

PRACTICE EXAM 15: NEW YORK REGENTS U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. The English colony of Jamestown, founded in Virginia in 1607, was established primarily as:
 - A. A refuge for Puritans seeking the freedom to practice their religion without interference
 - B. A military fort intended to defend English territory from attacks by the French and Spanish
 - C. A colony where enslaved Africans were first brought to grow tobacco for export to England
 - D. A business venture by a joint-stock company hoping to earn profits for its investors

2. The Puritans who founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630 came to North America mainly to:
 - A. Build a community based on their religious beliefs after facing persecution in England
 - B. Search for gold and other valuable minerals to send back to investors in England
 - C. Establish trading posts to control the fur trade with the Native American nations
 - D. Escape the harsh winters and crowded conditions of the southern English colonies

3. The First Great Awakening, a religious revival that swept the colonies in the 1730s and 1740s, had which lasting effect on colonial society?
 - A. It united all of the colonies under a single official church controlled by the British crown
 - B. It ended all religious activity in the colonies and replaced it with scientific reasoning
 - C. It encouraged individualism and challenges to authority that influenced later revolutionary ideas

D. It required colonists to obtain permission from the king before founding any new church

4. The Boston Massacre of 1770 became an important event leading to the Revolution mainly because:

A. It was the deadliest battle of the entire war for American independence from Britain

B. Colonial leaders used it as propaganda to stir up anti-British feeling among the colonists

C. It convinced Parliament to repeal all of the taxes it had placed on the American colonies

D. It led directly to the signing of the Declaration of Independence later the same year

5. A major structural weakness of the government created by the Articles of Confederation was that it:

A. Gave the central government too much power to tax and regulate the individual states

B. Created a powerful national executive who could ignore the wishes of the state governments

C. Allowed the federal courts to overturn any law passed by the individual state legislatures

D. Lacked both a national executive to enforce laws and a national court system to interpret them

6. At the Constitutional Convention, the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan disagreed mainly over:

A. How states should be represented in the new national legislature

B. Whether the new nation should permit the institution of slavery to continue

C. Whether the President should be elected directly by the people or by Congress

D. How much power the federal courts should have to review the actions of Congress

7. According to the rules set at the Constitutional Convention, the new Constitution would go into effect once it was:

A. Approved by a unanimous vote of all thirteen of the original states

B. Ratified by special conventions in at least nine of the thirteen states

C. Signed into law by the king of Great Britain and the British Parliament

D. Approved by a majority of the citizens in a single national popular vote

8. The election of 1800, in which power passed from the Federalists to Thomas Jefferson's party, is historically significant because it:

- A. Marked the first time that the Supreme Court chose the winner of a presidential election
- B. Resulted in a violent struggle between the two parties over control of the government
- C. Demonstrated the first peaceful transfer of power between opposing political parties
- D. Ended the practice of holding regular national elections for the next several decades

9. The Supreme Court case *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824) strengthened the federal government by ruling that:

- A. The federal government, not the states, has the power to regulate interstate commerce
- B. The states have the sole authority to control all trade that crosses their own borders
- C. The President may regulate trade between the states without any approval from Congress
- D. Private companies are free to ignore both state and federal regulations on trade

10. The 1831 rebellion led by Nat Turner in Virginia is significant in the history of slavery because it:

- A. Successfully freed thousands of enslaved people across the entire southern United States
- B. Convinced southern states to begin gradually abolishing slavery within their borders
- C. Marked the first time the federal government intervened to end slavery in the South
- D. Frightened slaveholders into passing harsher laws to control enslaved people

11. The California Gold Rush that began in 1849 had which major effect on the United States?

- A. It caused a sharp decline in westward migration as people feared the dangerous journey
- B. It drew a flood of settlers to California, which soon applied to enter the Union as a state
- C. It convinced the federal government to return the western territories to Mexican control

D. It ended all conflict between settlers and Native American nations in the western region

12. The violence known as "Bleeding Kansas" in the 1850s resulted from:

- A. A dispute between the United States and Mexico over the location of the Texas border
- B. An armed conflict between the United States Army and Native American nations of the Plains
- C. Clashes between pro-slavery and antislavery settlers competing to control the new territory
- D. A rebellion by enslaved people seeking to establish a free state in the western territory

13. The Battle of Antietam (1862), the bloodiest single day of the Civil War, was significant because the Union victory:

- A. Gave President Lincoln the opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation
- B. Marked the final surrender of the Confederate army and the end of the war
- C. Convinced the border states to leave the Union and join the Confederacy
- D. Forced the Confederate capital of Richmond to surrender to Union forces

