

## AP U.S. History Exam Study Questions

### Period 1 (1491-1607)

1. How did the Native American tribes differ by region?
2. What was the impact of the **Columbian Exchange** on Native Americans?
3. What was the impact of the **Columbian Exchange** on Europe?
4. How did the Spanish use the **encomienda system** in an attempt to use Native American labor?
5. Where did the Spanish turn for labor due to the ineffectiveness of the **encomienda** system?
6. What was the general European position on Native American culture in comparison to their own? How was **Bartolome de Las Casas** a dissenting voice?

### Period 2 (1607-1754)

1. What were the Spanish attempt to both subjugate native populations and incorporate them into Spanish colonial society?
2. How did the **Pueblo Revolt** change the efforts of Spanish colonization?
3. What was the English approach to the Native American population?
4. What was the main source of tension between English settlers and Native Americans? How were these tensions lead to **King Philip's War**?
5. What were the main differences in settlers from the New England and Chesapeake regions?
6. What evidence is there that the Puritans were not tolerant of religious dissent?
7. What led to the development of an Atlantic economy?
8. How did **salutary neglect** foster a sense of colonial independence?
9. What was the impact of the **Great Awakening**?
10. What was the impact of **Enlightenment** ideas?
11. How did trans-Atlantic exchanges lead to a gradual **Anglicization** of the colonies?
12. How did Britain attempt to incorporate its North American colonies into a more organized structure through **mercantilism**?
13. What led to an increasing demand for slaves in the colonies?
14. What is **chattel slavery**?
15. How did slaves develop both overt/covert means of resistance?

### Period 3 (1754-1800)

1. How did British policy towards the colonies change after the **French and Indian War**?
2. What were the main colonial grievances against the change in British policy?
3. How did women support the Revolutionary War effort?
4. What factors led to the American victory in the Revolutionary War?
5. How did **Enlightenment** ideas serve as the ideological foundation of the Revolutionary War?
6. How did **Thomas Paine's Common Sense** and the **Declaration of Independence** express the colonists belief in the superiority of **republican** forms of government?
7. What is "**republican motherhood**?"
8. What were the weaknesses of the **Articles of Confederation**? What was its main strength?
9. What were the compromises made at the **Constitutional Convention**?
10. How is the system of government in the Constitution different than the Articles of Confederation?
11. What were the decisions made about slavery at the Constitutional Convention?
12. What were the concerns of the **Anti-Federalists**? How did the **Bill of Rights** address these concerns?
13. What were the first two political parties? What led to their creation? What were their different views?
14. How did the **French Revolution** foster political disagreements?
15. What were the main points of **George Washington's Farewell Address**?

### Period 4 (1800-1848)

1. What was the significance of the Supreme Court decisions in *Marbury v. Madison* and *McCulloch v. Maryland*?
2. What led to the creation of and what were the views of the **Democratic Party**?
3. What led to the creation of and what were the views of the **Whig Party**?
4. What was the impact of the **Second Great Awakening**?
5. How did enslaved and free African Americans develop communities and strategies to attempt to change their status?
6. What led to and what was the impact of the temperance movement?
7. What led to and what was the impact of the abolition movement?
8. What were the ideals expressed at the **Seneca Falls Convention**?
9. What led to the **market revolution**?
10. What new technology increased the efficiency of production methods?

11. How did improved transportation change the country?
12. How did the market revolution change gender and family roles?
13. How did a distinctly Southern regional identity take shape?
14. How did the **American System** seek to unify the U.S. economy?
15. How did the **Louisiana Purchase** impact U.S. policy towards Native Americans?
16. What was the **Monroe Doctrine**?
17. How did the **Missouri Compromise** address the issue of the expansion of slavery?

#### Period 5 (1844-1877)

1. What arguments were used to justify Westward expansion?
2. How did the **Mexican-American War** impact the debate over slavery?
3. How did the federal government subsidize Westward expansion?
4. Why did Irish and German immigrants come to the U.S. and how did they impact the development of the country?
5. Why did a strongly anti-Catholic nativist movement develop?
6. What were the different Northern concerns about the expansion of slavery?
7. What was the **free-soil** movement?
8. How did the abolition movement impact this time period?
9. How did Southerners use both the Constitution and the “**positive good**” argument to defend slavery?
10. How did the **Compromise of 1850**, **Kansas-Nebraska Act** and the **Dred Scott** decision try to address the issue of the expansion of slavery and why did each fail?
11. How did the North and South mobilize their economies to fight the Civil War?
12. What was the significance of the **Emancipation Proclamation**?
13. What was the significance of the **Gettysburg Address**?
14. What led to Union victory in the Civil War?
15. What changes to the Constitution were made by the **13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments**?
16. How did the **14th/15th Amendments** impact the women’s rights movement?
17. What short term successes were brought by Reconstruction?
18. What led to the end of Reconstruction?
19. What were the major economic failings of Reconstruction?
20. What were the weaknesses of the **14th/15th Amendments**?

