

PRACTICE EXAM 17: NEW YORK REGENTS U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. The 1735 trial of newspaper printer John Peter Zenger, who was found not guilty of libel for criticizing the colonial governor, is significant because it:

- A. Established the right of the colonies to govern themselves without any British oversight
- B. Required all colonial newspapers to obtain a license from the British crown before printing
- C. Helped establish the principle of freedom of the press in the American colonies
- D. Ended the practice of holding public trials in the colonial courts of New York

2. The battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775 are historically significant because they were:

- A. The final battles of the American Revolution that secured independence from Britain
- B. The first armed conflicts of the American Revolution between colonists and British troops
- C. The battles in which France formally entered the war on the side of the colonies
- D. The engagements that forced the colonists to surrender and end their resistance

3. The XYZ Affair of the late 1790s damaged relations between the United States and France because it involved:

- A. A French invasion of American territory along the southern coast of the United States
- B. A French refusal to allow American ships to use any ports in Europe during the period

- C. An American decision to seize French colonies in the Caribbean without any warning
- D. French officials demanding bribes before they would even begin diplomatic negotiations

4. In the case of Worcester v. Georgia (1832), the Supreme Court ruled that the Cherokee Nation had the right to its lands, but the ruling had little effect because:

- A. President Andrew Jackson and the state of Georgia refused to enforce the Court's decision
- B. The Cherokee Nation chose to give up its lands voluntarily and move westward peacefully
- C. Congress passed a new law that immediately overturned the Supreme Court's decision
- D. The Supreme Court reversed its own ruling within a few months under public pressure

5. The newspaper "The Liberator," published by William Lloyd Garrison beginning in 1831, was significant because it:

- A. Called for the gradual end of slavery over the course of the next one hundred years
- B. Defended the institution of slavery as beneficial to both enslaved people and owners
- C. Demanded the immediate and complete abolition of slavery throughout the United States
- D. Proposed sending all formerly enslaved people to establish a colony in West Africa

6. Harriet Tubman is best remembered for her role in the antislavery movement as someone who:

- A. Wrote a famous novel exposing the cruelty of slavery to readers in the North
- B. Repeatedly returned to the South to guide enslaved people to freedom on the Underground Railroad
- C. Served as the first African American member of the United States Congress after the war
- D. Led a major armed uprising of enslaved people against slaveholders in Virginia

7. The dispute between the United States and Great Britain over the Oregon Territory in the 1840s was finally settled when the two nations agreed to:

- A. Divide the territory peacefully, setting the boundary at the 49th parallel of latitude
- B. Grant the entire Oregon Territory to Great Britain in exchange for a cash payment
- C. Go to war, with the United States seizing all of the disputed land by military force
- D. Turn the territory over to the Native American nations who had long lived there

8. The idea of "popular sovereignty," promoted by politicians such as Stephen Douglas in the 1850s, proposed that the question of slavery in a territory should be decided by:

- A. The United States Supreme Court, which would rule on each territory individually
- B. The United States Congress, which would vote to admit each territory as free or slave
- C. The President of the United States, who would decide the matter for each new territory
- D. The settlers living in that territory, who would vote on whether to allow slavery there

9. The Civil War battle between the ironclad warships Monitor and Merrimack (Virginia) in 1862 was significant because it:

- A. Marked the final naval battle that ended the Union blockade of the southern coast
- B. Resulted in the destruction of the entire Union navy by the new Confederate ships
- C. Demonstrated that armored, ironclad ships were the future of naval warfare
- D. Convinced foreign nations to send warships to fight on the side of the Confederacy

10. After Reconstruction, southern states used methods such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses primarily to:

- A. Encourage more African Americans to register and to take part in southern elections
- B. Prevent African Americans from voting while avoiding direct violation of the Fifteenth Amendment
- C. Raise money for the construction of public schools open to students of every race
- D. Reward African American veterans who had served in the Union army during the war

