Paths Through Crisis

Use evidence to weigh responses to the Great Depression

USH.P.2.4.B "Construct arguments using a combination of evidence regarding solutions used by nations to address historical or contemporary economic issues."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three policy details you could use as evidence in an argument. Circle two limits on whom a policy helped, then number two underlined details you would combine to support one claim.

Work, Savings, and Security

1. In 1933, a worker who had saved for years could lose access to that money when a bank failed. Thousands of U.S. banks closed during the Great Depression, and fear drove customers to withdraw cash from others. Businesses also cut jobs, leaving many families without wages. The federal government faced two linked problems: people needed income now, and depositors needed a reason to trust banks again. In response, Congress created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in 1933. Starting in 1934, it insured eligible bank deposits up to a set limit, reducing the risk that a bank failure would wipe out a family's savings.

2. Another response put people to work instead of insuring their savings. From 1933 to 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) employed more than three million young men on projects such as planting trees and reducing soil erosion. Participants earned pay, and much of it went to their families. In 1935, the Social Security Act created a system of old-age benefits and a federal-state system of unemployment insurance. Unemployment insurance offered temporary payments to eligible workers who lost jobs. These programs addressed different needs: a paid job, income during unemployment, and support in old age. None directly insured bank deposits.

3. Which response was strongest depends on the problem being measured. Deposit insurance could protect savings and calm fears about banks, but it did not hire unemployed workers. CCC jobs paid wages and improved public land, but enrollment focused on young men, so many jobless people could not join. Early Social Security old-age coverage excluded many farm and domestic workers; unemployment payments also depended on eligibility rules. Meanwhile, unemployment remained high late in the 1930s. For a family with no wages, help finding work might matter most. For a family afraid of losing its savings, protection for bank deposits might matter more.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A classmate argues that deposit insurance addressed bank runs more directly than unemployment. Support that claim with two details from the passage.

2. Argue that the CCC eased hardship but could not help every jobless person. Use two details from the passage.

3. Why could unemployment insurance and CCC jobs work together rather than replace each other? Use one detail about each.

4. A leader claims these programs ended every economic hardship by 1939. Challenge the claim with two different details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A coastal nation has lost fishing jobs for workers of many ages, but its banks are stable. In four to five sentences, propose a two-part plan adapted from the passage, support it with two different passage details, and explain one limit of your plan.

Paths Through Crisis

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three policy details you could use as evidence in an argument. Circle two limits on whom a policy helped, then number two underlined details you would combine to support one claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A classmate argues that deposit insurance addressed bank runs more directly than unemployment. Support that claim with two details from the passage.	**The FDIC insured eligible deposits, reducing the risk of losing savings if a bank failed. It did not hire unemployed workers.**
2	Argue that the CCC eased hardship but could not help every jobless person. Use two details from the passage.	**CCC participants earned pay and sent much of it to their families, but enrollment focused on young men, leaving many jobless people unable to join.**
3	Why could unemployment insurance and CCC jobs work together rather than replace each other? Use one detail about each.	**The CCC offered paid work to young men, while unemployment insurance offered temporary payments to eligible workers who had lost jobs. They provided different forms of income support.**
4	A leader claims these programs ended every economic hardship by 1939. Challenge the claim with two different details from the passage.	**Unemployment remained high late in the 1930s, and early Social Security old-age coverage excluded many farm and domestic workers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The nation should fund coastal restoration jobs and offer temporary unemployment payments. The CCC employed more than three million young men on conservation projects, showing that public work can provide wages while improving the environment. The Social Security Act established unemployment insurance for eligible workers who lost jobs, a model for helping fishers who cannot find work right away. Because the banks are stable, deposit insurance would not address the immediate loss of wages. Even if the new jobs are open to workers of all ages, some people may not be able to do restoration work.

Accept arguments that combine accurate passage details and distinguish a policy's purpose from its limits. For Part 3, accept other two-part plans if the proposed policies fit the fishing-job crisis and the response includes two distinct passage details and a plausible limitation.