

1. How did LBJ's administration address the various problems of the 1960s? How well did these responses fix the problems?
2. Johnson, like FDR in the 1930s, used the power of the federal government to address the various problems of the 1960s. While several social and economic issues were effectively tackled, public mistrust in political institutions reached epidemic proportions.
3. Social issues – protests, Civil Rights movement, inequality (addressed by Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965; various Great Society programs)

Political issues – war in Vietnam, increased conservatism late in the decade

Economic issues – budget imbalance resulting from war, Great Society, space program; issues of inequality

6. The many challenges of the 1960s necessitated a variety of responses from the federal government. President Lyndon Johnson provided the American people with a vision of increased government involvement via legislation addressing a myriad of social, political, and economic problems. Johnson, like FDR in the 1930s, used the power of the federal government to address the various problems of the 1960s. While several social and economic issues were effectively tackled, public mistrust in political institutions reached epidemic proportions. A sharp distinction can be drawn between Johnson's domestic achievements, which were largely successful, and his foreign policy, which, particularly in Vietnam, failed.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

SECTION II

Part A

(Suggested writing time—45 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—45

**Directions:** The following question requires you to construct a coherent essay that integrates your interpretation of Documents A-H and your knowledge of the period referred to in the question. High scores will be earned only by essays that both cite key pieces of evidence from the documents and draw on outside knowledge of the period.

1. In what ways did the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson respond to the political, economic, and social problems of the United States? Assess the effectiveness of these responses.

Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1960-1970 to construct your response.

Document A

Source: Abraham Ribicoff, secretary of health, education, and welfare, testifying before the House of Representatives, July 1961.

With life spans lengthened, with medical science breaking into undreamed realms of discovery, the nation's aged now face another aspect of insecurity: how to meet the mounting costs of health care.

Medicare -  
govt. sponsored  
care for the  
elderly

Document B

Source: Lyndon B. Johnson, message to Congress, March 16, 1964.

Because it is right, because it is wise, and because, for the first time in our history, it is possible to conquer poverty, I submit, for the consideration of the Congress and the country, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. The act does not merely expand old programs or improve what is already being done. It charts a new course. It strikes at the causes, not just the consequences, of poverty. It can be a milestone in our 180-year search for a better life for our people.

This act . . . will give almost half a million underprivileged young Americans the opportunity to develop skills, continue education, and find useful work; it will give every American community the opportunity to develop a comprehensive plan to fight its own poverty—and help them carry out their plans; . . . it will give many workers and farmers the opportunity to break through particular barriers which bar their escape from poverty.

Housing &  
Urban  
Development  
allowed  
urban poor  
cheaper  
rent  
(subsidized  
by govt)

Document C

Source: Stokely Carmichael, "What We Want," *New York Review of Books*, September 22, 1966.

On May 3, five new county "freedom organizations" convened and nominated candidates for the offices of sheriff, tax assessor, members of the school boards. Their ballot symbol is the black panther: a bold beautiful animal, representing the strength and dignity of Black demands today. A man needs a black panther on his side when he and his family must endure—as hundreds of Alabamians have endured—loss of job, eviction, starvation, and sometimes death for political activity. He may also need a gun, and SNCC [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee] reaffirms the right of Black men everywhere to defend themselves when threatened or attacked.

As for initiating the use of violence, we hope that such programs as ours will make that unnecessary; but it is not for us to tell Black communities whether they can or cannot use any particular form of action to resolve their problems. Responsibility for the use of violence by Black men, whether in self-defense or initiated by them, lies with the White community.

SNCC started as a nonviolent group (in its title) but this suggests a change in tactics based on frustration or lack of progress

possible violence

Document D

Source: NOW Statement of Purpose, October 29, 1966.

We, men and women who hereby constitute ourselves as the National Organization for Women, believe that the time has come for a new movement toward true equality for all women in America, and toward a fully equal partnership of the sexes, as part of the worldwide revolution of human rights now taking place within and beyond our national borders.

