

PRACTICE EXAM 8: NEW YORK REGENTS U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. The French and Indian War (1754–1763) had which major effect on relations between Great Britain and its American colonies?

- A. Britain, deeply in debt from the war, began taxing the colonies, which increased colonial resentment
- B. Britain granted the colonies full independence and representation in the British Parliament afterward
- C. The colonies lost all of their western territory to France as a penalty for losing the war
- D. Britain withdrew its troops entirely from North America, leaving the colonies undefended

2. Despite its many weaknesses, the government under the Articles of Confederation achieved one notable success with the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which:

- A. Created a strong national army capable of defending the western frontier from attack
- B. Gave Congress the power to tax the states directly to pay off the national war debt
- C. Established an orderly process for admitting new states from the western territories
- D. Authorized the federal government to regulate trade between the individual states

3. The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that a person accused of a crime has the right to:

- A. Refuse to answer any questions that might tend to incriminate them during a trial

- B. A speedy and public trial by an impartial jury and the assistance of legal counsel
- C. Protection from cruel and unusual punishment after being convicted of a crime
- D. A reasonable amount of bail while awaiting the start of their criminal trial

4. President George Washington's firm response to the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794 demonstrated that the new federal government:

- A. Was unwilling to use any force against citizens who openly defied federal authority
- B. Lacked the constitutional power to collect taxes from citizens in the western regions
- C. Would allow individual states to nullify federal laws they found objectionable
- D. Had the power and willingness to enforce its laws and maintain domestic order

5. During the presidency of Andrew Jackson, the "spoils system" referred to the practice of:

- A. Distributing free western land to settlers who agreed to farm it for a number of years
- B. Removing Native American nations from their lands in the southeastern United States
- C. Awarding government jobs to loyal political supporters rather than to qualified applicants
- D. Allowing states to decide whether to permit slavery within their own borders by a vote

6. The Nullification Crisis of the early 1830s arose when South Carolina claimed the right to:

- A. Declare a federal tariff law null and void within its borders because it harmed the state
- B. Secede immediately from the Union over the issue of the expansion of slavery westward
- C. Print its own currency separate from the money issued by the national government
- D. Form an alliance with a foreign nation to oppose the policies of the federal government

7. The Underground Railroad in the decades before the Civil War was:

- A. The first transcontinental rail line built to connect the eastern and western United States

- B. A secret network of routes and safe houses that helped enslaved people escape to freedom
- C. A federal program that purchased the freedom of enslaved people and resettled them in Africa
- D. A system of underground tunnels used by the Confederate army to move troops and supplies

8. At the start of the Civil War, the North held a significant advantage over the South in that it:

- A. Had the support of nearly all of the experienced military officers in the United States
- B. Enjoyed the backing of every major European power, which supplied it with weapons
- C. Possessed a smaller population but far greater determination to win the conflict quickly
- D. Had the majority of the nation's factories, railroads, and population to support the war

9. The "Black Codes" passed by southern states immediately after the Civil War were laws designed to:

- A. Provide formerly enslaved people with land, education, and the right to vote in elections
- B. Guarantee equal treatment of all citizens regardless of their race throughout the South
- C. Restrict the freedom of formerly enslaved people and force them into a labor system resembling slavery
- D. Punish former Confederate leaders by barring them from ever holding any public office

10. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was significant in United States history because it:

- A. Was the first major federal law to restrict immigration based on a specific nationality
- B. Encouraged large numbers of Chinese laborers to immigrate to work on the railroads
- C. Granted full citizenship and voting rights to Chinese immigrants already in the country
- D. Removed all restrictions on immigration from Asian nations to the western states

11. The Dawes Act of 1887 attempted to change Native American life by:

- A. Returning large areas of ancestral land to Native American nations of the Great Plains

- B. Dividing tribal lands into individual plots to encourage Native Americans to farm and assimilate
- C. Granting Native American nations complete self-government free from federal interference
- D. Relocating all Native Americans to a single large reservation in the Oklahoma Territory

