AP® UNITED STATES HISTORY
2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

Compare and contrast the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s. Focus on TWO of the following.

Social reform
The role of the federal government in the economy
Westward expansion

0–9 points

The 8–9 Essay

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that compares and contrasts the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s focusing on two areas.
- Develops the thesis with substantial and relevant historical information that compares and contrasts the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s focusing on two areas.
- Provides effective analysis that compares and contrasts the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s focusing on two areas; treatment of multiple parts may be somewhat uneven.
- May contain minor errors that do not detract from the quality of the essay.
- Is well organized and well written.

The 5–7 Essay

- Contains a partially developed thesis that compares and contrasts the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s focusing on two areas.
- Supports the thesis with some relevant historical information that compares and contrasts the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s focusing on two areas.
- Provides some analysis that compares and contrasts the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s focusing on two areas; treatment of multiple parts may be uneven.
- May contain errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- Has acceptable organization and writing.

The 2–4 Essay

- Contains an unfocused or limited thesis, or simply paraphrases the question.
- Provides minimal relevant information on two topics, addresses only one topic, or lists facts with little or no application to the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s.
- May address the question only partially, with limited or no analysis.
- May have major errors.
- May be poorly organized or written, or both.

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Question 3 (continued)

The 0–1 Essay

- Lacks a thesis or simply repeats the question.
- Demonstrates an irrelevant or inappropriate response.
- Has numerous errors.
- Is organized or written so poorly, or both, that it inhibits understanding.

The — Essay

- Is blank.

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Question 3 (continued)

Relevant Historical Information

Social reform

- Reforms and ideas inspired by the Second Great Awakening were embraced by the Whigs more than the Democrats. These included temperance, prison reform, sabbatarianism, millennialism, utopianism, abolition, colonization, moral reform, reform of the pauper system, women's rights (Seneca Falls Convention, 1848), the peace movement, reform of public education, and the elimination of all activities considered sinful.
- Women's roles in the antebellum reform movements were appreciated more by Whigs than by Democrats.
- The Whig Party was divided over the issue of slavery (cotton Whigs, conscience Whigs); some Whigs embraced free soil ideas while other Whigs and most Democrats preferred slavery not be debated — the gag rule; Southern Democrats were largely proslavery while Northern Democrats held divergent views on this issue.
- Democrats were more in favor of expansion of voting rights for unpropertied white males; supported the common man and yeoman farmers.

Role of the federal government in economy

- Henry Clay's American System (economic nationalism) vs. Jacksonian laissez faire.
- Whig support for industrialization vs. Democratic support for a largely agrarian republic; support of middle and upper class by Whigs vs. support for the common man and the white yeoman farmers by Democrats.
- Debate over the role of the federal government in internal improvements involving roads, canals, and railroads (Jackson's veto of the Maysville Road Bill while supporting the extension of the National Road).
- Democratic support for labor — enactment of 10-hour workday in government offices and projects (Martin Van Buren); supported early labor unions.
- Protective tariffs (Whigs) vs. low tariffs (Democrats). Southern Whigs, unlike most Northern Whigs, opposed high tariffs; tariff revenue was one of the primary sources of federal revenue in this period; Tariff of 1832; conflict between Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun because of the tariff; Compromise Tariff of 1833 engineered by Henry Clay; Force Act; Walker Tariff of 1846 lowered tariff rates.
- Re-charter of the Bank of the United States vs. Jackson's veto of the Re-charter Bill became the primary issue in the 1832 election featuring Democrat Andrew Jackson vs. Whig Henry Clay; Jackson's dispute with Nicholas Biddle, President of the Second Bank of the United States; Whig Daniel Webster served as legal counsel for the Second Bank of the United States; pet banks supported by Democrats.
- Democrats favored the government using a vault or warehouse for its money whereas Whigs favored the Second Bank of the United States.
- Jackson's 1836 Specie Circular turned an angry public against Democratic President Van Buren as he took office. Despite the panic and depression of 1837, Van Buren refused to revoke the Specie Circular or take other action to stimulate the economy.
- Van Buren's Independent Treasury Act of 1840 (proposed in 1837 as the Divorce Bill) took money out of Jackson's pet banks where it backed loans and placed it in government vaults where it had little economic impact.