11. The growth of large corporations in the late 1800s was made possible in part by the sale of stock, which allowed companies to:

- A. Raise large amounts of money from many investors to fund expansion and operations
- B. Avoid paying any taxes on the profits that they earned from their business activities
- C. Guarantee that workers would receive an equal share of all of the company's profits
- D. Eliminate the need to hire managers by allowing customers to run the business directly

12. The Haymarket Affair of 1886 in Chicago had which effect on the early labor movement?

- A. It led to the immediate passage of federal laws guaranteeing workers an eight-hour day
- B. It convinced most American employers to recognize and bargain with labor unions
- C. It resulted in the federal government taking permanent control of the nation's factories
- D. It turned much public opinion against unions, which became associated with radicalism and violence

13. The Populist Party's Omaha Platform of 1892 called for reforms intended to help farmers and workers, including:

- A. The elimination of all taxes on the wealthy and the repeal of all business regulations
- B. Government regulation of railroads, a graduated income tax, and the free coinage of silver
- C. The return of the nation to a barter economy without the use of any paper money
- D. The transfer of all farmland to ownership by the federal government for redistribution

14. Many immigrants who arrived in American cities in the late 1800s and early 1900s settled in neighborhoods with others from their home countries. This pattern helped immigrants by:

- A. Guaranteeing them high-paying jobs as soon as they arrived in the United States
- B. Allowing them to avoid ever having to learn about American customs or the English language
- C. Providing familiar language, customs, food, and support as they adjusted to a new country

D. Requiring them to give up their cultural traditions in order to be accepted by other residents

15. The muckraking journalist Lincoln Steffens, author of "The Shame of the Cities," exposed:

- A. The widespread corruption found in many big-city governments and political machines
- B. The dangerous and unsanitary conditions inside the nation's meatpacking factories
- C. The ruthless business practices of the Standard Oil Company and its founder
- D. The harsh living conditions endured by immigrants in crowded urban tenements

16. The Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914 strengthened earlier efforts to regulate big business by:

- A. Breaking up every large corporation in the United States into many smaller companies
- B. Placing the entire American banking system under the direct control of the government
- C. Eliminating all federal regulations on business in keeping with the policy of laissez-faire
- D. Outlawing additional unfair business practices and protecting the rights of labor unions

17. The Boxer Rebellion of 1900 in China was an uprising in which Chinese nationalists attempted to:

- A. Overthrow the Chinese emperor and establish a new democratic republic in his place
- B. Force the United States to grant China full control over trade in the Pacific Ocean
- C. Drive out the foreign powers that had gained influence and special privileges in China
- D. Establish Chinese colonies in the western United States to expand Chinese power abroad

18. During World War I, women contributed to the American war effort on the home front mainly by:

- A. Serving as combat soldiers on the front lines of the fighting in Europe
- B. Taking jobs in factories and offices left vacant by men who joined the military
- C. Being barred entirely from any kind of paid work for the duration of the war

D. Leading the negotiations that produced the final peace treaty ending the war

19. In the debate over the Treaty of Versailles, a group of United States senators led by Henry Cabot Lodge objected to the League of Nations mainly because they feared it would:

- A. Draw the United States into future foreign wars without the consent of Congress
- B. Require the United States to give up large amounts of its own national territory
- C. Force the United States to adopt a communist system of government like Russia's
- D. Prevent the United States from ever trading with the nations of Europe again

20. The 1920s saw significant changes in the role of women in American society, including:

- A. The removal of the right to vote that women had gained during the previous decade
- B. A requirement that all married women leave the workforce and remain in the home
- C. Greater social freedom, new fashions, and the right to vote gained through the Nineteenth Amendment
- D. A complete end to women's participation in education, politics, and public life

21. In the presidential election of 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt defeated Herbert Hoover largely because Roosevelt:

