

Dear Secondary and College Teachers;

The following essay questions come from my files; I have used them successfully for 25 years. They are pretty standard questions and for the most part not uniquely my own.

Help yourself!

As you'll see, my method is to give the students a list of difficult questions ahead of time, and then use some version of two of the questions on the actual exam. Thus, if they prepare for each question, they will be prepared to take the exam. This is fair because it involves a lot of work, and they learn as much studying as they do on the exam. I do not allow them to use their books or outlines during the exam, only for study ahead of time. I usually include some multiple choice or ID terms, but most points come from the essay. All of the following questions can be answered in 50-75 minutes, but the students must be prepared in order to do so.

Of course, all of the questions can be answered using *A Patriot's History of the United States*. I sometimes refer to other assigned readings, but you will choose your own supplementary readings and should ignore those references.

Don't ever hesitate to contact me if you need help.

A fellow patriot,

Mike Allen, Ph.D.

UNITED STATES HISTORY I, 1607-1877, TSMUS 200
MIDTERM EXAM STUDY QUESTIONS
125 POINTS/90 MINUTES

Note: The midterm will consist of a 75-minute 100-point essay exam and a 15-minute 25-point multiple-choice exam. You will write your essay in a blue book. You will write a well-organized essay in concise, documented (using evidence) English prose in answer to ONE of two possible questions. The two questions will resemble, but will not repeat *verbatim*, two of the following study questions. Thus, to prepare for the midterm, draft outlines in answer to *all* of the study questions. Make sure each of your outlines has an organizing thesis and *specific evidence* (examples) to support the thesis. Your outlines are for study only, not for use during the exam. The multiple-choice questions will be drawn from the study questions and assigned readings.

1. Using your Schweikart and Allen text, e-reserves, and class notes, compare and contrast the European-American colonies in Virginia, Massachusetts, and one of the following: Maryland, Pennsylvania, or New York. Pay particular attention to each of these colonies' origins and foundings, adaptations, religions, economics, land settlement patterns, governmental systems, etc.

2. Some historians contend that European-American colonists became "Americanized" in the new world. Using Schweikart and Allen, Turner, Boorstin, and your class notes, defend, refute, or qualify that argument, pointing to specific aspects of European-American society, material culture, economics, government, Whig political ideology, religion, beliefs, the arts, etc.

3. Define the Patriots' Whig ideology and discuss its seventeenth century English origins and specific components. Then show how Whig ideology conflicted with specific British actions, 1763-1777, leading to Declaration of Independence and American Revolution. Use your Schweikart and Allen text, the Declaration of Independence, and other readings, and class notes from lectures and movies.

4. Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation with the Federal Constitution, pointing to several specific examples from each document. How and why did Americans change their form of government in 1787-88? Use your Schweikart and Allen text, documents readings, and movie and class notes.

5. Using your Schweikart and Allen text, e-reserves, and class notes, compare and contrast the Indian and European-American inhabitants of Colonial America, focusing on Massachusetts. Pay particular attention to their origins, tribal (or ethnic) divisions, sustenance, material culture, economic systems, military techniques, government (or leadership), religion, and other socio-cultural facets of their societies.

4. Answer #5, substituting African-American for Indian and Virginia for Massachusetts.

American History 201
Study questions for the midterm exam

Note: The midterm question will not appear verbatim as it appears below, but it will reflect one or more of the following questions. Thus, if you study and prepare thorough outlines for the following questions you should be prepared to take the midterm.

1. Compare and contrast the early development of Colonial Virginia, Massachusetts Bay, and one other colony (not Plymouth) covered adequately by your text. Pay particular attention to the circumstances of the original founding of these colonies, and then point to specific governmental, economic, and religious similarities and differences.
2. Write an essay in which you discuss, compare, and contrast the histories of Indians and Afro-American slaves during the 1607-1787 period. Pay particular attention to the impact of white society and racism upon these peoples.
3. Discuss the origins and evolution of British Imperial economic and governmental policy in America from 1650-1776. Provide specific examples of economic theories, legislation, the forms and flaws of British government and administration, and American reaction to British policy.
4. Some historians contend that the English colonists became "Americanized." Demonstrate how English culture, institutions, and beliefs were transformed in America as colonists adapted to their new environment.
5. Define and discuss the origins and components of "Country Ideology" in America. Then show how that ideology conflicted with specific British actions during the 1763-1776 period and led to the American Revolution.
6. How did America ever defeat the greatest military power on earth to win the American Revolution? Compare and contrast the opposing armies and navies, their strategies, and give specific examples of how the Americans emerged victorious.

History 201
Study Questions for Final Exam

Note: The exam question will not appear verbatim as it appears below. However, if you prepare outlines for these questions then you will be prepared to take the final exam. In addition to one essay question, there will be some short identification questions in which you will be required to define and discuss the significance of 10 historical events, persons, and terms, most of which will be drawn from your America in Legend text. This will count for 25% of the final exam. If you study for the questions below and read America in Legend you will also be studying for this identification part of the exam.

