

PRACTICE EXAM 9: NEW YORK REGENTS U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT SIMULATION (50 QUESTIONS)

1. The "triangular trade" of the colonial period involved the exchange of goods among which three regions?

- A. England, France, and Spain, exchanging manufactured goods and military supplies for gold
- B. The American colonies, Africa, and the West Indies, exchanging goods, enslaved people, and raw materials
- C. The northern, middle, and southern colonies, exchanging crops and finished products among themselves
- D. China, India, and the American colonies, exchanging tea, spices, and silver across the Pacific Ocean

2. Thomas Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense," published in 1776, was important to the American Revolution because it:

- A. Outlined a detailed plan of government for the thirteen colonies after independence was won
- B. Provided the military strategy that General Washington used to defeat the British army
- C. Recorded the official grievances the colonies submitted to the British king for redress
- D. Persuaded many ordinary colonists to support a complete break from British rule

3. The Battle of Saratoga (1777) is considered a turning point of the American Revolution because it:

- A. Marked the final defeat of the British army and the end of the war for independence
- B. Forced the colonies to surrender much of New England to British control for the rest of the war
- C. Convinced France to enter the war as an ally of the Americans against Great Britain
- D. Resulted in the capture of the city of Philadelphia by the Continental Army's forces

4. The Three-Fifths Compromise reached at the Constitutional Convention determined that:

- A. Enslaved people would be counted as three-fifths of a person for both representation and taxation
- B. Three-fifths of the states would need to approve any amendment before it could take effect
- C. The President would be chosen by three-fifths of the electors selected by the various states
- D. Three-fifths of Congress would be required to override a veto issued by the President

5. The War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain had which significant effect on the United States?

- A. It resulted in the United States gaining large amounts of British territory in Canada
- B. It led to the immediate collapse of the young American government and its economy
- C. It forced the United States to return the Louisiana Territory to France as part of a peace treaty
- D. It increased American feelings of national pride and unity following the conflict

6. The Alien and Sedition Acts, passed in 1798 under President John Adams, were controversial because they:

- A. Granted immediate citizenship and full voting rights to all recently arrived immigrants
- B. Restricted the rights of immigrants and limited criticism of the government, raising free-speech concerns
- C. Required the federal government to deport every foreign-born resident living in the United States
- D. Abolished the right of citizens to assemble peacefully or to petition the government for change

7. The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 was significant because it:

- A. Connected the Atlantic Ocean directly to the Pacific Ocean for ocean-going trade ships
- B. Provided the first railroad link between the eastern cities and the western frontier territories
- C. Lowered shipping costs and linked the Great Lakes region to the port of New York City
- D. Allowed the United States Navy to move warships quickly between the coasts during wartime

8. The Fugitive Slave Act, part of the Compromise of 1850, increased tensions between North and South because it:

- A. Required citizens in free states to assist in capturing and returning escaped enslaved people
- B. Banned slavery entirely in all of the territories acquired from Mexico after the recent war
- C. Allowed each new western state to decide the question of slavery by a vote of its settlers
- D. Provided federal funds to purchase the freedom of enslaved people throughout the South

9. Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (1852) had a major impact on the nation because it:

- A. Provided a detailed legal argument that slavery violated the United States Constitution

- B. Convinced southern slaveholders to voluntarily free the people they held in bondage
- C. Outlined a peaceful plan for the gradual and compensated emancipation of enslaved people
- D. Turned many northerners against slavery by portraying its cruelty in a moving story

10. The Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863 are considered turning points of the Civil War because together they:

- A. Marked the first time Confederate forces had invaded northern territory during the war
- B. Halted the Confederate advance and gave the Union control of the Mississippi River
- C. Brought about the immediate surrender of the entire Confederate army to Union forces
- D. Persuaded Great Britain and France to enter the war on the side of the Confederacy