- A. Promised to keep the federal government out of the economy and let the market recover
- B. Had successfully ended the Great Depression during his earlier years as President
- C. Pledged to enter World War II immediately to create jobs in war industries
- D. Promised Americans a "New Deal" with active government efforts to fight the Depression

22. Shortly after taking office in 1933, President Roosevelt declared a national "bank holiday," which:

- A. Gave bank employees a paid vacation to reward them for their hard work during the crisis
- B. Temporarily closed the nation's banks so that their finances could be inspected and stabilized

- C. Permanently shut down all of the nation's banks and replaced them with a single national bank
- D. Required every American to withdraw all of their savings from the banks within a single week

23. Before it entered World War II, the United States became known as the "arsenal of democracy" because it:

- A. Sent millions of American combat troops to fight directly alongside the Allied armies
- B. Declared war on Germany, Italy, and Japan well before the attack on Pearl Harbor
- C. Produced and supplied large quantities of weapons and materials to the nations fighting the Axis
- D. Refused to provide any aid or assistance to the nations resisting the aggression of the Axis

24. The Battle of Midway in 1942 was a turning point in the Pacific theater of World War II because it:

- A. Halted the Japanese advance and shifted the balance of naval power toward the United States
- B. Resulted in the surrender of Japan and brought the war in the Pacific to an immediate end
- C. Marked the first use of the atomic bomb against a Japanese city during the war
- D. Forced the United States to withdraw all of its forces from the Pacific Ocean region

25. The overall United States Cold War strategy known as "containment" was based on the goal of:

- A. Launching a direct military invasion to overthrow the government of the Soviet Union
- B. Withdrawing the United States from all involvement in the affairs of foreign nations
- C. Sharing nuclear weapons technology with the Soviet Union to maintain a balance of power
- D. Preventing the spread of communism beyond the areas where it already existed

26. President Truman's decision to remove General Douglas MacArthur from command during the Korean War reinforced the American principle that:

- A. The military commander in the field has final authority over the nation's war policy

- B. Civilian leaders, including the President, hold ultimate authority over the armed forces
- C. Congress, rather than the President, directly commands the troops during a war
- D. Generals may continue fighting a war even after the President has ordered them to stop

27. The Civil Rights Act of 1968 expanded earlier civil rights laws by:

- A. Banning segregation in public schools throughout the southern United States
- B. Eliminating poll taxes and literacy tests used to prevent African Americans from voting
- C. Prohibiting discrimination in the sale and rental of housing on the basis of race
- D. Desegregating restaurants, hotels, and theaters in every region of the country

28. The "counterculture" movement among many young Americans during the 1960s was characterized by:

- A. A rejection of mainstream values and a search for new lifestyles, music, and ideas
- B. A strong push to return to the strict social customs and values of the 1950s
- C. Widespread support for expanding the war in Vietnam and increasing military spending
- D. A movement to limit the number of young people allowed to attend colleges and universities

29. Affirmative action programs, which became a subject of national debate beginning in the 1960s and 1970s, were designed to:

- A. Require employers to hire only workers who belonged to the racial majority population
- B. Eliminate all consideration of race or background in hiring and college admissions
- C. Provide financial payments directly to every citizen regardless of need or background
- D. Increase opportunities for groups that had faced past discrimination in jobs and education

30. President Ronald Reagan's approach to the Soviet Union during the early 1980s included:

- A. A sharp reduction in American military spending and the elimination of nuclear weapons
- B. A major military buildup and increased pressure intended to challenge Soviet power
- C. A formal military alliance uniting the United States and the Soviet Union against China
- D. The complete withdrawal of the United States from NATO and from European defense

31. The election of Barack Obama as President in 2008 was historically significant because he became:

- A. The youngest person ever to be elected to the office of President of the United States
- B. The first President to have previously served as a justice on the United States Supreme Court
- C. The first African American to be elected President of the United States
- D. The first President to be elected without winning a majority of the electoral votes

32. The principle that the authority of the government comes from the people and that the people have the power to elect and remove their leaders is known as:

- A. Popular sovereignty, a foundational principle of the United States government
- B. Federalism, the division of power between the national and state governments
- C. Judicial review, the power of the courts to interpret the meaning of the laws
- D. Separation of powers, the division of government into three separate branches

33. Most of the detailed work of reviewing and revising proposed bills in Congress is carried out by:

- A. The President and the members of the Cabinet, who draft the wording of every bill
- B. Committees made up of members of Congress who specialize in particular subject areas
- C. The Supreme Court, which reviews each bill before it can be voted on by Congress
- D. State governors, who must approve every bill before Congress is allowed to vote on it

34. Under the Constitution, the President has the power to negotiate treaties with foreign nations, but these treaties:

- A. Take effect immediately and require no approval from any other branch of government
- B. Must be approved by a majority vote of all of the state governors before taking effect
- C. Can be overturned at any time by a simple majority vote of the United States Supreme Court
- D. Must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate before they can take effect

35. The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution addresses the:

- A. Right of citizens to a fair and speedy trial by an impartial jury in criminal cases
- B. Protection of citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures of their property
- C. Right of the people to keep and bear arms, connected to the need for a militia
- D. Freedom of citizens to practice the religion of their choice without interference

36. In the free-enterprise economy of the United States, entrepreneurs play an important role because they:

- A. Set the prices of all goods and services according to instructions from the government
- B. Take risks to start new businesses, creating products, jobs, and economic growth
- C. Distribute the nation's wealth equally among all citizens regardless of their work
- D. Decide which workers will be employed by every company throughout the economy

37. The "gross domestic product" (GDP) of a country is a measure of the:

- A. Total value of all goods and services produced within the country in a given year
- B. Total amount of money the government owes to other nations around the world
- C. Number of people who are unemployed and actively seeking work in the country
- D. Average rate at which the prices of consumer goods rise over the course of a year

38. The debate over how much the government should regulate the economy can be seen throughout American history in disagreements over:

- A. Whether the United States should ever trade with any other nations around the world
- B. Whether the nation should have a written constitution or rely on unwritten customs
- C. Issues such as the national bank, antitrust laws, the New Deal, and business regulation
- D. Whether the President should be limited to serving only two terms in office

39. The Chinese Exclusion Act, the national-origins quotas of the 1920s, and modern debates over immigration policy all reflect an ongoing American discussion about:

- A. Whether immigrants should be permitted to vote in national elections after arriving
- B. How the United States should divide power between the national and state governments
- C. Whether the United States should join military alliances with foreign nations
- D. Who should be allowed to enter the country and on what terms they may do so

40. The Alien and Sedition Acts, the Schenck decision during World War I, and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II all illustrate that during times of crisis:

- A. The federal government has consistently expanded the individual freedoms of all citizens
- B. Concerns about national security have sometimes led the government to limit individual rights
- C. The Supreme Court has always refused to allow any restrictions on civil liberties
- D. The individual states, rather than the federal government, have controlled civil liberties

41. Throughout American history, groups seeking greater rights and equality — such as abolitionists, suffragists, and civil rights activists — have most often worked to achieve their goals by:

- A. Withdrawing entirely from American society and refusing to take part in public life
- B. Seizing control of the federal government through armed force and military rebellion
- C. Using protest, persuasion, the courts, and changes in the law to bring about reform
- D. Relying only on foreign governments to pressure the United States to make changes

42. The Erie Canal, the transcontinental railroad, and the interstate highway system all demonstrate that, throughout American history, improvements in transportation have generally:

- A. Promoted economic growth by connecting regions and allowing the movement of goods and people
- B. Isolated the regions of the country from one another and reduced trade between them
- C. Discouraged westward settlement by making the journey more difficult and expensive
- D. Had almost no effect on the economic or geographic development of the nation

43. The United States Constitution divides power among three branches of government, divides power between the national and state governments, and protects individual rights. The overall purpose of these arrangements is to:

- A. Concentrate all governing authority in the hands of a single powerful national leader
- B. Allow the government to act without any limits during times of national emergency
- C. Give the individual states unlimited power over the people living within their borders
- D. Prevent any one part of the government from gaining too much power and to protect liberty

44. In the United States, citizens are able to influence the actions of their government through means such as:

- A. Personally writing and enacting the laws that the government will be required to follow
- B. Voting in elections, expressing opinions, joining groups, and contacting their representatives
- C. Appointing the federal judges who will serve on the Supreme Court and lower courts
- D. Setting the salaries and terms of office of the members of Congress and the President

45. Formal amendments, Supreme Court decisions, and changing customs have all contributed to the way the United States Constitution has:

- A. Remained exactly the same in meaning and application since it was first written
- B. Been completely replaced several times by entirely new constitutions over the years

- C. Adapted and changed over time to meet the needs of a growing and changing nation
- D. Lost all of its authority and influence over the government of the United States

46. The abolition of slavery, the granting of women's suffrage, and the civil rights movement together best illustrate that, over the course of its history, the United States has:

- A. Gradually extended the rights and protections of citizenship to more groups of people
- B. Steadily reduced the number of people who are allowed to participate in government
- C. Returned most of the power of the national government back to the individual states
- D. Refused to make any changes to the rights described in its founding documents

47. Events such as the Watergate scandal and the impeachment proceedings against several presidents reinforce the American principle that:

- A. The President holds powers that place him entirely beyond the reach of the law
- B. Only members of Congress can ever be held accountable for breaking the law
- C. The Supreme Court is permitted to ignore the Constitution during a national crisis
- D. No person, including the President, is above the law in the United States

48. The Great Compromise at the Constitutional Convention and the major sectional compromises before the Civil War both show that, in the American political system:

- A. Important decisions are always made by a single leader without input from others
- B. Compromise has often been necessary to settle disputes between competing interests
- C. Disagreements are never resolved and always lead to the breakup of the government
- D. The federal courts make all important national decisions without any debate

49. The study of United States history best supports the conclusion that American democracy is:

- A. A fixed and finished system that has remained unchanged since the nation's founding
- B. A form of government in which a small group of officials makes all the decisions
- C. An evolving system that has expanded its ideals of liberty and equality over time
- D. A system that has consistently reduced the rights and freedoms of its citizens

50. The framework established by the United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries primarily because it:

- A. Balances a stable framework of basic principles with the flexibility to adapt over time
- B. Provides a fixed and detailed solution to every problem the nation could ever face
- C. Concentrates complete and unlimited authority in a single branch of the government
- D. Prohibits any change, amendment, or new interpretation under any circumstances

Practice Exam 17 – Answer Key with Explanations

1. C — The Zenger verdict helped establish freedom of the press by holding that true statements were not libel, even when critical of officials. It set an early precedent for protecting the press in the colonies. The principle later shaped the First Amendment.
2. B — Lexington and Concord were the first armed clashes of the American Revolution between colonial militia and British troops. The fighting marked the start of open warfare. These battles signaled that the dispute had moved beyond protest.
3. D — In the XYZ Affair, French officials demanded bribes before they would negotiate with American diplomats, outraging the United States. The insult damaged relations and led to an undeclared naval conflict. It fueled anti-French feeling at home.
4. A — Although the Court ruled in favor of the Cherokee in *Worcester v. Georgia*, Jackson and Georgia simply refused to enforce the decision. Without enforcement, the ruling could not protect Cherokee lands. The Trail of Tears followed soon after.
5. C — Garrison's "The Liberator" demanded the immediate and complete abolition of slavery, rejecting gradual approaches. Its uncompromising stance energized the abolitionist movement. The paper became a leading voice against slavery.
6. B — Harriet Tubman repeatedly returned to the South to guide enslaved people to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Her courage saved many lives. She became one of the most celebrated figures of the antislavery struggle.
7. A — The Oregon dispute was settled peacefully by dividing the territory at the 49th parallel. Both nations avoided war over the boundary. The agreement extended U.S. territory to the Pacific Northwest.

