

# **PRACTICE EXAM 16: NEW YORK REGENTS U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)**

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1. The Pilgrims who established Plymouth Colony in 1620 differed from the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay in that the Pilgrims:
- A. Came mainly to search for gold and other valuable minerals to send back to England
  - B. Were Separatists who wished to break away completely from the Church of England
  - C. Established large plantations worked by enslaved Africans brought from the Caribbean
  - D. Refused to set up any form of self-government or written agreement among themselves
2. The Stamp Act of 1765, which required colonists to pay a tax on printed materials, is significant because it:
- A. Was welcomed by the colonists as a fair way to raise money for their own defense
  - B. Applied only to the wealthiest merchants and had little effect on ordinary colonists
  - C. Was the first tax that the colonists willingly paid without any protest or complaint
  - D. Provoked widespread colonial protest based on the principle of no taxation without representation
3. The Second Continental Congress, which met beginning in 1775, took on the role of a national government by:
- A. Organizing the Continental Army and managing the colonies' war effort against Britain

- B. Writing the United States Constitution that would govern the nation after the war
- C. Granting the British king the authority to continue ruling over the colonies peacefully
- D. Establishing a permanent capital city and a national court system for the new nation

4. One reason the Articles of Confederation proved difficult to change was that amending the Articles required:

- A. A simple majority vote in the national Congress of the Confederation government
- B. The approval of the President and a two-thirds vote of the national legislature
- C. The unanimous agreement of all thirteen states, making any change very hard to achieve
- D. A national popular vote in which a majority of all citizens had to approve the change

5. The Preamble to the United States Constitution lists several goals of the new government. Which of the following is one of those goals?

- A. To establish a permanent ruling class of wealthy landowners and merchants
- B. To "establish justice" and "promote the general welfare" of the people
- C. To guarantee that the federal government will never be changed or amended
- D. To grant the President unlimited power over the other branches of government

6. The first political parties in the United States, the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans, disagreed largely over:

- A. The proper size and power of the federal government and how to interpret the Constitution
- B. Whether the United States should declare its independence from Great Britain at all
- C. Whether the nation should have a written constitution or rely on unwritten traditions
- D. Whether the institution of slavery should be immediately abolished in every state

7. Among the causes that led the United States to declare war on Great Britain in the War of 1812 was:

- A. A British invasion and occupation of the city of Washington, D.C., before the war began
- B. A British refusal to allow the United States to trade with any nation in Latin America
- C. An American desire to recapture the Louisiana Territory that Britain had seized earlier
- D. British interference with American shipping and the impressment of American sailors

8. The period following the War of 1812, during the presidency of James Monroe, became known as the "Era of Good Feelings" because it was marked by:

- A. A sharp increase in conflict between the northern and southern sections of the country
- B. The collapse of the national government and a long period of economic depression
- C. A rise in national pride and unity along with the temporary decline of party rivalry
- D. A series of wars fought between the United States and several European nations

9. The era of "Jacksonian Democracy" in the 1820s and 1830s is associated with:

- A. The granting of full voting rights to women and to formerly enslaved African Americans
- B. The expansion of voting rights to nearly all white men, regardless of property ownership
- C. The replacement of elected officials with appointed experts chosen by the President
- D. The removal of the right to vote from citizens who did not own a significant amount of land

10. The factory system that developed in New England in the early 1800s, including the textile mills at Lowell, Massachusetts, was significant because it:

- A. Brought workers together to operate machinery in centralized factories, often employing young women
- B. Relied entirely on enslaved African American labor to operate the new spinning machines
- C. Discouraged the growth of cities by keeping all manufacturing in scattered rural households
- D. Eliminated the need for any workers by fully automating the production of cloth and goods

11. Frederick Douglass, a leading figure in the abolitionist movement, contributed to the antislavery cause mainly by:

- A. Leading an armed rebellion of enslaved people against slaveholders in the Deep South
- B. Serving as a general in the Union army during the years of the American Civil War
- C. Using his powerful speeches and writings, drawn from his own experience, to attack slavery
- D. Negotiating a treaty with the southern states to gradually and peacefully end slavery

