

# Document Based Essay : Grade 8

## “Great Depression”

### Directions:

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1-6). This question is designed to test your ability to work with historic documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the document and the author’s point of view.

### Historical Context:

The Great Depression was the most difficult economic time ever faced by America. Starting with the Stock Market crash, the Great Depression continued until Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal helped to solve the economic problems faced by the Nation.

### Question:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to.

- Explain the problems that caused the Great Depression
- Describe the impact that the Great Depression had on Americans.
- Explain how the New Deal helped to bring America out of the Great Depression.

### Part A Short Answer:

Examine the documents that follow closely and then answer the questions that follow. Carefully read and analyze each document. Answer each question on the separate answer sheet using evidence from the document and your knowledge of Social Studies.

### Part B Essay Answer:

Answer the question in a well-organized essay that uses your answers from Part A. Use evidence from the Documents and your knowledge of Social Studies to support the ideas in your essay. You should use definitions, examples, evidence, and other specific examples to fully develop the Topic.

# Document #1

**“Stock Prices Slump \$14,000,000,000 in Nation-Wide Stampede to Unload; Bankers to Support Market Today**

The second hurricane of liquidation within four days hit the stock market yesterday. It came suddenly, and violently, after holders of stocks had been lulled into a sense of security by the rallies of Friday and Saturday. It was a country-wide collapse of open-market security values in which the declines established and the actual losses taken in dollars and cents were probably the most disastrous and far-reaching in the history of the Stock Exchange...”

The New York Times, October 29, 1929

1 A) According to the article, what happened to the stock market on October 29, 1929?

1 B) What caused the events in the stock market on October 29, 1929?

# Document #2



2 A) What effect did the Great Depression have on unemployment?

## Document Set #3

Values have shrunk to fantastic levels; taxes have risen; our ability to pay has fallen; government of all kinds is faced by serious curtailment of income; the means of exchange are frozen in the currents of trade; the withered leaves of industrial enterprise lie on every side; farmers find no markets for their produce; the savings of many years in thousands of families are gone.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933

- 3 A) What problems are described in the above speech?
- 3 B) Explain one of the problems in the speech in detail?

## Document #4



Hooverville, c. 1934

- 4 A) How did the Great Depression affect the lives of American families?
- 4 B) What is a Hooverville?

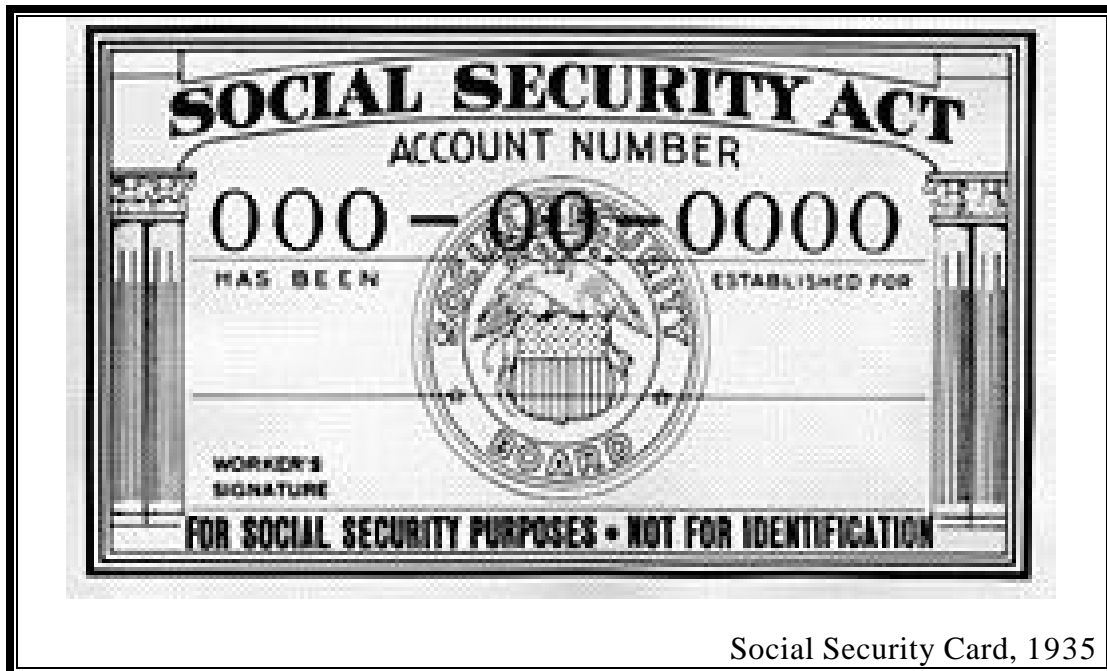
## Document #5

In May, 1933, I was one of the many jobless disillusioned young men who trooped wearily and despondently into a CCC reconditioning camp, not knowing, and not particularly caring, about the future. ... I still have not attained my goal but I am making my own way and that is sufficient for the present. What is probably more important is the fact that I am not the undernourished, furtive-eyed, scared kid that went into Fort Knox over five years ago. Instead, my eyes are clear and my mind is receptive to whatever the future has in store. In short, the CCC has equipped me with the weapons necessary to cope with the innumerable problems that are bound to obstruct my path through life and that must be surmounted before success can be attained.

Testimonial, Keith Hufford, Former CCC Enrollee, 1937

5 A) How did federal work programs help the Americans employed by them?

## Document #6



Social Security Card, 1935

6 A) What is this card used for?

6 B) What are the advantages of the Social Security System?