14. The service of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment and other African American soldiers during the Civil War was significant because it:

- A. Convinced the Confederacy to free and arm enslaved people to fight for the South
- B. Persuaded European nations to send troops to fight on the side of the Union
- C. Marked the first time that women were permitted to serve in combat in the army
- D. Demonstrated the commitment and courage of Black Americans fighting for the Union and freedom

15. During Reconstruction, Congress passed the Enforcement Acts of the early 1870s in order to:

- A. Force the southern states to provide free land and education to all formerly enslaved people
- B. Protect the voting rights of African Americans by cracking down on groups like the Ku Klux Klan

- C. Remove all federal troops from the South and return control to former Confederate leaders
- D. Require southern states to pay reparations to formerly enslaved people for their years of labor

16. Thomas Edison, who developed the practical electric light bulb and founded a research laboratory, is significant because his work:

- A. Helped transform daily life and industry through new electrical inventions and technology
- B. Ended the use of all machines in American factories in favor of skilled handcraft labor
- C. Reduced the demand for coal and oil by making other forms of energy unnecessary
- D. Discouraged further scientific research by proving that few new inventions were possible

17. John D. Rockefeller built the Standard Oil Company into a giant monopoly mainly through "horizontal integration," which involved:

- A. Controlling every stage of production from drilling the oil to selling the final product
- B. Sharing ownership of the company with workers to increase loyalty and productivity
- C. Buying out or merging with competing oil companies to control most of the industry
- D. Lowering prices below cost permanently to give consumers the cheapest possible product

18. The Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 was significant because it:

- A. Gave the railroad companies the power to set their shipping rates without any oversight
- B. Eliminated all federal involvement in business in keeping with the policy of laissez-faire
- C. Required farmers to ship all of their crops using federally owned railroad lines only
- D. Created the first federal agency to regulate an industry by overseeing railroad practices

19. For many immigrants arriving in the early 1900s, the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor served as:

- A. A working lighthouse that guided immigrant ships safely into the harbor at night
- B. A symbol of hope, freedom, and opportunity as they approached their new homeland
- C. The official immigration station where new arrivals were processed and inspected
- D. A fortress that defended the harbor against attacks by foreign enemy warships

20. Progressive reformers worked to end child labor in factories and mines mainly because:

- A. Children were working long hours in dangerous conditions instead of attending school
- B. There were not enough adult workers available to fill all of the available factory jobs
- C. Children were being paid much higher wages than the adults working beside them
- D. Factory owners preferred to hire adults and wanted the government to ban child workers

21. President Theodore Roosevelt's domestic program, known as the "Square Deal," was intended to:

- A. Provide free land in the West to any family willing to settle and farm it for five years
- B. Remove all government regulations on business to encourage faster economic growth
- C. Protect consumers, regulate big business, and conserve the nation's natural resources
- D. Lower taxes on the wealthiest Americans to encourage them to invest in new industries

22. After the Spanish-American War, the United States decision to keep control of the Philippines led to:

- A. The immediate and peaceful granting of full independence to the Filipino people
- B. A debate between supporters of imperialism and anti-imperialists, and an armed Filipino resistance
- C. A formal alliance between the United States and Spain to jointly govern the islands
- D. The return of the Philippines to Spanish control in exchange for a large cash payment

23. The Selective Service Act, passed by Congress in 1917, helped the United States prepare for World War I by:

- A. Encouraging American factories to convert their production to the manufacture of weapons
- B. Setting the prices of food and fuel to make sure the army had adequate supplies
- C. Producing posters and films to build public enthusiasm and support for the war effort
- D. Requiring men to register for a draft so that the army could be quickly expanded

24. The prosperity of the 1920s was fueled in part by a rise in consumer spending, which was made possible largely by:

- A. The growth of installment buying, which allowed people to purchase goods on credit
- B. A sharp decrease in the wages paid to factory workers throughout the entire decade
- C. A federal program that gave free consumer goods to every American household
- D. The elimination of advertising, which lowered the prices that consumers had to pay

25. The spread of radio and motion pictures during the 1920s contributed to American society by:

- A. Reducing communication between different regions of the country during the decade
- B. Discouraging Americans from purchasing the new consumer goods being produced
- C. Creating a shared national popular culture that reached millions of Americans
- D. Replacing newspapers entirely as the only source of news available to the public