## Period 6 (1865-1898)

1. How did improvements in transportation and communication open up new markets?
2. What led to the dramatic increase in the production of goods?
3. What led to the increase in workers' **real wages**?
4. Why did the gap between rich and poor grow?
5. What led to and what was the impact of the development of large trusts?
6. What was the argument of those that supported **laissez-faire** policies?
7. What was the role of immigrants and children in the growing labor force?
8. How did unions attempt to improve working conditions?
9. What does it mean that some Southern leaders called for a "**New South**?"
10. Why did **sharecropping** and **tenant farming** remain the primary economic activity in the South?
11. How did improvement in mechanization impact agriculture?
12. How did farmers respond to the agricultural changes of the time?
13. What were the goals of the **Populist** movement?
14. How did immigrants shape American cities?
15. What was the role of **political machines** in American cities?
16. What led to the growth of a middle class?
17. What were the economic opportunities that drew settlers west?
18. How did westward expansion lead to conflict with Native Americans?
19. What was the U.S. government's Native American policy during this time?
20. How did Native Americans respond to the changes of this time period?
21. What was the argument of **Social Darwinism** and how was it applied to the Gilded Age?
22. What was the idea of the **Gospel of Wealth**?
23. What was the **Social Gospel** movement?
24. What were the debates over tariffs and currency during the Gilded Age?
25. How did women, including **Jane Addams** contribute to reform movements?
26. What was the significance of the ***Plessy v. Ferguson*** Supreme Court decision?

## Period 7 (1890-1945)

1. How did mass production impact the standard of living?
2. Why did Americans move to cities?
3. Why did the Great Depression lead to calls for more regulation?
4. What were the goals of the Progressive movement?
5. What were the views of preservationists and conservationists?
6. How was the Progressive movement divided?
7. How did FDR's New Deal seek to address the Great Depression?
8. What were the criticisms of the New Deal from the left and right?
9. What was the long term significance of the New Deal?
10. How did radio and cinema shape the 1920s?
11. What was the **Harlem Renaissance**?
12. In what ways did post WWI society become more restrictive?
13. What were the cultural clashes of the 1920s?
14. What changes were made to immigration policy in the 1920s?
15. What led to the **Great Migration**?
16. What led Americans to look outward?
17. What were the arguments of imperialists and anti-imperialists?
18. What was the significance of the Spanish-American War?
19. Why did the U.S. enter WWI?
20. What did the Senate refuse to ratify the Treaty of Versailles?
21. What was the U.S. foreign policy after WWI?
22. How did WWII impact the economy?
23. How did WWII impact women and minorities?
24. What led to allied victory in WWII?

## Period 8 (1945-1980)

1. How did U.S. foreign policy change after WWII?
2. What is **detente**?
3. How did the fear of communism impact the homefront?
4. What led to protests over the Vietnam War?
5. What were the concerns over the **military-industrial complex**?
6. What were the different methods used in the Civil Rights movement?
7. What was the significance of the **Brown v. Board of Education** decision?
8. What was the significance of the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**?
9. What led to and what were the debates within the civil rights movement, especially after 1965?

10. What were the developments in the feminist and gay and lesbian movements?
11. What led to the increase in the environmental movement?
12. What were the main ideas of **liberalism**?
13. What were the goals of Johnson's **Great Society**?
14. What were the goals of conservatives during the 1960s?
15. Why did public confidence in government decrease in the 1970s?
16. What led to increasing clashes between liberals and conservatives in the 1970s?
17. What led to economic growth?
18. What were the significant shifts in the U.S. population?
19. What was the impact of immigration laws in 1965?
20. How did mass culture become more homogenous in the 1950s?
21. How did people rebel against the conformity of the 1950s?
22. How did the growth of evangelical Christian churches impact the nation?

#### Period 9 (1980-present)

1. What were the domestic policies of Ronald Reagan?
2. Why were conservatives arguments against liberalism?
3. What were the policy debates of the 1980s?
4. What were the significant economic changes of the late 20th century?
5. How did immigration impact the late 20th century?
6. How did President Reagan pursue the Cold War?
7. How did 9/11 led to increasing debates over security and individual liberty?