

# **PRACTICE EXAM 19: NEW YORK REGENTS U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)**

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1. In the early colonial period, many European immigrants came to the American colonies as indentured servants, meaning that they:

- A. Were brought to the colonies against their will and held in slavery for their entire lives
- B. Agreed to work for a set number of years in exchange for passage to the colonies
- C. Were wealthy landowners who paid for their own voyage and bought large plantations
- D. Served as soldiers in the colonial militias in return for grants of free farmland

2. The "Middle Passage" refers to which part of the transatlantic slave trade?

- A. The brutal sea voyage that carried enslaved Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas
- B. The overland journey of enslaved people from coastal ports to inland plantations
- C. The system of laws that governed the treatment of enslaved people in the colonies
- D. The route by which colonial goods were shipped from the Americas back to Europe

3. The First Continental Congress, which met in 1774, was significant because it:

- A. Wrote the United States Constitution that would govern the new nation after independence
- B. Declared the independence of the thirteen colonies from the rule of Great Britain
- C. Brought together delegates from the colonies to coordinate a response to British policies

D. Established a permanent national army to fight against the British troops in the colonies

4. The Land Ordinance of 1785, passed under the Articles of Confederation, was significant because it:

A. Granted the federal government the power to tax the citizens of the individual states directly

B. Created a strong national army to defend the western frontier from foreign and native attacks

C. Allowed the southern states to expand the institution of slavery into the western territories

D. Established a system for surveying and selling western lands in an orderly way

5. The United States Constitution declares itself to be "the supreme law of the land." This statement establishes that:

A. The President has the final authority to decide the meaning of every part of the Constitution

B. The Constitution and federal laws take priority over conflicting state laws and constitutions

C. The individual states may ignore any part of the Constitution that they disagree with

D. The Constitution applies only to the federal government and not to the individual states

6. The Ninth Amendment to the United States Constitution states that:

A. Powers not given to the federal government are reserved to the states or to the people

B. Citizens are protected against being forced to quarter soldiers in their homes in peacetime

C. The rights listed in the Constitution are not the only rights that the people possess

D. A person accused of a crime has the right to a trial by jury in most criminal cases

7. President Washington's Proclamation of Neutrality in 1793 announced that the United States would:

A. Stay out of the war that had broken out between Great Britain and France

B. Form a permanent military alliance with France against the British Empire

C. Declare war on Great Britain in support of the French revolutionary government

D. Close all American ports to trade with every nation in Europe during the conflict

8. The Hartford Convention, held by New England Federalists near the end of the War of 1812, is significant because it:

- A. Successfully convinced the United States to surrender to Great Britain and end the war
- B. Marked the beginning of a long period of cooperation between the two political parties
- C. Led directly to the secession of the New England states from the rest of the Union
- D. Damaged the Federalist Party by making it appear disloyal and contributed to its decline

9. The invention of the telegraph by Samuel Morse in the 1840s was significant because it:

- A. Allowed messages to be sent almost instantly over long distances using electricity
- B. Provided a fast new way to transport goods and people across the western territories
- C. Made it possible to produce large quantities of inexpensive cloth in northern factories
- D. Greatly increased the amount of cotton that could be grown on southern plantations

10. The Free Soil Party, formed in 1848, was a political party that opposed:

- A. The admission of any new states to the Union, whether free or slave, in the future
- B. The construction of railroads and canals that would connect the eastern and western states
- C. The expansion of slavery into the new territories acquired by the United States
- D. The granting of free farmland to settlers willing to move to the western frontier

11. During the Civil War, the northerners known as "Copperheads" were:

- A. Confederate soldiers who secretly fought behind Union lines in the northern states
- B. African American soldiers who served in segregated regiments of the Union army
- C. Abolitionists who demanded the immediate and complete end of slavery everywhere

D. Northern Democrats who opposed the war and called for peace with the Confederacy

12. After the Civil War, some southern leaders promoted the idea of a "New South," which called for:

- A. Building up southern industry and railroads to modernize the region's economy
- B. Restoring the system of slavery that had existed before the start of the Civil War
- C. Removing the South entirely from the Union to form a separate independent nation
- D. Returning all of the land in the South to the Native American nations of the region

13. The use of "interchangeable parts" in American manufacturing was significant because it:

- A. Required every product to be made entirely by hand by a single skilled craftsman
- B. Limited factories to producing only one product at a time at a very slow pace
- C. Allowed identical parts to be mass-produced and easily assembled or replaced
- D. Eliminated the need for any workers by completely automating every factory