26. President Franklin D. Roosevelt used radio broadcasts known as "fireside chats" mainly to:

- A. Announce the declaration of war against the Axis powers to the American people
- B. Explain his policies directly to the public and restore confidence during the Depression
- C. Order the nation's banks to close permanently until the economy fully recovered
- D. Criticize members of Congress who opposed his programs and call for their removal

27. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), created during the New Deal, was established to:

- A. Regulate the stock market and protect investors from fraud and reckless speculation
- B. Insure the savings that ordinary Americans had deposited in the nation's banks
- C. Provide jobs for unemployed young men on conservation projects in national parks
- D. Pay monthly pensions to retired and elderly workers throughout the entire country

28. During the 1930s, the actions of Japan in Manchuria, Italy in Ethiopia, and Germany in the Rhineland all demonstrated:

- A. The success of the League of Nations in preventing aggression by powerful nations
- B. A new commitment by these nations to resolve their disputes through peaceful means
- C. The willingness of the United States to intervene militarily to stop foreign aggression
- D. A pattern of aggressive expansion that the world's democracies failed to stop

29. Groups such as the Tuskegee Airmen and the Navajo "code talkers" are remembered for their service in World War II because they:

- A. Refused to participate in a war they believed was unjust toward minority groups
- B. Were the only American forces permitted to fight in the European theater of the war
- C. Made important contributions to the war effort despite facing discrimination at home
- D. Persuaded the United States government to immediately end all segregation during the war

30. World War II had which major effect on the United States economy?

- A. It deepened the Great Depression by diverting all resources away from civilian production
- B. It ended the Great Depression as wartime production created jobs and boosted industry
- C. It had almost no effect on the economy, which remained unchanged throughout the war
- D. It caused massive unemployment as factories shut down to avoid producing war materials

31. After World War II, Germany and its capital city of Berlin were:

- A. Divided into zones of occupation controlled by the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union
- B. Placed entirely under the control of the United States as a reward for winning the war
- C. Granted full independence and immediately reunited into a single democratic nation
- D. Turned over completely to the United Nations to govern as a neutral international territory

32. During the late 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated Americans suspected of:

- A. Failing to pay the federal income taxes that they owed to the government
- B. Violating the laws that had been passed to enforce national Prohibition
- C. Organizing labor unions to demand higher wages and better working conditions
- D. Holding communist sympathies or ties, leading to blacklists and ruined careers

33. The Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961 was a failed attempt by the United States to:

- A. Capture the city of Berlin from Soviet forces during a period of heightened tension
- B. Overthrow the communist government of Fidel Castro in Cuba using trained exiles
- C. Rescue American hostages being held by a hostile government in the Middle East
- D. Establish a permanent American military base in North Vietnam during the war

34. The sit-in movement that began in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960 was a form of protest in which:

- A. Workers stopped working and occupied their factories until their wage demands were met
- B. Students marched from city to city to demand the right to vote in southern elections
- C. Activists peacefully occupied segregated lunch counters and refused to leave until served
- D. Citizens refused to pay taxes until the federal government ended racial segregation

35. The Tet Offensive of 1968 was significant because it:

- A. Turned much of American public opinion against the war despite being a military setback for the enemy
- B. Marked the final victory of the United States and the immediate end of the Vietnam War
- C. Convinced the United States to greatly increase the number of troops fighting in Vietnam
- D. Resulted in the withdrawal of all communist forces from South Vietnam permanently

36. The National Organization for Women (NOW), founded in 1966, worked primarily to:

- A. Encourage women to leave the workforce and return to traditional roles in the home
- B. Limit the number of women permitted to attend colleges and universities each year
- C. Oppose the passage of any new laws designed to expand the legal rights of women
- D. Advance equal rights and opportunities for women in employment, education, and society

37. The American Indian Movement (AIM), active beginning in the late 1960s, worked to:

- A. Encourage Native Americans to give up their tribal identities and fully assimilate
- B. Draw attention to the rights, treaties, and living conditions of Native American peoples
- C. Relocate all Native Americans onto a single large reservation in the western states
- D. Oppose the granting of United States citizenship to Native American individuals

38. The United States is described as a "republic" because:

- A. The people make all government decisions directly by voting on every law themselves
- B. A single powerful leader holds all governing authority over the entire nation
- C. Citizens elect representatives to make laws and govern on their behalf
- D. Government power is held permanently by a small group of wealthy families

39. The President's Cabinet, made up of the heads of the executive departments, serves mainly to:

- A. Advise the President and help carry out the laws within their areas of responsibility
- B. Write and pass the laws that the executive branch will then be required to enforce
- C. Decide whether the laws passed by Congress are permitted under the Constitution
- D. Choose the next President in the event that no candidate wins a majority of votes

40. "Fiscal policy" refers to the government's use of which tools to influence the economy?

