

PRACTICE EXAM 6: NEW YORK REGENTS U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. The economies of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies developed differently largely because of variations in climate, soil, and geography. Which generalization is best supported by this pattern?

- A. Colonial economic activity was identical across all regions regardless of local environmental conditions
- B. Geography had little influence on colonial economies, which were shaped entirely by royal decree from England
- C. Physical environment strongly influenced the types of economic activities that developed in each colonial region
- D. Southern colonies relied chiefly on shipbuilding and fishing while New England depended on plantation agriculture

2. The Mayflower Compact, the Virginia House of Burgesses, and New England town meetings are most significant because they:

- A. Established early traditions of representative self-government in the American colonies
- B. Created a unified national government that governed all thirteen colonies together
- C. Granted full voting rights to all colonial residents regardless of property or status
- D. Eliminated the authority of the British monarchy over colonial affairs entirely

3. Colonial protests against the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts in the 1760s were based mainly on the principle that:

- A. Colonists wanted complete economic independence and an immediate end to all trade with Britain
- B. The colonies should be permitted to print their own paper currency without any British oversight
- C. Colonial assemblies should be abolished and replaced with direct rule from Parliament in London
- D. Taxes should not be imposed on the colonists by a Parliament in which they had no elected representatives

4. The Federalist Papers, written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, were intended primarily to:

- A. Argue that the Articles of Confederation should be preserved without any significant changes
- B. Persuade the states to ratify the newly proposed United States Constitution
- C. Demand the immediate abolition of slavery throughout all of the United States
- D. Establish the framework for the first national political party in the new republic

5. In his Farewell Address (1796), President George Washington advised the nation to:

- A. Form permanent military alliances with France to balance British power in Europe
- B. Establish an overseas empire to compete with the major European colonial powers
- C. Avoid permanent entangling alliances with foreign nations and remain neutral in their conflicts
- D. Abolish political parties by constitutional amendment to prevent all future factional disputes

6. The dispute between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson over the creation of a national bank centered on:

- A. Differing interpretations of how broadly the powers of the federal government should be construed
- B. Whether the United States should adopt a monarchy modeled on the British system of government
- C. Whether individual states should be permitted to secede from the Union over economic policy
- D. The question of whether enslaved people should be counted in the population for representation

7. The invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney in 1793 had which major long-term effect on the United States?

- A. It rapidly ended the institution of slavery by making enslaved labor economically unnecessary
- B. It shifted the center of textile manufacturing permanently from the North to the southern states
- C. It greatly increased cotton production and strengthened the South's reliance on enslaved labor
- D. It caused the immediate collapse of the plantation system across the entire southern region

8. The antebellum reform movements of the 1830s and 1840s, including abolitionism, temperance, and the Seneca Falls Convention, shared a common goal of:

- A. Expanding the institution of slavery into the newly acquired western territories
- B. Improving American society by addressing perceived moral and social injustices
- C. Reducing the power of the federal government in favor of stronger state authority
- D. Encouraging rapid industrial growth through the construction of canals and railroads

9. The secession of southern states following the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 was most directly motivated by:

- A. Fears that the federal government would restrict or abolish the institution of slavery
- B. Disputes over the construction of a transcontinental railroad through the western territories
- C. Disagreements about whether to annex additional territory from Mexico after the war
- D. Northern demands that the South immediately industrialize its agricultural economy

10. After the Civil War, the system of sharecropping that developed in the South had which effect on many formerly enslaved people?