1. Trace the evolution of the American political party systems, 1781-1850. Discuss and analyze (1) the different parties and their origins; (2) their constituencies (followers); (3) their political beliefs or ideologies; (4) their opponents; (5) the major issues over which they did battle; and (6) the reasons for their decline. (Note: It may help you to organize this large question in two separate outlines--the first focusing on the 1st Party System and the second focusing on the 2nd Party System. Use the above organization for each outline.)

2. Discuss the major issues over which the political parties did battle from 1788-1850 that did not relate specifically to the slavery question.

3. Discuss the evolution of American culture---art, music, literature, and folklore---during the Age of Jackson. Demonstrate how culture fit into the historical context of the period.

4. Discuss the development of sectionalism in America, 1781-1850, paying particular attention to the socio-cultural, economic, and political aspects of sectionalism, and specific events that caused sectional confrontation.

5. Discuss the development of nationalism in America, 1781-1850, paying particular attention to the socio-cultural, economic, and political aspects of nationalism, and specific programs favored by the nationalist politicians.

6. Discuss the origins and development of American slavery from Colonial times until 1850, paying particular attention to the socio-cultural, economic, and intellectual (racist) aspects of the "peculiar institution."

7. Discuss specific events in American political history, 1787-1850, that led to sectional confrontations over slavery.

American History 202

Study questions for the midterm examination

Note: The question will not appear verbatim as it appears below, but it will be related to one or more of the following questions. Thus, if you study and prepare outlines for the following questions you will be prepared to take the midterm.

1. What caused the Civil War? Pay particular attention to socio-cultural, economic, and political, and philosophical differences between Northern and Southern Americans.
2. The fight over the expansion of slavery into the territories is a persistent problem in antebellum history. Briefly trace the origins of the territorial question from 1787 to 1845. Then show how this problem caused strife between North and South between 1846 and 1860 by pointing to several examples.
3. Trace the growth and evolution of anti-slavery thought and programs. Be sure to discuss the Colonization Movement and Abolitionism, the Free Soilers, and Lincoln Republicans, the Emancipation Proclamation, 13th, 14th, & 15th Amendments, and the ideas of the "radical" Republicans. Discuss Lincoln's attitudes and pay as much attention to motives as you do to rhetoric.
4. Why did the North win the War? Compare Northern and Southern armies, economic capabilities, and their changing strategies. Give specific examples of Grant's and Lee's strategies in action and explain how Grant ended stalemate and achieved victory.
5. How did the Civil War affect the Northern homefront? What were the overall effects of the War on American society, economics and government?
6. Define "Reconstruction" and show specifically how the Northerners tried to "Reconstruct" the South from 1864-1877. Did they succeed?
7. Compare and contrast the "Old South" with the "New South" that emerged after Reconstruction. Pay particular attention to social, economic, political, and racial beliefs and institutions.

History 202
Study Questions for the Final Exam

Note: The exam question will not appear verbatim as it appears below. However, if you prepare outlines for these questions then you will be prepared to take the final exam. In addition to one essay question there will be 10 short identification questions in which you will be required to define and discuss the significance of 10 important historical terms, most of which will be drawn from your America in Legend text. This will count for 25% of the final exam. If you study the questions below and read America in Legend you will be prepared to answer the identification questions.

1. Industry and "progress" play an important role in post-Civil War American history. Write an essay in which you show how these economic developments changed the trans-Mississippi West.

2. Describe in summary the experiences of blacks, Indians, and women in their quest for equality (or, in the case of Indians, survival) in post-Civil War America. At the beginning and end of your essay, briefly compare and contrast those experiences.

3. Who were the "Populists" and what were their complaints about the American political and economic system? Discuss the origins and history of Populist protest, including a discussion of cultural and literary protest. Assess the impact of Populism on American politics and economics.

4. Define "Progressivism" and explain who belonged to the Progressive Movement. Discuss the Progressive proposals for changing American politics and society. Then show how major Progressive political leaders like Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson sought to institute their beliefs from 1901 to 1917.

5. Define "imperialism." What motives did Americans have for expanding into the Far East and Latin America during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? Describe the major events in the history of American imperialist expansion.

6. Explain why Americans entered World War I and what impact they had in that conflict. How did new military technology affect the war and its impact on society? How did World War I change American society?

7. Some argue that culture is a direct reflection of historical circumstances. Defend this view in an essay in which you describe the development of American art, literature, and music during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

American History II: TSMUS 201
MIDTERM EXAM STUDY QUESTIONS
125 POINTS/90 MINUTES

Note: The midterm will consist of a 75-minute 100-point essay exam and a 15-minute 25-point multiple-choice section. You will write your essay in a blue book. You will write a well-organized essay in concise, documented English prose in answer to ONE of two questions. The two questions will resemble, but will not repeat *verbatim*, the following study questions. To prepare for the midterm, draft outlines in answer to *all* of the following questions. Make sure each of your outlines has an organizing thesis and specific evidence (examples) to support the thesis. Your outlines are for study only, not for use during the exam.