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Question 3 (continued)

Westward expansion

- Both parties favored American Indian removal in areas where their supporters wished to settle; "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" was a slogan of Whig candidates (Harrison/Tyler) in the Election of 1840; Harrison had fought against American Indians.
- Southern Democrats favored westward expansion, partly to expand cotton plantations and slavery into the west; Whigs concerned about the extension of slavery and slave power.
- Battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto (1836); Jackson and the Democrats favored independence for Texas but refused to annex Texas because of the slavery controversy.
- While Tyler was president, Congress annexed Texas, an action called for by Democrat Polk in his 1844 election campaign and eventually supported by his Whig opponent, Henry Clay.
- The Wilmot Proviso, though sponsored by Pennsylvania Democrat David Wilmot, was supported by Whigs.
- Democrats more in favor of Manifest Destiny; Whigs worried about losing representation in Congress as people from the North and East moved West and Southwest, although northerners in both parties supported the annexation of Oregon.
- Democratic support for westward expansion manifested in support for the Mexican-American War ("Mr. Polk's War").
- Some Whigs opposed the Mexican-American War (e.g., Abraham Lincoln, Henry Clay), a war that led to the sectional crises of the 1850s and the 1860s.

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Circle the Section II question number you are answering on this page.

Part A — Mandatory	Part B — Circle one	Part C — Circle one
1	2 or (3)	4 or 5

1 of 2
3A

The Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party were generally opposed to each other in their ideals. The Democrats were devoted to Jefferson's idea of an agrarian society run by the common man, whereas the Whigs promoted the industry and manufacturing of the northern states. However, Jackson's presidency did end up in creating some common ground between the two parties.

Jackson was elected as a champion of the common man. His policies of small government and less intervention appealed to plantation owners in the South and small farmers in the west. The greatest evil in Jackson's eyes was the National Bank. To him, a federally operated treasury gave the government too much power and discriminated against the lower classes. The idea was to give the people the most power as possible. This platform, however, left little opportunity for federally financed social reform. As the abolition movement started to gain prominent voices like Douglass and Tubman, Jackson refused to risk upsetting the slave plantation owners that had elected him. The only people he tried to "help" were the Native Americans. Unfortunately, his idea of "help" was relocating the tribes., resulting in the trail of tears. This platform of low government intervention and putting power in the hands of the people was characteristic of the Democratic Party at the time.

The Whigs were nearly the complete opposite of the Jacksonian Democrats. Located primarily in the north, manufacturing was the party's major economic concern. Raised tariffs for shielding American business and a National Bank for a reliable money supply were chief among the Whigs' policies. Obviously, these views required the type of powerful central government that the Democrats were in stern opposition to

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Part A — Mandatory	Part B — Circle one	Part C — Circle one
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3062
3A

The lack of dependence on slave labor in the north also fueled the abolitionist movement within the Whig Party. Publications like "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and Garrison's articles in "The Liberator" became rallying cries of the Whig's plea for emancipation. The women's rights movement was also more concentrated in the Whig Party, although it was generally given less thought than the slavery issue.

Although the two parties seemed to be polar opposites, there were a few similarities between them. The Whigs may have been in favor of a larger central government, they didn't support many types of government intervention. As businessmen, most Whigs were willing to use cheap child labor to make larger profits. For this, the Southern Democrats often criticized the hypocracy of the Whig abolition movement. The Democrats were also open to some aspects of large government. Jackson used the power of the veto numerous times during his presidency, especially against Biddle and the National Bank. The two parties may have been different in theory, but ended up being fairly similar in practice.

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Part A — Mandatory	Part B — Circle one	Part C — Circle one
1	2 or 3	4 or 5

3B
1 of 3

The two major parties of the Jacksonian period of America were the Jacksonian Democrats and the much more liberal Whig party. The parties were nearly polar opposites, in both their beliefs in the role of governments and the future of social reform. Ultimately, their biggest disagreements came from the role of the federal government in the economy and social reform, as well as the way it was to come about.

The biggest, and most widely supported, party of the time was the Jacksonian Democrats, who succeeded in securing the presidency for Andrew Jackson. The Jacksonians supported a weak central government, which relied upon the states to give it what little power it had. As such, they supported the belief that central banks were unnecessary and only put power in the hands of the few. Instead, the advocated for the creation and strengthening of state banks, which the citizens and their government had more direct control over. Jacksonians also believed that government should have no hand in social reform, rather deciding that societal change should come from the society itself. They also supported traditional values, with slaves and blacks remaining oppressed and second-class citizens, women subject to their husbands and fathers, and school optional for everyone. These beliefs constituted the backbone of Jacksonian beliefs,

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Part A — Mandatory	Part B — Circle one	Part C — Circle one
1	2 or 3	4 or 5

3B
2 of 3

and was inline with the beliefs of many Americans at that time in history.

The Whigs, the other "major" party of the Jackson era, was the antithesis of the Democratic party. Whigs believed in a strong Central government, which was balanced out by the States who sent in their representatives. In line with their beliefs, Whigs supported the founding of a central U.S. bank with smaller banks made much less important, but still vital to the American economy. The Whigs also believed that social reform, while still dependent on the beliefs of the public, could be greatly accelerated with help from the government. They also supported more progressive reforms, such as the ending of slavery and increased opportunities to go to school for many students. However, the many Whigs supported more traditional beliefs, such as the superiority of men over women and that blacks were second-class citizens and inferior to whites. The Whig's beliefs were more rational in terms of the economy and national expansion, but their social beliefs had more in common with the primary beliefs of the Jacksonian era.

*Switch with second sentence

Ultimately, a compromise had to be struck

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Part A — Mandatory	Part B — Circle one	Part C — Circle one
1	2 or 3	4 or 5

3B
3 of 3

between the two parties. Switch sentences While the Jacksonians Controlled the presidency, Whigs held ~~maintained~~ ~~control~~ sizable amount enough of congress. On the issue of a central bank, the Jacksonians conceded to a temporary formation of a central bank, in an attempt to level out American debts. On social reform, no major progress was made for the Whigs beside the passage of legislation that eliminated the importation of slaves. As with most American divisions, compromise was the solution to the problem.

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Part A — Mandatory	Part B — Circle one	Part C — Circle one
1	2 or 3	4 or 5

1 2 3

3C

During the 1830's and 1840's two political parties had taken shape. One being Andrew Jackson's Democrats, and the other being the Whigs. The two parties had many different beliefs, but most of the contrast came from the role of federal government in the economy, and westward expansion.

Jackson had strong views on the role of the federal government in the economy, and ~~they were to~~ he believed the federal government should stay away from it. Jackson most clearly displayed his thoughts due to his hatred for the National Bank. Jackson worked his entire administration attempting to demolish the National Bank, and eventually ~~was~~ succeeded. By doing so, Jackson had destroyed much of the relationship between federal government and the economy. In contrast to the Jacksonian Democratic Party's views, the Whig Party, led by Henry Clay, strongly advocated ~~for the~~ a strong role of federal government in the economy. This was displayed simply by backing the national bank. Clay made it clear in his election that he supported the bank. In addition to the obvious support, the Whig Party made it extremely difficult for Jackson to carry out his hopes of destroying the National Bank on numerous occasions. Clearly the two ~~Whig~~ political parties had little similarity

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2 of 3
3C

regarding the role of federal government in the economy.

In addition to the previously discussed role, Jackson's Democrats also disagreed with the Whigs on behalf of Westward expansion. Jackson's main reason for election was his endorsement of, "The Common Man." This political figure inspired nearly every frontiersman living West of the Appalachian Mountains. Jackson himself was from the West in the area of Tennessee, where he grew up in an average house and lived an average life. Because of this background, Jackson strongly endorsed westward expansion. He believed that by moving West Americans could be presented with a second chance as well as a healthy life on the frontier. Nearly a polar opposite of Jackson's beliefs on Westward expansion, was the Whigs view. The Whigs, being primarily an Eastern dominated party, discouraged westward expansion. The Whigs were viewed as wealthy, selfish businessmen. ~~Very f~~ ~~white~~ While some members of the Whig party may have joined due to other political beliefs, the ~~majo~~ overwhelming majority were against westward expansion.

~~Throu~~ During the 1830's and 1840's the Jacksonian Democrats strongly disagreed with the views of the

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3C

newly created Whig Party. With the issues of the role of federal government in the economy and the idea of Westward expansion, the two political parties struggled to coexist throughout their time.

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AP® UNITED STATES HISTORY
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Question 3

Overview

The question asked students to compare and contrast the Jacksonian Democratic Party and the Whig Party of the 1830s and 1840s, focusing on two of the following: social reform, the role of the federal government in the economy, or westward expansion. It required students to use relevant historical information to support their arguments. The question tested the primary historical thinking skill of comparison, and the better essays focused on the secondary skills of understanding continuity and change over time, contextualization, and using relevant historical evidence.

Sample: 3A
Score: 7

This essay effectively compares and contrasts the Democratic and Whig approaches to economic and social issues, often presenting relevant information in a nuanced manner. There is also some insightful analysis: why Andrew Jackson avoided antagonizing fellow slaveholders; how relocating Native Americans could benefit slaveholders; how the absence of slavery in the North made abolitionism possible among the Whigs; how Whigs may have been reformers, but this did not preclude them from exploiting workers; and how Jackson used the veto in spite of the Democratic preference for limited government.

Sample: 3B
Score: 5

This essay has some relevant information and some analysis, particularly in regard to social reform, but it is light on specifics. While the essay compares and contrasts and focuses on two areas, some minor errors do appear ("central bank" instead of independent treasury, Whigs banning importation of slaves).

Sample: 3C
Score: 3

This is a limited essay, concerned mainly with Democratic alignment with the "Common Man" and Whig alignment with financial elites. The essay's discussion of the bank is adequate, but its discussion of westward expansion is minimal.

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