14. In the late 1800s, some industrial companies built "company towns" where workers lived in housing owned by the company and shopped at company stores. These arrangements often:

- A. Gave workers complete independence and a high degree of control over their own lives
- B. Left workers heavily dependent on the company and in debt to the company store
- C. Provided workers with free housing and goods at no cost to themselves at all
- D. Allowed workers to easily organize unions and bargain freely with their employers

15. In the late 1800s, farmers formed cooperatives in order to:

- A. Compete against one another to drive down the prices that farmers received for crops
- B. Support the railroad companies in their efforts to raise the rates charged to farmers
- C. Discourage the use of new machinery and modern methods on the nation's farms

D. Pool their resources to buy supplies and sell their crops at better prices together

16. Some immigrants to the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s were called "birds of passage" because they:

A. Traveled across the country following the seasonal harvests on farms in different regions

B. Came to the United States only after first living for many years in another foreign country

C. Came to the United States to work for a time and then returned to their home countries

D. Refused to settle in cities and instead moved constantly between rural farming communities

17. William "Boss" Tweed, who controlled the Tammany Hall political machine in New York City, is best known for:

A. Using his political power to steal large sums of money from the city through corruption

B. Leading the fight to clean up corruption and reform city government in New York

C. Organizing the city's immigrants into labor unions to demand higher wages

D. Building the nation's first system of free public schools open to all city children

18. In the early 1900s, W.E.B. Du Bois disagreed with Booker T. Washington over civil rights strategy because Du Bois believed that African Americans should:

A. Accept segregation for the time being and focus only on learning practical job skills

B. Demand full and immediate civil and political rights, including higher education

C. Leave the United States entirely and establish a new nation in West Africa

D. Avoid all involvement in politics and concentrate solely on building businesses

19. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), founded in 1909, worked mainly to:

A. Encourage African Americans to leave the United States and resettle in other countries

- B. Organize the labor unions that represented African American factory workers in the North
- C. Fight against racial discrimination and secure equal rights through the courts and other means
- D. Support the system of racial segregation as long as facilities were made truly equal

20. The Anti-Imperialist League, formed in the late 1890s, opposed American expansion overseas because its members believed that:

- A. The United States needed many more overseas colonies to compete with Europe
- B. Owning colonies was the only way for the nation to obtain enough raw materials
- C. The United States should immediately conquer as much foreign territory as possible
- D. Ruling over other peoples without their consent violated American democratic principles

21. When the United States entered World War I, the American troops sent to fight in Europe were known as the American Expeditionary Force, which:

- A. Helped turn the tide of the war in favor of the Allies on the Western Front
- B. Refused to take part in any of the major battles of the war in Europe
- C. Fought entirely on the side of Germany against Britain and France
- D. Remained in the United States and never actually crossed the Atlantic Ocean

22. During World War I, the federal government created agencies such as the War Industries Board in order to:

- A. Set the terms of the peace treaty that would officially bring the war to an end
- B. Organize and direct the nation's economy and industry to support the war effort
- C. Recruit and train the millions of soldiers who would serve in the armed forces
- D. Produce posters and films designed to build public support for the war at home

23. While much of the United States enjoyed prosperity during the 1920s, American farmers struggled mainly because:

- A. The government forced farmers to leave their land and move into the nation's cities
- B. A series of droughts made it impossible to grow any crops anywhere in the country
- C. Overproduction caused crop prices to fall, leaving many farmers deep in debt
- D. New laws prevented farmers from selling any of their crops in foreign markets

24. The Twenty-First Amendment, ratified in 1933, is unique among the amendments because it:

- A. Was the first amendment ever added to the United States Constitution after the Bill of Rights
- B. Extended the right to vote in federal elections to citizens eighteen years of age and older
- C. Established the federal income tax as a permanent source of revenue for the government
- D. Repealed an earlier amendment, ending the national prohibition of alcoholic beverages

25. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's group of close advisers, who helped him develop New Deal policies, became known as the:

- A. Kitchen Cabinet, a group of personal friends who had no official government positions
- B. Brain Trust, a group of professors and experts who advised him on economic policy
- C. Rough Riders, a group of volunteers who had fought alongside him during a war
- D. Square Dealers, a group of business leaders who opposed government regulation