11. The Freedmen's Bureau, established by Congress after the Civil War, was created mainly to:

- A. Provide food, education, and assistance to formerly enslaved people and poor southern whites
- B. Punish former Confederate officials by seizing their land and barring them from public office
- C. Organize the southern states into military districts governed by Union army commanders
- D. Supervise national elections to ensure that only loyal Union supporters could cast ballots

12. In the late nineteenth century, a business "trust" or monopoly was generally considered harmful to consumers because it:

- A. Required companies to share their profits equally with all of their employees and workers
- B. Forced businesses to lower their prices below the actual cost of producing their goods

- C. Reduced competition, allowing a single company to control prices and dominate a market
- D. Prevented businesses from growing large enough to produce goods on an efficient scale

13. Political machines such as Tammany Hall in New York City gained power during the Gilded Age primarily by:

- A. Passing strict laws that ended all corruption in city and state government for decades
- B. Refusing to allow recent immigrants to take part in the political process in any way
- C. Reducing the size of city governments and cutting the taxes paid by ordinary residents
- D. Providing services and favors to immigrants and the poor in exchange for their votes

14. For millions of European immigrants arriving in the early twentieth century, Ellis Island in New York Harbor served as:

- A. A factory complex where newly arrived immigrants were required to work for several years
- B. The main immigration station where new arrivals were processed and inspected before entry
- C. A military fort that defended the harbor against possible attacks from foreign warships
- D. A residential neighborhood reserved exclusively for the wealthiest immigrant families

15. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911, which killed 146 workers, led directly to:

- A. The immediate elimination of all factory work performed by women in New York State
- B. A nationwide ban on the construction of any new factories in crowded urban areas
- C. New laws improving workplace safety and working conditions for factory employees

D. The closing of all garment factories in New York City for a period of several years

16. The Eighteenth Amendment, ratified in 1919, reflected the goals of the temperance movement by:

A. Prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages nationwide

B. Granting women the right to vote in all state and federal elections across the country

C. Establishing a federal income tax based on the earnings of individuals and businesses

D. Providing for the direct election of United States senators by the voters of each state

17. "Yellow journalism" practiced by some newspapers in the 1890s contributed to the Spanish-American War by:

A. Publishing accurate and balanced reports that calmed public anger toward Spain

B. Printing exaggerated and sensational stories that stirred public support for war with Spain

C. Refusing to report any news about the conflict between Spain and its colony of Cuba

D. Persuading the United States government to avoid any involvement in Caribbean affairs

18. Several long-term causes contributed to the outbreak of World War I in Europe. Which combination of factors is most associated with the war's origins?

A. Religious conflict, the spread of communism, and the collapse of the global economy

B. Overpopulation, widespread famine, and competition for control of the Americas

C. The rise of fascism, the appeasement of dictators, and the failure of the United Nations

D. Militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism among the major European powers

19. The Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, treated Germany harshly by:

- A. Dividing Germany into four separate occupation zones controlled by the Allied powers
- B. Requiring Germany to adopt a communist system of government modeled on Russia's
- C. Forcing Germany to accept blame for the war, pay reparations, and reduce its military
- D. Granting Germany large amounts of new territory taken from its neighboring countries

20. The first Red Scare and the Palmer Raids that followed World War I were driven mainly by:

- A. Fear of communism and radicalism, leading to the arrest and deportation of suspected radicals
- B. A shortage of factory workers that required the government to recruit laborers from abroad
- C. Widespread support for the Russian Revolution among the majority of American citizens
- D. A government effort to expand the rights of labor unions and political organizations

21. The "Bonus Army" that marched on Washington, D.C., in 1932 was made up of:

- A. Unemployed factory workers demanding that the government create new public jobs
- B. Farmers protesting the low prices they received for their crops during the Depression
- C. Bankers seeking federal loans to keep their failing financial institutions from collapsing
- D. World War I veterans demanding early payment of bonuses promised to them for their service

22. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a New Deal program, was designed to:

