more on Hoover's response to the Depression, see pages 16 and 17.

Hoover was very unpopular due to his laissez-faire approach to the Depression.

Some historians think that Roosevelt's reaching high office while managing a severe disability showed he had the personality to persevere through challenges.

Roosevelt was a very gifted public speaker whom audiences warmed to. Hoover disliked public speaking.

Reasons for Roosevelt's victory

The New Deal offered by Roosevelt was popular with voters – many felt that Hoover was out of touch or uncaring.

Hoover had increased enforcement of prohibition. In contrast, Roosevelt promised to end prohibition – a promise that was very popular.

Roosevelt ran a very strong and effective campaign – he travelled all over the USA and made up to 15 speeches a day. His campaign theme tune was heard everywhere.

Roosevelt won the election by a landslide. There were 48 states in 1932, and he won 42 of them.

Now try this

Did Roosevelt win the 1932 election or did Hoover lose it? Write a short paragraph explaining your answer.

The start of the New Deal

Roosevelt had won the election by a landslide because he promised a 'New Deal' for the American people. His policies aimed to support many different groups in American society. When he took office, he promised 'action, and action now'.

Roosevelt's first 100 days

Roosevelt kept his promise. When he took office in March 1933, he took three main actions.

Restoring trust in the banks	Finding money to help the unemployed	Ending prohibition
The problem: Over 5000 banks closed during the Depression, and millions of people lost their savings. This meant that people no longer trusted banks. They panicked and kept their money at home – so banks could not lend to people wanting to start businesses.	The problem: Roosevelt needed to take immediate action to help the unemployed but there was no money.	The problem: Prohibition was unpopular, had led to organised crime and police corruption, as well as social problems.
The solution: Emergency Banking Act 1933. The Act closed all banks for four days so they could be inspected to make sure they were well-run, honest and solvent (had enough money to operate). Only those that passed the test could re-open.	The solution: Economy Act 1933. This cut pay for people working for the government and armed forces by 15%.	The solution: Beer Act 1933. This made it legal to make and sell alcohol again.
Did it work? Yes. \$1 billion was paid into bank accounts when the banks opened.	Did it work? Yes. This made nearly \$1 billion available for the New Deal.	Did it work? Yes. Although it didn't end organised crime, it did reduce the power of the gangs. It also created jobs and made money for the government through taxing alcohol.

The 'Alphabet Agencies'

Roosevelt knew that getting America out of the Depression would be hard – and that he didn't know exactly what to do. He recruited lots of expert advisers (he called them the 'Brain Trust') and started over 100 new organisations to tackle different problems.

Farmers: AAA – Agricultural Adjustment Agency – paid farmers to produce less, which led to raised prices and better incomes for farmers.

Some of the 'Alphabet Agencies'

These new organisations were known by their initials. They were nicknamed the 'Alphabet Agencies' because there were so many of them. These are just some of the key examples.

Industry: NRA – National Recovery Administration – encouraged workers and employers to agree fair wages and conditions, and gave workers the right to join trade unions.

Unemployed: FERA – Federal Emergency Relief Agency – gave \$500m to states to provide help to the homeless and malnourished by funding soup kitchens, blankets and clothes. It also provided childcare so parents could find work.

'Priming the pump'

Roosevelt's theory was that by spending money he could kick-start the economy. In other words, if the government created work, people would spend their wages and businesses would expand, creating more jobs and more prosperity. This idea is sometimes called 'priming the pump'.

'Fireside chats'

Roosevelt made great use of the radio as a form of communication. He made 28 radio broadcasts explaining his policies. The first was about the banking crisis, and was made eight days into his presidency. The broadcasts were in the evening, and they were clear and conversational. Roosevelt called them his 'fireside chats' and they made him very popular.

Now try this

Which **one** of the three main actions Roosevelt took in his first 100 days was most significant? Explain your answer in a short paragraph.

Opposition to the New Deal

Not everyone was in favour of Roosevelt's New Deal. Some people, like Hoover, believed that people should look after themselves, while others thought that more should be done.

The rich

- Roosevelt funded the New Deal by increasing taxes on the wealthy, and many of them did not like it. They thought the government was wasting money by paying people to plant trees and paint buildings.
- They also felt that they had lost enough – many had lost a lot of money in the Wall Street Crash. Roosevelt understood this, but said that they had something left, so should help those who had nothing.
- Many business owners resented the way that Roosevelt's policies interfered in business – for example, increasing workers' rights by setting minimum wages and maximum hours of work.



A cartoon from 1935 opposing the New Deal. It shows a 'tax burden' – the costs of Roosevelt's policies – sinking a boat called 'Business', with the 'Taxpayer' struggling at the helm.

Political opposition: Republicans

Many Republicans, like Hoover, believed that people should solve their own problems. They thought that the New Deal policies were having too much influence on people's lives and that the government was getting too powerful. Some accused Roosevelt of being a dictator, while others thought that America was heading towards communism.

Political opposition: radical politicians

Some politicians took the opposite view – that the New Deal didn't go far enough and that the government should be doing **more**. Francis Townsend suggested a retirement age of 60 to make jobs for young people. Charles Coughlin's National Union for Social Justice said that Roosevelt should do more to create jobs and ensure higher wages for workers.

One radical politician, Huey Long, said that there should be a 'Share Our Wealth' policy: any fortunes over \$5 million should be confiscated and shared out, every family would have a car, a house and a radio, and there would be free education and cheap food for the poor. His ideas were very popular!

Opposition from the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is America's highest court. It decides whether new laws obey the Constitution. According to the Constitution, the President can make laws affecting the whole country, and individual state governments decide on laws for their own states.

For more on the Constitution, see page 1.

In 1935, the Supreme Court decided that the Agricultural Adjustment Agency was unconstitutional (did not follow the Constitution) because it took away the states' rights to decide what money to give farmers. It also said that some of the measures introduced by the National Recovery Administration were illegal for the same reason.

For more on the AAA, see page 19.

The 1936 election

Despite opposition to the New Deal, Roosevelt won the 1936 election easily – even though the Republicans chose a very popular politician to run against him. This was because, although the people who opposed Roosevelt's policies were very vocal, the majority of American people benefited from the New Deal.

Now try this

Roosevelt said that everyone was against the New Deal except the voters. In a short paragraph, explain what he meant by this.