12. The Sixteenth Amendment, ratified in 1913, gave the federal government the power to:

- A. Provide for the direct election of United States senators by the voters of each state
- B. Prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages throughout the United States
- C. Extend the right to vote to women in both state and federal elections nationwide
- D. Collect a federal income tax based on the earnings of individuals and businesses

13. The muckraking journalist Ida Tarbell is best known for her investigative writing that exposed:

- A. The ruthless business practices of the Standard Oil Company and its monopoly power
- B. The unsafe and unsanitary conditions found in the nation's meatpacking plants
- C. The widespread political corruption within the big-city political machines of the era
- D. The harsh conditions endured by child laborers working in factories and coal mines

14. World War I is often described as the first "modern" war because it introduced:

- A. The first use of horses and cavalry charges as the primary method of attack in battle
- B. A return to small, brief battles fought by professional soldiers far from civilians
- C. New weapons such as machine guns, poison gas, tanks, and aircraft on a large scale
- D. The first formal rules of warfare designed to protect prisoners and civilian populations

15. The Scopes Trial of 1925 reflected a cultural conflict in the 1920s between:

- A. Labor unions demanding higher wages and factory owners seeking to cut production costs

- B. Traditional religious beliefs and modern scientific ideas such as the theory of evolution
- C. Supporters of Prohibition and those who wished to legalize the sale of alcohol again
- D. Northern industrialists and southern farmers over the price of cotton and manufactured goods

16. To restore public confidence in banks during the Great Depression, the federal government created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which:

- A. Took over ownership and direct management of all the nation's largest commercial banks
- B. Required every American family to deposit a portion of their income in a national bank
- C. Set the interest rates that all banks were permitted to charge their borrowers and savers
- D. Insured individual bank deposits so customers would not lose their savings if a bank failed

17. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1937 plan to add additional justices to the Supreme Court is often called the "court-packing" plan. He proposed it because:

- A. Several justices had died in office and the Court could no longer reach any decisions
- B. The Constitution required that the number of justices be increased every twenty years
- C. The Court had struck down several New Deal programs as unconstitutional, blocking his agenda
- D. He wanted to reduce the overall workload carried by the existing members of the Court

18. During World War II, the "Double V" campaign promoted by many African Americans called for:

- A. Victory over the Axis powers abroad and victory over racial discrimination at home
- B. Victory in both the European theater and the Pacific theater of the war effort
- C. The doubling of factory production to supply the armed forces with enough weapons
- D. The recruitment of twice as many soldiers to ensure a rapid end to the conflict

19. The Manhattan Project, carried out by the United States during World War II, was the secret program to:

- A. Break the secret codes used by the Japanese and German militaries during the war
- B. Build a network of factories to mass-produce tanks, ships, and aircraft for the Allies
- C. Plan and carry out the Allied invasion of German-occupied France on D-Day in 1944
- D. Develop the atomic bomb before Nazi Germany could create such a weapon first

20. In 1946, former British leader Winston Churchill warned that an "Iron Curtain" had descended across Europe. This phrase described:

- A. A defensive wall of fortifications built by Western Europe to block any Soviet invasion
- B. The division of Europe between the communist East and the democratic West after the war
- C. A trade barrier that prevented Western Europe from importing any Soviet manufactured goods
- D. The destruction of European cities and industry caused by years of bombing during the war

21. During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in an "arms race." The idea behind building up huge arsenals of nuclear weapons was that:

- A. Each nation planned to use its nuclear weapons in a surprise first strike against the other
- B. The nation with the most weapons would be allowed to govern the smaller nations of the world
- C. The threat of massive retaliation would deter either side from launching a nuclear attack
- D. Nuclear weapons would soon replace all conventional armies, ships, and aircraft entirely

22. The 1963 March on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, was significant because it:

- A. Drew enormous national attention to the civil rights movement and built support for new legislation
- B. Resulted in the immediate desegregation of every public school in the southern United States
- C. Marked the first time the federal government sent troops to protect civil rights demonstrators
- D. Persuaded Congress to lower the national voting age from twenty-one to eighteen years old