- A. It provided them with free land grants and full economic independence within a few years
- B. It guaranteed them well-paying industrial jobs in the rapidly growing factories of the South
- C. It often trapped them in cycles of debt and economic dependence on white landowners

D. It immediately gave them political control of southern state legislatures and local governments

11. The Homestead Act of 1862 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 both contributed primarily to:

- A. The rapid industrialization of the Deep South following the end of the Civil War
- B. The restoration of Native American control over the lands of the Great Plains region
- C. A sharp decline in immigration to the United States during the late nineteenth century
- D. The accelerated settlement and economic development of the western United States

12. During the Gilded Age, the federal government generally followed a policy of laissez-faire toward business. This term refers to:

- A. Minimal government regulation of and interference in private business and the economy
- B. Heavy government ownership of major industries such as railroads and steel production
- C. Strict government control over wages, prices, and working hours in all industries
- D. Government distribution of business profits equally among workers and their employers

13. The Populist (People's) Party of the 1890s drew much of its support from farmers who were angered primarily by:

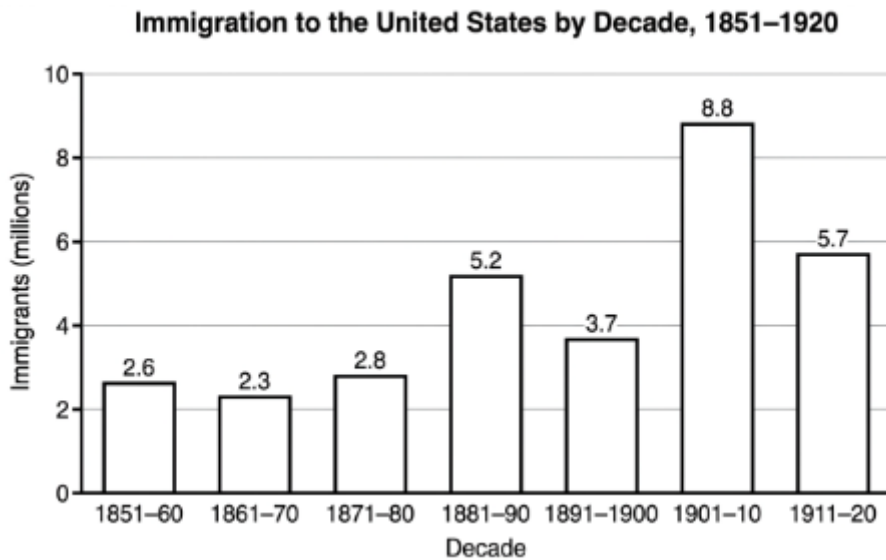
- A. Government efforts to break up large agricultural landholdings in the western states
- B. High railroad shipping rates, deflation, and heavy debt that squeezed their incomes
- C. Federal laws that prevented them from selling their crops in foreign export markets
- D. The rapid mechanization of farms, which they believed reduced overall crop quality

14. President Theodore Roosevelt earned a reputation as a "trustbuster" because his administration:

- A. Eliminated all federal regulation of corporations to encourage business competition

- B. Nationalized the major railroads and placed them under permanent government ownership
- C. Used federal antitrust laws to break up monopolies that he judged harmful to the public
- D. Abolished labor unions in order to reduce conflict between workers and corporations

15. The graph below shows immigration to the United States by decade between 1851 and 1920. Based on the trend shown, which conclusion is best supported?



- A. Immigration to the United States declined steadily and continuously throughout the entire period
- B. Immigration remained completely flat from decade to decade with no measurable change at all
- C. Immigration came almost entirely from Asia rather than from any European nation in this period
- D. Immigration generally increased over the period, peaking in the decade from 1901 to 1910

16. The "Great Migration" of the early twentieth century refers to the movement of:

- A. Hundreds of thousands of African Americans from the rural South to northern industrial cities
- B. European immigrants from crowded eastern cities to farmland on the western Great Plains
- C. American factory workers from the industrial North to the agricultural regions of the South
- D. Mexican laborers from the southwestern states to the manufacturing centers of New England

17. The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s is best described as:

- A. A political movement that succeeded in passing federal anti-lynching legislation in Congress
- B. An economic program that provided federal jobs to unemployed African American workers
- C. A flourishing of African American literature, art, and music centered in New York City
- D. A migration of African American farmers from northern cities back to the rural South