- A. Insure the savings that ordinary Americans had deposited in the nation's banks
- B. Provide jobs for young unemployed men working on conservation and public-land projects
- C. Regulate the stock market to prevent the kind of speculation that caused the 1929 crash
- D. Provide monthly pension payments to retired and elderly workers across the country

23. The policy of "appeasement" followed by Britain and France toward Nazi Germany in the late 1930s refers to:

- A. Giving in to some of Hitler's demands in the hope of avoiding a larger war in Europe
- B. Forming a strong military alliance with the Soviet Union to surround and contain Germany
- C. Declaring war on Germany immediately after it began rebuilding its armed forces
- D. Imposing harsh economic sanctions on Germany to force it to disarm its military

24. The United States military strategy of "island hopping" in the Pacific during World War II involved:

- A. Building a chain of artificial islands to serve as bases for launching attacks on Japan
- B. Avoiding all combat in the Pacific and concentrating American forces entirely in Europe
- C. Capturing key strategic islands while bypassing others to advance toward the Japanese mainland
- D. Evacuating American forces from every Pacific island to defend the United States homeland

25. The Nuremberg Trials held after World War II were significant because they:

- A. Established the United Nations as a body to maintain peace and security among nations
- B. Held Nazi leaders legally accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity

- C. Divided defeated Germany into separate occupation zones among the Allied powers
- D. Created the Marshall Plan to provide economic aid for the rebuilding of Europe

26. The Warsaw Pact, formed in 1955, was significant during the Cold War because it was:

- A. An economic agreement that lowered trade barriers among the nations of Western Europe
- B. A peace treaty that formally ended the military rivalry between the superpowers
- C. The organization that planned and carried out the rebuilding of war-torn Eastern Europe
- D. A military alliance of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellite nations

27. The civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965 were organized primarily to:

- A. Protest the segregation of public buses and demand integrated seating for all riders
- B. Demand the desegregation of public schools throughout the southern United States
- C. Demand voting rights and call attention to the obstacles preventing Black citizens from voting
- D. Call for the federal government to provide jobs and economic aid to poor communities

28. President John F. Kennedy's challenge in 1961 to land an American on the Moon before the end of the decade was motivated largely by:

- A. Cold War competition with the Soviet Union to demonstrate American technological leadership
- B. A desire to establish a permanent military base on the Moon to threaten the Soviet Union
- C. The need to find new sources of valuable minerals to support the American economy
- D. A plan to relocate part of the American population to colonies established on the Moon

29. President Richard Nixon resigned from office in August 1974. He chose to resign because he:

- A. Had completed the maximum two terms allowed to a President by the Constitution
- B. Faced almost certain impeachment and removal due to his role in the Watergate scandal
- C. Was constitutionally required to step down after losing a national vote of confidence
- D. Wished to accept an appointment to serve as a justice on the United States Supreme Court

30. The Camp David Accords of 1978, negotiated under President Jimmy Carter, were significant because they:

- A. Ended the long war between the United States and North Vietnam in Southeast Asia
- B. Established formal diplomatic relations between the United States and communist China
- C. Created a series of arms-reduction treaties between the United States and the Soviet Union
- D. Produced a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, two longtime Middle Eastern rivals

31. The Twenty-Second Amendment, ratified in 1951, changed the presidency by:

- A. Limiting a President to a maximum of two elected terms in office
- B. Establishing a clear procedure for filling a vacancy in the office of Vice President
- C. Lowering the minimum age required to be elected President of the United States
- D. Allowing the President to be elected directly by a national popular vote of the people

32. The Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the Constitution addressed an important issue by:

- A. Granting residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote in presidential elections
- B. Lowering the voting age to eighteen years for all elections held in the United States
- C. Establishing procedures for presidential succession and for filling a vacancy in the vice presidency
- D. Prohibiting the use of a poll tax as a requirement for voting in any federal election