- A. The control of the money supply and interest rates through a central banking system
- B. The regulation of monopolies and the enforcement of laws protecting competition
- C. The setting of tariffs on imported goods to protect domestic industries from competition
- D. The adjustment of government taxing and spending to affect the level of economic activity

41. The expansion of voting rights in the United States — from property-owning white men, to all men regardless of race, to women, and to citizens age eighteen and older — best illustrates:

- A. The steady reduction of citizen participation in the American political process over time
- B. The transfer of voting power from the national government to the individual states
- C. The gradual broadening of democracy to include more groups of Americans over time
- D. The replacement of elections with decisions made entirely by appointed officials

42. Over the course of American history, the federal government's role in the economy has generally:

- A. Remained exactly the same, with no change from the founding of the nation to the present
- B. Expanded over time, especially in response to crises such as the Great Depression
- C. Shrunk steadily, with the government withdrawing from all involvement in the economy
- D. Been limited entirely to printing money, with no other economic responsibilities at all

43. United States foreign policy in the twentieth century shifted over time from a tradition of avoiding foreign entanglements to:

- A. Active involvement in world affairs, including participation in two world wars and the United Nations
- B. A permanent return to complete isolation from all events occurring outside its own borders
- C. The conquest and colonization of most of the nations of Europe, Asia, and Africa
- D. A refusal to engage in any trade or diplomacy with other nations around the world

44. The Thirteenth Amendment, the end of Jim Crow segregation, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 are all milestones in the long struggle to:

- A. Expand the power of the states to govern their own affairs without federal interference
- B. Limit immigration from certain regions of the world into the United States over time
- C. Achieve freedom and equal rights for African Americans throughout the nation's history
- D. Reduce the role of the federal government in protecting the rights of individual citizens

45. Throughout United States history, the nation's geography — including its rivers, fertile land, natural resources, and ocean borders — has generally:

- A. Prevented the country from developing any significant industry or large-scale agriculture
- B. Forced the United States to depend entirely on other nations for food and raw materials
- C. Isolated the regions of the country so completely that trade between them was impossible
- D. Contributed to the nation's economic growth, expansion, and development over time

46. The framers of the Constitution included a process for amending the document mainly because they:

- A. Wanted to make it impossible for the Constitution ever to be changed in the future
- B. Recognized that the nation's needs would change and the Constitution should be able to adapt
- C. Intended for the Constitution to be completely rewritten by each new generation of Americans
- D. Believed that only the President should have the authority to change the nation's laws

47. Constitutional protections such as the right to a fair trial, the right to legal counsel, and protection against unreasonable searches are important because they:

- A. Safeguard individuals against unfair treatment and the abuse of power by the government
- B. Apply only to government officials and not to ordinary citizens accused of crimes
- C. Guarantee that anyone accused of a crime will automatically be found not guilty
- D. Allow the government to detain citizens indefinitely without ever charging them

48. The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution are related in that:

- A. The Constitution rejected the ideas of the Declaration and established a hereditary monarchy instead
- B. Both documents were written mainly to declare war on Great Britain and its colonial empire abroad
- C. The Declaration stated ideals of liberty and equality that the Constitution later put into a framework
- D. The two documents were written by entirely different nations with no historical connection between them

49. The Preamble to the Constitution states the goal of forming "a more perfect Union." This phrase is often understood to mean that:

- A. The United States achieved a flawless and complete system of government in the year 1787
- B. The Constitution applies only to the perfecting of relations among the original thirteen states
- C. The framers believed no further improvement to the nation would ever again be necessary
- D. American democracy is an ongoing effort that each generation works to improve over time

50. The continued success of a democratic government such as that of the United States depends most heavily on:

- A. The willingness of citizens to give up their individual rights for the good of the state
- B. The active and informed participation of its citizens in the political and civic life of the nation
- C. The concentration of governing power in the hands of a small group of expert officials