18. The Immigration Act of 1924 (National Origins Act) reflected the nativism of the 1920s because it:

- A. Encouraged increased immigration from southern and eastern Europe to fill factory jobs
- B. Set quotas that sharply limited immigration from southern and eastern European countries
- C. Granted automatic citizenship to all immigrants who had arrived before the year 1900
- D. Removed all restrictions on immigration from Asia while limiting European arrivals

19. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s, which devastated parts of the Great Plains, was caused by a combination of severe drought and:

- A. Widespread industrial pollution released from factories located across the central states
- B. Massive flooding of the Mississippi River that deposited sand across the farmland of the region
- C. Volcanic ash from eruptions in the western United States that buried agricultural fields
- D. Poor farming practices that had stripped away the natural grasses anchoring the topsoil

20. Critics of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal most often argued that the program:

- A. Expanded the power of the federal government too far into the economy and people's lives
- B. Failed entirely to provide any relief or assistance to unemployed and struggling Americans
- C. Concentrated all of its benefits on wealthy bankers while ignoring ordinary working people
- D. Refused to create any new government agencies or programs to respond to the Depression

21. During the 1930s, the United States passed a series of Neutrality Acts that were intended to:

- A. Prepare the nation for immediate entry into the growing conflicts in Europe and Asia
- B. Form military alliances with Britain and France against the rising Axis powers in Europe
- C. Keep the United States out of foreign wars by restricting trade and loans to warring nations
- D. Provide large amounts of military aid to nations resisting aggression by the Axis powers

22. The Lend-Lease Act of 1941 marked a shift in American foreign policy because it:

- A. Committed American troops to fighting directly alongside British forces in Europe
- B. Allowed the United States to supply weapons and materials to nations fighting the Axis
- C. Officially declared war on Germany, Italy, and Japan on behalf of the United States
- D. Required all American businesses to stop trading with any nation involved in the war

23. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill, helped returning World War II veterans by:

- A. Guaranteeing each veteran a permanent position in the peacetime United States military
- B. Providing free land in the western territories to any veteran willing to farm the land
- C. Requiring private employers to rehire veterans at double their previous wartime wages
- D. Providing funds for college education, job training, and low-interest home and business loans

24. The Berlin Airlift of 1948–1949 was the United States and British response to:

- A. A Soviet invasion of West Germany that threatened the security of all Western Europe
- B. The construction of the Berlin Wall dividing the eastern and western halves of the city
- C. A Soviet blockade that cut off all land routes into the western sectors of the city of Berlin
- D. A famine in Eastern Europe that required emergency shipments of food and medicine

25. The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 is generally regarded as significant because it:

- A. Brought the United States and the Soviet Union to the brink of nuclear war before a resolution
- B. Resulted in the permanent overthrow of the communist government of Fidel Castro in Cuba
- C. Led directly to the immediate reunification of the divided nations of North and South Korea
- D. Ended the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union once and for all

26. In 1957, President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, in order to:

- A. Suppress a violent uprising organized by civil rights protesters at the state capitol building
- B. Enforce a federal court order to desegregate Central High School over state resistance
- C. Prevent African American students from enrolling in the previously all-white public schools
- D. Provide military protection for a planned visit by foreign diplomats to the city of Little Rock

27. The Twenty-Fourth Amendment (1964) advanced the cause of voting rights by:

- A. Lowering the national voting age from twenty-one years of age to eighteen years of age
- B. Requiring all states to provide bilingual ballots in elections for non-English speakers
- C. Granting residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote in presidential elections
- D. Prohibiting the use of the poll tax as a requirement for voting in federal elections

28. The War Powers Act of 1973 was passed by Congress in response to the Vietnam War in order to:

- A. Grant the President unlimited authority to commit troops to combat anywhere in the world
- B. Limit the President's ability to commit troops to combat without consulting and notifying Congress
- C. Require an immediate withdrawal of all American military forces from every overseas location
- D. Transfer the power to declare war from the Congress entirely to the President and his advisers

29. The modern environmental movement that emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, influenced by works such as Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," contributed directly to:

- A. The creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and laws such as the Clean Air Act
- B. The repeal of all federal regulations governing industrial pollution and waste disposal
- C. The rapid expansion of nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean
- D. The elimination of national parks in favor of opening public lands to private development

30. The women's rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s sought to advance gender equality. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 specifically:

- A. Guaranteed women equal pay for equal work in every private industry across the nation
- B. Required that women be admitted to all branches of the United States armed forces in combat
- C. Prohibited sex discrimination in educational programs that received federal financial assistance
- D. Mandated that half of all elected offices be reserved for women candidates in every state

31. The map below shows the division of the Louisiana Territory under an 1820 agreement. The bold line dividing the territory represents which compromise?



- A. The boundary established by the Northwest Ordinance to govern territory north of the Ohio River

- B. The Missouri Compromise line at 36°30' north latitude separating future free and slave territory
- C. The Mason-Dixon line originally surveyed to settle a colonial border dispute between two colonies
- D. The boundary set by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the war between the U.S. and Mexico

32. The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution both guarantee that no person shall be deprived of "life, liberty, or property without due process of law." This guarantee means that:

- A. The government may seize private property at any time without offering any form of compensation
- B. Individuals accused of crimes are automatically presumed guilty until they can prove innocence
- C. Citizens may be detained indefinitely by the government without ever being charged with a crime
- D. The government must follow fair legal procedures before taking a person's life, liberty, or property

33. Political parties, the President's Cabinet, and judicial review are all examples of features that are part of the "unwritten constitution" because they:

- A. Developed through custom and practice rather than being specifically described in the Constitution
- B. Were each added to the Constitution through the formal amendment process over time
- C. Were prohibited by the original text of the Constitution but later permitted by the courts
- D. Apply only to the state governments and have no role at the level of the federal government

34. The Federal Reserve System, created in 1913, helps regulate the United States economy primarily by:

- A. Setting the prices of consumer goods and the wages paid to workers in major industries
- B. Owning and directly operating the largest commercial banks in each region of the country
- C. Controlling the money supply and influencing interest rates to promote economic stability
- D. Collecting all federal income taxes and distributing the revenue directly to state governments

35. President Ronald Reagan's economic program in the 1980s, sometimes called "Reaganomics," was based on the idea that:

- A. Heavily increasing federal taxes on businesses would generate revenue to fund social programs
- B. The federal government should take direct ownership of major industries to manage the economy
- C. Strict wage and price controls were needed to bring down the high inflation of the period
- D. Cutting taxes and reducing regulation would stimulate investment and overall economic growth

36. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which took effect in 1994, was designed to:

- A. Establish a common military alliance among the United States, Canada, and Mexico
- B. Reduce trade barriers and promote free trade among the United States, Canada, and Mexico
- C. Create a shared single currency to be used by the United States, Canada, and Mexico
- D. Restrict all immigration between the United States, Canada, and Mexico permanently

37. Under the United States Constitution, the power to impeach a federal official and the power to convict and remove that official are divided as follows:

- A. The Supreme Court impeaches the official and the President decides whether to remove the official
- B. The Senate impeaches the official and the House of Representatives then votes whether to convict
- C. The House of Representatives impeaches the official and the Senate holds the trial to convict or acquit
- D. The President impeaches the official and a national jury of citizens votes whether to convict them

38. The United States led an international coalition in the Persian Gulf War of 1991 in response to:

- A. The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq under the leadership of Saddam Hussein in 1990
- B. A terrorist attack carried out against United States embassies in several African nations
- C. The development of nuclear weapons by Iran in violation of international agreements
- D. A civil war in the former Yugoslavia that threatened the stability of Eastern Europe

39. The USA PATRIOT Act, passed after the September 11, 2001 attacks, generated debate primarily because it raised concerns about the balance between:

- A. Federal authority and the reserved powers traditionally held by the individual states
- B. The economic interests of large corporations and the rights of organized labor unions
- C. The powers of the President and the lawmaking authority belonging to the Congress
- D. National security measures and the protection of individual civil liberties and privacy

40. The New Deal of the 1930s and the federal response to the 2008 financial crisis were similar in that both involved:

- A. Significant federal government intervention to stabilize the economy during a major downturn
- B. A complete federal takeover and permanent ownership of the nation's banking industry
- C. A decision by the federal government to take no action and allow the market to recover alone
- D. The elimination of all federal regulations governing banks and financial institutions

41. The graph below shows the United States unemployment rate from 1929 to 1941. Which statement is best supported by the data shown?