12. The Compromise of 1850 attempted to ease sectional tensions over slavery by:

- A. Banning slavery immediately in every state and territory throughout the entire nation
- B. Dividing the country permanently into two separate nations, one free and one slave
- C. Requiring the federal government to purchase and free all enslaved people in the South
- D. Admitting California as a free state while including a stronger Fugitive Slave Act for the South

13. During the Civil War, the "border states" such as Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri were important to the Union because they:

- A. Were slave states that remained in the Union, providing strategic location and resources
- B. Were free states that supplied nearly all of the Confederate army's weapons and food
- C. Had already abolished slavery and therefore strongly supported the Confederate cause
- D. Were located entirely west of the Mississippi River, far from any of the major fighting

14. The Reconstruction Acts passed by Radical Republicans in Congress in 1867 imposed strict measures on the South, including:

- A. The immediate and permanent removal of all federal troops from the southern states
- B. The division of the South into military districts governed by Union army commanders
- C. The return of full political control to the former leaders of the Confederate states

D. The payment of large cash reparations by the North to the defeated southern states

15. Alexander Graham Bell is credited with an invention in 1876 that transformed communication, namely the:

- A. Electric light bulb, which allowed factories and homes to operate after dark
- B. Phonograph, which made it possible to record and play back sound for the first time
- C. Telephone, which allowed people to speak with one another instantly over great distances
- D. Bessemer process, which made it possible to produce large quantities of inexpensive steel

16. The Knights of Labor, one of the first large national labor organizations, was unusual for its time because it:

- A. Limited its membership strictly to skilled craftsmen in a single trade or industry
- B. Refused to admit any workers who were immigrants or members of minority groups
- C. Worked closely with factory owners to keep workers' wages and demands as low as possible
- D. Welcomed skilled and unskilled workers, including women and African Americans, into its membership

17. Angel Island, located in San Francisco Bay, served in the early 1900s as the main immigration station for:

- A. Immigrants arriving from Asia, who often faced long detentions and harsh inspections there
- B. Wealthy European immigrants who could afford to pay for first-class passage to America
- C. African Americans migrating from the rural South to the cities of the western states
- D. American soldiers returning home from service in the Pacific theater during wartime

18. The "Gentlemen's Agreement" of 1907 between the United States and Japan was an arrangement in which:

- A. Japan agreed to allow unlimited American immigration in exchange for trade benefits
- B. The United States agreed to grant immediate citizenship to all Japanese immigrants
- C. Japan agreed to limit emigration to the United States in return for fairer treatment of Japanese already there
- D. The two nations agreed to form a permanent military alliance against the Russian Empire

19. Progressive reformers supported the adoption of the secret ballot, also called the "Australian ballot," because it:

- A. Required voters to publicly announce their choices so their votes could be verified
- B. Allowed citizens to vote in private, reducing bribery and intimidation at the polls
- C. Limited voting to property owners who could prove they had paid their taxes
- D. Replaced elections with decisions made by appointed government commissions

20. The explosion and sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor in 1898 contributed to the Spanish-American War by:

- A. Convincing the United States to withdraw entirely from all involvement in Cuban affairs
- B. Proving conclusively that the Spanish government had deliberately attacked the ship
- C. Persuading Spain to grant immediate independence to its colony of Cuba without a fight
- D. Inflaming American public opinion and increasing the demand for war against Spain

21. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, President Woodrow Wilson framed American involvement as an effort to:

- A. "Make the world safe for democracy" by helping defeat autocratic and militaristic governments
- B. Acquire new overseas colonies and territories from the defeated European powers after the war
- C. Establish the United States as the permanent ruler over postwar Europe and much of Asia
- D. Repay a long-standing debt that the United States owed to France from the Revolution

