Summary of the TASC Social Studies Item Specs GHI

High, Medium and Low Emphasis

- High Emphasis-At least one question
  - Medium Emphasis-One Question
  - Low-May be one question

U.S. History

- Evaluate causes of American Revolution-Key principles of Declaration of Independence-Medium
- The Constitution-Federalists and Anti-Federalists-Marbury v. Madison and Judicial Review-Medium
  - Territorial Expansion-Low
  - Industrialization and Regionalism-Low
  - Missouri Compromise-Low
  - Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Great Awakening-Low
- Causes of Civil War, Dred Scott-High
- Civil War-Resources of each side, turning points, Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg Address-High
- Reconstruction-Johnson-14\textsuperscript{th} & 15\textsuperscript{th} Amendments-Freedmen’s Bureau-High
  - Gilded Age ( Rise of corporations, Industrial innovations, move from farm to city)-Medium
  - Great wave of Immigration and anti-immigration-Medium
  - American Labor Movement-Medium
  - Progressive movement-The Jungle-16\textsuperscript{th} through 19\textsuperscript{th} amendments-Medium
  - World War I, causes, U.S. neutrality, domestic effects on women and AAs; Versailles Treaty-Medium
  - Harlem Renaissance-Medium
  - Imperialism-U.S. Federal Indian policy; Spanish American War-Medium
- Great Depression-Causes, Hoover’s reaction, Dust Bowl-High
- New Deal and Unions how transformed American federalism and initiated the Welfare State-High
- World War II-causes, isolationism, Pearl Harbor, turning points, domestic effects on family and minorities, Japanese internment camps-High
  - Postwar economic boom—GI Bill, suburbanization, mass media homogenizing culture-Medium
  - Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, containment-Medium
  - 1960s-role of media in the election; Johnson’s War on Poverty-Medium
  - Civil Rights and Brown v. Topeka, Malcolm & Martin-Medium
- Watergate, Reagan Revolution, U.S. role in Nicaragua, Africa, etc.- High
- How computers affect work today; international trade and overseas competition; immigration policies after 1965, new wave of immigrants & push-pull factors

World History

- Types of evidence archaeologists use; differences between hunter-gatherer and agrarian-Low
River Valley civilizations in Mesopotamia; China; India; Egypt; social hierarchies and economic specialization; achievements of – Low

Ancient Greeks and Romans and idea of democracy and citizenship; differences between Athens and Sparta; Silk Roads; Confucianism – Low

Decline of Han and Roman empires; origins and spread of Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam – Low

Crusades; Plague and its effects in Europe-Low

- European colonial empires and the Columbian exchange; devastation of Native American populations by smallpox; Enlightenment; Protestant Reformation-Medium
- American and French Revolutions; Haitian Revolution and natural rights ideas; Industrial Revolution and Marx; advances in transportation, medicine and weapons; beginnings of Indian Nationalism-Medium

- WWI-Underlying causes; Russian Revolution; carving up of Middle East; beginning of fascism; Holocaust-High
- WWII-Economic recovery; Marshall Plan; rise of Mao; African de-colonization; collapse of Soviet Union; emergence of global culture-High
- Modern global trends-terrorism, genocide, environmental issues, epidemics; technological change-High