26. In a 1941 speech, President Roosevelt described the "Four Freedoms" that he believed people everywhere should enjoy. These included:

- A. Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear
- B. Freedom to own property, to bear arms, to vote, and to assemble peacefully
- C. Freedom from taxation, from military service, from regulation, and from foreign trade
- D. Freedom of the press, of religion, of movement, and of choosing one's own occupation

27. During World War II, organizations such as the Women's Army Corps (WACs) allowed American women to:

- A. Serve in front-line combat roles as the equals of male soldiers in every battle
- B. Take over the highest command positions in the United States armed forces
- C. Serve in noncombat military roles, freeing more men for combat duty overseas
- D. Avoid all forms of involvement in the war effort during the years of the conflict

28. During the late 1940s and 1950s, the "Hollywood Ten" and others who were "blacklisted" were people who:

- A. Had spied for the Soviet Union and passed secret information about American weapons
- B. Were accused of communist ties and lost their jobs in the entertainment industry as a result
- C. Worked for the federal government to investigate suspected communists in the film industry
- D. Led the effort to expand the rights of workers in the nation's growing film studios

29. The Peace Corps, established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, was created to:

- A. Train American soldiers to fight against communist forces in Southeast Asia
- B. Develop new nuclear weapons to maintain the American advantage in the arms race
- C. Spy on the activities of the Soviet Union and its allies around the world
- D. Send American volunteers to assist developing nations with education, health, and other needs

30. The "Freedom Summer" project of 1964 was an effort by civil rights activists to:

- A. Desegregate the public schools throughout the southern states of the country
- B. Organize a boycott of the segregated public buses in the city of Montgomery
- C. Register African American voters in Mississippi, where few had been able to vote
- D. Integrate the lunch counters at department stores across the southern United States

31. The Kerner Commission, which studied the causes of the urban riots of the mid-1960s, concluded that:

- A. The nation was moving toward two societies, one Black and one white, separate and unequal
- B. The riots had been planned and organized entirely by foreign communist agents
- C. There were no real problems of poverty or discrimination in American cities
- D. The federal government should reduce all spending on programs to help the poor

32. President Richard Nixon's appeal to the "silent majority" in 1969 was a reference to:

- A. The large number of Americans who were actively protesting against the Vietnam War
- B. The many ordinary Americans who Nixon believed quietly supported his policies
- C. The members of Congress who had voted against funding the Vietnam War effort
- D. The foreign nations that had remained neutral during the conflict in Vietnam

33. After Richard Nixon resigned the presidency, President Gerald Ford made the controversial decision to:

- A. Put Nixon on trial before the United States Senate for the crimes he had committed
- B. Appoint Nixon to serve as a justice on the United States Supreme Court
- C. Grant Nixon a full pardon for any crimes he may have committed while in office
- D. Order the immediate arrest and imprisonment of the former president Nixon

34. The Iran-Contra affair during the Reagan administration involved a scandal in which government officials:

- A. Accepted bribes in exchange for leasing federal oil reserves to private companies
- B. Covered up a break-in at the headquarters of the opposing political party
- C. Sold government secrets about nuclear weapons to the Soviet Union for money
- D. Secretly sold weapons to Iran and used the proceeds to fund rebels in Nicaragua

35. The presidential election of 2000 between George W. Bush and Al Gore was unusual because:

- A. Neither candidate received a single electoral vote, forcing a new national election
- B. The outcome was extremely close and ultimately decided by the United States Supreme Court
- C. The election was canceled entirely and the previous president remained in office
- D. Both candidates withdrew before the election, leaving the office completely vacant

36. Although the United States has long had a two-party system, third parties have played an important role in American politics by:

- A. Bringing attention to new issues and ideas that the major parties may later adopt
- B. Winning the majority of presidential elections throughout the nation's history
- C. Replacing the two major parties as the only organizations allowed to run candidates
- D. Preventing citizens from voting for the candidates of the two major political parties

37. In the American political system, "lobbying" refers to the practice in which individuals and groups:

- A. Cast their votes in elections to choose the officials who will represent them
- B. Serve on juries to help decide the outcome of cases in the nation's courts
- C. Try to influence lawmakers to support legislation favorable to their interests
- D. Run as candidates for office in order to win seats in the United States Congress

38. The practice known as "gerrymandering" involves:

- A. Requiring voters to pass a literacy test before being allowed to cast their ballots
- B. Counting the votes in an election to determine which candidate has won the office
- C. Limiting the number of terms that an elected official is permitted to serve in office
- D. Drawing the boundaries of voting districts to give an advantage to a particular party