23. Cesar Chavez is best known for his work during the 1960s and 1970s organizing:

- A. African American students to participate in lunch-counter sit-ins across the South
- B. Factory workers in northern cities to demand higher wages and safer conditions
- C. Native American activists seeking the return of ancestral lands taken by the government
- D. Migrant farm workers to improve their wages and working conditions through nonviolent action

24. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which was proposed in the 1970s, was intended to:

- A. Guarantee equal pay for all workers regardless of the industry in which they were employed
- B. Guarantee equal legal rights for all citizens regardless of sex in the United States Constitution
- C. Lower the voting age for women to eighteen in both state and federal elections nationwide
- D. Require that women be drafted into the armed forces on the same basis as male citizens

25. The Supreme Court case *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963) expanded the rights of the accused by ruling that:

- A. Evidence obtained through an illegal search cannot be used against a defendant in court
- B. Suspects must be informed of their right to remain silent before any police questioning begins
- C. Defendants who cannot afford a lawyer must be provided one by the state in criminal cases
- D. A defendant cannot be tried twice for the same crime after being found not guilty once

26. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, passed by Congress in 1964, was significant because it:

- A. Granted President Johnson broad authority to expand American military involvement in Vietnam
- B. Officially declared war on North Vietnam on behalf of the United States government
- C. Required the immediate withdrawal of all American military advisers from South Vietnam
- D. Established a permanent ceasefire between the forces of North and South Vietnam

27. The Supreme Court case *United States v. Nixon* (1974) is important because it established that:

- A. A sitting President can always be criminally charged and placed on trial while still holding office
- B. The President is not above the law and cannot use executive privilege to withhold criminal evidence
- C. Congress holds the sole authority to remove a President from office for any reason it considers fit
- D. The President may refuse to enforce any federal law that he personally believes is unconstitutional

28. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 was brought about by a combination of factors, including:

- A. A successful military invasion of the Soviet Union by the combined armies of Western Europe
- B. The decision of the United States to grant the Soviet Union full membership in NATO
- C. A sudden and total victory by Soviet forces in a final confrontation with the United States
- D. Economic problems, reform movements, and the rise of independence movements within the Soviet bloc

29. The process of "globalization" in recent decades has affected the United States economy mainly by:

- A. Completely ending all trade between the United States and other nations around the world
- B. Forcing the United States to abandon its free-market system in favor of central planning
- C. Increasing international trade and the movement of goods, jobs, and money across national borders
- D. Eliminating all competition between American companies and businesses in foreign countries

30. The power to collect taxes, build roads, and establish courts is held by both the national and state governments. Powers shared in this way are known as:

- A. Concurrent powers, exercised by both the federal government and the state governments
- B. Delegated powers, granted only to the federal government by the United States Constitution
- C. Reserved powers, set aside exclusively for the individual state governments to exercise
- D. Implied powers, suggested by the elastic clause but not directly stated in the Constitution

31. Under the Constitution, the President serves as "Commander in Chief." This role gives the President the authority to:

- A. Declare war on a foreign nation without any approval from the United States Congress
- B. Appoint all of the generals and admirals in the armed forces without Senate approval
- C. Personally write the laws that govern how the nation's military forces are to be organized
- D. Direct the nation's armed forces and make key military decisions as their top civilian leader

32. A defining feature of the free-enterprise (capitalist) economic system of the United States is that:

- A. The government owns the major industries and decides what goods will be produced
- B. Private individuals and businesses own property and make most economic decisions
- C. All citizens are guaranteed an equal share of the nation's wealth regardless of their work
- D. A central planning committee sets the prices of all goods and the wages of all workers

33. The abundance of natural resources such as coal, iron ore, and oil contributed to the United States becoming an industrial power because these resources:

- A. Were exported entirely to foreign nations in exchange for finished manufactured goods
- B. Forced the nation to depend on imports from Europe to supply its growing factories
- C. Provided the raw materials and energy needed to fuel factories and large-scale production
- D. Discouraged the building of railroads by making transportation of goods unnecessary