33. The Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution protects individuals by:

- A. Guaranteeing the right to a trial by jury in most serious criminal cases brought to court
- B. Prohibiting excessive bail and fines as well as cruel and unusual punishments
- C. Protecting citizens against being forced to testify against themselves in a criminal trial
- D. Ensuring that powers not given to the federal government are reserved to the states

34. The "commerce clause" of the United States Constitution has been important throughout American history because it gives Congress the power to:

- A. Declare war and raise and support the armies and navies that defend the nation
- B. Establish post offices and build the roads needed to deliver the nation's mail
- C. Coin money and set the standard of weights and measures used throughout the country
- D. Regulate trade among the states and with foreign nations, shaping much federal law

35. In a market economy, the law of supply and demand explains that, in general, when the demand for a product increases while its supply stays the same:

- A. The price of the product tends to rise as buyers compete for the limited available goods

- B. The price of the product tends to fall because sellers must lower prices to attract buyers
- C. The price of the product stays exactly the same regardless of how many buyers want it
- D. The government must step in to set a fixed price that buyers and sellers are required to use

36. Inflation is best defined as:

- A. A period during which the overall level of business activity and employment declines sharply
- B. The total value of all goods and services produced within a country in a single year
- C. A general rise in the prices of goods and services that reduces the purchasing power of money
- D. The amount of money the federal government borrows to cover spending beyond its income

37. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United States launched a military campaign in Afghanistan primarily to:

- A. Establish permanent American colonies and settlements throughout Central Asia
- B. Gain control of Afghanistan's large reserves of oil and natural gas resources
- C. Support the Soviet Union in its long-running conflict against Afghan rebel forces
- D. Remove the Taliban government and target the al-Qaeda network responsible for the attacks

38. Under the United States system of government, a bill becomes a federal law only after it has been:

- A. Approved by the Supreme Court and then formally announced to the public by the Chief Justice
- B. Passed by both houses of Congress and then signed by the President or passed over a veto
- C. Approved by a majority of the state governors and ratified by three-fourths of the states

D. Voted on directly by the citizens in a national referendum held every two years in November

39. In the federal system of the United States, responsibilities such as running public schools, issuing driver's licenses, and conducting elections are primarily handled by:

A. State and local governments, which carry out many functions affecting everyday life

B. The federal government alone, which controls all public services across the entire country

C. The United States Supreme Court, which administers these programs through its rulings

D. Private companies hired by the federal government to manage all public services nationwide

40. A free press is considered essential to a democracy primarily because it:

A. Guarantees that the government will always be portrayed in a positive and favorable light

B. Is owned and operated directly by the government to ensure that news is always accurate

C. Informs citizens and allows them to monitor the actions of their government and leaders

D. Replaces the need for citizens to vote by making all important political decisions for them

41. The Sherman Antitrust Act of the 1890s and modern laws regulating large technology companies reflect an ongoing American concern about:

A. Ensuring that the federal government owns and operates the nation's largest businesses

B. Preventing any single company from gaining too much power over a market or industry

C. Eliminating all forms of competition in order to keep prices stable for consumers

D. Encouraging businesses to merge into the largest possible firms for greater efficiency

42. The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, was added primarily to:

- A. Describe the specific powers and duties belonging to each of the three branches of government
- B. Establish the procedures that Congress must follow when proposing new constitutional amendments
- C. Set out the requirements that a person must meet in order to become a citizen of the nation
- D. Protect individual liberties and limit the power of the federal government over the people

43. During Reconstruction, the Ku Klux Klan emerged in the South as an organization that:

- A. Worked to register newly freed Black citizens to vote and to protect their civil rights
- B. Provided schools, food, and medical care to formerly enslaved people across the South
- C. Used violence and intimidation to deny African Americans their newly gained rights
- D. Lobbied Congress to pass laws guaranteeing equal treatment for all citizens regardless of race

44. The near extermination of the buffalo herds on the Great Plains in the late 1800s had which major effect on Native American nations of the region?