22. One practice that contributed to the stock market crash of 1929 was "buying on margin," which involved:

- A. Purchasing stocks only after saving up the full purchase price in advance over time
- B. Buying shares directly from companies rather than through stockbrokers on the exchange
- C. Borrowing most of the money to buy stocks while paying only a small fraction up front
- D. Selling stocks short by betting that their prices would fall in the near future

23. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), a major New Deal program, was created to:

- A. Insure the savings that ordinary Americans had deposited in the nation's banks
- B. Pay farmers to reduce their crop production in order to raise the prices of food
- C. Regulate the stock market to prevent fraud and the reckless speculation of investors
- D. Provide jobs for millions of unemployed people building roads, schools, and public works

24. Much of the federal spending during the New Deal was based on the economic idea that government should:

- A. Cut all spending and balance the budget immediately in order to end the Depression
- B. Spend money to create jobs and stimulate demand, even if it meant running a deficit
- C. Refuse to involve itself in the economy and allow the free market to recover on its own
- D. Take permanent ownership of all major industries and run them as government enterprises

25. The Potsdam Conference, held in the summer of 1945, brought together Allied leaders to:

- A. Decide how to govern and rebuild defeated Germany and to demand Japan's surrender
- B. Sign the formal treaty that officially ended the fighting in the European theater of war
- C. Create the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a defensive alliance against the Soviets
- D. Plan the Allied invasion of German-occupied France that would take place on D-Day

26. The Bracero Program, begun by the United States during World War II, involved:

- A. The forced relocation of Japanese Americans to internment camps in the western states
- B. The recruitment of women to take factory jobs left vacant by men who went off to war
- C. An agreement bringing Mexican workers to the United States to fill labor shortages, especially in agriculture
- D. The training of African American pilots who served with distinction in the war in Europe

27. The trial and execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in the early 1950s reflected the era's:

- A. Confidence that the Soviet Union posed no real threat to the security of the United States
- B. Intense fear of communist spying and the belief that secrets had been passed to the Soviets
- C. Effort to expand the legal rights and protections available to Americans accused of crimes
- D. Growing cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union on nuclear weapons

28. The U-2 incident of 1960, in which the Soviet Union shot down an American aircraft, increased Cold War tensions because the plane was:

- A. A passenger airliner that had accidentally strayed into Soviet airspace during a storm
- B. A bomber carrying nuclear weapons intended for use against a Soviet military target
- C. A cargo plane delivering humanitarian aid to people living in Soviet-controlled territory
- D. A spy plane that had been secretly photographing military sites inside the Soviet Union

29. Jackie Robinson became an important figure in the history of civil rights in 1947 when he:

- A. Broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball as the first African American player in the modern era
- B. Led the Montgomery Bus Boycott in protest of segregation on the city's public buses
- C. Became the first African American to be elected to serve in the United States Senate

D. Organized the famous March on Washington where Martin Luther King Jr. spoke

30. The civil rights protests in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963 drew national attention largely because:

- A. The protesters succeeded in immediately desegregating every public school in the state
- B. Local officials peacefully agreed to all of the demonstrators' demands within a few days
- C. Television showed police using fire hoses and dogs against peaceful demonstrators, shocking the nation
- D. The protesters abandoned nonviolence and engaged in armed conflict with state authorities

31. The antiwar movement that grew in the United States during the late 1960s was made up largely of:

- A. Business leaders who feared the war would reduce their companies' profits and trade
- B. Military generals who believed the war should be expanded with many more troops
- C. Older Americans who wanted the nation to return to the foreign policy of the 1950s
- D. Students and others who opposed the Vietnam War through protests and demonstrations

32. The publication of the "Pentagon Papers" in 1971 was significant because it:

- A. Provided the first detailed plan for how the United States could win the Vietnam War
- B. Revealed that the government had misled the public about the conduct of the Vietnam War
- C. Announced the immediate and total withdrawal of all American forces from Vietnam
- D. Recorded the official terms of the peace treaty that ended the war in Vietnam