- A. Unemployment remained below five percent throughout the entire period from 1929 to 1941
- B. Unemployment fell sharply and steadily every year after the stock market crash of 1929
- C. Unemployment rose sharply after 1929, peaked in the early 1930s, then gradually declined

D. Unemployment was completely unaffected by the stock market crash that occurred in 1929

42. When Americans vote for President, they are technically voting for electors who then cast the official votes. This system is known as the:

- A. System of direct popular election, in which the candidate with the most individual votes always wins
- B. System of proportional representation, in which seats are divided according to each party's vote share
- C. System of congressional selection, in which members of Congress choose the President every four years
- D. Electoral College, in which each state's electors cast the votes that formally determine the President

43. The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal" and possess certain "unalienable rights." Throughout American history, this statement has most often been used to:

- A. Justify limiting the right to vote to property-owning citizens in the early republic
- B. Support movements seeking to extend equal rights to groups previously denied them
- C. Argue that the federal government should have no power to regulate the economy at all
- D. Defend the authority of individual states to nullify federal laws they disagreed with

44. The Mississippi River and the system of Great Lakes have historically been important to the United States primarily because they:

- A. Provided inexpensive transportation routes that promoted trade and economic development
- B. Served as natural barriers that prevented all foreign nations from invading the interior
- C. Marked the permanent western boundary of the United States until the twentieth century
- D. Supplied the majority of the gold and silver that backed the nation's paper currency

45. The Supreme Court decisions in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) and *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) are often studied together because together they:

- A. Established the principle of judicial review over acts passed by the United States Congress
- B. Expanded the power of the President to enforce federal laws against resistant state governments
- C. Show how the Court's interpretation of equal protection under the law changed over time
- D. Determined the boundaries of free speech protections during periods of national wartime

46. The Soviet launch of the satellite Sputnik in 1957 prompted the United States to respond by:

- A. Immediately launching a full-scale military invasion of Soviet-allied territory in Eastern Europe
- B. Increasing funding for science and math education and expanding its own space program
- C. Withdrawing entirely from the competition in space and focusing only on ground-based defense
- D. Forming a joint space exploration partnership with the Soviet Union to share all new technology

47. In the decades following World War II, large numbers of Americans migrated to the "Sun Belt" region. This migration was driven mainly by:

- A. The discovery of large gold deposits that sparked a rush to the southwestern states
- B. Federal laws that required certain industries to relocate from the North to the South
- C. A series of natural disasters that made the northeastern states uninhabitable for residents
- D. Warmer climates, job opportunities, and the growth of new industries in the South and West

48. A President believes that a bill recently passed by both houses of Congress is unwise. Which constitutional power allows the President to formally reject the bill?

- A. The power of judicial review, used to declare the new law unconstitutional and therefore void
- B. The power of impeachment, used to remove the members of Congress who supported the bill
- C. The veto power, used to refuse to sign the bill and return it to Congress with objections
- D. The power of executive order, used to permanently repeal the law without congressional action

49. In the United States, jury duty, voting in elections, and obeying the law are all examples of:

- A. The responsibilities and civic duties associated with being a citizen in a democratic society
- B. Powers reserved exclusively to the federal government under the United States Constitution
- C. Rights that are guaranteed only to native-born citizens and denied to naturalized citizens
- D. Requirements imposed only on government officials rather than on ordinary private citizens

50. The United States Constitution is often described as a "living document" because it:

- A. Must be completely rewritten by each new generation of American citizens every century
- B. Contains no provisions that can ever be changed, altered, or reinterpreted in any way
- C. Can be adapted over time through amendments and changing interpretations by the courts
- D. Applies only to the specific historical circumstances that existed in the late 1700s