- A. It destroyed a way of life that depended on the buffalo for food, clothing, and shelter
- B. It encouraged most Plains nations to give up hunting and become successful wheat farmers
- C. It strengthened the ability of Plains nations to resist the advance of white settlement
- D. It had little effect because the Plains nations relied mainly on fishing and farming for survival

45. Before both World War I and World War II, the United States initially followed a foreign policy best described as:

- A. Imperialism, actively seeking to acquire new overseas colonies and territories by force
- B. Collective security, joining permanent military alliances to deter aggression by other nations
- C. Containment, working to stop the spread of a hostile political system around the globe
- D. Neutrality, attempting to stay out of foreign conflicts and avoid taking sides in them

46. The Progressive movement of the early twentieth century is best described as an effort to:

- A. Reduce the role of government and return to a system of complete laissez-faire economics
- B. Use government action to correct problems caused by industrialization, such as poor working conditions
- C. Expand the institution of slavery into the newly acquired territories of the American West
- D. Restore power to wealthy business owners and political machines in the nation's largest cities

47. The Vietnam War had which lasting effect on the United States?

- A. It convinced most Americans that the nation should expand its military involvement overseas
- B. It permanently ended the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union
- C. It created deep divisions at home and made Americans more cautious about foreign military involvement
- D. It resulted in the United States gaining permanent control over all of Southeast Asia

48. In a democratic society, citizens are encouraged to stay informed about public issues mainly because:

- A. An informed citizenry is better able to make wise voting decisions and hold leaders accountable

- B. The government requires every citizen to pass an annual examination on current political events
- C. Citizens who are not informed about public issues are not permitted to pay taxes or work
- D. Staying informed allows citizens to take over the daily operations of the federal government

49. A hallmark of the American system of government, demonstrated each time a newly elected president takes office, is the:

- A. Requirement that the outgoing president personally select his own successor in office
- B. Tradition of holding a national vote to decide whether elections should continue to be held
- C. Practice of allowing the Supreme Court to choose the president whenever an election is close
- D. Peaceful transfer of power from one elected leader or party to the next after an election

50. The United States Constitution and its Bill of Rights are designed to balance majority rule with the protection of minority rights. This means that:

- A. The majority always has unlimited power to make any decision it wishes for the nation
- B. While the majority generally governs, certain basic rights of individuals and minorities cannot be taken away
- C. Decisions are made only when every single citizen agrees completely on every issue
- D. The rights of the minority always outweigh the wishes of the majority in every decision

Practice Exam 9_ Answer Key and Explanations

1. B — The triangular trade linked the American colonies, Africa, and the West Indies in a three-way exchange of goods, enslaved people, and raw materials such as sugar and rum. It tied colonial economies to the Atlantic slave system. Understanding it reveals how slavery underpinned colonial commerce.
2. D — "Common Sense" used plain language to argue that the colonies should break completely with Britain and reject monarchy. It swayed large numbers of ordinary colonists toward independence. Its persuasive power helped build popular support for the Revolution.
3. C — The American victory at Saratoga convinced France that the colonies could win, leading France to ally openly with them. French troops, money, and naval support proved decisive. This is why Saratoga is seen as the war's turning point.
4. A — The Three-Fifths Compromise counted each enslaved person as three-fifths of a person for both representation in the House and taxation. It settled a dispute between northern and southern states. The provision increased the political power of slaveholding states.
5. D — Though the War of 1812 ended without major territorial change, it produced a surge of national pride and unity often called the "Era of Good Feelings." Victories like New Orleans boosted American confidence. The war strengthened a sense of national identity.
6. B — The Alien and Sedition Acts made it harder for immigrants to gain citizenship and criminalized harsh criticism of the government. Critics argued they violated free speech and press. The laws became a major controversy over civil liberties.
7. C — The Erie Canal connected the Great Lakes to the Hudson River and the port of New York, sharply lowering the cost of shipping goods. It spurred trade and western settlement. It helped make New York City the nation's leading commercial center.
8. A — The Fugitive Slave Act required citizens in free states to help capture and return escaped enslaved people, with penalties for those who refused. Many northerners were outraged at being forced to support slavery. This deepened sectional hostility.
9. D — Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" portrayed the cruelty of slavery in a powerful story that moved many northern readers against the institution. Its emotional impact widened the divide between North and South. It became one of the most influential books of its era.
10. B — Gettysburg stopped Lee's invasion of the North, while Vicksburg gave the Union full control of the Mississippi River, splitting the Confederacy. Together these 1863 victories shifted momentum to the Union. They marked a decisive turning point in the war.
11. A — The Freedmen's Bureau provided food, schools, medical care, and legal help to formerly enslaved people and poor whites in the postwar South. It aimed to ease the transition to freedom. Its educational work had a lasting impact despite limited resources.
12. C — A trust or monopoly reduced competition by letting one company control a market, which allowed it to raise prices and limit consumer choices. This concentration of economic power harmed buyers. Concern over such abuses led to antitrust laws.
13. D — Political machines like Tammany Hall traded services and favors—jobs, housing help, and aid to immigrants—for loyal votes. This gave them firm control of city politics. Their power often came with widespread corruption.
14. B — Ellis Island was the main immigration station where arriving Europeans were processed, inspected, and either admitted or detained. Millions passed through its halls. It became a powerful symbol of immigration to America.