33. The consumer advocate Ralph Nader gained national attention in the 1960s and 1970s for his efforts to:

- A. Promote greater safety for consumers, including improvements in the safety of automobiles
- B. Reduce government regulation of businesses in order to lower the prices of consumer goods
- C. Encourage Americans to buy more products on credit to help stimulate the economy

D. Oppose the creation of any federal agencies designed to protect the rights of consumers

34. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 was significant because it:

- A. Marked the beginning of the Cold War division between Eastern and Western Europe
- B. Forced the United States to send troops to defend West Germany from a Soviet attack
- C. Symbolized the collapse of communist control in Eastern Europe and the easing of the Cold War
- D. Resulted in the immediate reunification of the Soviet Union into a single powerful nation

35. In recent decades, the economy of the United States has undergone a major shift in which:

- A. The nation returned to an economy based mainly on small family farms and agriculture
- B. Heavy manufacturing replaced all service and technology jobs as the largest sector
- C. The government took ownership of most major industries to manage the economy directly
- D. Service and technology industries grew while traditional manufacturing employment declined

36. The principle of "separation of powers" in the United States Constitution refers to the:

- A. Division of authority between the national government and the individual state governments
- B. Division of government into legislative, executive, and judicial branches with distinct duties
- C. Power of the people to elect the representatives who will govern on their behalf
- D. Power of the courts to declare laws unconstitutional and therefore void and unenforceable

37. Which of the following is an example of the judicial branch checking the power of the legislative branch?

- A. The Supreme Court declares a law passed by Congress to be unconstitutional
- B. The President vetoes a bill that has been passed by both houses of Congress
- C. The Senate refuses to confirm a person nominated by the President to a federal post

D. Congress passes a new law over the objection of the President's earlier veto

38. In the American political system, the mass media (newspapers, television, and the internet) play an important role mainly by:

- A. Passing the laws that the government will then be required to enforce across the nation
- B. Choosing the candidates who will run for office in each of the major political parties
- C. Deciding which laws passed by Congress are permitted under the United States Constitution
- D. Informing the public about issues and government actions and helping shape public opinion

39. In a free-market economy, competition among businesses generally benefits consumers because it:

- A. Allows a single company to control an entire industry and set whatever prices it wishes
- B. Eliminates the need for businesses to improve the quality of the goods that they sell
- C. Encourages lower prices, better quality, and more choices as firms compete for customers
- D. Guarantees that the government will set the prices of all goods sold in the marketplace

40. Governments at the federal, state, and local levels collect taxes mainly in order to:

- A. Reduce the total amount of money in circulation to keep prices from ever rising
- B. Pay for public services and programs such as schools, roads, defense, and courts
- C. Guarantee that every citizen earns exactly the same income regardless of their work
- D. Discourage citizens from working by taking away most of the money that they earn

41. The Monroe Doctrine, American imperialism in 1898, and the entry into two world wars all reflect the long-term development of:

- A. A growing United States involvement and influence in the affairs of the wider world
- B. A consistent United States policy of complete isolation from all foreign events

- C. A steady decline in the military and economic power of the United States over time
- D. The transfer of American foreign policy decisions to the United Nations and its members

42. The Bill of Rights, the Fourteenth Amendment, and Supreme Court cases protecting free speech and the rights of the accused all illustrate the American commitment to:

- A. Expanding the power of the federal government over the lives of individual citizens
- B. Allowing the government to limit rights freely whenever officials judge it convenient
- C. Giving the individual states unlimited authority over the rights of their residents
- D. Protecting individual liberties and limiting the power of government over the people

43. The Emancipation Proclamation, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 all show that progress toward racial equality in the United States has often:

- A. Occurred entirely through the actions of the individual state governments alone
- B. Been opposed by every branch of the federal government throughout the nation's history
- C. Required action by the federal government to protect the rights of African Americans
- D. Happened without any effort or struggle on the part of the people seeking those rights

