

United States History

SECTION II

Part B and Part C

(Suggested total planning and writing time—70 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—55

Part B

Directions: Choose ONE question from this part. You are advised to spend 5 minutes planning and 30 minutes writing your answer. Cite relevant historical evidence in support of your generalizations and present your arguments clearly and logically.

1. "The Industrial Revolution increased individual opportunity." Comment on the validity of this statement in the period from 1800 to 1840.
2. Analyze the impact of slavery on the development of American political parties between 1840 and 1860.

Part C

Directions: Choose ONE question from this part. You are advised to spend 5 minutes planning and 30 minutes writing your answer. Cite relevant historical evidence in support of your generalizations and present your arguments clearly and logically.

1. Analyze the emergence of the "new woman" between 1900 and 1930 and discuss whether this phenomenon was more myth or reality.
2. To what degree did Wilsonian principles influence the foreign policy of Franklin Roosevelt between 1933 and 1945?

Practice Exam Answers

Multiple-Choice Answers

1. d. Virginia struggled mightily with disease and death in its early years; the discovery of new tobacco cultivation techniques by John Rolfe helped to salvage the colony and its settlers.
2. a. Great Britain's debt more than doubled as a result of the French and Indian War, leading Chancellor of the Exchequer Grenville to seek to make the colonies bear a greater share of the cost of their defense.
3. a. Hamilton strongly believed that liberty could only exist under a strong central government that could provide order and believed that the Articles of Confederation had failed in not placing enough power in Congress, resulting in anarchy.

4. e. The internal migrations of this period occurred primarily along the Oregon Trail and to a lesser degree, the Santa Fe Trail, as this was the most feasible mode of travel.
5. b. President Lincoln was determined to resupply Fort Sumter, while Confederate leaders were determined to resist these efforts, reasoning that it was worse to appear to be weak before federal efforts than to be the aggressor in attacking Sumter.
6. c. While the Populists and progressives differed in their constituency and outlook, as well as in a number of aspects of their program, both groups believed that increased federal power was necessary to combat the power of big business.
7. c. This 1925 trial, brought on by a challenge to Tennessee's anti-evolution law, became a flashpoint for the cultural conflict between the urban and rural parts of the country.
8. d. FDR's so-called "court-packing" plan, a reaction to the Supreme Court's overturning of several key New Deal measures, aroused such significant opposition from members of Congress who saw it as a threat to the system of checks and balances that the president was forced to abandon it.
9. d. Eisenhower believed in a relatively limited role for the federal government, but the Federal Highway Act of 1956 appropriated \$25 billion for highway construction and had a major impact on the nation's travel and residential patterns.
10. c. Much of the frustration that the American public had over the Korean conflict resulted from the fact that it was a limited war that the United States was unable to win, having to settle for a stalemate after having repelled North Korea's initial incursion into the South.
11. a. While many of the early tribes lived in nomadic bands that relied on hunting and gathering, over time the Aztecs, Inca, and Maya at various points all achieved levels rivaling those of many European civilizations before the Spanish arrival in the western hemisphere.
12. e. The French and Indian War occurred after the Great Awakening, which moved through the colonies in the 1730s and 1740s.
13. a. The Democratic-Republican Party formed in opposition to the Federalist program, especially the creation of the Bank of the United States, which its members saw as an unconstitutional measure that put too much power in the hands of that nation's elite.
14. a. Alfred Thayer Mahan and other proponents of expansion argued for the acquisition of foreign bases in the 1890s, much later than the other rationales for Manifest Destiny.
15. d. While some freedmen believed that they would be given "forty acres and a mule" during Reconstruction, land redistribution in the South never occurred.
16. e. Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and other industrialists believed that they had a responsibility to use large portions of their wealth to support philanthropic causes.
17. b. DuBois believed strongly in educating what he referred to as the "talented tenth," African Americans who could enter leadership positions in society and hope to lift the black race overall.
18. b. While unemployment remained high (over 15 percent) until the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the war's massive federal spending resulted in a return to full employment and prosperity much more effectively than the New Deal had been able to do.
19. b. The so-called "baby boom" following World War II helped to facilitate other important demographic trends of this period, such as suburbanization, as young couples