39. The basic economic problem of "scarcity" refers to the fact that:

- A. Some nations have far more natural resources than they could ever possibly use
- B. People have unlimited wants but only limited resources to satisfy those wants
- C. The government always has enough money to provide every service that citizens want
- D. There is never any need for individuals or societies to make economic choices

40. In economics, the "opportunity cost" of a decision is best described as:

- A. The total amount of money that a person spends in order to purchase a good or service
- B. The amount of profit that a business earns after subtracting all of its expenses
- C. The value of the next-best alternative that a person gives up when making a choice
- D. The price that the government sets for goods that are considered essential to the public

41. The Reconstruction Amendments, the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 together best show that:

- A. The federal government has played a major role in expanding civil rights over time
- B. Civil rights in the United States have steadily been reduced over the course of history
- C. The individual states alone have been responsible for protecting the rights of citizens
- D. The struggle for civil rights ended completely soon after the Civil War was over

42. The arrival of Irish and German immigrants in the mid-1800s, southern and eastern Europeans around 1900, and immigrants from Latin America and Asia in recent decades all demonstrate that:

- A. Immigration to the United States came to a complete and permanent end after the year 1924
- B. The United States has accepted immigrants from only one region of the world at any time
- C. Immigrants have had almost no effect on the culture or economy of the United States
- D. Immigration has been a continuing feature of American history that has shaped the nation

43. The debate over the USA PATRIOT Act after the September 11 attacks, like earlier debates over the Alien and Sedition Acts and wartime censorship, reflects a recurring American struggle to:

- A. Decide which foreign nations the United States should form alliances with during a war
- B. Balance the protection of national security against the protection of individual liberties
- C. Determine how the powers of government should be divided between the states and the nation
- D. Choose whether the President or the Congress should have the power to declare war

44. The plantation agriculture of the South, the manufacturing of the Northeast, and the grain farming of the Midwest developed as they did largely because of differences in each region's:

- A. System of government and the political parties that were most popular there
- B. Distance from the capital city of Washington, D.C., and the federal government
- C. Climate, soil, natural resources, and other features of the physical environment
- D. Population size and the total number of people who lived in each of the regions

45. The division of the federal government into three branches, the system of checks and balances, and the division of power between the national and state governments were all designed mainly to:

- A. Prevent any single person or group from gaining too much power over the government
- B. Make it impossible for the government to respond to any national emergency or crisis
- C. Concentrate all governing power in the hands of the President of the United States
- D. Give the federal courts complete control over the actions of the other two branches

46. The ability of citizens to vote, to express their views freely, to serve on juries, and to run for office all reflect the idea that, in the United States:

- A. The government holds complete power and the people have no real role in governing
- B. Only government officials are permitted to take part in the decisions of the nation
- C. Important decisions are made entirely by a small group of unelected experts

D. The people play an active and essential role in their own government

47. Formal amendments, important Supreme Court decisions, and long-standing customs such as political parties have all contributed to the way the Constitution has:

- A. Remained completely unchanged in its meaning since the year that it was first written
- B. Adapted over time to meet the changing needs and values of a growing nation
- C. Been completely replaced by several entirely new constitutions over the years
- D. Lost all of its authority over the operation of the United States government

48. The abolition of slavery, the expansion of voting rights to women and minorities, and the civil rights movement all best support the conclusion that the United States has:

- A. Gradually reduced the freedoms and rights enjoyed by its citizens over time
- B. Returned nearly all of the power of the federal government back to the states
- C. Worked over time to make its ideals of liberty and equality apply to more people
- D. Avoided making any changes to the principles in its founding documents

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

- A. Lasting foundations of American government that have guided the nation throughout its history
- B. Ideas that the United States abandoned shortly after the Constitution was first written
- C. Powers that belong only to the federal government and never to the states or the people
- D. Temporary rules that applied only during the early years of the American republic

50. The study of United States history best supports the conclusion that the nation's democracy is:

- A. A finished and unchanging system that was completed at the time of the founding

- B. An ongoing effort in which each generation works to live up to the nation's ideals
- C. A form of government that depends entirely on the decisions of a single leader
- D. A system that has steadily reduced the participation of citizens over time