34. The Supreme Court case *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) strengthened the federal government by ruling that:

- A. Congress holds implied powers, such as chartering a national bank, and that states cannot tax federal institutions
- B. The individual states held the right to nullify any federal law they judged to be unconstitutional
- C. The federal government could not regulate any trade or commerce that took place between the states

D. The President alone possessed the authority to interpret the meaning of the United States Constitution

35. The "new immigrants" who arrived in the United States between 1890 and 1920 differed from earlier immigrants mainly because they:

- A. Came almost entirely from the nations of northern and western Europe such as Britain
- B. Came largely from southern and eastern Europe, bringing different languages and religions
- C. Were nearly all wealthy professionals who settled on farms in the rural Midwest and West
- D. Arrived already fluent in English and quickly blended into established American communities

36. The Berlin Wall, built by communist East Germany in 1961, served primarily to:

- A. Defend East Germany from a planned military invasion by the armies of Western Europe
- B. Mark the agreed border between France and Germany following the end of World War II
- C. Protect the city of Berlin from the bombing raids that had occurred during World War II
- D. Stop East Germans from fleeing to the freedom and economic opportunity of West Berlin

37. Political parties play an important role in the American political system mainly by:

- A. Nominating candidates for office and helping organize support for their ideas and policies
- B. Writing and passing the actual laws that govern the nation at the federal and state levels
- C. Serving as the official branch of government responsible for interpreting the Constitution
- D. Appointing the justices who serve on the Supreme Court and the lower federal courts

38. The Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969) is significant because it ruled that:

- A. Public schools may censor any student writing that appears in a school-sponsored newspaper
- B. Students lose all of their constitutional rights the moment they enter a public school building
- C. Students do not lose their right to symbolic free speech, such as wearing armbands, at school

D. The government may restrict any speech that officials believe could disrupt public order anywhere

39. Programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment insurance are examples of:

- A. Powers reserved exclusively to the individual states under the Tenth Amendment
- B. A government "safety net" intended to provide economic security for citizens in need
- C. Private charities operated entirely without any involvement of the federal government
- D. Temporary wartime measures that were ended once the national emergency had passed

40. The Progressive Era and the New Deal were similar in that both periods were marked by:

- A. A sharp reduction in the role of the federal government in regulating the economy
- B. The federal government's withdrawal from involvement in social and economic matters
- C. A complete government takeover and permanent ownership of all major private industries
- D. An expansion of the federal government's role in regulating business and protecting citizens

41. The United States Constitution requires a census to be taken every ten years. The results of the census are used primarily to:

- A. Determine how many seats each state receives in the House of Representatives
- B. Decide how much money each citizen must pay in federal income taxes each year
- C. Choose which political party will control the presidency for the next ten years
- D. Set the number of justices who will serve on the United States Supreme Court

42. The principle of the "rule of law" in the United States means that:

- A. The President has the final authority to decide which laws will be enforced and which ignored
- B. Laws apply only to ordinary citizens, while government officials are exempt from following them
- C. Everyone, including government officials, must obey the law and no one is above it

D. Laws may be changed at any time by a simple majority vote of the citizens in an election

43. The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 and its Declaration of Sentiments are considered the beginning of the organized movement for:

