**Culture of the 1950’s**

**Key Concept 8.3: Postwar economic, demographic, and technological changes had a far-reaching impact on American society, politics, and the environment.**

1. Rapid economic and social changes in American society **fostered** a sense of **optimism** in the postwar years.
   1. A burgeoning private sector, federal spending, the baby boom, and technological developments helped spur **economic growth**.
   2. As **higher education** opportunities and **new technologies** rapidly expanded, increasing **social mobility** encouraged the **migration** of the **middle class** to the **suburbs** and of many Americans to the South and West. The Sun Belt region emerged as a significant political and economic force.

Visit the website [cultureof1950s.weebly.com](http://cultureof1950s.weebly.com). With a group of 3 to 4 (no larger), complete the chart using evidence from the text and websites.

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| **Topic** | **Notes/Observations** | **Key Concept**  **(A,B)** | **How it applies to the key concept?** | **1920’s Synthesis**  **Topics** |
| Suburbs |  |  |  |  |
| Interstate Highway |  |  |  |  |
| Television |  |  |  |  |
| Sun Belt |  |  |  |  |
| Baby Boom |  |  |  |  |
| Politics |  |  |  |  |
| Labor (Taft-Hartley) |  |  |  |  |
| McCarthyism |  |  |  |  |
| Beatniks |  |  |  |  |
| Rock n Roll |  |  |  |  |
| McDonalds |  |  |  |  |
| Sports |  |  |  |  |
| Housewives |  |  |  |  |

Outline the following Long-Essay Question using specific evidence from the chart above, and your notes from the 1920’s.

**Compare and contrast United States society in the 1920’s and 1950’s with respect to TWO of the following:**

* **Impact of technology**
* **Intolerant attitudes**
* **Literary developments**
* **Role of Women**
* **Consumerism**

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| Thesis Statement: |
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| Category One Evidence | 1920’s Comparison |
| Category One: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |
| Category Two Evidence | 1920’s Comparison |
| Category Two: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |

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| Synthesis: (New category analysis that connects to one of the other two, or reference to a different era in history...eg. Gilded Age, 2nd Great Awakening, Colonial Period, etc.) |
| New Category \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_or Different Historical Era \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |