

PRACTICE EXAM 7: NEW YORK REGENTS U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. The "Columbian Exchange" that followed European contact with the Americas refers to:
 - A. A series of military alliances formed among the major European powers to divide the New World
 - B. An agreement that established fixed prices for goods traded between Spain and its American colonies
 - C. The system by which enslaved Africans were transported across the Atlantic to work in the Americas
 - D. The transfer of plants, animals, people, and diseases between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres

2. Under the economic policy of mercantilism, Great Britain viewed its American colonies primarily as:
 - A. Equal partners entitled to set their own trade policies and tariffs independently of Britain
 - B. A source of raw materials and a market for British goods, intended to enrich the parent country
 - C. Territories that should be granted full self-government and representation in the British Parliament
 - D. Regions to be developed into independent manufacturing centers rivaling British industry

3. According to the Declaration of Independence, the primary purpose of government is to:
 - A. Secure the unalienable rights of the people, deriving its powers from the consent of the governed
 - B. Maintain a powerful standing army capable of expanding the nation's territory by force
 - C. Concentrate political authority in a single hereditary ruler accountable to no other body
 - D. Regulate all economic activity and distribute wealth equally among every citizen of the nation

4. The United States Constitution establishes three branches of government. The primary function of the legislative branch is to:

- A. Interpret the meaning of laws and decide whether they conform to the Constitution
- B. Carry out and enforce the laws passed by the national lawmaking body of government
- C. Make the laws of the nation, including the power to tax, spend, and declare war
- D. Command the armed forces and conduct diplomacy with foreign nations and leaders

5. The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution protects citizens by:

- A. Guaranteeing the right to a trial by an impartial jury in all serious criminal cases
- B. Protecting against unreasonable searches and seizures of persons, homes, and property
- C. Prohibiting the government from establishing an official national religion for the country
- D. Ensuring that powers not given to the federal government are reserved to the states

6. The Monroe Doctrine, issued in 1823, declared that the United States would:

- A. Join with European powers to establish new colonies throughout Central and South America
- B. Remain completely neutral and uninvolved in all affairs occurring in the Western Hemisphere
- C. Provide direct military and financial aid to any European nation seeking to expand its empire
- D. Oppose further European colonization or interference in the independent nations of the Americas

7. The belief in "Manifest Destiny" during the mid-nineteenth century was used to justify:

- A. The expansion of the United States across the continent to the Pacific Ocean
- B. The immediate abolition of slavery in all of the western territories and states
- C. The granting of independence to Native American nations on the Great Plains
- D. The reduction of immigration from Europe to preserve available farmland in the West

8. The Mexican-American War (1846–1848) ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which resulted in:

- A. The United States returning Texas to Mexican control in exchange for a large cash payment
- B. The establishment of a permanent demilitarized buffer zone between the two warring nations
- C. The United States gaining a vast area of land in the Southwest, including California
- D. The creation of a joint government to administer the disputed territories along the border

9. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 increased sectional tensions because it:

- A. Immediately admitted both Kansas and Nebraska to the Union as free states without a vote
- B. Allowed settlers in those territories to decide the slavery question through popular sovereignty
- C. Banned slavery permanently in all territories north of the southern border of Missouri
- D. Required the federal government to compensate slaveholders for any enslaved people who escaped

10. The Thirteenth Amendment, ratified in 1865, was significant because it:

- A. Granted formerly enslaved men the constitutional right to vote in all state and federal elections
- B. Guaranteed equal protection of the laws to all persons born within the United States
- C. Established federal agencies to provide food, schools, and aid to newly freed people
- D. Abolished slavery and involuntary servitude throughout the entire United States

11. The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, was intended primarily to:

- A. Provide for the direct election of United States senators by the voters of each state
- B. Grant Congress the authority to levy a federal income tax on individual citizens
- C. Guarantee citizenship and equal protection of the laws to formerly enslaved people
- D. Limit the President of the United States to serving a maximum of two elected terms

12. Inventions such as the telephone, the electric light, and the Bessemer process for making steel contributed most directly to:

- A. The rapid growth of industry and the expansion of American cities in the late 1800s
- B. A widespread return of the population from the cities back to rural farming communities
- C. The decline of railroads as a major form of transportation across the United States
- D. A sharp decrease in the number of immigrants seeking factory work in the United States

13. The American Federation of Labor (AFL), led by Samuel Gompers, focused primarily on:

- A. Organizing all workers, skilled and unskilled, into one single giant national union
- B. Improving wages, hours, and working conditions for skilled workers through collective bargaining
- C. Overthrowing the capitalist system and replacing it with government ownership of industry
- D. Electing union members to Congress in order to take direct control of the federal government

14. Settlement houses such as Hull House, founded by Jane Addams, were established mainly to:

- A. Provide low-cost housing for wealthy industrialists relocating to the growing cities
- B. House newly arrived immigrants in segregated districts separated from the rest of the city
- C. Serve as private clubs where business and political leaders met to make policy decisions
- D. Offer education, services, and assistance to poor immigrants in crowded urban neighborhoods

15. Progressive reforms such as the initiative, referendum, and recall were designed to:

- A. Increase the direct participation and influence of ordinary citizens in their government
- B. Strengthen the power of political party bosses over the nomination of candidates
- C. Reduce the number of elections in order to lower the cost of running the government
- D. Transfer lawmaking authority from elected legislatures to appointed expert commissions

16. The Open Door Policy, announced by the United States in 1899, was intended to:

- A. Encourage large-scale immigration from China to provide labor for American industry
- B. Establish formal American colonies along the entire coastline of mainland China
- C. Ensure that all trading nations would have equal commercial access to markets in China
- D. Close Chinese ports to all foreign trade in order to protect American manufacturers

17. The construction of the Panama Canal, completed in 1914, was strategically important to the United States because it:

- A. Created a permanent military alliance binding the United States to the nations of South America
- B. Provided the United States with a new source of gold and silver to support its currency
- C. Eliminated the need for the United States to maintain a navy in the Pacific Ocean region
- D. Greatly shortened the sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for ships and trade

18. During World War I, the Espionage Act and the Sedition Act were used by the federal government to:

- A. Provide financial compensation to families of soldiers killed in combat overseas
- B. Restrict speech and punish individuals who criticized the war effort or the draft
- C. Require all able-bodied men to register and serve in the United States armed forces
- D. Regulate the prices of food and fuel to ensure adequate supplies for the military

19. President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points outlined his vision for peace after World War I, which included:

- A. The establishment of a League of Nations to help prevent future wars among nations
- B. The immediate division of Germany into several small and permanently disarmed states
- C. The payment of massive financial reparations by all the nations that fought in the war
- D. The creation of a global empire jointly governed by the United States and Great Britain

20. The widespread adoption of the automobile in the 1920s had which major effect on American society?

- A. It caused a sharp decline in the nation's overall industrial output during the decade
- B. It reduced the mobility of average Americans by making travel more expensive than before
- C. It stimulated growth in related industries such as steel, rubber, oil, and road construction
- D. It ended the migration of Americans from rural farms to the nation's growing cities

21. President Herbert Hoover's initial response to the Great Depression was criticized because he:

- A. Immediately created dozens of large federal relief agencies to employ jobless workers
- B. Relied heavily on voluntary action and limited federal intervention to address the crisis
- C. Nationalized the banks and railroads to place the entire economy under federal control
- D. Raised income taxes on working families while cutting taxes for the wealthiest Americans

22. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), created during the New Deal, was significant because it:

- A. Provided pensions and unemployment insurance to retired and jobless workers nationwide
- B. Regulated the stock market to prevent the kind of speculation that led to the 1929 crash
- C. Insured bank deposits so that customers would not lose their savings if a bank failed
- D. Built dams to control flooding and provide electricity to a poor rural region of the country

23. On the home front during World War II, the United States government used rationing, war bonds, and price controls in order to:

- A. Reduce the size of the armed forces by limiting the supplies available to soldiers overseas
- B. Encourage Americans to spend freely on consumer goods to stimulate the wartime economy
- C. Direct scarce resources toward the war effort and help control inflation during the war
- D. Prevent American businesses from producing any goods not directly related to combat

24. The United Nations, established in 1945, was created primarily to:

- A. Promote international cooperation and help maintain peace and security among nations
- B. Serve as a permanent military alliance directed against the Soviet Union and its allies
- C. Establish a single world government with authority over the laws of all member nations
- D. Provide economic aid exclusively to the nations that had been defeated in the recent war

25. The Korean War (1950–1953) is often described as an example of the United States policy of containment because the United States:

- A. Sought to overthrow the communist government of the Soviet Union through direct invasion
- B. Provided only economic aid while refusing to commit any military forces to the conflict
- C. Annexed the entire Korean peninsula and governed it as a United States territory afterward
- D. Intervened to stop the spread of communism from North Korea into South Korea

26. The growth of suburbs in the United States during the 1950s was encouraged by:

- A. A sharp rise in the cost of automobiles that forced families to live near their workplaces
- B. The expansion of highways, affordable housing, and increased automobile ownership
- C. Federal laws that prohibited the construction of new single-family homes within city limits
- D. A decline in the birth rate that reduced the demand for larger family homes in the cities

27. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a landmark law because it:

- A. Banned discrimination based on race, religion, sex, or national origin in public accommodations and jobs
- B. Lowered the national voting age to eighteen years for all elections held throughout the country
- C. Provided federal funding to build separate schools of equal quality for students of every race
- D. Required each state to redraw its legislative voting districts to contain equal numbers of people

28. By the late 1960s, some African American activists embraced the "Black Power" movement, which differed from the earlier approach of Martin Luther King Jr. by:

- A. Insisting on complete integration of the races through strictly nonviolent protest alone
- B. Seeking to work entirely within the existing political parties to pass new federal laws
- C. Emphasizing racial pride, self-reliance, and, for some, a willingness to use self-defense
- D. Calling for African Americans to leave the United States and resettle permanently in Africa

29. President Richard Nixon's policy of "Vietnamization" was intended to:

- A. Expand the war by sending hundreds of thousands of additional American troops to Vietnam
- B. Immediately abandon South Vietnam and recognize the communist government of the North
- C. Use nuclear weapons to bring a rapid end to the long and costly conflict in Southeast Asia
- D. Gradually withdraw American troops while training South Vietnamese forces to fight the war

30. President Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China in 1972 was significant because it:

- A. Resulted in the United States declaring war on China to halt the spread of communism in Asia
- B. Marked the reopening of diplomatic relations between the United States and communist China
- C. Established a permanent American military base on the mainland of the People's Republic of China
- D. Persuaded China to abandon communism and adopt a democratic system of government immediately

31. The oil embargo imposed by OPEC nations in 1973 affected the United States by:

- A. Dramatically lowering the price of gasoline and heating oil for American consumers
- B. Ending all American dependence on imported petroleum from foreign sources permanently
- C. Causing fuel shortages, long lines at gas stations, and sharply higher energy prices
- D. Encouraging the immediate construction of dozens of new nuclear power plants nationwide

32. The Iran Hostage Crisis (1979–1981), in which Americans were held captive for 444 days, contributed to:

- A. Growing public frustration that weakened President Jimmy Carter's bid for reelection
- B. A formal declaration of war by the United States against the nation of Iran
- C. The immediate signing of a lasting peace treaty between Iran and the United States
- D. A decision by the United States to withdraw entirely from involvement in the Middle East

33. The easing of Cold War tensions in the late 1980s was advanced when President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev:

- A. Agreed to merge the United States and Soviet militaries into a single joint armed force
- B. Negotiated arms-reduction treaties that limited the number of nuclear weapons on each side
- C. Jointly invaded several Eastern European nations to enforce a new international order
- D. Established a shared communist economic system to be adopted by both of their nations

34. The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution reserves to the states or to the people:

- A. The exclusive authority to coin money and to regulate trade between the various states
- B. The sole power to declare war and to negotiate treaties with foreign nations abroad
- C. The responsibility for conducting national defense and maintaining the armed forces
- D. All powers not delegated to the federal government nor prohibited to the states

35. When a valid federal law and a state law directly conflict, the federal law prevails. This principle is based on the:

- A. Elastic clause, which lets Congress make laws necessary to carry out its listed powers
- B. Commerce clause, which gives Congress the power to regulate trade among the states
- C. Supremacy clause, which makes the Constitution and federal laws the highest law of the land

D. Full faith and credit clause, which requires states to honor the legal acts of other states

36. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 changed American immigration by:

- A. Ending the national-origins quota system and allowing more immigrants from Asia and Latin America
- B. Closing the nation's borders entirely to all new immigrants for a period of several decades
- C. Requiring all immigrants to come exclusively from the nations of northern and western Europe
- D. Granting automatic citizenship to anyone who entered the United States after the year 1965

37. The growth of personal computers and the Internet beginning in the late twentieth century is often compared to the Industrial Revolution because it:

- A. Caused a permanent and dramatic decline in the total number of jobs available to workers
- B. Reduced the importance of international trade between the United States and other nations
- C. Returned most Americans to agricultural work as the main source of national employment
- D. Transformed the economy and the way people communicate, work, and access information

38. The United States Senate holds a check on the President's appointment power because it has the authority to:

- A. Remove federal judges from office at any time by a simple majority vote of its members
- B. Confirm or reject the President's nominees for the Supreme Court and other high offices
- C. Nominate its own candidates for the federal courts without any involvement of the President
- D. Set the salaries paid to all federal judges and reduce them whenever the Senate chooses

39. The Supreme Court case *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) protected the rights of the accused by requiring that:

- A. Every person arrested be released on bail within twenty-four hours of being taken into custody

- B. All criminal trials be completed within a fixed time limit set by the federal government
- C. Suspects in police custody be informed of their rights, including the right to remain silent
- D. Juries in criminal cases be made up of an equal number of men and women in every trial

40. Throughout United States history, immigration has had which major effect on American society?

- A. It has contributed to the nation's cultural diversity and helped supply labor for economic growth
- B. It has consistently reduced the size of the nation's overall workforce in every historical period
- C. It has prevented the United States from developing any shared national language or culture
- D. It has had almost no measurable impact on the nation's economy, population, or culture

41. The Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments share a common theme because each:

- A. Reduced the power of the federal government in favor of greater authority for the states
- B. Expanded the right to vote to groups of Americans who had previously been excluded
- C. Increased the length of the terms served by members of the United States Congress
- D. Limited the power of the President during periods of national emergency or war

42. In a free-market economy, the "business cycle" refers to the:

- A. Fixed schedule by which the government sets prices for goods and services each year
- B. Process by which businesses are required to share their profits equally with all workers
- C. Permanent and unchanging level of production maintained by industries over long periods
- D. Recurring pattern of expansion and contraction in overall economic activity over time

43. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), formed in 1949, was created as a:

- A. Trade organization designed to lower tariffs among the nations of Western Europe

- B. Temporary agency to distribute economic aid to nations recovering from World War II
- C. Mutual defense alliance in which an attack on one member is considered an attack on all
- D. Council of nations responsible for settling all border disputes in the Eastern Hemisphere

44. In the Gettysburg Address (1863), President Lincoln described the United States as a government "of the people, by the people, for the people." This phrase expresses the principle of:

- A. Federalism, the division of power between the national and the state governments
- B. Democracy, in which political authority rests ultimately with the citizens themselves
- C. Separation of powers, the division of government into three independent branches
- D. Judicial review, the power of the courts to strike down unconstitutional laws

45. The National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) of 1935 strengthened the labor movement by:

- A. Banning all strikes by workers in industries considered essential to the national economy
- B. Requiring labor unions to obtain government approval before electing any of their officers
- C. Setting a maximum limit on the wages that employers were permitted to pay their workers
- D. Guaranteeing workers the right to organize unions and bargain collectively with employers

46. The Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 was the first federal law that attempted to:

- A. Limit the power of monopolies and prohibit business combinations that restrained trade
- B. Guarantee a minimum wage and a maximum number of working hours for all employees
- C. Require railroads to charge the same shipping rates to every customer they served
- D. Provide government pensions to elderly workers who could no longer earn a living

47. President Theodore Roosevelt is remembered for his commitment to conservation because he:

- A. Sold large areas of public land to private companies to encourage economic development

- B. Opposed all government involvement in protecting the nation's natural resources and lands
- C. Set aside millions of acres as national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges for protection
- D. Removed all restrictions on hunting and logging to expand the nation's timber industry

48. The principle of "limited government" in the United States Constitution means that:

- A. The government may exercise unlimited power as long as it acts in the public interest
- B. Government powers are restricted by law, and even leaders must obey the Constitution
- C. Only the President has the authority to decide which laws the government will enforce
- D. The states possess unlimited authority over all matters within their own borders

49. The process by which a foreign-born person becomes a United States citizen is called:

- A. Ratification, the formal approval of a treaty or amendment by the required authority
- B. Apportionment, the distribution of seats in Congress according to state populations
- C. Impeachment, the formal accusation of wrongdoing brought against a public official
- D. Naturalization, in which an immigrant meets legal requirements and takes an oath of citizenship

50. The system of checks and balances was included in the United States Constitution primarily to:

- A. Prevent any one branch of government from becoming too powerful and abusing its authority
- B. Ensure that the federal government would always be able to act quickly in times of crisis
- C. Give the President final authority over the decisions made by Congress and the courts
- D. Eliminate the need for elections by allowing the branches to govern through cooperation

Practice Exam 7— Answer Key and Explanations

1. D — The Columbian Exchange was the vast transfer of plants, animals, people, and diseases between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres after 1492. It reshaped diets and populations worldwide but also devastated Native peoples through introduced diseases. Understanding it explains the demographic and ecological transformation of the Americas.
2. B — Mercantilism held that a nation's wealth depended on a favorable balance of trade, so Britain treated colonies as suppliers of raw materials and buyers of finished British goods. Laws like the Navigation Acts enforced this relationship. The system was meant to enrich the parent country at the colonies' expense.
3. A — The Declaration states that governments exist to secure unalienable rights and draw their just powers from the consent of the governed. This reflects Enlightenment social-contract thinking. It established the principle that legitimate government serves and answers to the people.
4. C — The legislative branch (Congress) makes the nation's laws and holds powers such as taxing, spending, and declaring war. The executive enforces laws and the judiciary interprets them. This division of functions is the core of the separation of powers.
5. B — The Fourth Amendment guards against unreasonable searches and seizures of persons, homes, and property, generally requiring a warrant based on probable cause. It protects individual privacy from arbitrary government intrusion. This safeguard is fundamental to limits on police power.
6. D — The Monroe Doctrine warned European powers against further colonization or interference in the independent nations of the Western Hemisphere. In return, the U.S. pledged to stay out of European affairs. It became a long-standing pillar of American foreign policy in the Americas.
7. A — Manifest Destiny was the belief that the United States was destined to expand across the continent to the Pacific. It justified territorial growth through settlement, annexation, and war. The idea fueled westward expansion at great cost to Native nations and Mexico.
8. C — The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War and ceded a vast southwestern region, including California, to the United States. This Mexican Cession greatly enlarged the nation. It also reignited fierce debate over whether slavery would expand into the new lands.
9. B — The Kansas-Nebraska Act let settlers in those territories decide the slavery question by popular sovereignty, repealing the Missouri Compromise line. This opened previously free territory to possible slavery. The result was violent conflict known as "Bleeding Kansas."
10. D — The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude throughout the entire United States. It made emancipation permanent and nationwide, completing what the Emancipation Proclamation had only begun. It was the first of the Reconstruction Amendments.
11. C — The Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the U.S. and guaranteed equal protection of the laws, securing rights for formerly enslaved people. Its equal protection clause later became central to civil rights law. It remains one of the most influential amendments.
12. A — Innovations like the telephone, electric light, and Bessemer steel process powered rapid industrial expansion and drew workers into fast-growing cities. New technology increased production and urban opportunity. These advances drove the industrialization and urbanization of the late 1800s.
13. B — The AFL under Gompers concentrated on practical "bread-and-butter" goals—better wages, hours, and conditions for skilled workers—through collective bargaining. It avoided radical aims

like overthrowing capitalism. This focused approach helped it endure as a major labor organization.

14. D — Settlement houses such as Hull House offered education, childcare, English classes, and other services to poor immigrants in crowded city neighborhoods. They aimed to ease the hardships of urban poverty. Reformers like Jane Addams made them centers of Progressive social work.
15. A — The initiative, referendum, and recall gave citizens direct ways to propose laws, vote on measures, and remove officials, increasing popular control of government. These Progressive reforms aimed to reduce the power of corrupt machines. They expanded direct democracy at the state and local levels.
16. C — The Open Door Policy sought to keep China open so that all trading nations would have equal commercial access, rather than being carved into exclusive spheres. It protected American trade interests. The policy reflected growing U.S. involvement in Asian markets.
17. D — The Panama Canal dramatically shortened the sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific, allowing ships to avoid the long voyage around South America. This boosted both commerce and naval mobility. It strengthened the strategic and economic position of the United States.
18. B — The Espionage and Sedition Acts restricted speech and punished those who criticized the war effort or interfered with the draft. They reflected wartime fears of disloyalty. Their use raised lasting questions about civil liberties during national emergencies.
19. A — Wilson's Fourteen Points called for, among other measures, the creation of a League of Nations to settle disputes and prevent future wars. The League was the centerpiece of his vision for lasting peace. Although the U.S. never joined, the idea shaped later international cooperation.
20. C — Mass adoption of the automobile spurred growth in supporting industries such as steel, rubber, oil, glass, and road building. It transformed transportation, work, and leisure. The car became a driving force of the 1920s consumer economy.
21. B — Hoover believed recovery should come mainly through voluntary cooperation and limited federal action, which critics saw as inadequate to the scale of the crisis. His restrained response left many Americans feeling abandoned. This perception contributed to his defeat in 1932.
22. D — The TVA built a network of dams that controlled flooding and brought affordable electricity to a poor rural region of the Southeast. It also created jobs and modernized the area. The project showed the New Deal's use of direct federal development.
23. C — Rationing, war bonds, and price controls channeled scarce materials toward the military while helping restrain inflation and fund the war. They organized the home front behind the war effort. These measures reflected the total mobilization of the wartime economy.
24. A — The United Nations was founded to promote international cooperation and help maintain peace and security among member nations. It provided a forum for diplomacy after World War II. Its goal was to prevent the kind of global conflict the world had just endured.
25. D — In Korea, the U.S. committed forces to halt the spread of communism from North to South Korea, a clear application of containment. The aim was to stop, not roll back, communist expansion. The war ended near the original dividing line at the 38th parallel.
26. B — Suburban growth in the 1950s was fueled by new highways, affordable mass-produced housing, and widespread car ownership that let families live farther from work. Federal loan programs also encouraged home buying. Together these factors reshaped where and how Americans lived.
27. A — The Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned discrimination based on race, religion, sex, or national origin in public accommodations and employment. It was the most sweeping civil rights law since Reconstruction. It gave the federal government strong tools to combat segregation.

