

US History: The Great Depression & FDR's New Deal



Name: _____ Date: _____

Part A: Historical & Economic Analysis. Examine the systemic crises of the Great Depression and New Deal interventions.

1. Which combination of economic vulnerabilities contributed directly to the severity of the 1929 stock market crash and subsequent Great Depression?

- A. Excessive federal income tax rates on low-income farm workers
- B. Unchecked speculative buying on margin, agricultural overproduction, and unregulated commercial banking runs
- C. Severe shortages of industrial manufacturing plants in urban areas
- D. The complete replacement of physical currency with gold bars

2. What was the overarching structural objective of the landmark Social Security Act passed in 1935 as part of the Second New Deal?

- A. To nationalize all commercial banks under direct military control
- B. To establish a permanent federal safety net providing old-age retirement pensions, unemployment insurance, and disability aid
- C. To eliminate the federal minimum wage to encourage hiring
- D. To provide free transcontinental railroad tickets to unemployed youths

3. How did the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) established by the 1933 Banking Act permanently restore public confidence in the financial system?

- A. By legally outlawing citizens from withdrawing money from their accounts
- B. By guaranteeing individual bank deposits with federal insurance in the event of institutional insolvency
- C. By fixing the price of all corporate stocks at a single national price
- D. By replacing all private bank branches with post office desks

US History: The Great Depression & FDR's New Deal



Name: _____ Date: _____

Part B: The Three R's of the New Deal. Categorize each agency or program into Relief (immediate aid), Recovery (economic rebuilding), or Reform (permanent structural prevention).

Sort these items: Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC): Employed young men in reforestation, erosion control, and state parks; Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA): Built dams to generate regional electricity and control rural flooding; Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC): Regulated stock market trading and outlawed insider speculation; Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA): Direct cash relief grants to starving destitute families; Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA): Subsidized farmers to reduce surplus production and raise crop prices; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC): Insured private savings deposits against future bank collapse

Relief (Immediate Aid)	Recovery (Economic Stimulus)	Reform (Permanent Safeguards)