

Economy and Culture of the United States

All questions require at least
THREE sentences on own paper.

PLACES & TERMS

export goods sold to another country

free enterprise economic system in which private individuals own most of the resources, technology, and businesses and can operate them with little government control

service industry any kind of economic activity that provides a service rather than a product

postindustrial economy economic phase in which manufacturing no longer plays a dominant role

multinational corporation that engages in business worldwide

The World's Great Economic Power

***What** is a postindustrial economy?*

The United States has the largest and most powerful economy in the world. It is also the most *diverse* and most technologically advanced economy. In global trade, it accounts for ten percent of the world's exports. **Exports** are goods sold to another country.

Three factors have contributed to the overall success of the American economy. The United States has an abundance of natural resources, a skilled labor force, and a stable political system that has allowed the economy to develop. The economy is run largely on **free enterprise**. In this economic system, private individuals own most of the resources, technology, and businesses. They can operate them with little control from the government.

The industrial output of the United States is larger than that of any other country in the world. The country's leading industries are petroleum,

steel, chemicals, electronics, transportation equipment, food processing, consumer goods, telecommunications, lumber, and mining.

The American economy today is driven by service industries. A **service industry** is any kind of economic activity that provides a service rather than a product. This economic phase is called a **postindustrial economy**. In this type of economy, manufacturing no longer plays a dominant role.

The United States is the world's major trading nation. It leads the world in the value of its exports and *imports*. Many American corporations engage in business worldwide and are called **multinationals**.

1. What three factors contributed to U.S. economic success?

Answer in at least **THREE SENTENCES** on own paper.

A Diverse Society

How many religions are practiced in the United States?

The United States is a nation of different races and ethnic traditions. The majority of Americans—about 70 percent—trace their ancestry to Europe. Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans make up the rest of the population.

English has been the dominant language of the United States since its founding. Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language.

Religious freedom is a fundamental principal of American society. Today, more than 1,000 different religious groups practice their faiths in the United States. By far, the majority of the American people—85 percent—are Christians. Jews and Muslims each account for about 2 percent of the religious population.

The rich artistic heritage of the United States is a result of its diverse population. Native Americans were its first artists, making pottery, weavings, and carvings.

Truly American styles began to develop in painting, literature, music, and architecture in the 19th century. They showed the country's expansive landscape and the uniqueness of American life.

2. Why is there ethnic diversity in the United States?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

American Life Today

Where do Americans live?

More than 280 million people live in the United States. About 80 percent of Americans live in cities or nearby suburbs. Americans moved first from rural areas to cities and then from cities to suburbs. The move to the suburbs was made possible by the widespread ownership of automobiles.

A highly developed transportation network aids mobility. Americans also move from state to state and region to region. They want to find better jobs, milder climates, and lifestyles that suit them.

Nearly 50 percent of Americans are employed. Many of these jobs are highly skilled positions that require advanced education. Americans have always valued education. They see it as a means to provide equality and opportunity. Nine out of ten students are in the public school system, where education is free through high school. There are also more than 2,300 four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

Americans have many choices for leisure-time activities. They can take part in a wide range of sports as either *spectators* or players. Americans also engage in hobbies, visit museums and libraries, and watch television and movies.

But not all Americans live well. Some are jobless or homeless. Both government and society are trying to bring these people into mainstream American life.

3. What made the shift to the suburbs possible?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.