**REGENTS TEST QUESTIONS ON U.S. HISTORY AND CIVICS**

**Questions on Colonialism and the American Revolution**

**New England’s geographic features, with many rivers with waterfalls to generate power, most directly influenced the region’s development of**

(1) industry

(3) large plantations

(2) sugar mills

(4) tenant farming

**River systems were important to the development of the United States because they**

(1) allowed Americans to travel easily between the east coast and the west coast

(2) prevented foreign invasion of United States territory

(3) provided routes for shipping agricultural and manufacturing products

(4) made the southeast the major destination for immigrants

**• Colonists protest the Stamp Act.**

**• Sons of Liberty groups are formed.**

**• Crates of tea are thrown into Boston Harbor.**

**• Parliament passes Coercive Acts.**

**These events helped lead to the**

(1) French and Indian War

(2) Revolutionary War

(3) Whiskey Rebellion

(4) War of 1812

**A major reason the American colonists of the 1600s chose to settle along the seacoast and rivers**

**was so that they could**

(1) export slaves

(2) carry out trade

(3) protect themselves from Native American Indians

(4) use water power to run factory machinery

**Under the British system of mercantilism, the American colonies served primarily as a**

(1) self-sufficient trading partner for other European nations

(2) market for British manufactured goods and a source of raw materials

(3) source of manpower for the British army and navy

(4) buffer to the expansion of French and Spanish colonies

**During the 1600s and 1700s, the fundamental goal of British mercantilism was to**

(1) prohibit all exports of raw materials from the colonies

(2) encourage economic competition with the American colonies

(3) develop manufacturing within the colonies

(4) maintain a favorable balance of trade for Great Britain with its colonies

**The Proclamation of 1763 was issued by Great Britain after the French and Indian War**

**primarily to**

(1) promote colonial settlement beyond the Appalachian Mountains

(2) limit conflict between Native American Indians and colonial settlers

(3) encourage colonial economic ties with France

(4) force French settlers to leave British territory

**Questions on Civics**

**. . .“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; . . .”**

**—Seneca Falls Convention, 1848**

**Which document most influenced the authors of this statement?**

(1) Mayflower Compact

(2) Albany Plan of Union

(3) Declaration of Independence

(4) Articles of Confederation

**During the debate over ratification of the United States Constitution, Antifederalists argued that a bill of rights should be added to**

(1) preserve the interests of slaveholders

(2) list the responsibilities of citizens

(3) protect individual liberties

(4) ensure federal supremacy

**Base your answer to question 5 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free

exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the

people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

—First amendment, United States Constitution

**What is one impact of this amendment on American society?**

(1) Congress cannot mandate a national religion.

(2) Religious groups cannot lobby Congress.

(3) Members of the press cannot hold public office.

(4) The Supreme Court cannot limit free speech during wartime.

**5 The Supreme Court can influence the actions of the other two branches of the federal government**

**by**

(1) vetoing legislation

(2) pardoning criminals

(3) exercising judicial review

(4) impeaching the president

**In 1790, the first census of the United States was taken in order to**

(1) create immigration quotas

(2) determine each state’s representation in Congress

(3) establish the number of appointed federal judges

(4) justify funding for public education

**The phrase “consent of the governed” refers to the**

(1) source of the government’s power

(2) need to create political parties

(3) commitment to use implied powers

(4) development of a federal system of government

**What was a result of the Great Compromise during the Constitutional Convention of 1787?**

(1) creating a two-house legislature

(2) banning slavery in Southern states

(3) requiring that the president have a cabinet

(4) giving the Supreme Court the power to hear cases involving states

**Based on the United States Constitution, the census helps to determine the number of**

(1) presidential candidates

(2) members of congressional subcommittees

(3) electoral votes assigned to each state

(4) senators from each state

**A primary reason the Antifederalists opposed ratification of the United States Constitution in**

**1787 was because the Constitution failed to**

(1) include a bill of rights

(2) provide for a strong national defense

(3) restrict immigration

(4) extend voting rights to women

**The power of judicial review was established when**

(1) the original United States Constitution was adopted

(2) an amendment was added to the United States Constitution

(3) President Thomas Jefferson established the power in an executive order

(4) the Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Marbury* v. *Madison* (1803)

**“President Jackson Vetoes Bill Rechartering Bank of United States”**

**“Taney Court Overturns Missouri Compromise”**

**“Senate Approves NATO Treaty”**

Which concept is best illustrated by these headlines?