## Practice Exam 19 – Answer Key with Explanations

1. B — Indentured servants agreed to work for a set number of years in exchange for passage to the colonies. Many poor Europeans used this arrangement to reach America. After their term ended, they were free to seek their own land and livelihood.
2. A — The Middle Passage was the brutal sea voyage carrying enslaved Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas. Conditions aboard the ships were horrific, and many died en route. It formed the middle leg of the triangular trade.
3. C — The First Continental Congress brought together delegates from the colonies to coordinate a response to British policies. They organized boycotts and stated colonial grievances. It marked a key step toward unified colonial action.
4. D — The Land Ordinance of 1785 established an orderly system for surveying and selling western lands. It divided land into townships and reserved land for schools. This created a workable method for settling the frontier.
5. B — Declaring the Constitution "the supreme law of the land" means federal law takes priority over conflicting state laws. This is the supremacy clause. It ensures a uniform legal framework across the nation.
6. C — The Ninth Amendment states that the rights listed in the Constitution are not the only rights the people possess. It guards against the idea that unlisted rights do not exist. It protects rights beyond those explicitly named.
7. A — The Proclamation of Neutrality announced that the United States would stay out of the war between Britain and France. Washington wanted to keep the young nation out of European conflicts. It set an early precedent for American neutrality.
8. D — The Hartford Convention damaged the Federalist Party by making it appear disloyal. New England Federalists protested the war just as it was ending in American success. The episode hastened the party's decline.
9. A — Morse's telegraph allowed messages to be sent almost instantly over long distances using electricity. It revolutionized communication across the growing nation. News and information could now travel far faster than people could.
10. C — The Free Soil Party opposed the expansion of slavery into the territories acquired by the United States. Its slogan reflected free soil for free labor. It drew support from those alarmed by slavery's spread.
11. D — Copperheads were northern Democrats who opposed the war and called for peace with the Confederacy. They criticized Lincoln's wartime policies. Their stance made them controversial in the North.
12. A — The "New South" idea called for building up southern industry and railroads to modernize the region. Boosters wanted to diversify beyond plantation agriculture. The vision aimed to rebuild the postwar southern economy.

13. C — Interchangeable parts allowed identical components to be mass-produced and easily assembled or replaced. This made manufacturing faster and cheaper. It became a foundation of modern industrial production.
14. B — Company towns often left workers heavily dependent on the company and in debt to the company store. Wages frequently flowed back to the employer through rent and purchases. This trapped many workers in cycles of debt.
15. D — Farmers formed cooperatives to pool resources, buy supplies, and sell crops at better prices together. Acting collectively gave them more bargaining power. Cooperatives helped farmers resist middlemen and railroads.
16. C — "Birds of passage" came to the United States to work for a time and then returned to their home countries. They sought wages rather than permanent settlement. Many sent earnings home or saved to return.
17. A — Boss Tweed used his political power to steal large sums from New York City through corruption. His Tammany Hall machine controlled jobs and contracts. He became a symbol of Gilded Age political corruption.
18. B — Du Bois believed African Americans should demand full and immediate civil and political rights, including higher education. He rejected Washington's gradual, accommodating approach. His view emphasized leadership by a "Talented Tenth."
19. C — The NAACP worked to fight racial discrimination and secure equal rights through the courts and other means. It pursued legal challenges to segregation. The organization became central to the civil rights struggle.
20. D — The Anti-Imperialist League argued that ruling over other peoples without their consent violated American democratic principles. Members saw imperialism as a betrayal of the nation's ideals. They opposed acquiring overseas colonies.
21. A — The American Expeditionary Force helped turn the tide of the war in favor of the Allies on the Western Front. Fresh American troops bolstered exhausted Allied armies. Their arrival contributed to the German defeat.
22. B — Agencies like the War Industries Board organized and directed the nation's economy and industry to support the war. The government coordinated production and resources. This mobilization was key to the war effort.
23. C — Farmers struggled in the 1920s because overproduction caused crop prices to fall, leaving many in debt. Wartime demand had vanished, but output stayed high. Low prices made it hard for farmers to repay loans.
24. D — The Twenty-First Amendment repealed an earlier amendment, ending national prohibition of alcohol. It overturned the Eighteenth Amendment. It is the only amendment to repeal a previous one.
25. B — FDR's "Brain Trust" was a group of professors and experts who advised him on economic policy. They helped shape New Deal programs. Their expertise reflected a faith in informed government planning.
26. A — Roosevelt's Four Freedoms were freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. He framed them as universal human goals. They helped define the moral aims of the coming war.
27. C — The WACs allowed women to serve in noncombat military roles, freeing more men for combat duty overseas. Women filled clerical, medical, and support positions. Their service expanded women's roles in the military.