D. The elimination of disagreement and debate among citizens about public issues and policies

Practice Exam 15 – Answer Key with Explanations

1. D — Jamestown was founded by the Virginia Company, a joint-stock company, to make a profit for its investors. Early settlers searched for gold and later turned to tobacco as a cash crop. Its profit motive distinguishes it from colonies founded for religious reasons.
2. A — The Puritans came to Massachusetts Bay to build a community based on their religious beliefs after facing persecution in England. They hoped to create a model society, a "city upon a hill." Religion was the driving force behind their migration.
3. C — The Great Awakening encouraged personal religious experience and willingness to challenge established authority. This spirit of individualism and questioning fed into later revolutionary ideas. Its emphasis on personal conscience had lasting social effects.
4. B — Colonial leaders such as Paul Revere publicized the Boston Massacre as propaganda to inflame anti-British feeling. The deaths of a few colonists were used to rally opposition. This shows how the event's political use mattered more than its scale.
5. D — Under the Articles, there was no national executive to enforce laws and no federal court system to interpret them. This left the central government weak and unable to function effectively. These structural gaps helped spur the call for a new constitution.
6. A — The Virginia and New Jersey plans clashed over how states would be represented in Congress—by population or equally. Large and small states each favored the system benefiting them. The dispute was resolved by the Great Compromise.
7. B — The framers required ratification by special conventions in at least nine of the thirteen states for the Constitution to take effect. This bypassed the unanimous consent the Articles had demanded. The rule made adoption achievable.
8. C — The election of 1800 produced the first peaceful transfer of power between opposing parties when the Federalists yielded to Jefferson's party. This showed the new system could change leadership without violence. It set a vital precedent for American democracy.
9. A — *Gibbons v. Ogden* established that the federal government, not the states, holds the power to regulate interstate commerce. The ruling broadened federal authority under the commerce clause. It strengthened national power over trade.
10. D — Nat Turner's rebellion frightened slaveholders, who responded by passing harsher laws to control enslaved people and limit their freedoms. The revolt deepened southern fears of uprisings. It hardened the slave system rather than weakening it.
11. B — The Gold Rush drew a flood of settlers to California, whose population grew so quickly that it soon sought statehood. This rapid growth reshaped the West. California's bid for admission also reignited the slavery debate.
12. C — "Bleeding Kansas" arose from violent clashes between pro-slavery and antislavery settlers competing to control the territory under popular sovereignty. The conflict previewed the coming Civil War. It showed how explosive the slavery question had become.
13. A — The Union victory at Antietam gave Lincoln the military success he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Announcing it after a defeat would have seemed desperate. The battle thus shaped the war's moral direction.

14. D — The 54th Massachusetts and other Black regiments demonstrated the courage and commitment of African Americans fighting for the Union and their own freedom. Their service challenged prejudices about Black soldiers. It strengthened the case for emancipation and equality.
15. B — The Enforcement Acts aimed to protect Black voting rights by suppressing groups like the Ku Klux Klan. They allowed federal action against violence and intimidation. The laws sought to secure the gains of the Fifteenth Amendment.
16. A — Edison's electric light and research laboratory transformed daily life and industry through a stream of new inventions. His work helped electrify homes and businesses. It marked a new era of organized, large-scale innovation.
17. C — Horizontal integration meant buying out or merging with competing firms to dominate an industry, which Rockefeller used to control most of the oil business. This concentrated power in Standard Oil. It illustrates how monopolies were built.
18. D — The Interstate Commerce Act created the first federal regulatory agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission, to oversee railroad practices. It marked the start of federal regulation of industry. The law responded to complaints about unfair railroad rates.
19. B — For arriving immigrants, the Statue of Liberty symbolized hope, freedom, and opportunity in their new homeland. It was a welcoming sight as ships entered the harbor. Its meaning was emotional rather than functional.
20. A — Progressives sought to end child labor because children worked long hours in dangerous conditions instead of attending school. Reformers wanted to protect their health and education. The campaign led to laws restricting child labor.
21. C — Roosevelt's Square Deal aimed to protect consumers, regulate big business, and conserve natural resources. It reflected the Progressive belief in active government. The program balanced the interests of business, labor, and the public.
22. B — Keeping the Philippines sparked a debate between imperialists and anti-imperialists and provoked an armed Filipino independence struggle. The decision raised hard questions about self-government. It revealed the tensions in American expansion abroad.
23. D — The Selective Service Act required men to register for a draft, allowing the army to expand quickly for World War I. It provided the manpower needed for the war effort. Conscription became central to mobilization.
24. A — Installment buying let consumers purchase goods on credit, fueling the spending that powered 1920s prosperity. People could buy cars and appliances over time. This reliance on credit, however, also created economic risk.
25. C — Radio and motion pictures created a shared national popular culture reaching millions of Americans. People across regions enjoyed the same programs, films, and stars. This helped knit the country together culturally.
26. B — Roosevelt's fireside chats explained his policies directly to the public and helped restore confidence during the Depression. His reassuring tone calmed anxious Americans. The broadcasts strengthened public trust in his leadership.
27. A — The SEC was created to regulate the stock market and protect investors from fraud and reckless speculation. It addressed abuses that had contributed to the 1929 crash. The agency aimed to restore confidence in financial markets.
28. D — The aggression of Japan, Italy, and Germany in the 1930s showed a pattern of expansion that the democracies and the League of Nations failed to stop. This unchecked aggression encouraged further conquest. It helped set the stage for World War II.

