

Causes of the Depression

Part A.

Directions: Below are eleven generally recognized causes of the Great Depression. Brainstorm evidence that each helped to cause the Depression. Then rank the causes in order, with 1 representing the strongest factor and 11 the weakest.

_____ Misdistribution of income and purchasing power

_____ Overexpansion of agricultural production

_____ Overproduction of industry

_____ Automation

_____ Unregulated banking practices

_____ American tariff policy

_____ Impact of European and world economies

_____ Monopolistic pricing

_____ Philosophy and policies of the Hoover Administration

_____ Overexpansion of credit

_____ Stock market speculation and crash

Part B.

Directions: Identify three points at which some specific intervention might have slowed, halted, or reversed the Depression. Write a short essay defending your selections.