

PART I: IDENTIFICATIONS

ONE of THESE will be selected for you to answer. Four points.

Answers should identify the person, group, place, concept, theory, event, or item in several paragraphs. Answers should include a description as well as an assessment of the significance of the term to this class. In other words, why are we studying it? How is it relevant to our concern with the political context of American popular culture? (NOTE: Significance MUST be included in order to receive full credit.) When formulating your answers think in terms of what, who, why, where, when, and how.

Freedom Summer
Motown
Allen Ginsberg
Lawrence Ferlinghetti
Elia Kazan
Dick Clark

Arthur Miller
Sam Phillips
Pete Seeger
Hollywood Ten
Salt of the Earth
Buddy Holly

PART II: ESSAY QUESTION

ONE of THESE will be selected for you to answer. Six points.

These questions are provided in advance so you can prepare yourself as thoroughly as possible to write coherent and detailed essays. The best essays will integrate substantial material from the lectures and the readings and demonstrate your ability to explain the important processes at work. Think in terms of concepts, patterns of behavior, divergent worldviews and perspectives, and the ways that particular historical experiences can help you demonstrate that you understand “what happened.” Be sure to cite relevant facts from the readings (including primary documents we have studied) and/or lectures to support your argument. In other words, demonstrate the validity of your point of view; do not merely assert it.

1. Broadly speaking, American life after the Second World War was characterized by both relative affluence and a drift toward widespread conformity. Explain how “Howl” either contributed to or challenged the social norms of the 1950s. Be sure to cite specific passages to demonstrate your argument.
2. What, according to Glenn Altschuler, does the birth of rock ‘n’ roll tell us about issues of race in America in the 1950s?
3. *Mississippi Burning* drew on an actual event to create a suspenseful story about the history of the United States in the 1960s. Yet the film met with a negative – or, at best, mixed – response from many historians and veterans of the civil rights movement. Explain the basis of their criticism, drawing on examples from the film while situating your analysis within the context of “historical memory.”