(1) federalism

(2) direct democracy

(3) checks and balances

(4) westward expansion

**What was a major demand of the Antifederalists during the debate over ratification of the United**

**States Constitution?**

(1) continuation of slavery

(2) right to habeas corpus

(3) inclusion of a bill of rights

(4) reduction in the number of representatives in Congress

**Base your answers to questions 4 and 5 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.**

…We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all

men are created equal, that they are endowed by

their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that

among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of

happiness. That to secure these rights, governments

are instituted among men, deriving their just

powers from the consent of the governed,…

4 Which document includes this passage?

(1) Mayflower Compact

(2) Declaration of Independence

(3) Northwest Ordinance

(4) Monroe Doctrine

**This passage suggests that the authority of government**

(1) originates from the divine right of kings

(2) is based on a social contract meant to guarantee individual rights

(3) includes the power to seize private property for national defense

(4) is the source of all the natural rights of citizens

**Which headline is reporting the clearest example of the United States Constitution’s system of checks and balances?**

(1) **“Environmental Protection Agency Proposes**

**Stricter Air Pollution Controls”**

(2) **“Supreme Court Rules on Arizona Immigration**

**Law”**

(3) **“President Vetoes Defense Spending Bill”**

(4) **“California Passes Strict Gun Control Law”**

**What was the major argument of those who opposed ratification of the United States**

**Constitution?**

(1) The states should not be forced to pay taxes to the federal government.

(2) The new constitution did not adequately protect individual liberties against abuse by

the federal government.

(3) The judicial branch was granted more power than the legislative and executive branches.

(4) The federal government did not have enough power to defend the nation against foreign

enemies.

T**he case of *Marbury* v. *Madison* (1803) established the principle that**

(1) the Supreme Court can declare federal laws unconstitutional

(2) the states have power over the federal government

(3) the president nominates federal judges

(4) Congress can override presidential vetoes

**Base your answer to question 3 on the passage**

**below and on your knowledge of social studies.**

…that to secure these rights, governments are

instituted among men, deriving their just powers

from the consent of the governed, —that

whenever any form of government becomes

destructive of these ends, it is the right of the

people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute

new government, …

— Declaration of Independence, 1776

**This passage demonstrates that Thomas Jefferson was directly influenced by the**

(1) ideas of John Locke

(2) goals of the Albany Plan of Union

(3) belief in the divine right of kings

(4) traditional separation of church and state**.**

**“Senate Rejects Supreme Court Nominee”**

**“Supreme Court Declares National Recovery Act**

**(NRA) Unconstitutional”**

**“Congress Overrides Truman Veto of Taft-Hartley**

**Act”**

Each of these headlines illustrates the use of

(1) reserved powers

(2) checks and balances

(3) executive privilege

(4) federal supremacy

**The Supreme Court decision in *Marbury* v.*Madison* (1803) strengthened the constitutional**

**principle of separation of powers by**

(1) defining the Court’s role in impeachment trials

(2) clarifying the president’s authority to veto bills passed by Congress

(3) denying states the right to sue the federal government

(4) establishing the Court’s right to review the constitutionality of federal laws

**One way in which the Supreme Court decisions in *Mapp* v. *Ohio* (1961), *Gideon* v. *Wainwright***

**(1963), and *Miranda* v. *Arizona* (1966) are similar**

**is that each resulted in**

(1) more legal searches without warrants

(2) fewer gun control regulations

(3) additional limitations on religious freedom

(4) expanded rights for people accused of crimes

**Questions on Westward Expansion**

**Which quotation best represents the idea of Manifest Destiny?**

(1) “American interests are best served by strict isolationism.”

(2) “The passage of protective tariffs will encourage industrial development.”

(3) “Immigration is the key to the nation’s economic growth.”

(4) “The United States has a duty to spread American ideals westward.”

**The Homestead Act (1862) encouraged the settlement of the West because it provided**

(1) forty acres of land and a mule to formerly enslaved persons

(2) land to people who would live on it for at least five years

(3) mining claims for prospectors seeking gold and silver

(4) land to companies to build transcontinental railroads

**The Homestead Act of 1862 was important to the expansion of the United States because it provided**

(1) land for agricultural colleges

(2) assistance to sharecroppers in the South

(3) free land to settlers in the West

(4) land grants for construction of transcontinental railroads

**The Homestead Act and grants of land to railroads were used to**

(1) raise money to finance the federal government

(2) limit the influence of monopolies and trusts

(3) support the development of state universities

(4) encourage settlement of the West

**Questions on the Civil War and Reconstruction**

**The Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the Compromise of 1850 were attempts by the**

**federal government to**

(1) limit immigration from Europe

(2) reduce the conflict over slavery

(3) settle border disputes with Mexico

(4) control the migration of settlers to new western territories

**One way in which Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Sojourner Truth are similar is that they all supported the**

