



Sample Q & A for USA Depth Study

1920s

Use this booklet to:

1. Familiarise yourself with the 'style' of the questions you can expect to face.
2. Remind you of the required technique
 - a. Recall of specific factual knowledge [4]
 - b. Explanation (giving reasons) [6]
 - c. Weighing-up [10]
 - i. A two paragraph for and against answer will get NO MORE than 6
 - ii. To get 7+ you MUST provide a 3 paragraph answer. 2 paragraphs for and 1 against OR 1 for and 2 against. (You decide which way round you want it)
3. Help you develop your own judgements on the question
4. For the 10 mark questions – go through your notes and add some detail / supporting factual knowledge to make each of the paragraphs more convincing

Warning

- **DO NOT** try and learn the answers to these question as the board never repeat exactly the same question.

The 1920s brought changes to life in the USA.

(a) What was the Sacco and Vanzetti case? [4]

e.g. 'Sacco and Vanzetti were two Italian Americans.' 'In 1920 they were arrested.' 'They were arrested on suspicion of armed robbery and murder.' 'They were anarchists.' 'The trial became less of a trial for murder, more a trial of their radical ideas.' 'It was a highly publicised case.' 'The case against them was weak.' 'The prosecution relied on racist slurs about their origins and fear about their radical politics.' 'The two were found guilty and sentenced to death.' 'There were six years of legal appeals.' 'They were executed in 1927.' 'Many people believed they were not given a fair trial.' 'Many thought they were the victims of the trial judge's prejudices against foreigners and radical politics.'

(b) Why were the 1920s known as the 'Roaring Twenties'? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation)

e.g. 'They were known as the 'Roaring Twenties' because these years were often associated with radical change in society and outrageous behaviour from some sections of society. Some women broke free from traditions and wore short dresses, short hairstyles, and took up smoking and drinking in speakeasies. Many spent time in the new nightclubs where jazz quickly became very popular.'

Other information you could use to explain why the 20s were called 'roaring'

e.g. 'The economic boom encouraged a change of lifestyle.' 'Jazz became the new popular music.' 'Women changed their look and became more independent.' 'Traditions such as having a chaperone were abandoned.' 'Many people bought cars and travelled for the first time.' 'There was more leisure time for pastimes such as the cinema and music clubs.' 'Some drank illegally in speakeasies.' 'Some said the 1920s started with a roar and ended with a crash.'

(c) How far do you agree that Prohibition failed because it was unpopular? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (There is no doubt there is plenty of evidence to indicate the unpopularity of prohibition....)

e.g. 'The main reason for the failure of Prohibition was that millions of Americans, especially in urban areas, were simply not prepared to obey this law. Some made their own liquor at home, known as moonshine, while rich households imported wine and spirits illegally. By 1925, there were more speakeasies in American cities than there had been saloons in 1919.'

Counter argument (However)

Ultimately Prohibition failed because it was impossible to police effectively. The government appointed several thousand enforcement agents, but this was not enough and they were poorly paid. The networks which ran the illegal liquor business were complex and there were not enough Prohibition agents to stop them. The agents were often open to threats and bribes made by criminal gangs. State officials, judges, senior police officers and jury members were often bought off with bribes. Almost 10% of Prohibition agents were fired for taking bribes.'

Furthermore, there were good economic reasons to end prohibition.....

Society changed in the USA in the 1920s.

(a) Describe US government policy on immigration in the 1920s. [4]

e.g. 'There was a quota system.' 'The Emergency Quota Act was passed in 1921.' 'The number of immigrants was limited to 357 000 per year.' 'A quota was set where annual numbers of immigrants were restricted to 3% of the number from the same country living in the US in 1910.' 'The number of immigrants from eastern and southern Europe was reduced by 75%.' 'In 1924 the National Origins Act was passed.' 'It reduced annual immigration to 150 000.' 'The quota was reduced to 2% of the 1890 figure.' 'Immigrants from China and Japan were barred.' '85% of immigrants came from northern Europe.'

(b) Why did prohibition lead to an increase in crime? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation, 6 for two explanations)

e.g. 'Prohibition led to an increase in crime because people wanted to carry on drinking. To do this they engaged in illegal activities such as drinking in speakeasies. These secret bars were supplied by smugglers who brought alcohol into the country from Canada and Mexico. A whole network of illegal activity sprang up to keep the illegal bars operating.'

