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Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Wheelchair Warrior

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal challenges, including his battle with polio, had a profound impact on his character and leadership style as President of the United States. His struggle with polio instilled in him a deep sense of empathy for the suffering of others. It made him more determined and resilient, which were qualities that served him well as he faced the challenges of the Great Depression and World War II. His experience with disability also influenced his commitment to social welfare programs and his desire to provide relief to those in need.
2. The effectiveness of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs in addressing the challenges of the Great Depression can be evaluated by their contributions to relief, recovery, and reform. Relief programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided immediate aid to those in need, offering jobs and relief payments. Recovery efforts aimed to stimulate economic growth, and programs like the Works Progress Administration (WPA) created jobs and improved infrastructure. Reform initiatives, such as Social Security and the Banking Act of 1933 (Glass-Steagall Act), aimed to prevent future economic crises by regulating the financial sector. While some programs were more successful than others, the New Deal as a whole played a significant role in stabilizing the economy and providing support to millions of Americans.



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3. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Fireside Chats were a highly effective communication tool during his presidency. Through these radio broadcasts, he connected with the American people on a personal level and provided reassurance during times of crisis. The chats allowed him to explain complex policies and initiatives in a simple and relatable manner, fostering a sense of trust and confidence among the public. By speaking directly to citizens in their homes, he created a sense of unity and solidarity during challenging times, making him a beloved figure in American history.
4. Franklin D. Roosevelt's legacy is multifaceted. He is remembered for his leadership during two of the most challenging periods in American history: the Great Depression and World War II. His New Deal policies helped the nation recover from economic hardship, and his diplomatic efforts played a pivotal role in the post-World War II world, contributing to the formation of the United Nations. Roosevelt's legacy also includes his advocacy for social welfare programs, his role in shaping the modern presidency, and his ability to connect with and inspire the American people during times of adversity. Overall, his impact on the United States and the world remains significant and enduring.