15. C — The Triangle Shirtwaist fire exposed deadly workplace conditions and led to new laws improving factory safety and labor protections. Locked doors had trapped workers inside. The tragedy spurred important Progressive reforms.
16. A — The Eighteenth Amendment established Prohibition by banning the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages nationwide. It fulfilled the temperance movement's central goal. Its enforcement, however, proved deeply problematic.
17. B — Yellow journalism used exaggerated and sensational stories, especially about Spanish actions in Cuba, to inflame public opinion. This stirred popular demand for war with Spain. The press helped push the nation toward the Spanish-American War.
18. D — The long-term causes of World War I are often summarized as militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism (MAIN). These pressures turned a regional assassination into a continental war. Recognizing them explains how the conflict escalated.
19. C — The Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to accept blame for the war, pay heavy reparations, and sharply reduce its military. These harsh terms bred deep resentment. That bitterness later contributed to the rise of Hitler.
20. A — The first Red Scare grew from fear of communism and radicalism after World War I, leading to the Palmer Raids that arrested and deported suspected radicals. Civil liberties were often ignored. The episode reflected postwar anxiety and intolerance.
21. D — The Bonus Army was made up of World War I veterans who marched on Washington seeking early payment of promised bonuses during the Depression. Their forced removal by the army shocked the public. The event damaged Hoover's reputation.
22. B — The CCC provided jobs for unemployed young men working on conservation projects such as planting trees and building parks. It offered relief while improving public lands. It became one of the most popular New Deal programs.
23. A — Appeasement meant giving in to some of Hitler's demands, such as the annexation of the Sudetenland, in hopes of avoiding another major war. The policy failed to satisfy Hitler. It is widely seen as having emboldened further aggression.
24. C — Island hopping involved capturing strategically important Pacific islands while bypassing heavily defended ones, steadily moving Allied forces toward Japan. This saved time and lives. The strategy was key to the Pacific campaign.
25. B — The Nuremberg Trials held Nazi leaders legally accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity. They established that individuals could be prosecuted for such acts. The trials set an important precedent in international law.
26. D — The Warsaw Pact was a military alliance of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellite states, formed in response to NATO. It bound those nations under Soviet leadership. It became a defining structure of the Cold War divide.
27. C — The Selma marches demanded voting rights and highlighted the violence and obstacles facing Black voters in the South. National attention to the brutality helped build support for reform. The marches contributed to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
28. A — Kennedy's Moon challenge was driven largely by Cold War competition to show that the United States led the Soviet Union in technology. The Space Race had become a symbol of national strength. The goal was achieved with the 1969 lunar landing.
29. B — Nixon resigned because the Watergate scandal made his impeachment and removal almost certain after evidence of his involvement emerged. He chose to leave rather than be forced out. His resignation was a historic first for a U.S. president.