Furthermore....criminal gangs such as Al Capone in Chicago recognised there was a market and started bootlegging on a massive scale which involved bribery and corruption of all sorts of official from court clerks to Will Thompson the mayor of Chicago....gangs also fought with each other over their 'patch'. In Chicago it led to over 300 murders...

(c) 'Women's lives improved in the USA in the 1920s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting Argument (There is some validity in this argument because...)

e.g. 'Women's lives improved in the 1920s as they got the vote in 1920 in all states and this showed they were politically equal to men. More women worked and 10 million were employed by 1929 – a 25% increase. Many were employed in offices and manufacturing and some industries preferred to employ women. This allowed women to be more independent. Socially there were big changes. Dress changed and women wore less restricting clothes made of new fabrics. Young women stopped having chaperones to accompany them in public and some learned to drive. The divorce rate went up, so women were no longer trapped in unhappy marriages.'

Counter argument (However)

e.g. 'For many women life did not improve. For instance, in rural areas life changed little for most women and they continued to focus on childcare and managing the home. Even in the urban areas women who worked were paid less than men in the same job. Only a minority benefited from new labour-saving devices, less than 30% owned a washing machine in 1930. Some women disapproved of the habits of the new generation of 'flappers' and, in any case, it was only a small group of women who enjoyed social freedom in the 1920s.'

Furthermore, politically women did not break through into national politics....

Intolerance and corruption were common in 1920s America.

(a) What were the beliefs of the Ku Klux Klan? [4]

e.g. 'White, Protestant supremacy/WASP.' 'A belief that foreigners were overrunning the country.' 'To protect the principles and ideals of a pure Americanism.' 'It believed that the USA was suffering from moral degeneracy.' 'They believed that Communism was threatening the country.' 'They believed that black Americans were inferior.' 'They believed that black Americans should not be allowed to vote.' 'That white power should be maintained.' 'American values were threatened by Catholics and Jews.'

(b) Why was America gripped by a 'Red Scare' after the First World War? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation)

e.g. 'Before the First World War the USA had welcomed immigrants but after the war many Americans believed that American values and its Anglo-Saxon and white nature were under threat from foreigners migrating to the USA. They were worried that they would be swamped by people from south and eastern Europe who would bring with them un-American ideas such as communist and anarchist beliefs. This was brought about by the Russian Revolution of 1917. In the post-war depression, immigrant ghettos were appearing in the big northern cities where there was a lot of crime and drunkenness. All this was blamed on foreigners.'

(c) Is it surprising that Prohibition failed? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (In some ways it could be considered 'surprising')

This is because there was great support for it when it was introduced. Organisations like the Anti-Saloon League campaigned for it. Many people thought that alcohol was the cause of poverty, crime and much misery. There were also many politicians who supported it such as Nelson Rockefeller and industrialists like Henry Ford. Before it was introduced 26/48 of the states had already introduced it, suggesting it could work as over half the states introduced it freely.

However, whilst it may have been well received in rural America, urban America rejected it so in this respect it was not surprising. It was never going to work in large cities where many people liked to drink. These were very different places to small town rural America where there were more traditional values. It was never against the law to buy alcohol and so speakeasies grew up everywhere in the large cities like New York. Here, behind closed doors, people could carry on drinking. Criminal gangs supplied the speakeasies and this led to murder and corruption. All this was bound to happen, so it was not a surprise that prohibition failed.'

Moreover.....It also became impossible to enforce and police.....

Some sections of the US economy benefited more from the 1920s boom than others.

(a) What impact did trade tariffs have on the US economy in the 1920s? [4]

e.g. 'Trade tariffs made imported foreign goods expensive.' 'The tariffs protected American businesses against foreign competition.' 'They encouraged Americans to buy American goods.' 'There was confidence in American goods.' 'It made the economy grow/it had a positive effect.' 'The lack of foreign competition allowed American companies to grow rapidly.' 'The tariffs protected the young consumer industries from foreign competition.' 'The lack of foreign competition eventually made parts of American industry inefficient.' 'Countries retaliated with tariffs on American goods.' 'When the American home market became saturated with consumer goods, it became difficult to sell abroad because of counter-tariffs.' 'American farmers were overproducing for the home market, but could not sell much abroad.' 'The fall in shares in 1929 was partly due to stagnated production and surpluses which could not be sold abroad.'