8. D — Popular sovereignty held that the settlers of a territory should vote on whether to allow slavery there. Stephen Douglas promoted it as a democratic solution. In practice, it led to violent conflict, as in Kansas.
9. C — The clash of the ironclads Monitor and Merrimack showed that armored warships were the future of naval combat. Wooden warships were now obsolete. The battle transformed naval warfare worldwide.
10. B — Southern states used poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses to keep African Americans from voting while appearing to avoid violating the Fifteenth Amendment. These devices disenfranchised Black citizens. They preserved white political control.
11. A — Selling stock allowed corporations to raise large sums from many investors to fund expansion and operations. This spread financial risk and gathered capital. It helped fuel the growth of big business.
12. D — The Haymarket Affair turned much public opinion against unions, which became linked in many minds with radicalism and violence. The bombing and its aftermath set back the labor movement. It damaged the reputation of organized labor.
13. B — The Omaha Platform called for government regulation of railroads, a graduated income tax, and the free coinage of silver. These reforms aimed to help farmers and workers. The platform expressed core Populist demands.
14. C — Settling among others from their home countries gave immigrants familiar language, customs, food, and support as they adjusted. Ethnic neighborhoods eased the transition to a new land. They provided community and assistance.
15. A — Lincoln Steffens exposed the widespread corruption in big-city governments and political machines in "The Shame of the Cities." His reporting spurred urban reform. He was a leading muckraker of the era.
16. D — The Clayton Antitrust Act outlawed additional unfair business practices and protected the rights of labor unions. It strengthened the earlier Sherman Act. The law also limited the use of injunctions against strikes.
17. C — The Boxer Rebellion was an uprising by Chinese nationalists seeking to drive out the foreign powers that had gained influence and privileges in China. Foreign troops, including Americans, suppressed it. The revolt reflected resentment of foreign domination.
18. B — During World War I, women contributed mainly by taking jobs in factories and offices vacated by men who joined the military. Their work supported wartime production. This expanded role helped advance the case for suffrage.
19. A — Lodge and the reservationists feared the League of Nations would draw the United States into future foreign wars without the consent of Congress. They worried about losing control over decisions of war. Their opposition helped doom the treaty.
20. C — The 1920s brought women greater social freedom, new fashions, and the right to vote secured by the Nineteenth Amendment. The "flapper" symbolized changing roles. Women gained a larger place in public life.
21. D — Roosevelt won in 1932 by promising Americans a "New Deal" with active government efforts to fight the Depression. His message of hope contrasted with Hoover's record. Voters embraced his pledge of bold action.
22. B — The bank holiday temporarily closed the nation's banks so their finances could be inspected and stabilized. Only sound banks were allowed to reopen. The action helped restore public confidence in the banking system.

