

# Revision and Assessment

## Key issues

### Capitalism

- was one of the main economic systems of the twentieth century; the other was communism
- was dominant especially in the USA in the 1920s where it involved individualism, the free market and minimal state control over business
- produced alternating periods of boom and bust
- was severely weakened by the Wall Street crash of 1929 which led to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

### Means of recovering from the Great Depression

- in the USA, President Franklin Roosevelt introduced a New Deal of work schemes, government regulation and reform of the capitalist economy
- some countries such as Germany and Japan were taken over by totalitarian dictatorships which helped the economy through militarisation and armaments programmes
- the war industries which began with the Second World War enabled the USA to finally recover from problems of unemployment

### The cyclical nature of capitalism

Capitalism is still the dominant economic system in the world today but it continues to have cyclical periods of boom and bust. An economic depression similar to that of the 1930s began in 2008.

## Assessment

### Source-based activity and essay task (test)

- 1 Explain the following terms and their significance in the context of the history you have studied in this section:
  - a) rugged individualism
  - b) private ownership
  - c) assembly line
  - d) alphabet agencies.

4 × 3 = (12)

Study the photograph and its caption on the next page. The large image in the background with the two pieces of writing on it is a billboard promoting government propaganda of the 1920s.



People queueing for relief during the Great Depression in 1937. They are standing in front of a billboard promoting the capitalist views of the American government during the 1920s.

Now answer Questions 2, 3 and 4 which are based on this photograph.

- 2 Use your knowledge to explain what the following refer to:
  - a) The large image of the family in the car
  - b) 'World's Highest Standard of Living'
  - c) 'There's no way like the American Way'.  $3 \times 2 = (6)$
  
- 3 The image shown in the billboard does not accurately reflect the reality of the time. There were weaknesses in the 'booming' American economy of the 1920s. List any four of them.  $4 \times 2 = (8)$
  
- 4 The photographer took this photograph in 1937.
  - a) Why is the date important to know when analysing this photograph? (2)
  - b) What comment was the photographer making by showing the relief queue in the 1930s in front of the billboard made by the government in the 1920s? (Give two different ideas.)  $3 \times 2 = (4)$
  
- 5 Study Sources A and B on the next page and then answer the questions. They show different interpretations of the New Deal.

► **Source A** This cartoon refers to a phrase used by Roosevelt in a radio speech, in which he said that his government would look out for the poor and the working class, whom previous governments had 'forgotten'. Here we see 'the Forgotten Man' shaking the hand of the President. At the top of this cartoon it says 'Yes, you remembered me'. This cartoon was made in 1933.



► **Source B** This cartoon comments on Roosevelt acting like a dictator. He is drawn as the captain of the ship and is ordering the sailor (Congress) to change the direction of the compass (the Supreme Court).



- a) In Source A, who does 'the Forgotten Man' represent in American society? (1)
  - b) Source A is a simple but powerful cartoon. What is its message and what techniques have been used to put the message across successfully? (3)
  - c) In Source B, what visual metaphor has been used? (3)
  - d) Is Source B critical of Roosevelt? Explain your view. 1 + 2 = (3)
  - e) Why are political cartoons a useful primary source for historians to use to learn about the period? (2)
- 6 Using only the three sources analysed in this test (the Topic opener photograph on page 34 and Sources A and B supplied in Question 5) write a paragraph of about 60–80 words, in which you write your own assessment of Roosevelt's New Deal. (6)

**Total for Source-based questions = [50]**

### Test: Extended writing (essay task)

Write an essay of about 400 words in which you explain the different interpretations of the New Deal:

- a) the arguments in support of it
- b) the arguments that criticised it

**Total for essay question = [50]**