(1) abolitionist movement

(2) passage of Black Codes

(3) nullification theory of States rights

(4) plantation system in the South

**Abraham Lincoln’s 1858 warning that “a house divided against itself cannot stand” referred to**

**sectional differences over the**

(1) treatment of Native American Indians

(2) issue of slavery

(3) funding for internal improvements

(4) treaties with European nations

**What was one major result of the North’s victory in the Civil War?**

(1) The power of the Supreme Court was limited.

(2) Slave owners were compensated for their losses.

(3) The influence of corporations on government was reduced.

(4) The supremacy of the national government was upheld.

**What was a common goal of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the United States**

**Constitution?**

(1) punishing the South for seceding from the Union

(2) granting basic rights to formerly enslaved persons

(3) allowing the states to veto federal laws

(4) creating a “separate but equal” society

**After the Civil War, a significant cause of the conflict between President Andrew Johnson and**

**the Radical Republicans in Congress was disagreement over**

(1) the plans for restoring Southern states to the Union

(2) a proposal to repeal the Emancipation Proclamation

(3) reduction of the army and the navy to prewar levels

(4) congressional efforts to pay the Confederate war debt

**Poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses were used in the South after 1890 to**

(1) support the goals of the Freedmen’s Bureau

(2) deny suffrage rights to African Americans

(3) undermine the “separate but equal” ruling of the Supreme Court

(4) enforce the amendments enacted during the Civil War and Reconstruction

**As the Civil War ended, which action was supported by President Abraham Lincoln and the**

**Radical Republicans?**

(1) abolishing the institution of slavery by a constitutional amendment

(2) passing Black Codes to guarantee equality for formerly enslaved persons

(3) putting Confederate leaders on trial for war crimes

(4) ending the military occupation of the South immediately

**Questions on Imperialism and the Spanish American War**

**In the late 1800s, an increased demand for raw materials and a desire for new markets contributed to the United States adopting a policy of**

(1) imperialism

(2) pacifism

(3) isolationism

**One major result of the Spanish-American War was that the United States**

(1) formed an alliance with England

(2) gained recognition as a world power

(3) repealed the Monroe Doctrine

(4) decreased the size of its navy

**Which heading best completes the partial outline below?**

I. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A. The United States claims the Hawaiian Islands.

B. Puerto Rico becomes a United States territory.

C. The United States fights an insurrection in the Philippine Islands.

D. The United States Senate ratifies the Panama Canal treaty.

(1) Rise of American Imperialism

(2) Causes of World War I

(3) Enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine

(4) Trade Expansion in East Asia

**Questions on Civil Rights**

**What was one result of the Supreme Court decision in *Plessy* v. *Ferguson* (1896)?**

(1) Public schools were integrated nationwide.

(2) Civil rights for African Americans were strengthened.

(3) Northern states were forced to segregate public facilities.

(4) The “separate but equal” doctrine was established.

**During the 1960s, members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) used sit-ins primarily to**

(1) protest high college tuition costs

(2) promote passage of clean air laws

(3) support voting rights for 18-year-old citizens

(4) challenge racially segregated public facilities

**‘‘. . . Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison. . . .’’—Henry David Thoreau**

**Which leader’s reform efforts reflect the idea in this statement by Thoreau?**

1. Booker T. Washington’s support for vocational education
2. Jane Addams’s establishment of Hull House
3. Rachel Carson’s books about the environment
4. Martin Luther King Jr.’s advocacy of civil disobedience

**Which event during the civil rights movement is most closely associated with President Dwight**

**Eisenhower?**

(1) granting permission for the March on Washington

(2) urging the Brooklyn Dodgers to sign Jackie Robinson

(3) supporting the sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina

(4) using federal troops to integrate schools in Little Rock, Arkansas

**“No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.”**

**— Section 2, Voting Rights Act of 1965**

**The specific goal stated in this section of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was to**

(1) expand the use of property qualifications

(2) establish voter qualifications such as literacy tests

(3) stop fraudulent voting in large cities

(4) remove barriers to voting based on racial background

**Base your answer on the poem below and on your knowledge of social studies.**

**HARLEM**

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over—

like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

like a heavy load.