23. C — As the "arsenal of democracy," the United States produced and supplied large quantities of weapons and materials to nations fighting the Axis before entering the war. American industry aided the Allies. This support shifted U.S. policy away from neutrality.
24. A — The Battle of Midway halted the Japanese advance and shifted the balance of naval power toward the United States. The loss of Japanese carriers was crippling. It marked a decisive turning point in the Pacific war.
25. D — Containment aimed to prevent the spread of communism beyond the areas where it already existed. It guided U.S. policy throughout the Cold War. The strategy shaped responses from Europe to Asia.
26. B — Truman's removal of MacArthur reinforced that civilian leaders, including the President, hold ultimate authority over the armed forces. MacArthur had publicly challenged the President's policy. The episode upheld civilian control of the military.
27. C — The Civil Rights Act of 1968 prohibited discrimination in the sale and rental of housing based on race. It is often called the Fair Housing Act. The law extended civil rights protections into housing.
28. A — The counterculture rejected mainstream values and searched for new lifestyles, music, and ideas. Many young people questioned traditional norms. The movement reflected the social upheaval of the 1960s.
29. D — Affirmative action programs were designed to increase opportunities for groups that had faced past discrimination in jobs and education. They aimed to remedy historical inequities. The policies sparked ongoing national debate.
30. B — Reagan pursued a major military buildup and increased pressure intended to challenge Soviet power. He sought to negotiate from strength. This approach contributed to the later easing of the Cold War.
31. C — Obama's 2008 election was historic because he became the first African American to be elected President. His victory marked a milestone in the nation's history. It reflected significant change in American society.
32. A — Popular sovereignty is the principle that government authority comes from the people, who can elect and remove their leaders. It places ultimate power in the citizens. This idea underlies American self-government.
33. B — Most detailed work on bills is done by committees of members who specialize in particular subject areas. Committees review, revise, and shape legislation. This system makes the lawmaking process more manageable.
34. D — Treaties negotiated by the President must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate before taking effect. This gives the Senate a check on foreign policy. It reflects the system of shared powers.
35. C — The Second Amendment addresses the right of the people to keep and bear arms, connected to the need for a militia. Its interpretation has long been debated. The amendment is part of the Bill of Rights.
36. B — Entrepreneurs take risks to start new businesses, creating products, jobs, and economic growth. Their initiative drives innovation. This risk-taking is central to the free-enterprise system.
37. A — GDP measures the total value of all goods and services produced within a country in a given year. It is a key indicator of economic size and health. Economists use it to track growth.
38. C — The debate over economic regulation appears in disputes over the national bank, antitrust laws, the New Deal, and business regulation. Each raised the question of government's proper role. This tension recurs throughout American history.

39. D — The Chinese Exclusion Act, the 1920s quotas, and modern debates all concern who should be allowed to enter the country and on what terms. Immigration policy has long been contested. The question remains central to American politics.
40. B — The Alien and Sedition Acts, the Schenck decision, and Japanese American internment all show that security concerns have sometimes led the government to limit individual rights during crises. Liberty and security can conflict. This tension is a recurring theme.
41. C — Movements for rights and equality have most often used protest, persuasion, the courts, and changes in the law to achieve their goals. These methods worked within the system. This approach has driven major reforms.
42. A — The Erie Canal, transcontinental railroad, and interstate highways all promoted economic growth by connecting regions and moving goods and people. Transportation improvements spurred development. They tied the nation together economically.
43. D — Dividing power among branches and levels of government and protecting individual rights all serve to prevent any one part of government from gaining too much power and to protect liberty. These features guard against tyranny. They reflect the framers' core design.
44. B — Citizens influence government by voting, expressing opinions, joining groups, and contacting representatives. These actions give the public a voice. Such participation is essential to democracy.
45. C — Amendments, Court decisions, and changing customs have all helped the Constitution adapt and change over time to meet a changing nation's needs. This flexibility keeps it relevant. It explains the document's endurance.
46. A — Ending slavery, women's suffrage, and the civil rights movement show the United States gradually extending the rights and protections of citizenship to more people. The trend has been toward inclusion. It reflects the expansion of American democracy.
47. D — Watergate and presidential impeachment proceedings reinforce that no person, including the President, is above the law. Leaders remain accountable. This principle is fundamental to constitutional government.
48. B — The Great Compromise and the antebellum sectional compromises show that compromise has often been necessary to settle disputes between competing interests. Bargaining kept the system functioning. It is a recurring feature of American politics.
49. C — The study of U.S. history supports the view that American democracy is an evolving system that has expanded its ideals of liberty and equality over time. The nation has grown more inclusive. Democracy is treated as a continuing effort.
50. A — The Constitution has endured because it balances a stable framework of basic principles with the flexibility to adapt over time. This combination has kept it workable for centuries. Its durability rests on that balance.