Civics

- Necessity of government & politics; how nations resolve domestic disputes-High
- Limited and Unlimited forms of government (monarchy; totalitarian state; democracy)-High
- Constitutions-how set forth the structure of government and power; balance common good and individual rights-High
- Constitution & Bill of Rights-precedents for in Articles of Confederation; Magna Carta, state constitutions; American Revolution, PLUS natural rights philosophy; principles such as civic virtue, common good; popular sovereignty separation of powers; majority rule, federalism-High
- Presidential and parliamentary governments advantages & disadvantages, 3 branches and checks and balances-High
- Characteristics of American society: equality, religious freedom, history of slavery, private property; social and geographic mobility; a frontier; immigration; work ethic and market economy; universal public education-High
- Shared American ideas as set forth in historical American documents and Supreme Court bases: Declaration of Sentiments; Gettysburg Address; Fourteen Points; Four Freedoms; Letters from a Birmingham Jail; landmark Supreme Court decisions-High
- Definition of a “republic” and “civic virtue”-High
- Fundamental values of American life, historical and contemporary issues that involve conflicts between-High
- Structure of US government-Federalism; national/state governments & 10th Amendment, checks and balance-3 branches and departments within each such as Federal Reserve Board, FDA, FCC-High
- Judicial Review and Rule of law; presumption of innocence; trial by jury, right against self-incrimination; habeas corpus-High
✓ Individual rights and their limits-High
✓ How the public agenda is set-political leaders and parties; how special interest groups and individuals can affect public opinion-High
✓ Media’s influence on public opinion-High
✓ Public policy and how citizens can affect it-High
  • U.S. influence on international politics-Medium
✓ Rights and requirements of citizenship, responsibilities of citizens; difference between citizens & non-citizens-High
✓ Elections, role of political parties in elections, types of elections; why parties are weaker than in the past-High
✓ Role of media on American political life: TV, the Press; how political leaders use the media; media of the past as in famous speeches (Lincoln; Chief Joseph; Sojourner Truth: FDR; MLK)-High
  • Foreign policy—treaties and alliances and how affected by domestic politics-Medium
  • U.S. in the world-NATO, UN, World Court, OAS-Medium

**Geography**

- How physical features influence where people settle; analyze spatial organization to predict trends-Medium
- Cultural & physical influences on a region; connections between regional systems-High
- How landforms and climate influence development and historical events-Low
- How floods, storms, acid rain, global warming, pollution, and technology/growth affect ecosystems-Low
- How technology, economics, politics, and the environment affect population distribution-Medium
- Cultural awareness in an interdependent world-Medium
- Functions of settlements over time; urbanization and geographic trends-Medium
- How does control of territory and resources influence the political map; how do wars and phenomena like colonization affect the map?-Medium
✓ What are the impact of human changes on the environment-High
✓ How does the physical environment affect humans (natural disasters for example?-High
✓ Resources-renewable and nonrenewable; effect on settlement; distribution of; why nations restrict use of-High

**Economics**

✓ Scarcity, opportunity cost; factors of production (human resources, natural resources, capital goods, entrepreneurship)-High
✓ How incentives affect human buying and saving-High
✓ How different economies (mixed, command, market) allocate resources and goods-High
✓ Economic decision making: advantages and disadvantages of spending, saving, investing for consumers and investors; how governments evaluate cost-benefit of public policies-High
  - Specialization-how specialization affects interdependence between producers and consumers; comparative advantage; division of labor and productivity-Low
- Tariffs and trade barriers-Low
- Supply and demand—equilibrium price; shortages and surpluses; how price affects demand; how changes in price of one good can influence another; government-enforced price ceilings and floors; how changes in consumer patterns of technology affect demand-High
- Competition—how does competition among sellers affect prices, product quality; how do large firms and new products affect price; what are monopolies-High
- Economic institutions-banks challenge funds from savers to borrowers and investors; incorporation allows for capital investment; households buy and sell-High
  - Advantages of a money system over barter; inflation-Medium
  - Interest rates-Medium
  - Income-supply and demand in the job market; how education and training affect income-Medium
  - Entrepreneurship-risks and returns; importance to economic growth; effect on markets-Medium
  - Economic growth—effects of technology and investment in the workforce-Medium
  - Role of government in the economy-taxes and government services; protection of private property-Medium
  - Governmental economic policies—who benefits and who doesn’t (trade barriers)-Medium
  - Economic fluctuations-understand GDP, causes of a recession-Medium
  - Unemployment and inflation-causes and effects-Medium
  - Federal Reserve system-tools of the Fed include: interest rates; loans to banks; depository requirements for banks; control inflation-Medium

**TASC QUESTION TYPES**

1-point: multiple choice

2-point:
- Select multiple correct responses
- Select the right answer and the evidence that supports it
- Constructed response: 1 point for partially correct