*Or does it explode?*

— Langston Hughes, 1951 (adapted)

40 The “dream deferred” in this poem refers to the hopes African Americans had for

(1) social and political equality

(2) an independent African American nation

(3) access to affordable medical treatment

(4) separate public accommodations

**A major impact of the 24th amendment banning poll taxes and of the 1965 Voting Rights Act**

**was the**

(1) increase in the number of Jim Crow laws

(2) movement to create a new political party for Hispanics

(3) decrease in voting among African American women

(4) elimination of discriminatory voting practices against African Americans

**Questions on World War I**

**What was President Woodrow Wilson’s stated policy toward the warring nations of Europe prior to United States entry into World War I?**

(1) neutrality

(2) containment

(3) internationalism

(4) dollar diplomacy

**Which action by Germany prompted the United States to enter World War I?**

(1) attacking British shipping

(2) forming an alliance with Austria-Hungary

(3) resuming unrestricted submarine warfare

(4) invading France

**Questions on the Great Depression**

**Which statement about the United States economy during the 1920s is true?**

(1) Federal regulation of business was strengthened.

(2) The purchase of stocks steadily declined.

(3) Mass production increased the supply of consumer goods.

(4) Republican Party presidents supported unemployment

**Which factor led to agricultural overproduction and falling farm prices during the 1920s?**

(1) decline in European demand after World War I

(2) lower tariffs enacted by Congress

(3) lack of access to cheap credit

(4) decreasing population in cities of the South

**President Franklin D. Roosevelt believed that by declaring a bank holiday and creating the Federal**

**Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), he would aid the nation’s banking system by**

(1) restricting foreign investments

(2) eliminating government regulation of banks

(3) restoring public confidence in banks

(4) granting tax relief

**Base your answer to question 28 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.**

. . . I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad,

ill-nourished.

It is not in despair that I paint you that picture.

I paint it for you in hope—because the Nation,

seeing and understanding the injustice in it,

proposes to paint it out. We are determined to

make every American citizen the subject of his

country’s interest and concern; and we will never

regard any faithful, law-abiding group within our

borders as superfluous. The test of our progress

is not whether we add more to the abundance of

those who have much; it is whether we provide

enough for those who have too little. . . .

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Second Inaugural

Address, January 20, 1937

**President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the situation described in this speech by**

(1) reducing the influence of labor unions

(2) supporting programs to aid the poor and unemployed

(3) promoting the interests of big business

(4) adopting the trickle-down economic theory

**Base your answer to question 25 on the quotation below and on your knowledge of social studies.**

…I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for

the American people. Let us all here assembled

constitute ourselves prophets of a new order of

competence and of courage. This is more than a

political campaign; it is a call to arms. Give me

your help, not to win votes alone, but to win in this

crusade to restore America to its own people.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Acceptance Speech,

Democratic National Convention, 1932

**In this statement, Franklin D. Roosevelt promised to**

(1) build up the military

(2) reduce government interference in business

(3) end an isolationist foreign policy

(4) provide government assistance to combat the Great Depression

**Questions on World War II**

**The Neutrality Acts of 1935 and 1937 were enacted by Congress to**

1. help the United States recover from the Great Depression
2. stop Nazi Germany from conquering Europe
3. aid the Americans who fought in the Spanish Civil War
4. prevent the United States from being drawn into another world war

“Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. . . .”

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Address to Congress,

December 8, 1941

**In this statement, President Roosevelt was addressing Congress about the**

1. sinking of merchant ships in the Atlantic Ocean
2. D-Day invasion of France
3. bombing of Pearl Harbor
4. air raids on the Panama Canal

**During World War II, the federal government was accused of violating constitutional rights by**

1. signing the Yalta Agreement
2. implementing a draft to expand the armed forces
3. relocating Japanese Americans to internment camps
4. initiating the secret Manhattan Project

**President Harry Truman’s decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan was based on the belief**

**that the action would**

(1) save American lives by avoiding an invasion of Japan

(2) force Germany and Italy to lay down their arms

(3) help create a military alliance with China

(4) persuade the Soviet Union to surrender

**The relocation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II occurred because**

(1) most of them were not citizens of the United States

(2) they refused to serve in the United States military

(3) they were needed to work at inland defense industries

(4) military authorities considered them a threat to national security

**What was a major reason for wartime rationing?**

(1) restricting lower-priced food imports

(2) ensuring that troops were adequately supplied

(3) providing jobs for the unemployed

(4) preventing currency deflation

**Questions on the Cold War and the 1950s**

**What was a major result of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962?**

(1) Fidel Castro was removed from power.

