



Paper 3 Mini- Lesson

Effective Analysis and
Historical Debate



Analysis

- Always remember that historical knowledge and analysis should be the *core* of your answer.
- Assuming you have read the question carefully, drawn up a plan, worked out your line of argument, and written an introductory paragraph, you should be able to avoid irrelevant material and simple narrative.
- Your task now is to follow your plan by writing a series of linked paragraphs that contain relevant analysis, precise supporting knowledge and, where relevant, brief references to historical debate.

Historical Debate

- Aspects of historical debate are desirable extras. Where it is relevant, the integration of relevant knowledge about historical debates and interpretations, with reference to individual historians, will help push your answer up into the higher bands.





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- Consider the aims of the New Deal
- Supply a brief explanation of the context (the scale of the problems and the attitude of previous governments to these groups)
- Outline what happened
 - Main policy elements
 - Measures taken to improve the position of Native Americans and African Americans
 - Provide a consistently analytical examination of the reasons for the introduction, course and developments of these events
- Consider historical debate - a topic like this, which has been the subject of much historical debate, will give you the chance to refer to different historians' views

* Common Mistakes *

Some students, being aware of an existing historical debate, simply write: "Historian X says..., and historian Y says..." However, they make no attempt to evaluate the different views (for example, has one historian had access to more/ better information than another, perhaps because he/she was writing at a later date?); nor is this information integrated into their answer by being pinned to the question. What is needed is the application of precise own knowledge to evaluate the strengths or weaknesses of these views.

“The New Deal did more for Native Americans than African Americans.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? - ANALYSIS

These gains, when compared with the position of African Americans, suggests that the New Deal did more for Native Americans than African Americans. Many New Deal agencies discriminated against African Americans, and unlike the situation for Native Americans, there were no agencies established specifically to look after their interests. This supports the view of left-wing historians such as Barton Bernstein, who have argued that the New Deal brought the African American nothing more than words and gestures. This appears to be valid with the development of all white towns through the TVA. However, it ignores the benefits made by African Americans from the slum-clearance schemes in many north-eastern cities. It also ignores the fact that nearly one million jobs were provided for African Americans and a further 50,000 units of housing and training for some half a million African American youths...

“The New Deal did more for Native Americans than African Americans.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? - ANALYSIS

...In much the same way as Native Americans were handicapped by the reluctance of officials, the same was often true for African Americans in the South. However, the achievements should not be dismissed and need to be placed in their historical context. Badger and Sitkoff are right to argue that Roosevelt did as much as he could for African Americans, as he was dependent upon the support of southern Democrats who would not have approved further legislation aimed purely at African Americans. It should be remembered, as Meier and Rudgwick have argued, that the New Deal resulted in civil rights becoming a political issue. As one white southerner notes, “You ask any [African American] in the street who’s the greatest man in the world: nine out of ten will tell you Franklin Roosevelt”. Therefore, even if the gains were not always obvious in the 1930s, the period was significant in the long term in improving the position of African Americans and should not be dismissed when compared with the gains of Native Americans.

Orange - connection to the prompt/thesis

Blue - evidence/ support

Yellow - historical debate

Green - evaluation



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Examiner's Comment

"This is a good example of how to use historian's views. The main focus of the answer is properly concerned with using precise own knowledge to address the demands of the question. However, the candidate has also provided some brief but relevant knowledge of historical debate, which is smoothly integrated into the answer."

Practice

Evaluate the impact of the Depression on African Americans, Native Americans and women.

Write one body paragraph, using your own knowledge analytically and combining it with awareness of historical debate.