- with children moved to the suburbs in search of what they believed to be safer conditions and better schools.
20. c. Johnson's main focus was his Great Society program, but he feared a repeat of the anticommunist backlash against Truman and his advisors, who were accused of "losing" China in 1949, if he withdrew from Vietnam.
 21. d. The United States had gone off of the gold standard during the 1930s; among the decade's most significant problems were not deflation, but rather inflation due to rising oil prices and other related factors.
 22. d. Winthrop's famous sermon, delivered upon the arrival of the Puritans at Massachusetts Bay, called upon the colony's settlers to serve as an example to a corrupt England, as he and his followers hoped eventually to reform the corrupt Anglican Church.
 23. c. Both the national and state governments formed during the Revolution reflected the fear of centralized executive power that the newly independent former colonies held due to their experience under British rule and widespread belief in the tenets of Whig ideology.
 24. b. Thomas Jefferson and other Southerners had argued that slavery was a "necessary evil" through the 1820s; the growth of the abolitionist movement and slave resistance changed the terms of the arguments as Southerners began to argue that slavery was in fact a "positive good."
 25. a. The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in areas that were in rebellion against the Union; Lincoln wanted to use the Proclamation as a war measure, reasoning that freeing slaves in Confederate areas that came under Union occupation would hurt the South's military effort.
 26. c. Urban political machines such as New York's Tammany Hall, while enriching their leaders, also filled a necessary vacuum left by the inadequacy of existing political structures through providing jobs, limited welfare, and other services for new immigrants.
 27. b. The Republican administrations of the 1920s sought to cut federal spending and balance the federal budget; federal spending thus had little impact on the emergence of the Depression.
 28. d. No direct evidence was ever found linking Japanese Americans to the attack on Pearl Harbor or to the Japanese war effort; the policy of internment was largely the result of long-standing hostility toward the Japanese, especially on the West Coast, as well as American anger over the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
 29. b. The Hiss trial of 1948, in which Hiss was found guilty of perjury (the statute of limitations on espionage had run out), helped to increase the fear of the American people about communist involvement in government; it also helped to increase the status of Richard Nixon as an anticommunist and helped to lay the groundwork for the later popularity of Joseph McCarthy.
 30. d. The seemingly limitless economic growth of the 1950s convinced American leaders that increased production, rather than efforts to limit what the wealthy could acquire and redistribute wealth, was the best way to eliminate poverty.
 31. b. Kennedy, responding to Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's pledge to support "wars of national liberation" in the newly independent nations, sought to use programs such as the Peace Corps and the Alliance for Progress to win support in the so-called Third

World; he believed that the Eisenhower administration had relied too heavily upon nuclear weapons and failed to cultivate the forces of nationalism abroad.

32. e. These two conflicts, both occurring in the mid-1670s, highlighted the conflicts between the white expansionist desires and Native American efforts to defend their land in Massachusetts Bay and Virginia, respectively.
33. b. Antifederalists opposed the Constitution largely due to the increased centralized power envisioned in the document; they felt that a Bill of Rights would protect their liberties and prevent a repeat of the colonial experience under Great Britain.
34. d. New England Federalists, concerned about what they believed was the excessive influence of the "Virginia Dynasty" or Democratic-Republican presidents, sought to make it more difficult for the United States to acquire new territory, make trade embargos, and declare war.
35. d. Women on the overland trail struggled as they had to take on additional tasks due to the new circumstances of their journey, while continuing the "domestic" tasks that continued when the wagon train stopped.
36. b. Many who fought to establish a separate Confederate nation based on slavery, agrarianism, and limited government opposed the efforts of both Northerners and Southerners to create an industrialized "New South."
37. a. Farmers were upset by the fact that they frequently had to pay higher rates to ship their goods than those who were able to ship larger amounts of goods over longer distances; elimination of the "short haul/long haul" distinction was a major goal of the Granger laws passed on the state level.
38. b. The urban-rural division was a key theme of the 1920s; the 1920 census showed that a majority of Americans lived in urban areas for the first time in the nation's history.
39. c. Despite the depth and severity of the Depression, the majority of Americans avoided looking for radical solutions to the crisis, and instead simply sought to work harder and assume a greater sense of personal responsibility for their plight.
40. d. Once the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbade segregation in public places, civil rights leaders turned their attention to voting rights, making Selma a major target and thus influencing passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.
41. c. Following the end of World War II, scientists were able to build upon earlier advances in the understanding of viruses to develop vaccines against several of the most devastating diseases of the early twentieth century; these advances led to declines in infant mortality rates and increases in life expectancy.
42. a. Colonial resistance to British taxation measures centered around boycotting British goods, an effort to appeal to the economic self-interest of English merchants.
43. c. Farmers in western Pennsylvania rebelled against the excise tax on whiskey in 1794; Washington responded by personally leading a large military force against the rebellion in a strong assertion of federal power.
44. a. Although Madison adopted a number of Federalist-style programs after the War of 1812, he believed that a constitutional amendment was necessary to allow the federal government to fund internal improvements.
45. b. John Marshall, chief justice from 1801 to 1835, issued a series of decisions asserting the power of the federal government over the states (most notably *McCullough v. Maryland*) and the rights of private property (*Dartmouth College v. Woodward*).