(2) Steps were taken to relax Cold War tensions.

(3) United Nations forces invaded Cuba.

(4) Trade between Cuba and the United States increased.

**President Kennedy created the Peace Corps in the 1960s to**

(1) fight revolutionaries in democratic nations with military force

(2) improve economic conditions in developing countries

(3) rebuild United States cities through urban renewal

(4) overthrow Soviet control in Eastern Europe

**Which statement about the Vietnam War is an opinion?**

(1) President Lyndon B. Johnson’s escalation of the war was a mistake.

(2) United States forces withdrew from Vietnam during the presidency of Gerald Ford.

(3) Disagreement over the war divided the American public.

(4) The Vietnam War had been the longest military conflict in United States history.

**Base your answer to question 34 on the statement**

**below and on your knowledge of social studies.**

…We may anticipate a state of affairs in which

two Great Powers will each be in a position to

put an end to the civilization and life of the other,

though not without risking its own. We may be

likened to two scorpions in a bottle, each capable

of killing the other, but only at the risk of his own

life.…

— J. Robert Oppenheimer, 1953

**In this statement, J. Robert Oppenheimer was**

**referring to the**

(1) benefits of neutrality

(2) dangers of the nuclear arms race

(3) failures of appeasement

(4) positive effects of atomic energy

**The SALT I and SALT II agreements of the 1970s tried to improve Cold War relations between the United States and the Soviet Union by**

(1) encouraging space exploration

(2) increasing cultural exchanges

(3) lowering barriers to trade

(4) limiting nuclear weapons

**“Greece Receives U.S. Aid to Fight Communists”**

**“U.S. Military Airlifts Supplies to Berlin”**

**“U.S. Troops Sent to Defend South Vietnam”**

These headlines best illustrate the United States commitment to a policy of

(1) détente

(2) isolationism

(3) containment

(4) imperialism

**Base your answer to question 36 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.**

…It is hereby declared to be the policy of the

President that there shall be equality of treatment

and opportunity for all persons in the armed

services without regard to race, color, religion or

national origin. This policy shall be put into effect

as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time

required to effectuate [implement] any necessary

changes without impairing efficiency or morale.…

— Section 1, Executive Order 9981

**The purpose of Executive Order 9981, issued by President Harry Truman, was to**

(1) encourage women to join the armed services

(2) end racial segregation in the military

(3) ensure adequate manpower to fight the Korean War

(4) establish war crimes tribunals in Western Europe

**One of the main effects of the passage of the Interstate Highway Act of 1956 was the**

**expansion of**

(1) ridership on long-distance passenger trains

(2) immigrant populations

(3) communities in the suburbs

(4) the airline industry

**Which action best illustrates the Cold War policy of containment?**

(1) participating in the Nuremberg trials

(2) creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

(3) encouraging scientific cooperation between the Allies

(4) recognizing the state of Israel in 1948

**Watergate**

**The presidency of Richard Nixon was weakened by his**

(1) policies on the environment

(2) trip to the People’s Republic of China

(3) foreign policy toward the Soviet Union

(4) involvement in the Watergate scandal

**Questions on Reagonomics**

**President Ronald Reagan supported supply-side economics through reduced tax rates to**

(1) encourage economic growth

(2) create more public-works jobs

(3) increase government regulation of business

(4) decrease defense spending

**Globalization**

**The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs**

**and Trade (GATT) were created primarily to**

(1) support environmentalism

(2) maintain mutual defense

(3) improve public health worldwide

(4) promote economic interdependence

**Which statement accurately describes a result of the 1993 adoption of the North American Free**

**Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?**

(1) Tariff barriers were reduced between the three largest nations of North America.

(2) A single currency was created for the nations of North America.

(3) Immigration restrictions between North American nations were eliminated.

(4) The United States stopped importing oil from other North American nations.

**Politics and the Media**

**“Hoover and Smith Campaign on Radio”**

**“Kennedy Passes Nixon in Polls After Televised**

**Debate”**

**“Obama Raises Record Donations Using the**

**Internet”**

Which statement about the use of media in political campaigns is illustrated by these

headlines?

(1) Media bias does not affect the ability of political leaders to communicate with voters.

(2) Political leaders adapt to new forms of media to communicate with voters.

(3) Electronic media are an ineffective way for political leaders to communicate with voters.

(4) Endorsements by the media have the greatest influence on voters.