**RADLEY COLLEGE**
**Entrance Scholarships**

# HISTORY

**March 2010**

Time allowed: 45 minutes

# Economic problems in the United States, 1929-41

This question is about economic problems (the 'Depression') in the United States in the years 1929-41.

Look at sources A-F carefully and then answer the following two questions:

1. **Study Source A.**

   What can you learn from this source about government attitudes towards the economic problems facing the country in 1930?

   (5 marks)

2. **Now study all of the sources and look at the following statement:**

   **'Unemployment was the worst of the problems which people had to face in the years 1929-41'.**

   Making reference to **all** of the sources, explain whether you agree with this statement.

   (20 marks)

**(25 marks)**

**The following definitions may be helpful:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Depression** | This refers to dreadful economic problems. The Depression in the United States in the years 1929-41 was the worst the country has ever had to face. |
| **Unemployment** | Losing one's job; being made redundant. |
| **Congressman** | Member of the United States government. |
| **Detroit** | Industrial city in the north of the United States. The main industry in the city at the time was car manufacturing. |
| **Kentucky** | Mid-western state in the United States. |
| **Midwife** | Person trained to assist women during childbirth. |
| **Suicide** | To take one's own life. |

## Depression and the New Deal: the USA, 1929–41

**Source A:** From a speech by a member of President Hoover's government in January 1930.

I see nothing in the present situation that is particularly worrying. People are talking about depression, but during the winter months there is always some unemployment. This is not unusual. I have every confidence that there will be a revival in the economy in the spring and that during the coming year the country will make steady progress.

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**Source B:** A photograph of unemployed workers in New York queuing for free bread in 1930.



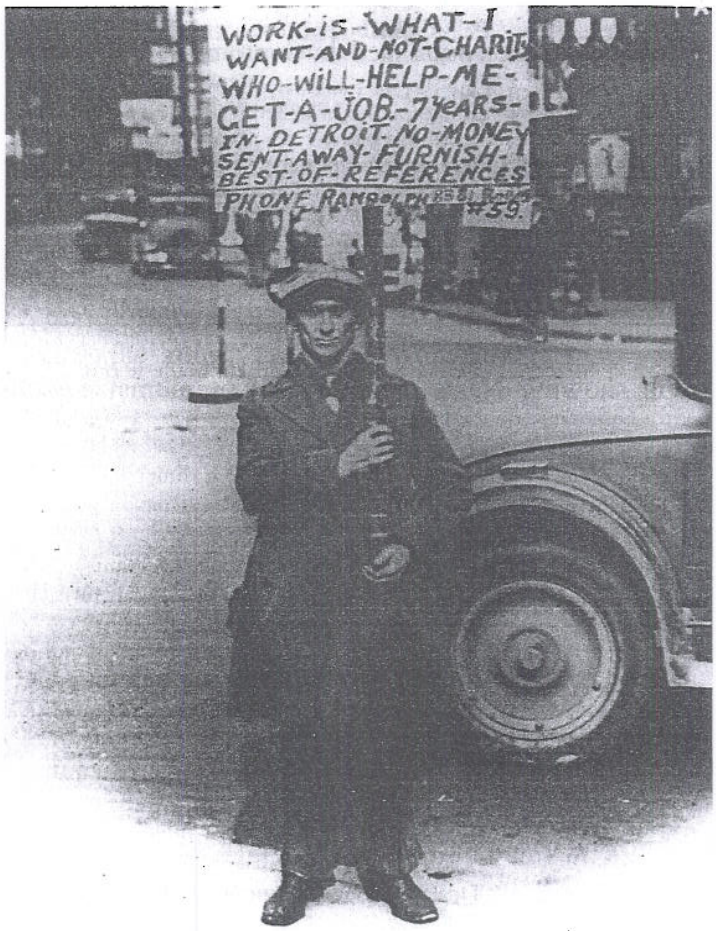
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**Source C:** From a speech by a US Congressman in 1932.

Unemployment has reached record levels. Any thought that there has been no starvation is utter nonsense. People are actually starving by the thousands today. They are living such a scrambling, uncertain existence, and suffering from lack of clothing and food. They are likely to be swept away at any time, and many are now being swept away.

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**Source D:** A photograph of an unemployed man's attempt to find work in Detroit. It was published in a local newspaper in 1931.




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**Source E:** A song written by a midwife in 1931 about people's lives in a local mining district in the state of Kentucky.

The minin' town I live in
is sad an' a lonely place,
For pity and starvation
is pictured on every face
Everybody hungry and ragged,
no slippers on their feet,
All goin' round from place to place,
scavenging for a little food to eat

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**Source F:** From a school textbook on the USA, published in 2005.

The Depression had a tremendous impact on family life. Marriages fell from 1.23 million in 1929 to 982,000 in 1932 because young people were unwilling to take on commitments when there were so few jobs. This was followed by a fall in the birth rate. The suicide rate across the USA increased dramatically. Schools in some states were closed for ten months because there was not enough money to pay teachers.

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