46. b. Nursing had been dominated by men prior to the Civil War; the conflict caused a shift whereby nursing became an almost entirely female-dominated profession by the late nineteenth century.
47. b. Gilded Age issues included political corruption and reform, early efforts at business regulation, and the gold standard and tariffs; not until the progressive era did protection for workers become a national issue.
48. b. The western states gave women the right to vote earlier than states on the East Coast; traditional historians note the influence of frontier egalitarianism as the major factor, while more recent interpretations stress the fact that women's suffrage in western states was less tied with controversial social issues such as temperance and prohibition.
49. e. During the Spanish Civil War, the United States Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1937, which forbade the sale of arms to either side in a civil war; this clearly helped the Spanish fascists under Francisco Franco, who received substantial military aid, while France, England, and United States agreed not to help arm the Republicans.
50. b. Despite popular stereotypes of the 1960s (helped by the media's focus on student protests), most college students remained fairly conventional in their attitudes and actions; highly visible protests at the University of California at Berkeley and Columbia University, among others, account for the prominent image of the student protester.
51. d. Clinton went against the stereotype of the Democrats as the party of federal spending; through cuts in defense spending and fiscal disciplines in domestic programs, he was able to balance the federal budget.
52. a. A group of forty-one Pilgrims, or Separatists, agreed to form a "Civil Body Politik" through the Mayflower Compact upon their arrival at Plymouth Rock in 1620, a document that began the tradition of written governmental charters in the English colonies.
53. d. Before 1763, British officials loosely enforced colonial trade regulations to the mutual benefit of both England and the colonies; increased British debt as a result of the French and Indian War led to a shift toward tighter regulations.
54. e. Tecumseh and the Prophet sought to create a pan-Indian movement to oppose the movement of white settlers into Indian lands; Tecumseh sought cooperation with the British and tribal alliances, while the Prophet emphasized messianic prophecies and Indian religious revival until their forces were defeated at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811.
55. c. Texas had joined the Union by a joint resolution of Congress in early 1845; one of the precipitating issues in the Mexican War was the dispute between the United States and Mexico over the Texas boundary.
56. b. Hayes was elected as a result of the disputed election of 1876, receiving disputed electoral votes from three Southern states in exchange for a pledge to end the federal occupation of the South as part of the Compromise of 1877.
57. d. Movements such as the Ashcan School reflected an emphasis on portraying urban life and other themes associated with everyday life; this was a movement away from the earlier reliance on classicism and formalism.
58. d. Wilson won less than 50 percent of the popular vote; the split between Roosevelt and the progressive wing of the Republican Party and Taft and the more conservative wing most likely cost the Republican Party the election.
59. c. Lodge, the influential chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during World War I, opposed U.S. entry into the League of Nations because he wanted to safeguard the United States' ability to preserve its freedom of action and not get dragged into conflicts that were not direct threats to American security or interests.

