

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-14th&15th 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-16th through 19th 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 channel 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