

Name _____

Date _____

The Roaring Twenties - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. The image of a freewheeling flapper often comes to mind when we talk about the 1920s. With their bold makeup, short dresses, and bobbed hair, these young women defied traditional notions of femininity. They also engaged in activities viewed at the time as unladylike, such as going out unaccompanied by a male chaperone and smoking and drinking in front of strangers. Though most women did not participate in this subculture, flappers came to symbolize the new liberties that many women felt during the era. World War I ushered in significant change as civilian women began to occupy office jobs previously held by men, who had been drafted to serve in the military. For many women, this was the first time that they were able to earn their own money and experience financial independence. New inventions also spurred social progress. The manufacturing boom led to more households having appliances like the washing machine and the vacuum cleaner. Since housework was less time-consuming, women had increased opportunities for leisure. And as automobiles became more commonplace, women gained the ability to move around as they pleased. Perhaps most significantly, in 1920, the 19th Amendment barred voter discrimination on the basis of sex, granting women a voice in the American political process. However, these freedoms were disproportionately enjoyed by White, upper-class women.

Which of the following is true?

- A. Almost all American women adopted a flapper lifestyle in the 1920s.
- B. American women had always been able to vote, but most didn't until the 1920s.
- C. Women were discouraged from working during the 1920s.
- ☒ D. Many, but not all, women gained economic and political freedoms in the 1920s.

The text states that many women experienced "new liberties" during the 1920s, such as "financial independence," "opportunities for leisure," and "a voice in the American political process." Still, "these freedoms were disproportionately enjoyed by White, upper-class women."

2. A defining period of the late 1910s and early 1920s, the Red Scare was marked by widespread fear of left-wing dissidents in the United States. These anxieties were fueled by a combination of real and imagined events. The 1917 Russian Revolution and subsequent founding of the Soviet Union had sparked concern about the global spread of communism. Some also believed that the burgeoning labor movement was fomenting anti-capitalist sentiment. But the Red Scare was also in part a backlash by Whites against the increased presence and visibility of Black people and immigrants in American life. Many who were alleged to harbor communist ideals had recently arrived in the US from southern and eastern Europe. Suspected groups and individuals were subject to infiltration by government agents, unreasonable search and seizure, and false arrests. Federal officials also issued sensational statements that blamed communists for unrelated incidents such as racist terror attacks. In April 1920, the Justice Department warned of rumors of a bloody uprising slated to occur on May Day that year. When the day passed without event, the public began to grow disillusioned with the government's fear-mongering tactics. But the damage was already done. Hundreds of people had been deported due to their alleged political affiliations, and union membership declined in the wake of attacks on organized labor.

The Red Scare can best be described as a period of { }.

A. acceptance of immigrants and people of color



B.

anxiety about left-wing movements

The text states, "The Red Scare was marked by widespread fear of left-wing dissidents in the United States."

C. increased religiosity

D. revolution in organized labor

3. Starting in the early 20th century, stocks represented the majority of capital in the United States. The word “capital” refers to the goods used to produce the items or services that generate profit for an organization. A factory’s machinery and a company’s office space are both considered capital. Partial ownership of a company, which is represented by stocks, is also an example of capital. Stocks are bought and sold through financial marketplaces like the New York Stock Exchange, located on Manhattan’s famed Wall Street. Between 1925 and 1929, the value of the New York Stock Exchange more than tripled. By the end of the decade, about 25 percent of American families owned stock. With the recent introduction of credit, stock was easier to buy than ever before. Many people borrowed large sums to cover their investments, even when they didn’t have the money to pay back their loans. By late 1929, the rising debt crisis had slowed consumer spending, and factories started laying off workers. With no way to recoup the funds they had loaned to people who were now unemployed, banks also began to fail. The stock market finally crashed in October 1929, resulting in the loss of billions of dollars. The hidden weaknesses of the laissez-faire economy of the Roaring Twenties eventually led to the Great Depression that would dominate the next decade.

Which of the following is true?



- A. The booming economy of the Roaring Twenties wasn’t as strong as it seemed.
The text states, “The hidden weaknesses of the laissez-faire economy of the Roaring Twenties eventually led to the Great Depression that would dominate the next decade.”
- B. The Great Depression began in 1925.
- C. The stock market was not a large part of the economic growth that took place during the Roaring Twenties.
- D. The stock market has risen and fallen over the years, but it has never taken a very large hit.