60. d. Although some D.C. restaurants were desegregated during the war, complete desegregation awaited the later civil rights movement and the 1964 Civil Rights Act.
61. a. The Puritan community relied on the covenant ideal as a way to bind its members together as they sought to create their ideal settlement in Massachusetts Bay.
62. d. France sought revenge against Great Britain following the end of the Seven Years' War in 1763; the American Revolution provided a perfect opportunity for France to exact this.
63. e. Westerners, known as War Hawks, desired territorial expansion and wanted to stop Britain's violation of America's rights as a neutral nation.
64. a. The Wilmot Proviso twice passed the House of Representatives; equal representation in the Senate allowed the South to kill the measure, which would have banned slavery in the areas acquired as a result of the Mexican War.
65. c. For the first time, the federal government undertook a program to sell bonds to ordinary citizens rather than just the wealthy, resulting in a program of mass financing of a war that helped to create a model for the two world wars.
66. b. Roosevelt and Wilson differed, at least rhetorically, on their approaches toward big business; Roosevelt leaned toward regulation of business, Wilson toward breaking up large combinations to ensure greater competition.
67. a. While both Harding and Coolidge believed in a limited presidential role, they relied heavily on able advisers such as secretary of state Charles Evans Hughes, commerce secretary Herbert Hoover, and U.S. Treasury secretary Andrew Mellon.
68. d. The Berlin Crisis hastened the formation of NATO by making European and American leaders fear the Soviet military threat to Western Europe; the Soviet Union responded by creating the Warsaw Pact in 1955.
69. d. The ERA passed both houses of Congress and received support in many states throughout the 1970s; rising conservative opposition in the late 1970s, however, stalled it short of the necessary three-fourths majority in 1982.
70. b. The Immigration Act of 1965 led to a significant increase in non-Western immigration, especially Asian immigrants who had been limited by earlier acts.
71. c. South Carolina proved the exception among England's American colonies in that it was the only one with a black majority.
72. c. Colonial resistance to Great Britain was heavily based on Whig ideology, drawn from English opposition thinkers who feared the growth of central power in England.
73. d. Jefferson feared the harmful domestic effects of large military establishments; he believed instead that commercial warfare could achieve American goals short of armed conflict.
74. e. While diverse groups of people flooded into California in search of riches, few actually found them; the gold rush was more important in creating a heterogeneous, unstable population than in producing widespread wealth for new immigrants to the region.
75. b. The Dawes Act encouraged Indian ownership of private property and hastened the end of communal tribal ownership of land by Indians.
76. b. Vaudeville was the most popular urban entertainment form in the early twentieth century; aspects of it built upon the earlier minstrel performances of African Americans, making it one of the few areas open to black performers.
77. c. The First Red Scare focused primarily on anarchist, communist, and other radical groups operating in American society; the Second Red Scare shared many of these

- concerns, but focused much more heavily on the role of alleged communist subversion in the federal government.
78. c. A majority of Americans supported the United States military effort in Vietnam prior to the Tet Offensive of January 1968; after that, while other events caused further erosions in public support, the major damage had already been done.
 79. b. Carson's influential 1962 book warned of the harm caused by DDT; although it enraged chemical company executives, it helped to fuel popular concern over environmental issues and led the federal government to ban DDT in 1972.
 80. a. Nixon resigned after it became clear following the release of the transcript of tapes showing his role in covering up the Watergate break meant that he would be impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate; although Clinton was impeached by the House, the Senate failed to attract even a simple majority for the two charges against Clinton.

SECTION II

Part A

1. The strongest essays will have a sophisticated thesis that addresses the progress of the civil rights movement in all three categories (political, social, and economic); a body that treats all three areas relatively equally; uses a substantial number of documents; and is well-organized, without major errors. Most likely, you will find differences in the three areas; African Americans may have moved closer in equality in some areas than in others.

Among the documents, political equality is probably the most straightforward to address. President Truman calls for comprehensive civil rights legislation in Document A; possible background knowledge to bring in might be the split in the Democratic Party in 1948. The Twenty-Fourth Amendment, Document D, outlawed the poll tax; you will most likely want to refer as well to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which gave federal protection to those attempting to register to vote.

Social equality is more difficult to measure. The most obvious place to begin is education; a strong essay should bring in *Brown v. Board of Education* and discuss its impact and implementation. The picture of the African-American girl entering Little Rock High School surrounded by jeering whites provides an opportunity to discuss white resistance to school integration; Document H alludes to the continued *de facto* segregation through the Supreme Court's sanction for busing (you may want to discuss the reaction to busing in northern cities such as Boston to show that the difficulties of desegregation were not confined to the South).

Economic equality became an increasing focus of civil rights advocates following the passage of civil rights legislation in the mid-1960s. Stokely Carmichael, an advocate of "black power," the members of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders, and members of the Third National Institute for Black Public Officials all suggest that economic inequality remains the single biggest problem facing African Americans. Despite African-American complaints about continuing economic inequality, the chart shows that median minority incomes increased at a faster rate than white incomes throughout the 1955-1970 period. Although it is slightly beyond the time period, you may consider bringing in the 1978 case of *Bakke v. California*, in which the Supreme Court gave limited sanction to the principle of affirmative action, a central part of the case for providing economic equality.