Practice Exam 6 – Answer Key and Explanations

1. C — Physical geography shaped distinct regional economies: rocky soil and short growing seasons pushed New England toward shipping, fishing, and trade, while the warm climate and fertile soil of the South favored plantation agriculture. This pattern demonstrates that environment strongly influenced economic development. Recognizing this geographic-economic link is central to understanding colonial sectional differences.
2. A — The Mayflower Compact, House of Burgesses, and town meetings each gave colonists a role in governing themselves, establishing early precedents for representative government. These traditions of self-rule later shaped American expectations of consent and participation. They are foundational roots of the democratic institutions written into the Constitution.
3. D — Colonial resistance rested on "no taxation without representation": Parliament had no colonial members, so colonists argued it had no right to tax them directly. The Stamp and Townshend Acts violated this principle in their eyes. This grievance became a core justification for revolution.
4. B — The Federalist Papers were a series of essays written to convince New York and other states to ratify the proposed Constitution. They explained and defended the document's design, including federalism and checks and balances. They remain a key source for interpreting the framers' intent.
5. C — In his Farewell Address, Washington warned against permanent alliances that could entangle the young nation in European conflicts, urging neutrality. He believed independence in foreign affairs would protect national interests. This advice guided American foreign policy for over a century.
6. A — The bank dispute reflected competing readings of federal power: Hamilton's loose construction relied on the elastic clause to justify the bank, while Jefferson's strict construction

held that powers not listed were forbidden. The disagreement was fundamentally about how broadly to interpret the Constitution. This debate shaped the nation's first political parties.

7. C — The cotton gin made separating cotton fibers from seeds far faster, dramatically increasing cotton production and profits. Rather than ending slavery, this expansion deepened the South's dependence on enslaved labor to plant and pick cotton. The invention thus intensified the sectional conflict over slavery.
8. B — The antebellum reform movements were united by a drive to correct moral and social wrongs, from slavery to alcohol abuse to the unequal status of women. They reflected a broad reform impulse inspired partly by religious revivalism. Together they sought to improve American society rather than expand or industrialize it.
9. A — Southern states seceded primarily out of fear that Lincoln's Republican administration would limit slavery's expansion and ultimately threaten the institution itself. Slavery was the central issue dividing the sections. This fear, not railroads or territory disputes, drove the decision to leave the Union.
10. C — Sharecropping left many freedpeople working land owned by others in exchange for a share of the crop, often falling into debt to landowners and merchants. This cycle of debt kept them economically dependent and tied to the land. It limited the real freedom that emancipation had promised.
11. D — The Homestead Act offered free western land to settlers, and the transcontinental railroad linked the coasts, together accelerating migration and economic growth across the West. These policies opened the frontier to farming, ranching, and commerce. They also came at great cost to Native American nations of the Plains.
12. A — Laissez-faire means "let alone," describing a government that largely refrains from regulating business and the economy. During the Gilded Age, this approach allowed industries to grow with little oversight. It contributed both to rapid expansion and to the abuses that later prompted Progressive reform.
13. B — Populist farmers were squeezed by high railroad and storage rates, falling crop prices (deflation), and mounting debt. They organized to demand relief such as government regulation of railroads and an expanded money supply. Their grievances reflected the economic pressures on rural America in the 1890s.
14. C — Roosevelt used the Sherman Antitrust Act to break up trusts he considered harmful, earning the "trustbuster" label. He distinguished between "good" and "bad" trusts rather than opposing all big business. His actions marked a new willingness of the federal government to regulate corporations.
15. D — The bar graph rises overall across the decades, with the tallest bar at the 1901–10 decade, showing immigration peaked there. The general upward trend with a clear peak supports this conclusion. The other options misread the data as flat, declining, or non-European.
16. A — The Great Migration was the large-scale movement of African Americans out of the rural South to northern industrial cities in search of jobs and to escape segregation and violence. It reshaped the demographics of cities like Chicago, Detroit, and New York. It had lasting effects on American culture and politics.
17. C — The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural flowering of African American literature, music, and art centered in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. Figures like Langston Hughes and Duke Ellington gained national prominence. It celebrated Black identity and creativity during the 1920s.