A. The abolition of slavery throughout all of the states and territories of the United States

B. Women's rights, including the demand that women be granted the right to vote

C. Better wages and shorter working hours for laborers in the nation's factories and mills

D. The temperance movement aimed at banning the sale and consumption of alcohol

44. During the late nineteenth century, the idea of "Social Darwinism" was often used to:

A. Argue that the government should provide generous aid to the poorest members of society

B. Support the formation of labor unions to protect workers from powerful corporations

C. Demand that the wealth of successful industrialists be redistributed among all citizens

D. Justify the success of wealthy industrialists as the natural result of "survival of the fittest"

45. A major shift in United States foreign policy occurred after World War II, when the nation:

A. Returned to its earlier policy of strict isolationism and avoided all foreign commitments

B. Granted independence to all of its overseas territories and withdrew from world affairs

C. Took on a leading role in world affairs, forming alliances and aiding other nations

D. Formed a permanent military and political union with the nations of Western Europe

46. President Andrew Johnson was impeached by the House of Representatives in 1868 largely because of:

A. His conflict with Radical Republicans in Congress over how Reconstruction should be carried out

B. His refusal to sign the Thirteenth Amendment ending slavery throughout the United States

- C. His secret support for the Confederacy during the final years of the American Civil War
- D. His decision to grant immediate full citizenship and voting rights to all formerly enslaved people

47. The Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883 reformed the federal government by:

- A. Allowing each newly elected president to replace all federal employees with his own supporters
- B. Granting the right to vote to all federal government employees regardless of their position
- C. Requiring that all members of Congress pass a competitive examination before taking office
- D. Requiring that many government jobs be awarded based on merit through competitive examinations

48. The First Amendment's protection of freedom of religion includes the "establishment clause," which means that the government:

- A. Must require all public schools to begin each day with a short period of organized prayer
- B. May not establish an official national religion or favor one religion over another
- C. Has the authority to decide which religions citizens are permitted to practice openly
- D. Must provide direct financial support to every religious organization in the country equally

49. In a representative democracy such as the United States, voting in elections is important primarily because it:

- A. Is a requirement that every citizen must fulfill or else face a fine imposed by the government
- B. Guarantees that the candidate each individual citizen prefers will always win the election
- C. Allows citizens to choose their representatives and hold elected officials accountable
- D. Replaces the need for citizens to obey laws or pay taxes to the federal government

50. The opening words of the United States Constitution, "We the People," express the principle of:

- A. Popular sovereignty, the idea that the government derives its authority from the people

- B. Federalism, the division of power between the national and the state governments
- C. Judicial review, the power of the courts to declare laws unconstitutional and void
- D. Separation of powers, the division of government into three independent branches

Practice Exam 8_ Answer Key and Explanations

1. A — Britain emerged from the French and Indian War victorious but deeply in debt, and it began taxing the colonies to help pay those costs. Measures like the Stamp Act fueled colonial resentment over taxation without representation. This growing friction set the stage for the American Revolution.
2. C — The Northwest Ordinance created an orderly system for surveying western territory and admitting new states on equal footing with existing ones. It also banned slavery in the Northwest Territory. This achievement showed the Confederation government could manage western expansion despite its weaknesses.
3. B — The Sixth Amendment guarantees the accused a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, along with the right to legal counsel. These protections ensure a fair criminal process. They safeguard defendants against unfair or secret prosecution.
4. D — By sending the militia to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion, Washington showed that the new federal government could enforce its laws and keep order. This contrasted sharply with the powerlessness of the Articles of Confederation. The episode strengthened confidence in federal authority.
5. C — The spoils system was Jackson's practice of rewarding loyal political supporters with government jobs. It tied public employment to party loyalty rather than merit. The system later prompted civil service reform after its abuses became clear.
6. A — In the Nullification Crisis, South Carolina asserted that a state could declare a federal tariff void within its borders. This challenged the supremacy of federal law and raised the threat of secession. The conflict highlighted the deepening tension between states' rights and national authority.
7. B — The Underground Railroad was a secret network of routes and safe houses, aided by people like Harriet Tubman, that helped enslaved people escape to free states and Canada. It defied the Fugitive Slave laws. It became a powerful symbol of resistance to slavery.
8. D — The North's advantages included most of the nation's factories, railroads, and a larger population, giving it superior industrial and logistical strength. These resources allowed it to outproduce and outlast the South. This material edge was decisive in the Union victory.
9. C — Black Codes were laws that restricted the rights of newly freed people, limiting their movement, work, and legal standing to force them into a labor system much like slavery. They aimed to preserve white control. Their harshness helped spur Radical Reconstruction.
10. A — The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first major federal law to bar immigration based on a specific nationality. It reflected anti-Chinese prejudice on the West Coast. It marked the beginning of broad federal restriction of immigration.