44. The growth of the cotton economy in the South, the rise of industry in the Northeast, and farming on the Great Plains all demonstrate that, throughout American history:

- A. Geography has had almost no influence on how different regions of the country developed
- B. The physical environment and natural resources of a region strongly shaped its economy
- C. Every region of the country developed exactly the same type of economy over time
- D. Economic development depended entirely on decisions made by the federal government

45. Reform movements such as abolitionism, the Progressive movement, and the civil rights movement are similar in that each:

- A. Sought to reduce the rights and freedoms enjoyed by ordinary American citizens
- B. Worked to prevent any change in American society, laws, or government over time
- C. Aimed mainly to expand the territory controlled by the United States overseas
- D. Sought to correct injustices and bring American society closer to its stated ideals

46. In the United States, the idea that government must answer to the people and operate within the limits set by the Constitution is best described as:

- A. A constitutional democracy in which the power of government is both granted and limited by law
- B. A pure democracy in which all citizens personally vote on every single law and decision
- C. A monarchy in which a single hereditary ruler holds final authority over the government
- D. A system in which the military holds the ultimate power to make and enforce all laws

47. Actions such as voting in elections, serving on juries, staying informed, and obeying the law are best understood as:

- A. Powers that belong only to officials working within the federal government
- B. Privileges granted exclusively to wealthy citizens who own a great deal of property
- C. Responsibilities of citizenship that help a democratic government function well
- D. Requirements that apply only to immigrants who have recently become citizens

48. The fact that the Constitution has been amended twenty-seven times since 1789 best demonstrates that:

- A. The original Constitution was so poorly written that it had to be completely replaced
- B. The Constitution can be changed through a formal process to meet the nation's changing needs
- C. Any group of citizens can change the Constitution easily whenever they wish to do so
- D. The Constitution applies only to the specific conditions that existed in the late 1700s

49. The history of the United States, including the abolition of slavery and the expansion of voting rights, best supports the conclusion that American democracy is:

- A. A finished and unchanging system that was completed at the time of the nation's founding
- B. A form of government that has steadily reduced the participation of its citizens over time
- C. A system that depends entirely on the decisions of a small group of appointed officials
- D. An ongoing project that has gradually expanded its ideals of liberty and equality to more people

50. Principles such as popular sovereignty, the rule of law, and the protection of individual rights are best described as:

- A. Enduring foundations of American government that continue to guide the nation today
- B. Outdated ideas that were abandoned by the United States in the twentieth century
- C. Powers that belong only to the federal government and not to the states or the people
- D. Temporary measures that applied only during the early years of the American republic

## Practice Exam 16 – Answer Key with Explanations

1. B — The Pilgrims were Separatists who sought to break away completely from the Church of England, unlike the Puritans, who hoped to reform it from within. They founded Plymouth as a place to worship freely. Their Mayflower Compact also established early self-government.
2. D — The Stamp Act provoked widespread protest based on the principle of no taxation without representation. Colonists argued Parliament had no right to tax them directly. The resistance united the colonies in opposition to British policy.
3. A — The Second Continental Congress acted as a national government by organizing the Continental Army and directing the war effort against Britain. It named Washington commander and managed wartime affairs. It functioned as the central authority during the Revolution.
4. C — Amending the Articles required the unanimous agreement of all thirteen states, which made change nearly impossible. Even widely supported reforms could be blocked by a single state. This rigidity was a key weakness of the Articles.
5. B — The Preamble lists goals such as to "establish justice" and "promote the general welfare." These statements declare the purposes of the new government. They reflect the framers' vision of a government serving the people.
6. A — The Federalists and Democratic-Republicans disagreed mainly over the size and power of the federal government and how broadly to interpret the Constitution. Federalists favored strong

central power; Democratic-Republicans favored limited government. This split created the first party system.

