

Name _____

Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal: A Bold Response to the Great Depression

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. President Roosevelt faced numerous challenges when implementing the New Deal programs during the Great Depression. He had to navigate political opposition, skepticism about government intervention, and the need to balance immediate relief with long-term reform. Roosevelt's leadership and ability to communicate his vision were instrumental in overcoming obstacles and rallying public support for his programs.
2. The Relief, Recovery, and Reform components of the New Deal had distinct objectives and programs associated with each. Relief provided immediate assistance to those suffering, such as through the CCC. Recovery aimed to stimulate economic growth through programs like the WPA. Reform introduced long-term structural changes, as seen in the Social Security Act. While all three were essential, some argue that Recovery had the most significant impact as it directly addressed unemployment and economic stagnation.
3. Living during the Great Depression, the New Deal programs would have had a significant impact on my life. The relief programs would have provided much-needed employment and financial support for my family, easing our economic hardships. I would have valued the Recovery programs, such as the WPA, for creating jobs and improving infrastructure in our community. Additionally, the Reform measures like Social Security would have offered a sense of security for the future.
4. The criticisms and controversies surrounding the New Deal are multifaceted. Some argue that it expanded the role of government too much, leading to concerns about government intervention and potential inefficiencies. Others believe it did not go far enough in addressing the root causes of the Great Depression. The debate continues over whether the New Deal's impact was sufficient to fully address the economic crisis or if additional measures were necessary.