11. B — The Dawes Act divided communal tribal lands into individual plots, aiming to push Native Americans toward farming and assimilation into white society. It undermined tribal structures and led to massive loss of Native land. Its policies proved deeply damaging to Native nations.
12. D — The Sixteenth Amendment authorized Congress to levy a federal income tax on the earnings of individuals and businesses. This created a major and lasting source of federal revenue. It reflected the Progressive aim of a fairer and more flexible tax system.
13. A — Ida Tarbell's investigative reporting exposed the ruthless tactics and monopoly power of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company. Her work fueled public demand for antitrust action. It is a classic example of muckraking journalism driving reform.
14. C — World War I introduced devastating new weapons—machine guns, poison gas, tanks, and aircraft—on a massive scale, making it the first truly modern, industrialized war. These technologies produced unprecedented casualties. They transformed the nature of warfare.
15. B — The Scopes Trial pitted traditional religious belief against modern science over the teaching of evolution in public schools. It dramatized the broader 1920s clash between rural traditionalism and urban modernism. The trial captured national attention as a cultural showdown.
16. D — The FDIC insured individual bank deposits so that customers would not lose their savings if a bank failed. This restored public confidence and helped stop the bank runs of the Depression. It remains a key protection for the banking system today.
17. C — Roosevelt proposed adding justices because the existing Court had struck down several New Deal programs as unconstitutional, blocking his agenda. The plan aimed to shift the Court in his favor. It met strong opposition as a threat to judicial independence.
18. A — The "Double V" campaign called for victory over the Axis abroad and victory over racial discrimination at home. It linked the fight against fascism to the struggle for civil rights. The campaign foreshadowed the postwar civil rights movement.
19. D — The Manhattan Project was the secret wartime effort to develop the atomic bomb before Nazi Germany could. It drew on leading scientists and vast resources. Its success led to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ushered in the nuclear age.
20. B — Churchill's "Iron Curtain" described the division of Europe between the communist East under Soviet control and the democratic West. It symbolized the start of the Cold War. The phrase captured the ideological split that would define the era.
21. C — The arms race rested on deterrence: each superpower's massive nuclear arsenal made the threat of devastating retaliation discourage the other from attacking. This logic of mutually assured destruction kept a fragile peace. It defined Cold War nuclear strategy.
22. A — The March on Washington drew enormous national attention to civil rights and built public support for new legislation. King's "I Have a Dream" speech became its defining moment. It helped pressure Congress toward the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
23. D — Cesar Chavez organized migrant farm workers, co-founding the United Farm Workers and leading boycotts and strikes to win better wages and conditions. He emphasized nonviolent action. His work brought national attention to the plight of agricultural laborers.
24. B — The ERA sought to guarantee equal legal rights for all citizens regardless of sex through a constitutional amendment. It became a central goal of the 1970s women's movement. Though it passed Congress, it fell short of ratification by the required states.
25. C — Gideon v. Wainwright held that states must provide an attorney to criminal defendants who cannot afford one. The ruling ensured the right to counsel applies in state courts. It strengthened the fairness of the criminal justice system for poor defendants.