28. B — The "Hollywood Ten" and the blacklisted were accused of communist ties and lost their entertainment jobs. The Red Scare fueled suspicion in the film industry. Many careers were ruined by these accusations.
29. D — The Peace Corps sent American volunteers to assist developing nations with education, health, and other needs. Kennedy created it to promote goodwill and development. It reflected Cold War-era idealism about American influence.
30. C — Freedom Summer aimed to register African American voters in Mississippi, where few had been able to vote. Volunteers faced violence and intimidation. The project highlighted the need for federal voting protections.
31. A — The Kerner Commission concluded that the nation was moving toward two societies, one Black and one white, separate and unequal. It blamed white racism and poverty for the riots. Its report warned of deepening division.
32. B — Nixon's "silent majority" referred to the many ordinary Americans he believed quietly supported his policies. He contrasted them with loud antiwar protesters. The phrase appealed to those uneasy with the era's upheaval.
33. C — President Ford granted Nixon a full pardon for any crimes he may have committed in office. Ford said he wanted to help the nation move past Watergate. The decision was deeply controversial and hurt his popularity.
34. D — In the Iran-Contra affair, officials secretly sold weapons to Iran and used the proceeds to fund rebels in Nicaragua. Both actions violated stated policy and law. The scandal raised serious questions about executive accountability.
35. B — The 2000 election was extremely close and ultimately decided by the United States Supreme Court. The dispute centered on the Florida vote count. The Court's ruling effectively settled the contest for Bush.
36. A — Third parties have brought attention to new issues and ideas that the major parties later adopt. Though they rarely win, they shape the national debate. Their influence often exceeds their electoral success.
37. C — Lobbying is the practice in which individuals and groups try to influence lawmakers to support favorable legislation. Lobbyists provide information and press their interests. It is a major way organized groups affect policy.
38. D — Gerrymandering involves drawing voting-district boundaries to give one party an advantage. The lines are shaped to maximize that party's seats. It can distort fair representation in elected bodies.
39. B — Scarcity refers to the fact that people have unlimited wants but only limited resources to satisfy them. This is the fundamental problem of economics. It forces individuals and societies to make choices.
40. C — Opportunity cost is the value of the next-best alternative given up when making a choice. Every decision means forgoing another option. The concept highlights the real cost of any choice.
41. A — The Reconstruction Amendments, *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 show the federal government's major role in expanding civil rights. Each used national power to advance equality. Together they reflect a long federal effort against discrimination.
42. D — Successive waves of immigrants demonstrate that immigration has been a continuing feature of American history that shaped the nation. Newcomers from many regions arrived across different eras. Each wave contributed to American society and culture.

43. B — Debates over the PATRIOT Act, the Alien and Sedition Acts, and wartime censorship reflect the struggle to balance national security against individual liberties. This tension recurs in times of crisis. It is an enduring issue in American history.
44. C — Regional economies developed differently largely because of differences in climate, soil, natural resources, and physical environment. Geography shaped what each region could produce. These conditions guided the South, Northeast, and Midwest.
45. A — The three branches, checks and balances, and federalism were designed mainly to prevent any single person or group from gaining too much power. The framers feared concentrated authority. These structures distribute and limit power.
46. D — Voting, free expression, jury service, and running for office reflect the idea that the people play an active and essential role in their own government. Citizen participation is central to democracy. These rights make self-government real.
47. B — Amendments, Supreme Court decisions, and customs such as political parties show how the Constitution has adapted over time to meet changing needs. This flexibility keeps it relevant. It allows the framework to grow with the nation.
48. C — Abolition, expanded voting rights, and the civil rights movement support the conclusion that the United States has worked over time to extend its ideals of liberty and equality to more people. The trend has been toward inclusion. Progress has come gradually through struggle.
49. A — Popular sovereignty, the rule of law, federalism, and individual rights are lasting foundations of American government that have guided the nation throughout its history. They underlie the constitutional system. These principles remain central today.
50. B — The study of U.S. history supports the conclusion that the nation's democracy is an ongoing effort in which each generation works to live up to its ideals. Progress has required continued struggle and participation. The work of democracy is never fully finished.