(b) Why was the growth of mail order and nationwide advertising important to the economic boom? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation)

e.g. 'Consumer goods were being mass-produced on a vast scale and depended on vast sales. To encourage consumers to buy goods sophisticated marketing techniques were developed. Many of the advertisers who had learned their skills in wartime propaganda now set up agencies to sell cars, cigarettes, clothing and electrical items. Posters, radio adverts and travelling salesmen encouraged Americans to spend on the latest products.'

Other information which could be used to help explain *importance*

e.g. 'American consumer industries needed to sell vast numbers of goods.' 'Advertising needed to convince Americans that they needed a particular product.' 'Advertising needed to persuade Americans to keep up with their neighbour in buying.' 'Mail order allowed people to consider buying goods from their own home.' 'Mail order made it easy to buy consumer goods without going to the shops.' 'It opened up rural areas.' 'It created more employment.' 'It made goods more accessible.'

(c) 'Overproduction rather than competition from Canada was to blame for the difficulties faced by farmers in the 1920s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (There is no doubt agriculture faced difficulties because of overproduction...)

because the underlying problem of the farming industry was overproduction. From 1900 to 1920, while farming was doing well, more and more land was being farmed. Improved machinery, especially the combine harvester, and improved fertilisers made US agriculture very efficient. The result was that by 1920 it was producing surpluses of wheat which nobody wanted and prices fell.'

Counter argument (However)

'Farmers struggled against competition from the highly efficient Canadian wheat producers. Canadian wheat prices were low and Canada started to supply grain to the world markets. European markets preferred Canadian grain because of the low price and because they did not want to buy American grain in retaliation for tariffs on European goods.'

Furthermore, farmer also struggled because of the Government's introduction of tariffs....

American society in the 1920s came under different influences.

(a) What developments were there in popular music during the 1920s? [4]

e.g. 'Jazz music was the popular music of the 1920s.' 'It was often performed by black musicians who migrated to northern cities.' 'Jazz was linked to dance music.' 'There were many dance bands.' 'It led to nightclubs such as the Cotton Club of Harlem.' 'It led to famous musicians such as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong.' 'Social jazz led to dances such as the Charleston and Black Bottom.' 'There was Blues music.' 'Blues music was related to religious music of the Afro-American community.' 'Blues often took the form of spirituals.' 'During the 1920s, hillbilly / country music developed.' 'There was Broadway music such as the Jazz Singer and Broadway.' 'Composers such as Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and George and Ira Gershwin flourished.' 'There were concerts.'

(b) Why did the cinema become increasingly influential in American life during the 1920s? [6]

e.g. 'In the generation before the war, sex had still been a taboo subject. The cinema quickly discovered the selling power of sex. Clara Bow was portrayed as the "It" girl, "It" being sex. Films such as "Up in Mabel's Room" and "A Shocking Night" were considered very daring but very popular, as was Rudolph Valentino in "The Sheik". There was concern that these films affected young people's morals.'

Other information which could be used to explain cinema's influence

e.g. 'The average working week dropped, giving people more leisure time.' 'Workers had more disposable income as real wages rose.' 'Hollywood produced a huge number of films throughout the year.' 'Cinema seats were made cheap, often only 10 cents.' 'By the end of the '20s, there were 100 million cinema tickets sold each week.' 'In 1927, the first "talkie" was made.' 'Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton became huge stars.' 'Hollywood turned out dozens of films a month about sex.'

(c) 'Prohibition was repealed because of the Depression.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (In some ways there is certainly evidence to support this statement...)

e.g. 'When the Wall Street Crash was followed by the Depression in the early 1930s, there were sound economic arguments for getting rid of Prohibition. Legalising the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcohol would create jobs, raise tax revenue and free up resources tied up in the impossible task of enforcing prohibition.' 'It was estimated the Government had been losing \$11 billion in taxation and this revenue could be used to help address the problems created by the depression. For example, by creating public works schemes to provide jobs.'

Counter argument (However)

By the end of the so called 'noble experiment' was already being questioned because prohibition was turning the USA into a lawless society with rich and powerful gangsters committing murders while the police and judges appeared to be powerless. Gangsters, such as Al Capone, had corrupted the law enforcers so that the gangsters' activities involving the sale of alcohol would be ignored. Repealing prohibition would undermine much of the gangsters' activities.'