28. C — Black Power emphasized racial pride, self-reliance, and, for some, a willingness to use self-defense, contrasting with King's strict nonviolence and integration. It reflected frustration with the pace of change. The movement broadened the goals and tactics of Black activism.
29. D — Vietnamization aimed to gradually withdraw American troops while building up South Vietnamese forces to take over the fighting. The goal was to reduce U.S. involvement without an immediate collapse of the South. It reflected growing pressure to end American participation in the war.
30. B — Nixon's 1972 visit reopened diplomatic relations between the United States and communist China after decades of hostility. It marked a major shift in Cold War strategy. Improved ties with China also gave the U.S. leverage with the Soviet Union.
31. C — The 1973 OPEC oil embargo caused fuel shortages, long lines at gas stations, and sharply higher energy prices in the United States. It exposed American dependence on imported oil. The crisis prompted new attention to energy policy and conservation.
32. A — The prolonged Iran Hostage Crisis fueled public frustration and a sense of national helplessness that weakened President Carter politically. The failed rescue attempt deepened the impression of ineffectiveness. This contributed to his defeat in the 1980 election.
33. B — Reagan and Gorbachev negotiated arms-reduction treaties that cut the number of nuclear weapons, easing Cold War tensions in the late 1980s. Their cooperation reflected a major thaw between the superpowers. These steps helped pave the way for the Cold War's end.
34. D — The Tenth Amendment reserves to the states or the people all powers not delegated to the federal government nor prohibited to the states. It is the textual foundation of federalism. It limits national power by protecting a sphere of state authority.
35. C — The supremacy clause makes the Constitution and federal laws the highest law of the land, so valid federal law prevails over conflicting state law. It ensures national uniformity where federal authority applies. This principle keeps the federal system functioning.
36. A — The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act abolished the national-origins quota system, opening the door to far more immigrants from Asia and Latin America. It shifted the sources of U.S. immigration. The law reshaped the nation's demographic makeup in following decades.
37. D — Like the Industrial Revolution, the rise of computers and the Internet transformed the economy and changed how people communicate, work, and obtain information. It created new industries and ways of life. This sweeping impact justifies the comparison to earlier technological revolutions.
38. B — The Senate checks the President by confirming or rejecting nominees for the Supreme Court, the Cabinet, and other high offices. This "advice and consent" power limits the executive. It is a key example of checks and balances over appointments.
39. C — *Miranda v. Arizona* required that suspects in police custody be informed of their rights, including the right to remain silent and to have an attorney. These warnings protect against coerced confessions. The ruling safeguards the rights of the accused during interrogation.
40. A — Across its history, immigration has enriched American culture and supplied labor that fueled economic growth. Newcomers contributed to industry, agriculture, and innovation. This enduring pattern has helped define the United States as a nation of immigrants.
41. B — The Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments each extended voting rights—by race, sex, removal of the poll tax, and a lower voting age—to groups previously excluded. Together they trace the expansion of suffrage. They reflect the broadening of American democracy over time.

42. D — The business cycle is the recurring pattern of expansion and contraction in overall economic activity, including periods of growth, recession, and recovery. It describes the natural ups and downs of a market economy. Understanding it helps explain changing employment and output.
43. C — NATO is a mutual defense alliance in which an armed attack on one member is treated as an attack on all. It was formed to deter Soviet aggression against Western nations. Collective security remains its central purpose.
44. B — Lincoln's phrase "of the people, by the people, for the people" captures the principle of democracy, in which ultimate authority rests with the citizens. It affirms self-government as the nation's foundation. The line became an enduring statement of democratic ideals.
45. D — The Wagner Act guaranteed workers the right to organize unions and bargain collectively, and it created the National Labor Relations Board to protect those rights. It greatly strengthened the labor movement. This support helped unions grow rapidly in the late 1930s.
46. A — The Sherman Antitrust Act was the first federal law aimed at limiting monopolies and prohibiting business combinations that restrained trade. It gave the government a tool to challenge trusts. Though weak at first, it laid the groundwork for later antitrust enforcement.
47. C — Theodore Roosevelt advanced conservation by setting aside millions of acres as national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. He used federal power to protect natural resources for future generations. His efforts made conservation a lasting national priority.
48. B — Limited government means that government powers are restricted by law and that even leaders must obey the Constitution. It prevents officials from exercising unchecked authority. This principle protects citizens from arbitrary or tyrannical rule.
49. D — Naturalization is the legal process by which a foreign-born person meets requirements such as residency and a citizenship test, then takes an oath to become a citizen. It provides a path to full membership in the nation. It is how most immigrants gain citizenship.
50. A — Checks and balances were built into the Constitution to prevent any single branch from becoming too powerful and abusing its authority. Each branch can limit the actions of the others. This design protects liberty by guarding against concentrated power.