

# 2022 AP UNITED STATES HISTORY SAQ SAMPLE RESPONSES

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COLOR CODES:    **Insufficient**    **Likely Sufficient**    **Above and Beyond**

1.

- a) One major difference between Billington’s and Schwantes’ interpretations of frontier settlement is that Billington argued that the West was settled primarily by experienced farmers and Schwantes’ argument is that wageworkers were the most noteworthy settlers of the frontier.
- b) One historical development that would support Billington’s interpretation would be the Homestead Act, which was passed during the Civil War in order to encourage farmers to move West into states like Kansas and Nebraska. The Homestead Act gave 160-acre homesteads to Americans who were willing to move west and farm. Over 600,000 families took advantage of this opportunity, including Exodusters, former slaves who moved to Kansas from the South.
- c) One historical development that would support Schwantes’ interpretation is the passage of the Pacific Railroad Act and the construction of the Transcontinental Railroads. These railroads, which connected the Eastern and Western portions of the United States, were largely built by Irish Civil War veterans and Chinese immigrants who did not have a great deal of experience with farming. The transcontinental railroad opened the door to the development of cities in the West, making it open to more than just farmers.

2.

- a) The point of view of the excerpt is the point of view of free black Americans in Ohio who are petitioning for the right to vote and have equal citizenship. Although slavery did not exist in Northern states in the 1850s, this did not mean that black Americans had equal rights, such as the right to vote.
- b) The Northwest Ordinance of 1787, passed during the Articles of Confederation, prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory, which at the time, included the future state of Ohio. This is the reason why the petitioners are free people of color rather than slaves.

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The Constitution, as originally written, did not guarantee equal rights to all Americans regardless of race or ethnicity. In fact, it condoned the institution of slavery with the 3/5 Compromise and clauses that required “property” to be returned to its home state. At the time, the Bill of Rights only applied to the federal government, and the states were free to determine rules about citizenship and voting rights.

- c) The Fourteenth Amendment, which was ratified during Reconstruction, guaranteed citizenship to everyone who is born in the United States. This was a response to the “Black Codes” passed in Southern states after the Civil War to limit the rights of African Americans. The Fourteenth Amendment also granted “equal protection of the laws” to all citizens in the United States. This was a result of efforts by African Americans to gain equal rights.

3.

- a) One way that Native American societies adapted to their environment prior to European contact was the cultivation of corn in the Southwest. Due to dry conditions, native tribes in the Southwest irrigated their fields in order to be able to grow crops.

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One way that Native American societies adapted to their environment prior to European contact was through hunting and gathering. Millions of bison roamed the Great Plains, which were a great source of protein for Plains Indians. Wild game was also plentiful in the Southeast and Northeast regions, while led settled Indians in those areas to supplement their agriculture with deer and other wild animals.

- b) Native Americans in the Great Plains and the Northeast both benefited from trade relationships with European colonizers -- especially the French. French traders wanted Indian furs, whether these be beaver pelts in the Northeast and Great Lakes or bison hides in the Great Plains.
- c) Indians who were in the French zones of settlement often formed alliances and friendship with the French colonizers, while Indians on the Eastern Seaboard often had to move out of the way of English settlers, who came in droves. One result of this was the French and Indian War, in which the Indians in the Great Lakes and French-controlled regions fought alongside their French allies, while Indians in the British colonies, such as the Iroquois, did not do much to help the British during the war.

4.

- a) In the 1890s, farmers responded to bad economic conditions, such as the protective tariff and the gold standard, by organizing the Populist Party. The Populist Party was a “third party” that championed bimetallism, reducing the tariff, and an income tax. William Jennings Bryan, the Democratic nominee in 1896, adopted Populist positions in his “Cross of Gold” speech that launched his unsuccessful bid for the presidency.
- b) Prohibition reformers and women’s suffrage activists both advocated amendments to the Constitution to make their policy positions law during the Progressive Era. The Eighteenth Amendment banned alcohol (and was later repealed) and the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteed the right of women to vote.

- c) One difference in how reformers attempted to change United States society was that the labor movement used strikes to try to get better working conditions, while Progressives passed legislation and amended the Constitution to include their policy items, such as women's suffrage and the income tax. This can be explained by seeing that the labor movement was made up of wage-earners who did not have a lot of money or political pull, while the Progressives were educated, middle-class Americans who were able to use the political process effectively due to their privileged status.