7. D — A major cause of the War of 1812 was British interference with American shipping and the impressment of American sailors into the British navy. These actions violated American neutrality and pride. They pushed the United States toward declaring war.
8. C — The Era of Good Feelings was marked by rising national pride and unity along with a temporary decline in party rivalry. The Federalist Party had faded, leaving little opposition. The period followed the surge of nationalism after the War of 1812.
9. B — Jacksonian Democracy is associated with the expansion of voting rights to nearly all white men regardless of property ownership. This broadened political participation among common citizens. It marked a more democratic era in American politics.
10. A — The Lowell mills brought workers together to operate machinery in centralized factories and often employed young women. This factory system changed how goods were produced. It helped launch the industrialization of New England.
11. C — Frederick Douglass advanced the antislavery cause through powerful speeches and writings drawn from his own experience as a formerly enslaved person. His firsthand testimony made the cruelty of slavery vivid. He became one of the movement's most influential voices.
12. D — The Compromise of 1850 admitted California as a free state while including a stronger Fugitive Slave Act to satisfy the South. It was a package of measures meant to balance sectional interests. The compromise only temporarily eased tensions over slavery.
13. A — The border states were slave states that remained loyal to the Union, providing valuable strategic location and resources. Keeping them was crucial to the Union war effort. Their loyalty also shaped Lincoln's careful approach to emancipation.
14. B — The Reconstruction Acts of 1867 divided the South into military districts governed by Union army commanders. This imposed federal control to protect freed people and enforce new rights. It marked the stricter phase of Radical Reconstruction.
15. C — Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, allowing people to speak instantly across great distances. The device revolutionized communication. It became one of the most important inventions of the era.
16. D — The Knights of Labor was unusual because it welcomed skilled and unskilled workers, including women and African Americans. This broad membership set it apart from craft unions. The group sought to unite workers across many trades.
17. A — Angel Island served as the main immigration station for arrivals from Asia, who often faced long detentions and harsh inspections. It contrasted with the experience at Ellis Island. The treatment there reflected anti-Asian discrimination.
18. C — Under the Gentlemen's Agreement, Japan agreed to limit emigration to the United States in return for fairer treatment of Japanese people already there. It avoided a formal exclusion law. The arrangement reflected tensions over Asian immigration.
19. B — The secret ballot let citizens vote in private, reducing bribery and intimidation at the polls. Voters no longer had to reveal their choices publicly. This Progressive reform made elections fairer and more honest.
20. D — The sinking of the USS Maine inflamed American public opinion and increased the demand for war against Spain. Sensational newspapers blamed Spain despite uncertain evidence. The event helped push the nation into the Spanish-American War.

21. A — Wilson framed American entry into World War I as an effort to "make the world safe for democracy" by defeating autocratic governments. He cast the war in idealistic terms. This goal shaped his vision for the postwar peace.
22. C — Buying on margin meant borrowing most of the money to buy stocks while paying only a small fraction up front. When prices fell, investors could not repay their loans. This risky practice helped trigger the 1929 crash.
23. D — The WPA provided jobs for millions of unemployed people building roads, schools, bridges, and other public works. It also employed artists and writers. The program offered relief while improving the nation's infrastructure.
24. B — New Deal spending reflected the idea that government should spend money to create jobs and stimulate demand, even at the cost of running a deficit. This approach aimed to revive the economy. It echoed the emerging ideas of Keynesian economics.
25. A — At Potsdam, Allied leaders decided how to govern and rebuild defeated Germany and issued a demand for Japan's surrender. The conference shaped the postwar order in Europe. It also revealed growing tensions among the Allies.
26. C — The Bracero Program brought Mexican workers to the United States to fill labor shortages, especially in agriculture, during the war. It supplied needed farm labor. The program continued for years after the war ended.
27. B — The Rosenberg case reflected the era's intense fear of communist spying and the belief that atomic secrets had been passed to the Soviets. The couple were convicted and executed. The case captured the anxieties of the early Cold War.
28. D — The U-2 was a spy plane secretly photographing military sites inside the Soviet Union when it was shot down. Its capture embarrassed the United States and heightened tensions. The incident disrupted a planned summit between the superpowers.
29. A — Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball as the first African American player of the modern era. His success challenged segregation in sports. It became an important early milestone in the civil rights movement.
30. C — The Birmingham protests drew national attention when television showed police using fire hoses and dogs against peaceful demonstrators. The shocking images stirred public outrage. They built support for stronger civil rights legislation.
31. D — The antiwar movement was made up largely of students and others who opposed the Vietnam War through protests and demonstrations. Opposition grew as the war dragged on. The movement deeply divided American society.
32. B — The Pentagon Papers revealed that the government had misled the public about the conduct of the Vietnam War. The leaked documents exposed years of misleading statements. They deepened public distrust of the government.
33. A — Ralph Nader gained fame for promoting consumer safety, including major improvements in automobile safety. His work led to new safety standards and agencies. He became a leading figure in the consumer protection movement.
34. C — The fall of the Berlin Wall symbolized the collapse of communist control in Eastern Europe and the easing of the Cold War. It opened the way to German reunification. The event marked a turning point near the Cold War's end.
35. D — In recent decades, service and technology industries have grown while traditional manufacturing employment has declined. The economy has shifted away from heavy industry. This transformation reshaped the American workforce.