29. C — The Tuskegee Airmen and Navajo code talkers made vital contributions to the war effort even while facing discrimination at home. Their service challenged prejudice and earned recognition. It highlighted the gap between American ideals and reality.
30. B — World War II ended the Great Depression as massive wartime production created jobs and revived industry. Factories ran at full capacity to supply the military. The war effort restored full employment.
31. A — After the war, Germany and Berlin were divided into four occupation zones controlled by the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. This division reflected wartime agreements. It soon became a flashpoint of the Cold War.
32. D — HUAC investigated Americans suspected of communist sympathies or ties, often leading to blacklists and ruined careers. The hearings reflected Cold War fears of subversion. They raised serious concerns about civil liberties.
33. B — The Bay of Pigs was a failed U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro's communist government in Cuba using trained exiles. The invasion collapsed quickly. Its failure embarrassed the United States and emboldened Castro.
34. C — In the sit-in movement, activists peacefully occupied segregated lunch counters and refused to leave until served. This nonviolent tactic drew attention to segregation. It became a powerful tool of the civil rights movement.
35. A — Though a military setback for the communists, the Tet Offensive shocked Americans and turned much of public opinion against the war. The scale of the attacks contradicted official optimism. It widened the "credibility gap" over Vietnam.
36. D — NOW worked to advance equal rights and opportunities for women in employment, education, and society. It pushed for legal and social change. The organization became a leading force in the modern women's movement.
37. B — AIM drew attention to the rights, treaties, and difficult living conditions of Native American peoples. It used protests to highlight long-standing grievances. The movement energized Native American activism.
38. C — The United States is a republic because citizens elect representatives to make laws and govern on their behalf, rather than voting directly on every issue. This representative system is central to its design. It balances popular input with workable governance.
39. A — The Cabinet advises the President and helps carry out the laws within each department's area of responsibility. Its members head agencies like State and Defense. The Cabinet is part of the "unwritten constitution," developed through custom.
40. D — Fiscal policy is the government's use of taxing and spending to influence the level of economic activity. Lowering taxes or increasing spending can stimulate the economy. This contrasts with monetary policy, which controls the money supply.
41. C — The steady extension of the vote to more groups shows the gradual broadening of democracy over time. Each expansion brought more Americans into political life. This trend reflects the growth of inclusive self-government.
42. B — The federal government's economic role has expanded over time, especially during crises like the Great Depression. New programs and regulations greatly increased federal involvement. This growth marks a major theme in American history.
43. A — Twentieth-century U.S. foreign policy shifted from avoiding entanglements to active world involvement, including two world wars and the United Nations. The nation became a global leader. This transformation defined its modern international role.

44. C — The Thirteenth Amendment, the end of Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 are milestones in the long struggle for African American freedom and equality. Each marked progress toward that goal. Together they trace a continuing effort across history.
45. D — America's rivers, fertile land, resources, and ocean borders contributed to its economic growth, expansion, and development. Geography offered both opportunity and protection. These advantages shaped the nation's rise.
46. B — The framers included an amendment process because they recognized that the nation's needs would change and the Constitution should be able to adapt. This built-in flexibility has helped it endure. It allows orderly change over time.
47. A — Protections like fair trials, legal counsel, and limits on searches safeguard individuals against unfair treatment and government abuse of power. They ensure due process for the accused. These rights are central to a just legal system.
48. C — The Declaration stated the ideals of liberty and equality, which the Constitution later put into practice as a framework of government. The two documents are deeply connected. Together they express both the nation's principles and its structure.
49. D — "A more perfect Union" suggests that American democracy is an ongoing effort each generation works to improve. It implies the nation was never finished in 1787. The phrase reflects a continuing pursuit of a better society.
50. B — A democracy depends most heavily on the active and informed participation of its citizens in political and civic life. Engaged citizens keep government accountable and responsive. Their involvement sustains self-government over time.