

### DBQ on the Roaring Twenties

#### Historical Context

The Great War was over and America's sons returned home having witnessed the horrors of war. The survivors brought tales of great battles, death, cabarets, new foods, dance and the wonderment of Paris with its grand boulevards. Upon their arrival, the soldiers were astonished to see that America too had been changed by the war. Women's fashion, appearance and attitudes had changed as they rallied and protested for the right to vote. African Americans had moved to northern cities in great numbers, automobile filled the streets, nativists and the KKK looked with hatred towards immigrants, the government cracked down on radicals during a "Red Scare", new inventions and mass culture captured people's imaginations. The 1920's have been called by many names "The Roaring Twenties", "The Jazz Age", and the "Age of Paranoia". Whatever name you choose for the 1920's it remains the decade when America came of age as an urban modern society.

#### Task

The 1920's have been called by many names "The Roaring Twenties", "The Jazz Age", and the "Age of Paranoia". For each of the three names of the 1920s mentioned above:

- Explains in detail what each name refers to and why it is a good name for the age.

You may use any examples from your study or U.S. history concerning the 1920's. Some suggestions you may wish to consider include:

- The Roaring Twenties can include references to the roaring economy, the stock market boom, the boom in economic production, increase in consumer spending, the impact of the automobile on the economy and society, or any other examples you find relevant.
- The Jazz Age can include references to new fads and fashions (flappers), Jazz music, The Harlem Renaissance, new writers, poets and playwrights. Individuals who were treated as heroes, and the effects and influence of mass culture (movies and radio) or any other examples you find relevant.
- The Age of Paranoia can include references to the Red Scare, Nativism, the KKK, setbacks for labor and unions and the propaganda labeling unions as communists, anarchists and radicals. Limitations on Immigration and the Quota system, racial tensions in the north and the Back to Africa movement or any other examples you find relevant.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to:

- Address all aspects of the Task
- Support the essay with relevant facts, examples and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization
- You must include relevant outside information and documentation from the documents included in this package.
- Introduce the essay by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the Task and conclude with a summation of the theme.

**Part A: Short-Answer Questions.**

**Directions:** Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

**Document 1**

"If it had not been for these things, I might have lived out my life talking at street corners to scorning men. I might have died unmarked, unknown, a failure. Now we are not a failure. This is our career and our triumph. Never in our full life could we hope to do such work for tolerance, for justice, for man's understanding of man as now we do by accident. Our words--our lives--our pains--nothing! The taking of our lives--lives of a good shoemaker and a poor fish-peddler--all! That last moment belongs to us--that agony is our triumph."

*Statement attributed to Bartolomeo Vanzetti by Philip D. Stong, a reporter for the North American Newspaper Alliance who visited Vanzetti in prison in May of 1927 shortly before he and Sacco were executed.]*

1. According to this passage, what did Bartolomeo Vanzetti feel his execution would accomplish that he might not have accomplished had he not been wrongfully convicted. [1]

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2. Explain how the Russian Revolution and nativism in the U.S. led to the conviction and execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. [1]

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Document 2



3. In analyzing this photograph, what new method of production is being used. [1]

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4. What affect did this new method of production have on the manufacture of automobiles and how did those changes affect the rest of society. [1]

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## Document 3

**I am fed up  
With Jim Crow laws,  
People who are cruel  
And afraid,  
Who lynch and run,  
Who are scared of me  
And me of them.  
I pick up my life  
And take it away  
On a one-way ticket  
Gone Up North  
Gone Out West  
Gone!**

*-Langston Hughes. 1926*

5. In this document, the author states that he has “Gone” because of what reason? [1]

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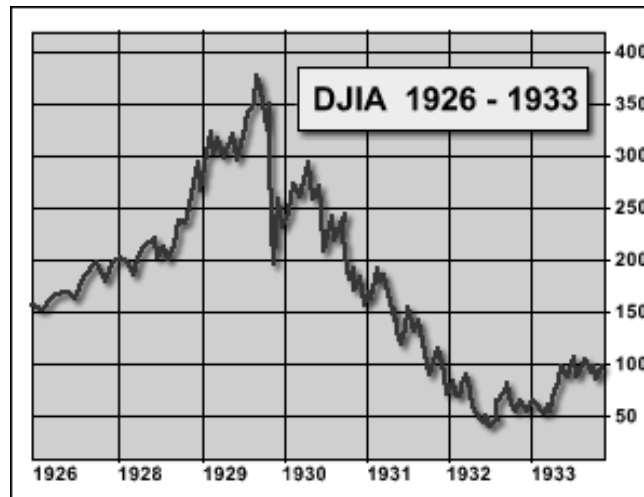
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6. Name a type of person or group and the region of the U.S. that the author is fed up with. [1]

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**Document 4****A Graph of the Dow Jones Industrial Average used to track the Trend of the New York Stock Exchange**

7. According to the graph, what was the trend of Dow Jones Average in the 1920's? [1]

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8. How did the stock market trend affect the wealth of Americas? [1]

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## Document 5

## Lindbergh Does It! To Paris in 33 1/2 Hours; Flies 1,000 Miles through Snow and Sleet; Cheering French Carry Him off Field

New York Times, May 21, 1927

Early in the morning on May 20, 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh took off in The Spirit of St. Louis from Roosevelt Field near New York City. Flying northeast along the coast, he was sighted later in the day flying over Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. From St. Johns, Newfoundland, he headed out over the Atlantic, using only a magnetic compass, his airspeed indicator, and luck to navigate toward Ireland. The flight had captured the imagination of the American public like few events in history. Citizens waited nervously by their radios, listening for news of the flight. When Lindbergh was seen crossing the Irish coast, the world cheered and eagerly anticipated his arrival in Paris. A frenzied crowd of more than 100,000 people gathered at Le Bourget Field to greet him. When he landed, less than 34 hours after his departure from New York, Lindbergh became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

9. According to this passage, what affect did Lindbergh's success have on the American public?  
[1]

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10. Explain how the formation of a national culture led to infatuation of heroes in America. What new inventions helped spread this culture to all Americans? [2]

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Document 6



11. According to cartoonist, how do patriotic Americans feel about foreigners? [1]

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12. Explain how Americans came to associate union members with extremists. [1]

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Document 7



1890's



1920's

13. Explain how WWI and the suffrage movement led to the changing roles of women in the society of the 1920s. [1]

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14. Describe the difference between the women of the Victorian era and the flappers of the 1920s. [1]

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**Part B**

**Directions:** In developing your answer to Part B be sure to:

Address all aspects of the Task

- Support the essay with relevant facts, examples and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduce the essay by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the Task and conclude with a summation of the theme.

**Task**

The 1920's have been called by many names "The Roaring Twenties", "The Jazz Age", and the "Age of Paranoia". Choose two of the three names that you feel best describe the 1920's.

- Discuss the historical circumstances surrounding the Roaring Twenties.
- Write an essay that explains in detail what each name refers too and why it is a good name for the age.
- Evaluate the extent to which the social changes that occurred during the age influenced modern America.

You must include relevant outside information and documentation from the documents included in this package.