36. B — Separation of powers divides government into legislative, executive, and judicial branches, each with distinct duties. This prevents any one branch from dominating. It is a core feature of the constitutional system.
37. A — When the Supreme Court declares a law passed by Congress unconstitutional, the judicial branch checks the legislative branch. This power of judicial review limits Congress. It is a key part of checks and balances.
38. D — The mass media inform the public about issues and government actions and help shape public opinion. By reporting on government, they enable citizens to stay informed. This role is vital to a functioning democracy.
39. C — Competition among businesses encourages lower prices, better quality, and more choices as firms compete for customers. Consumers benefit from these pressures. Competition is a central advantage of a free-market economy.
40. B — Governments collect taxes mainly to pay for public services and programs such as schools, roads, defense, and courts. These revenues fund the work of government. Taxation is essential to providing for public needs.
41. A — The Monroe Doctrine, imperialism in 1898, and entry into two world wars all reflect the growing involvement and influence of the United States in world affairs. Over time the nation took on a larger global role. This marks a major long-term trend.
42. D — The Bill of Rights, the Fourteenth Amendment, and rights-protecting Court cases all reflect the commitment to protecting individual liberties and limiting government power. They guard citizens against abuse. This commitment runs throughout American history.
43. C — The Emancipation Proclamation, the Reconstruction Amendments, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 show that progress toward racial equality has often required federal action. National power was used to protect rights. This pattern recurs across American history.
44. B — Cotton in the South, industry in the Northeast, and Plains farming all show that the physical environment and natural resources strongly shaped each region's economy. Geography influenced how regions developed. This is a recurring theme in American history.
45. D — Abolitionism, the Progressive movement, and the civil rights movement each sought to correct injustices and bring American society closer to its stated ideals. They pushed the nation to live up to its values. Reform movements share this common purpose.
46. A — The idea that government must answer to the people and operate within constitutional limits describes a constitutional democracy. Power is both granted and limited by law. This system balances popular rule with restraints on government.
47. C — Voting, jury service, staying informed, and obeying the law are responsibilities of citizenship that help a democracy function. These civic duties sustain self-government. Fulfilling them strengthens the political system.
48. B — Twenty-seven amendments show that the Constitution can be changed through a formal process to meet the nation's changing needs. The document is adaptable but not easily altered. This flexibility has helped it endure.
49. D — The abolition of slavery and the expansion of voting rights support the view that American democracy is an ongoing project that has gradually expanded its ideals to more people. The nation continues to work toward its goals. Democracy is treated as a continuing effort.
50. A — Principles like popular sovereignty, the rule of law, and the protection of individual rights are enduring foundations of American government that still guide the nation. They have shaped the system since its founding. These values remain central today.

