Handout 2: Defining the Depression

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What was the Dust Bowl?

2. Why was farming no longer worthwhile?

3. What is an economic depression?

4. What was the event that signaled the beginning of the Great Depression? When did it occur?

5. What were the underlying causes of the Great Depression?

6. What was President Hoover’s reaction to the crash?

7. What did the World War I veterans want from Washington?

8. Who was the newly elected President in 1932? What did he promise the American people?

9. What was the purpose of the bank holiday? How did the government insure depositors’ funds?

10. List three programs that were part of the New Deal to provide relief to Americans.

11. What is Social Security? Is it still functioning today?

12. When did the Great Depression end?