

Name:

Date:

Teacher:

Class/Period:

- 1) Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration is considered by some historians to be the first modern presidency. Read the following quotation, and consider what distinguishing features marked Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency.

"With Franklin Roosevelt's administration . . . the presidency began to undergo not a shift but rather a metamorphosis."¹

¹ indicates a change that is lasting

From Fred Greenstein, "Change and Continuity in the Modern Presidency." © 1978 by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.

Using your knowledge of the New Deal era, write an essay in which you assess whether or not the presidency "began to undergo . . . a metamorphosis" during Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration. In your essay, discuss TWO of the following to support your analysis:

- The role of the federal government in the economic affairs of the nation
- The change in the size and scope of influence of the executive branch
- The use of mass media by the presidency

You may use additional subjects and/or examples to support your analysis.

Scoring Criteria

The following scoring criteria were provided to scorers of this prompt.

- The role of the federal government in the economic affairs of the nation:
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed new acts to help change the course of the economy. Presidents before him typically took a laissez-faire approach to the economy; he changed the way the government interacted with the economy.
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed and signed New Deal legislation (much of which included a regulatory component):
 - The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a work relief program that provided jobs for young men.
 - The National Industrial Recovery Act authorized the president to regulate banks and stimulate the economy.
 - The Economy Act of 1933 allowed government agencies to purchase goods from other government agencies.
 - The Emergency Banking Act of 1933 (Bank Holiday) temporarily closed bankrupt banks to give them time to reorganize and possibly reopen if they had enough assets to survive.
 - The Federal Securities Act of 1933 allowed the federal government to regulate the offer and sale of securities.
 - The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 created the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, which paid subsidies to farmers to leave some of their fields fallow, thus reducing crop surplus.
 - The Tennessee Valley Authority was created in 1933 to help economic development and manufacturing in the Tennessee Valley, a region hit hard by the Great Depression.
 - The Wagner Act (also known as the National Labor Relations Act) of 1935 protected the rights of workers to organize unions, to enter collective bargaining, and to participate in strikes.
 - The Social Security Act of 1935 provided benefits to retirees and the unemployed.
- The change in the size and scope of the influence of the executive branch:

Franklin D. Roosevelt created many new federal departments that still exist today.

 - The sheer volume of proposed legislation far surpassed that of previous presidencies.
 - The Executive Office of the President was created.
 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt used “brain trusts” (Moley, Tugwell, Berle, et al.) to help create programs.
 - The executive branch bureaucracy expanded to administer and enforce the numerous New Deal programs including the National Recovery Administration (NRA), National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Rural Electrification Administration (REA), and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA).
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt used an executive order to create the Rural Electrification Administration.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's attempt to "pack" the Supreme Court.

The multiple terms of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The use of the mass media by the president:

Franklin D. Roosevelt used the media in ways that his predecessors had not. All of his successors have learned from this lesson and have used the media to help pursue their policies and to keep the public informed.

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the White House Press Office.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt used the radio for his fireside chats, which cultivated positive relationships with the media and the public.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt used mass media, such as radio, magazines, and newspapers, to float trial balloons to determine public opinion on controversial subjects like his court-packing scheme.

Note: Students might argue against President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the first "modern" president. Some students may feel that one of the presidents listed below may have caused the metamorphosis of the presidency and thus should be called the first "modern" president. Valid arguments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Andrew Jackson's administration was marked by an extensive use of the veto, an expansion of the electorate, and the solidification of the party system.
- Abraham Lincoln's crisis management during the Civil War expanded the powers of the president to include emergency powers, such as suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.
- Theodore Roosevelt used the "bully pulpit" of the presidency and the enforcement powers of the Executive Branch in his trust-busting efforts. He also oversaw the emergence of the United States as a world political actor.

U.S. History Rubric: Analysis

- 4 A response at this level provides evidence of thorough knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.**
 - The essay demonstrates thoughtful interpretation and/or analysis of the historical issue and its implications.
 - The essay provides insightful explanation of the prompt topic, effectively using relevant and accurate facts, examples, and details from at least two of the required kinds of evidence.
 - The essay effectively conveys knowledge and ideas.
- 3 A response at this level provides evidence of competent knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.**
 - The essay demonstrates reasonable interpretation and/or analysis of the historical issue and its implications.
 - The essay provides sufficient explanation of the prompt topic, appropriately using generally accurate facts, examples, and details from at least two of the required kinds of evidence.
 - The essay adequately conveys knowledge and ideas.
- 2 A response at this level provides evidence of basic knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.**
 - The essay demonstrates incomplete or inconsistent interpretation and/or analysis of the historical issue and its implications.
 - The essay provides some explanation of the prompt topic. Facts, examples, and details included are partially correct, though a few may be incorrect or lack depth. The essay addresses fewer than two of the required kinds of evidence or may address them with little development.
 - The essay conveys knowledge and ideas somewhat unclearly.
- 1 A response at this level provides evidence of minimal knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.**
 - The essay demonstrates little or no interpretation and/or analysis of the historical issue and its implications.
 - The essay provides little or no explanation of the prompt topic. Facts, examples, and details included are mostly incorrect or lack depth. The essay may address fewer than two of the required kinds of evidence.
 - The essay conveys knowledge and ideas in a manner that is unclear and/or impedes understanding.
- 0 A response at this level is not scorable.**
 - The essay is off-topic, blank, hostile, or otherwise not scorable.