Furthermore, it was patently evident that it was impossible to enforce as ordinary Americans found ways of bypassing the Volstead Act, mainly by creating their own stills. There were too few prohibition agents...

Not everyone prospered in the USA during the 1920s.

(a) Describe the experiences of American farmers during the 1920s. [4]

e.g. 'There was overproduction.' 'Farmers could use improved fertilisers and machinery.' 'There was a decrease in demand for agricultural products.' 'Prices for their products decreased.' 'They faced competition from Canada.' 'Europe no longer needed so much American agricultural produce.' 'They could not repay the loans they had taken out to buy more land and modern machinery.' 'Many farmers became bankrupt/unemployed.' 'Many farmers had to sell their farms and give up farming.' 'Tenant farmers were evicted because they could not pay their rents.' 'Demand for the barley they grew fell because of Prohibition.' 'Sharecroppers experienced hard times.' 'The boll-weevil decimated cotton crops in the South.'

(b) Why did traditional industries struggle in the 1920s? [6]

e.g. 'The main reason traditional industries struggled was because of changes happening in American society and the failure of these industries to adapt to the changes. For example, the coal industry found that it was producing too much coal because demand was going down. This was because electricity could be supplied to more and more homes and factories and so they were changing to this for their energy. Factories and homes were also changing to new sources of energy such as gas and oil.'

Other information you could use

e.g. 'Coal suffered because of the change to other sources of energy like oil, gas and electricity.' 'Coal was being used more efficiently and so less was needed.' 'The coal industry suffered from cuts in wages, pits being closed and strikes.' 'The textile industry was producing too much.' 'Synthetic products were replacing textiles.' 'As more people owned cars, fewer travelled by the railways.' 'Traditional industries could not compete with mass production.' 'There was foreign competition in leather and textiles.'

(c) 'Republican governments were responsible for the boom in America in the 1920s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (The Boom had numerous causes and Republican policies certainly contributed..)

e.g. 'I agree with this. Republican policies were important. For example, they cut taxes. This gave people more money to spend on all the new consumer goods that were appearing at this time. This boosted the industries making goods like fridges, radios and cars, and this led to more jobs and better wages.'

Counter argument (However)

e.g. 'I think other factors were more important. The introduction of hire purchase was important. This allowed people to buy goods that they could not afford in one go. They were able to pay for the goods by instalments over a period of time. There was no longer any shame attached to this form of buying and millions of Americans used it to buy consumer goods like cars. This created more demand for these industries which then expanded.'

Furthermore... (You need a third paragraph for 7+)

The benefits of the 1920s' boom were not evenly distributed.

(a) Describe the problems facing American farmers in the 1920s. [4]

e.g. 'The demand from Europe fell.' 'Canada was more efficient at producing wheat.' 'Over-production was a problem.' 'US tariffs were responsible.' 'The US population fell in number so demand fell.' 'There were falling prices.' 'Farmers were evicted from the land.'

(b) Why did Republican policies produce economic growth? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation)

e.g. 'The Republicans believed in import tariffs, such as the Fordney-McCumber tariff, which made it expensive to import foreign goods. This meant that American businesses were protected against foreign competition and could keep their prices down. This encouraged people to buy products made in the US and allowed American companies to grow rapidly.'

Other information you can use:

e.g. 'They had a policy of 'laissez-faire.' 'The Republicans believed in import tariffs.' 'The Republicans kept taxes low.' 'The Republicans allowed the development of trusts.' 'Profits from the First World War were invested in industry.'

(c) 'American manufacturing industries prospered during the boom of the 1920s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting Argument (There is no doubt elements of American manufacturing prospered during the boom. For example...)

e.g. 'Manufacturing industries, such as the car industry, grew very quickly in the 1920s. There was high demand for consumer products and new mass production methods meant large numbers of products could be produced quickly. Because of the increase in demand for cars, other industries such as steel, glass and rubber also boomed.'

Counter argument (However)

e.g. 'Some manufacturing industries did not prosper during the 1920s. For instance, cotton textiles did not increase their sales despite the increased demand for clothing. New synthetic fabrics such as rayon were more desirable and new clothing styles meant less material was needed.'

Furthermore... (You need a third paragraph for 7+)

The American economy faced great difficulties in 1929.