18. B — The National Origins Act set quotas based on national origin that deliberately favored northern and western Europeans while sharply restricting immigrants from southern and eastern Europe. This reflected the nativist fears of the decade. It marked a major shift toward restrictive federal immigration policy.
19. D — The Dust Bowl resulted from severe drought combined with years of plowing that removed the deep-rooted prairie grasses holding the soil in place. Without that anchor, dry topsoil was lifted into massive dust storms. Poor land-use practices thus magnified a natural drought into an ecological disaster.
20. A — New Deal critics, especially conservatives and business leaders, charged that it gave the federal government too much power over the economy and daily life. They feared growing deficits and an expanded bureaucracy. This concern about federal overreach was the most common criticism of the program.
21. C — The Neutrality Acts aimed to keep the United States out of foreign wars by banning arms sales and loans to belligerent nations. They reflected strong isolationist sentiment after World War I. Their goal was to avoid being drawn into the conflicts then developing in Europe and Asia.
22. B — Lend-Lease let the United States send weapons and supplies to nations fighting the Axis, especially Britain, while still formally neutral. It abandoned strict neutrality in favor of aiding the Allies. This made America, in Roosevelt's words, the "arsenal of democracy" before it entered the war.
23. D — The GI Bill provided returning veterans with funding for college and vocational training plus low-interest loans for homes and businesses. These benefits expanded the middle class and reshaped postwar society. It is regarded as one of the most influential pieces of social legislation in American history.
24. C — When the Soviets blockaded all land routes into West Berlin, the United States and Britain supplied the city entirely by air for nearly a year. The successful airlift forced the Soviets to lift the blockade. It was an early and defining confrontation of the Cold War.
25. A — During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the discovery of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba brought the superpowers to the edge of nuclear war before a negotiated standoff ended it. The Soviets withdrew the missiles in exchange for U.S. assurances. It is widely seen as the closest the Cold War came to nuclear conflict.
26. B — Eisenhower sent federal troops to enforce a court order desegregating Central High School after the governor used the National Guard to block Black students. The action upheld federal authority over state defiance. It demonstrated that the federal government would enforce civil rights rulings.
27. D — The Twenty-Fourth Amendment banned the poll tax in federal elections, removing a financial barrier that had long been used to keep poor and Black citizens from voting. This expanded access to the ballot. It was an important constitutional victory of the civil rights era.
28. B — The War Powers Act required the President to notify Congress within 48 hours of committing troops and limited deployments without congressional authorization. It was a response to undeclared escalation in Vietnam. The law sought to restore Congress's constitutional role in decisions about war.
29. A — Rising environmental awareness, fueled by works like "Silent Spring," led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970 and landmark laws such as the Clean Air Act. These established federal authority to regulate pollution. The era marked the birth of modern environmental policy.