26. A — The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution gave President Johnson broad authority to use military force in Vietnam without a formal declaration of war. It opened the door to a major escalation of American involvement. Its later questioning contributed to debate over war powers.
27. B — *United States v. Nixon* held that the President is not above the law and cannot use executive privilege to withhold evidence in a criminal case. The ruling forced Nixon to release the Watergate tapes. It reinforced the principle of presidential accountability.
28. D — The Soviet Union collapsed due to severe economic problems, reform movements under Gorbachev, and rising independence movements across the Soviet bloc. These pressures proved impossible to contain. The breakup ended the Cold War rivalry.
29. C — Globalization has increased international trade and the flow of goods, jobs, and capital across national borders. It has connected the U.S. economy more closely to the rest of the world. This brought both new opportunities and new competitive pressures.
30. A — Concurrent powers, such as taxing, building roads, and establishing courts, are exercised by both the national and state governments. They illustrate the shared authority of federalism. Recognizing them clarifies how the two levels of government operate together.
31. D — As Commander in Chief, the President directs the armed forces and makes key military decisions as their top civilian leader. This places the military under civilian control. The power to declare war, however, belongs to Congress, providing a check.
32. B — In a free-enterprise system, private individuals and businesses own property and make most economic decisions based on supply and demand. Government plays a limited role compared with a command economy. This private control of resources defines capitalism.
33. C — Abundant coal, iron ore, and oil supplied the raw materials and energy that powered factories and large-scale production. These resources fueled the nation's rapid industrial growth. Their availability was a key reason the U.S. became an industrial leader.
34. A — *McCulloch v. Maryland* affirmed that Congress holds implied powers, such as chartering a national bank, and that states cannot tax federal institutions. It established a broad reading of federal authority. The ruling strengthened national power over the states.
35. B — The "new immigrants" came largely from southern and eastern Europe, bringing different languages, religions, and customs than earlier arrivals from northern and western Europe. Their numbers and differences fueled nativist reactions. They reshaped the makeup of American cities.
36. D — East Germany built the Berlin Wall to stop its citizens from fleeing to the freedom and prosperity of West Berlin. The mass exodus had embarrassed the communist regime. The wall became the starkest symbol of the divided Cold War world.
37. A — Political parties nominate candidates for office and organize support for their ideas and policies. They help connect citizens to government and structure elections. This role is central to how the American political system functions.
38. C — *Tinker v. Des Moines* held that students do not lose their right to symbolic free speech, such as wearing armbands to protest, at school. The Court affirmed that constitutional rights extend into public schools. It set an important precedent for student expression.
39. B — Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment insurance form a government "safety net" that provides economic security for citizens in need. These programs protect the elderly, the sick, and the jobless. They reflect the government's expanded role in social welfare.
40. D — Both the Progressive Era and the New Deal expanded the federal government's role in regulating business and protecting citizens. Each responded to the problems of industrial society with reform. This shared activism links the two periods.

41. A — The constitutionally required census determines how many seats each state receives in the House of Representatives. Population shifts can change a state's representation. The census thus shapes political power and federal apportionment.
42. C — The rule of law means everyone, including government officials, must obey the law, and no one is above it. It protects citizens from arbitrary or tyrannical power. This principle is foundational to constitutional government.
43. B — The Seneca Falls Convention and its Declaration of Sentiments launched the organized movement for women's rights, including the demand for the vote. It modeled its language on the Declaration of Independence. It marked the start of the long suffrage struggle.
44. D — Social Darwinism applied "survival of the fittest" to society, justifying the wealth of industrialists as the natural result of competition. It was used to oppose government aid and regulation. The idea reinforced acceptance of vast economic inequality.
45. C — After World War II, the United States abandoned isolationism and took on a leading role in world affairs, forming alliances like NATO and aiding other nations. This reflected its new status as a superpower. The shift defined American foreign policy for decades.
46. A — Andrew Johnson was impeached chiefly because of his bitter clashes with Radical Republicans over the direction of Reconstruction. The immediate trigger involved his removal of a cabinet official in defiance of Congress. He was acquitted in the Senate by one vote.
47. D — The Pendleton Act required that many federal jobs be filled based on merit through competitive examinations rather than political favoritism. It struck at the abuses of the spoils system. The reform helped create a professional civil service.
48. B — The establishment clause bars the government from creating an official national religion or favoring one religion over another. It is a key part of the separation of church and state. This protects religious freedom for people of all faiths.
49. C — Voting allows citizens to choose their representatives and hold elected officials accountable for their actions. It is the central mechanism of representative democracy. Participation gives the people a voice in how they are governed.
50. A — "We the People" expresses popular sovereignty, the principle that government derives its authority from the people. It establishes that ultimate power rests with the citizens. This idea is foundational to the legitimacy of the Constitution.