(a) Describe the weaknesses in the US economy in the 1920s. [4]

e.g. 'Overproduction of consumer goods.' 'Farmers saturated the market.' 'As more and more people, who could afford consumer products, were buying them, demand started to drop.' 'Wages did not rise and prices did not fall.' 'People in Europe could not afford US goods.' 'European countries imposed tariffs on American goods.' 'There was an uneven distribution of income.'

(b) Why was there a stock market boom in the 1920s? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation) e.g. 'There was a stock market boom in the 1920s because companies were doing well and people were keen to buy shares. If a company was growing, a speculator could buy shares and sell them only a few months later and make a profit. Many people who did not usually invest in the stock market bought shares.'

Other information you can use:

e.g. 'Speculators could make profits easily.' 'Companies were growing and making profits.' 'People bought shares 'on the margin'.' 'The banks were happy to lend money for people to buy shares.'

(c) 'The main impact of the Wall Street Crash was the collapse of the banks.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (There is no doubt the banking industry suffered as a result of the Wall Street Crash...)

When the stock market collapsed the banks, which had lent money to speculators to buy shares, lost a huge amount of money. Many went bankrupt. 659 immediately in 1929 to over 2,000 by 2931 This meant that anyone who had savings in the bank also lost their money.' Ultimately Nearly 4,000 banks went bankrupt and even though Hoover tried to restore confidence in the banks people still mistrusted them and it wasn't until Roosevelt's New Deal Banking Acts that some confidence returned.

Counter argument (However, the more significant impact was a loss in confidence in business which cause mass unemployment)

'Unemployment was the main impact of the Wall Street Crash. As businesses crashed people lost their jobs. By 1933 almost 25% of the workforce was unemployed. There were no welfare benefits and people had no money for food or rent.' This led to the creation of widespread economic and social hardship and homeless increased with people living on the outskirts of towns in 'Hooverilles'.

Furthermore, the impact on International trade was terrible...the Crash had global repercussions and the US placed tariffs on foreign goods. US International trade fell from \$10 to \$3

The Wall Street Crash affected Americans in different ways.

(a) In what ways did the Wall Street Crash affect the American economy? [4]

e.g. 'The stock market crash produced an economic disaster.' 'Share prices continued to fall for three years.' 'Businesses and banks went bust.' 'Over 11 000 banks stopped trading.' 'The economy had to adjust to a reduction in trade.' 'Businesses cut production.' 'Wages reduced and unemployment increased.' 'There was less money in the economy.' 'People could not afford to buy goods.' 'Business confidence collapsed.' 'Any thought of business expansion had to be abandoned.' 'By 1933, the economy was producing only 20% of what it had in 1929.' 'Tax revenue increased.'

(b) Why were speculators blamed for the Wall Street Crash? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation) e.g. 'Speculators had little interest in the company in which they were buying shares. Speculators were gamblers and they had no intention of keeping the shares for long. They often borrowed the money to buy some shares and sold the shares as soon as the price had risen. They paid off their loan and still made a quick profit to show for it.'

Other information you can use

(One mark for each identification/description) e.g. 'Speculators only wanted to make money out of buying shares.' 'They had little interest in the long-term success of a company.' 'Speculators could buy "on the margin".' 'Speculators borrowed huge sums from the banks.' 'Many speculators were amateur investors in the stock market.' 'Many speculators quickly lost their nerve in 1929.'

(c) 'Hoover did much to help the American people during the Depression.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (It is true that Hoover did try to help the US people during the depression)

e.g. 'Hoover interpreted the early depression as a normal business downturn. When it became clear that the economy was in more serious trouble than first thought, Hoover did take action to stimulate business and employment. He cut taxes by \$130 and government money was provided to finance a building programme to create more jobs, the most famous project being the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River.'

Counter argument (However....)

e.g. 'Hoover's actions were considered too little and too late. Overall, he was against providing welfare support for the unemployed as he thought this would undermine the American values of self-help and rugged individualism. He still believed in *l'faire*. He relied on private charities to help the homeless and those in need. Considering the scale of the jobless problem, it made him appear unsympathetic and indifferent to the human side of the depression.' 'He actually blocked the Garner-Wagner relief bill to provide \$2 billion to create jobs

Furthermore, in agriculture.....

Not all Americans benefited from the economic prosperity of the 1920s.