30. C — Title IX prohibited sex discrimination in any educational program receiving federal funds, opening greater opportunities for women in academics and athletics. It transformed access to school sports and programs. It remains one of the most significant gender-equality laws in education.
31. B — The bold line at 36°30' marks the Missouri Compromise boundary, which permitted slavery south of it and barred it to the north within the Louisiana Territory. Missouri entered as a slave state and Maine as free to keep the Senate balanced. The map depicts this 1820 sectional compromise.
32. D — Due process requires the government to follow fair and established legal procedures before depriving anyone of life, liberty, or property. The Fifth Amendment applies this to the federal government and the Fourteenth extends it to the states. It is a fundamental protection against arbitrary government action.
33. A — The "unwritten constitution" refers to practices like political parties, the Cabinet, and judicial review that are not spelled out in the document but developed through custom and precedent. They have become essential parts of how government operates. Their endurance shows the flexibility of the constitutional system.
34. C — The Federal Reserve influences the economy mainly by managing the money supply and adjusting interest rates to promote stability and control inflation. It does not set consumer prices or wages. Its monetary tools are central to managing economic growth and downturns.
35. D — Reaganomics, or supply-side economics, held that cutting taxes and reducing regulation would encourage investment, expand business activity, and spur overall growth. The theory assumed benefits would broadly stimulate the economy. It defined federal economic policy throughout the 1980s.
36. B — NAFTA lowered tariffs and other trade barriers among the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a large free-trade zone. Its goal was to increase commerce among the three nations. It did not create a shared currency, military alliance, or immigration restrictions.
37. C — The Constitution gives the House of Representatives the sole power to impeach (formally accuse) a federal official, and the Senate the power to try the case and convict by a two-thirds vote. This division is a key check on officials including the President. Impeachment alone does not remove an official; conviction by the Senate does.
38. A — The Persian Gulf War began after Iraq, led by Saddam Hussein, invaded and occupied neighboring Kuwait in 1990. A U.S.-led coalition responded to drive Iraqi forces out and restore Kuwait's sovereignty. The conflict reflected post-Cold War American leadership in collective security.
39. D — The PATRIOT Act expanded government surveillance and investigative powers to fight terrorism, raising concerns that it threatened individual civil liberties and privacy. Debate centered on how to balance security with constitutional rights. This tension is a recurring theme in American responses to national emergencies.
40. A — Both the New Deal and the 2008 response involved major federal intervention—spending, regulation, and aid—to stabilize an economy in crisis. Each reflected the view that government action was needed when markets faltered badly. Neither resulted in permanent government ownership of banking.
41. C — The line climbs steeply after 1929 and reaches its highest point around 1933, then trends downward through the rest of the decade. This matches a sharp rise, an early-1930s peak, and a gradual decline. The data contradict claims of stability, steady decline, or no effect from the crash.

42. D — In the Electoral College, voters in each state choose electors who then cast the official votes that determine the presidency. It is neither a purely direct popular vote nor selection by Congress. This indirect system is set out in the Constitution and remains the method for electing the President.
43. B — The Declaration's assertion of equality and unalienable rights has repeatedly been invoked by reform movements—abolitionists, suffragists, and civil rights advocates—seeking to extend rights to excluded groups. Its language provided a moral standard against which injustice could be measured. This enduring use makes it a touchstone of American reform.
44. A — The Mississippi River and Great Lakes offered cheap, efficient water routes for moving goods and people, fueling trade and the growth of interior cities. Inexpensive transportation lowered costs and connected markets. These waterways were vital to the nation's economic development.
45. C — Plessy upheld "separate but equal" segregation, while Brown later rejected that doctrine in public schools, showing how the Court's reading of the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause evolved. Studied together, they trace a major shift in constitutional interpretation. They illustrate how judicial views of equality changed over time.
46. B — Sputnik's launch alarmed Americans about falling behind in science and technology, prompting increased federal funding for education and the rapid expansion of the U.S. space program. NASA was created soon after. The response reflected Cold War competition extending into space and education.
47. D — Postwar migration to the Sun Belt was driven by warmer climates, expanding job opportunities, and new industries in the South and West. Air conditioning and defense and tech industries made these regions attractive. This shift reshaped the nation's population and political map.
48. C — The veto allows the President to reject a bill passed by Congress by refusing to sign it and returning it with objections. It is a key executive check on the legislative branch. Congress can still override a veto with a two-thirds vote in both houses.
49. A — Jury duty, voting, and obeying the law are civic responsibilities that come with citizenship in a democracy. They reflect the participation and obligations expected of citizens. Fulfilling these duties helps sustain self-government and the rule of law.
50. C — The Constitution is called a "living document" because it can change through formal amendments and through evolving interpretation by the courts. This adaptability has allowed it to remain relevant across centuries. It does not require complete rewriting, nor is it frozen in its original context.