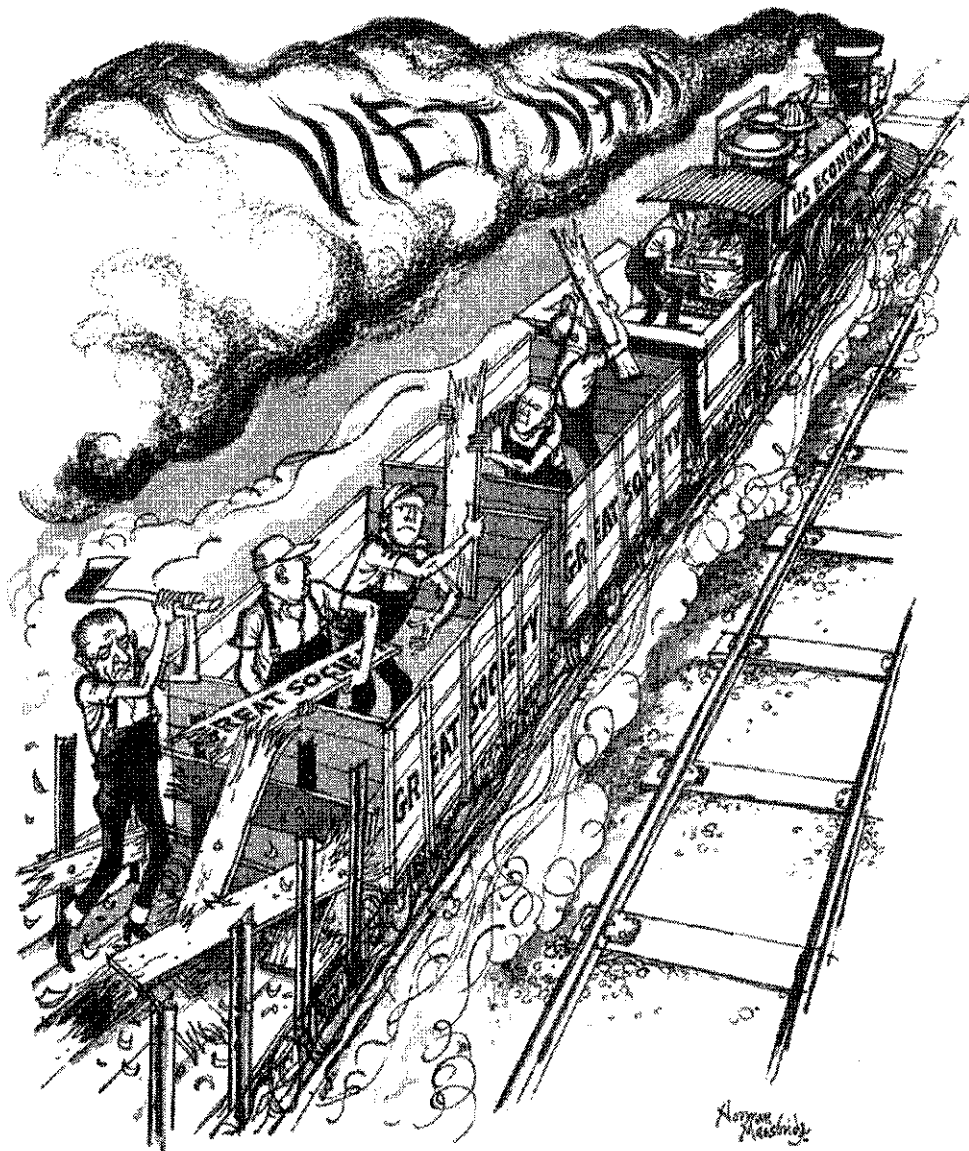
The purpose of NOW is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men . . .

There is no civil rights movement to speak for women, as there has been for Negroes and victims of discrimination. The National Organization for Women must therefore begin to speak.

Betty Friedan wrote "The Feminine Mystique" in 1963 - symbol (beginning) of change regarding women's roles in society

Document E

Source: *Punch*, 1967



Additionally,  
the space  
program was  
concurrently  
spending  
billions of  
dollars in an  
effort to get  
to the moon.

The war in Vietnam **The Train Robbery**  
is consuming the resources intended

for the Great Society.

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Document F

Source: Lyndon B. Johnson, interview, 1967.

How is it possible that all these people could be so ungrateful to me after I had given them so much? I tried to make it possible for every child of every color to grow up in a nice house, to eat a solid breakfast, to attend a decent school, and to get a good and lasting job. I asked so little in return. Just a little thanks. Just a little appreciation. That's all. *frustration*

*In addition to the domestic criticism, LBJ faced criticism regarding foreign policy as well (Vietnam).*

Document G

Source: Letter from private citizen to Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina, June 18, 1968.

I'm sick of crime everywhere. I'm sick of riots. I'm sick of "poor" people demonstrations (black, white, red, yellow, purple, green or any other color!) . . . I'm sick of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling for the good of a very small part rather than the whole of our society . . . I'm sick of the lack of law enforcement . . . But most of all, I'm sick of constantly being kicked in the teeth for staying home, minding my own business, working steadily, paying my bills and taxes, raising my children to be decent citizens, managing my financial affairs so I will not become a ward of the City, County, or State, and footing the bill for the minuses mentioned herein.

*Nixon would tap into the "silent majority" in the 1968 election.*

Document H

Source: United States Department of Commerce Census Bureau.

Percentage of Persons Below Poverty Level by Racial Categories

Year	All Non-Whites	Blacks	Whites
1959	53.3	55.1	18.1
1966	39.8	41.8	11.3
1967	37.2	39.3	11.0
1968	33.5	34.7	10.0
1969	31.0	32.2	9.5
1970	32.0	33.5	9.9
1971	30.9	32.5	9.9
1972	31.9	33.3	9.0
1973	29.6	31.4	8.4
1974	29.5	31.4	8.9

55% ↓

57% ↓

49% ↓

Nixon's conservative policies led to a drawdown of govt/ social spending.

biggest drops

END OF DOCUMENTS FOR QUESTION 1