1. Using your Schweikart text, class notes, "Revolt of Mother," and *Main Street*, write an essay discussing Populism. Who were the Populists and what were their complaints about the American political and economic systems? Discuss the origins and history of Populist protest, 1867-1896, including *specific examples* of their beliefs and proposals and the role of rural realism in their movement.

2. Using your Schweikart text, e-reserves, *Main Street*, and class notes, write an essay in which you define and discuss Progressivism. What are the origins of Progressive economic and political (and religious) ideas? Discuss how Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson sought to implement this domestic program from 1901-1917 by pointing to *specific examples*, including constitutional amendments. This question does not include foreign policy.

3. Using your Schweikart text, e-reserves, and class notes, define expansionism and imperialism and discuss their relationship to Progressivism. What *specific* motives did Americans have for expanding into the Far East and Latin America during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? Describe the major events in this era's expansionism, not including World War I.

4. Using Schweikart, *Main Street*, and your class notes, explain how and why Americans entered World War I and the impact America had in that conflict. How did World War I change American foreign policy, technology, and domestic affairs? *Be specific*.

5. Some argue that the arts, most notably literature, are a direct reflection of historical circumstances. Use your Schweikart text, "Revolt of Mother," *Our Town*, *Main Street*, and class notes from lectures and movies to write an essay about late nineteenth and early twentieth century art, literature, and music. Cite *specific examples*.

6. Use *A Patriot's History*, "Revolt of Mother," *Our Town*, and *Main Street* to write an essay about turn of the century women and their lifestyles, grievances, reform agendas, and relationship to Progressivism.

American History 203
Study questions for the midterm exam

Note: The midterm question will not appear verbatim as it appears below, but it will reflect one or more of the following questions. Thus, if you study and prepare thorough outlines for the following questions you should be prepared to take the midterm exam.

1. Compare and contrast the Twenties with the Progressive era which preceded it, paying particular attention to political leadership, political and economic programs, foreign policy, and social and cultural concerns.
2. Describe the Twenties era of American history, paying particular attention to politics, economics, foreign policy, race relations, society, and culture.
3. Compare the political and economic philosophies, programs, foreign policies, and personalities of the Twenties Presidents (Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover) to that of Franklin D. Roosevelt.
4. What caused the Great Depression, and how did the Depression affect American life? How did Franklin D. Roosevelt try to end the Depression? Was he successful? Why or why not? What "legacy" did FDR leave to future generations of Americans?
5. Trace the evolution of American foreign policy from the Progressive era through American entry into World War II. Pay particular attention to the debate between isolationists and those who favored imperialism and American involvement overseas.
6. Describe the factors which motivated Americans to enter World War II on the side of the Allies. Discuss the specific chain of events that ended isolationism and led to a declaration of war against Germany and Japan in 1941. How did the War permanently alter American society and American foreign policy?

U.S. History 203
Final Study Questions

Note: The exam question will not appear verbatim as it appears below. However, if you prepare outlines for these questions then you will be preparing to take the final exam. In addition to one essay question there will be some short identification terms. You will be required to identify and discuss the historical significance of five out of eight listed events, persons, places, etc. This will count for 25% of the final exam. By preparing for the study questions below you will also be preparing for the identification part of the exam.

1. Trace the evolution of Progressive reform in America from 1901-1973, placing emphasis on the post-World War II era. Define Progressivism and discuss the political and economic ideology and the governmental techniques of Progressive reformers. Provide specific examples of their programs and the reactions of their opponents. Be sure to emphasize the post-World War II era.

2. Discuss the historical origins and development of the Cold War, 1917-1949, and the intellectual basis of "Containment" ideology. Use specific examples to document your argument.

3. Briefly discuss the origins and development of the Cold War, 1917-1949, and define "Containment" ideology. Then show how this ideology was put into effect in one of the following post-1949 theaters: Korea, Cuba, or Vietnam. Point to specific examples to support your argument.

4. Blacks and Women comprise two groups of Americans who fought for and won important political and economic gains during the 1917-1973 period. Trace the historical origins and progress of their struggles and compare and contrast the two.

5. The Vietnam War fostered considerable protest during the 1965-1973 era. After discussing the origins and nature of American military involvement in Vietnam, describe the extent of the protest movement it created.

6. One could argue that Americans underwent a "cultural revolution" during the post-World War II years, especially during the Vietnam Era. Write an essay defending or refuting this point of view and discussing music, manners, political and religious beliefs, morals, mind-altering substances, lifestyle, and all the other trappings of the "Age of Aquarius."