(a) In what ways did new products help to boost the US economy? [4]

e.g. 'Rayon was a cheaper substitute for silk.' 'Over 300 million pairs of stockings per year were made from rayon.' 'Bakelite, an early plastic, did not conduct electricity and was resistant to heat.' 'Bakelite could be used for saucepan handles and electric plugs and switches.' 'Cellophane could give a covering but allowed the product to be visible.' 'Communications were speeded up by automatic switchboards, dial phones and teletype machines.' 'The building industry benefited from new machines such as concrete mixers, pneumatic tools and power shovels.'

(b) Why was the expansion of the motor industry important for the economic boom? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation)

e.g. 'The motor industry kept workers in other industries in employment. Glass, leather, steel and rubber were all required to build the new vehicles. Automobiles used up 75% of US glass production in the 1920s. A massive army of labourers was busily building roads throughout the country for the cars to drive on. Road construction became the biggest single employer in the 1920s.'

Other information you can use

e.g. 'By the end of the 1920s, the motor industry was the USA's biggest industry.' 'It employed hundreds of thousands of workers directly.' 'It benefited other industries needed to produce a car.' 'By 1929, one in five Americans owned a car.' 'Cars made it possible for people to buy a house in the suburbs, which benefited the house building industry.' 'The car industry stimulated hotel construction and the building of roadside filling stations.' 'It led to the development of holiday resorts.' 'The assembly line production of the car industry was copied by other industries, such as washing machines and hoovers.' 'The mass production of cars led to mass marketing.'

(c) 'Overproduction was the main reason US farmers faced serious problems in the 1920s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (It is undoubtedly evident that overproduction cause problems for farmers...)

e.g. 'From 1900 to 1920, while farming was doing well, more and more land was being farmed. Improved machinery, especially the combine harvester, and improved fertilisers made US agriculture extremely efficient. The result was that by 1920 it was producing surpluses of wheat which nobody wanted.'

Counter argument (However, changes in markets and government policy did not help....)

'After the war, Europe imported far less food from the USA. This was partly because Europe was poor and it was partly a response to US tariffs which stopped Europe from exporting to the USA. In retaliation, Europe imported far fewer US agricultural products.'

Nonetheless, some farmers in the 1920s were not as badly hit. Those in California producing fresh fruit and citrus fruits.....

The impact of the Wall Street Crash was wide-reaching.

(a) What was the Wall Street Crash? [4]

e.g. 'When the Wall Street stock market went into free fall. , 'When investors sold their shares.'
'There was a panic to sell shares., 'It took place in 1929.' 'When the American financial markets got into difficulty.'
'When banks began to go bust.' 'When the American economy collapsed.'
'One symptom of the economic problems.'

(b) Why did the Crash cause many US citizens severe financial difficulties? [6]

(Four marks for one explanation, five marks for full explanation) e.g. 'Many faced eviction from their home because they had lost their job. They were reduced to sleeping on park benches or living in what were known as shanty towns in a tent, makeshift huts of scrap metal or cardboard boxes. They did not have welfare benefits to help them.'

Other information you can use

e.g. 'Money was lost by those who were speculating on the stock market.' 'Unemployment began to rise.' 'They were unable to pay household bills.' 'They did not have money for food.' 'Farmers could not afford to pay bills.'

(c) 'Hoover was responsible for his own downfall.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Supporting argument (There is a strong case to suggest Hoover was his own worst enemy...)

e.g. 'Hoover was against the federal government providing welfare support for the unemployed as he thought it would undermine the American values of self-help and rugged individualism. This gave the impression he was unsympathetic and indifferent to the human side of the Depression.'

e.g. Hoover 'He believed it was just a normal business downturn.' 'He insisted that prosperity was 'just around the corner'.' 'He tried to protect US trade by the introduction of tariffs.' 'He blocked the Garner-Wagner Relief Bill.' 'He believed social security was not the responsibility of government.'

Furthermore, 'his reputation was badly damaged by the events relating to the bonus marchers.'....

Counter argument (However, he was also against a very dynamic individual in the election of 1932...)

Roosevelt's strengths 'He already had a reputation for helping those in need.' 'He gave confidence to Americans.' 'His 'new deal' election campaign was seen as very positive.' 'He went around the country to meet the people.' 'He believed government should help the people.' 'He planned to get people back to work.' 'He was prepared to take advice.'