30. D — The Camp David Accords produced a framework leading to a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, longtime adversaries. Carter's mediation was central to the breakthrough. It marked a major achievement in Middle East diplomacy.
31. A — The Twenty-Second Amendment limited a president to two elected terms, writing into law the tradition Washington had begun. It responded to Franklin Roosevelt's four elections. The amendment guards against the indefinite holding of power.
32. C — The Twenty-Fifth Amendment set clear procedures for presidential succession and for filling a vacancy in the vice presidency. It clarified what happens if a president dies, resigns, or is disabled. The amendment ensured stable continuity of leadership.
33. B — The Eighth Amendment bars excessive bail and fines and prohibits cruel and unusual punishments. It limits how the government may treat those accused or convicted of crimes. This protection reflects concern for basic human dignity.
34. D — The commerce clause gives Congress power to regulate trade among the states and with foreign nations. Courts have interpreted it broadly, making it the basis for much federal law. It has been central to expanding national authority.
35. A — When demand rises while supply stays fixed, buyers compete for limited goods and prices tend to rise. This illustrates the basic interaction of supply and demand. Understanding it explains how prices are set in a market economy.
36. C — Inflation is a general rise in prices that reduces the purchasing power of money. As prices climb, each dollar buys less than before. Recognizing inflation is key to understanding economic policy and household budgets.
37. D — The United States invaded Afghanistan to remove the Taliban government and strike the al-Qaeda network responsible for the 9/11 attacks. The goal was to dismantle terrorist bases. It marked the start of the broader War on Terror.
38. B — A federal bill becomes law after passing both houses of Congress and being signed by the President, or by Congress overriding a veto. This process reflects shared lawmaking power. It is a core example of checks and balances.
39. A — State and local governments handle many everyday functions such as schools, driver's licenses, and elections under the federal system. These responsibilities fall within reserved and shared powers. This division keeps much governance close to the people.
40. C — A free press informs citizens and lets them watch over the actions of their government and leaders. This scrutiny helps hold officials accountable. An informed public is essential to a functioning democracy.
41. B — From the Sherman Antitrust Act to today's regulation of tech firms, the concern is preventing any single company from gaining too much control over a market. The goal is to protect competition and consumers. This reflects a lasting American value.
42. D — The Bill of Rights was added to protect individual liberties and limit the power of the federal government over the people. Anti-Federalists had demanded such guarantees. These amendments remain central to American freedom.
43. C — During Reconstruction, the Ku Klux Klan used violence and intimidation to deny African Americans their newly won rights, including the right to vote. It sought to restore white supremacy. Its terror undermined the gains of Reconstruction.
44. A — The destruction of the buffalo devastated Plains nations who depended on the herds for food, clothing, and shelter. The loss broke a central way of life. It made resistance to white settlement far more difficult.

45. D — Before both World Wars, the United States followed a policy of neutrality, trying to stay out of foreign conflicts and avoid taking sides. This reflected a deep tradition of avoiding European entanglements. In each case, events eventually drew the nation into war.
46. B — The Progressive movement sought to use government action to fix problems caused by industrialization, such as unsafe workplaces, corruption, and monopolies. Reformers pushed for regulation and social improvement. This active role for government defined the era.
47. C — The Vietnam War deeply divided Americans and left the nation more cautious about committing forces to foreign conflicts. The painful experience shaped later debates over military involvement. Its effects lingered long after the war ended.
48. A — An informed citizenry can make wiser voting decisions and hold elected leaders accountable for their actions. This is why staying informed is so valued in a democracy. Knowledge gives the public meaningful control over government.
49. D — Each time a newly elected president takes office, the United States demonstrates the peaceful transfer of power from one leader or party to the next. This orderly transition reflects respect for democratic results. It is a defining strength of the system.
50. B — Balancing majority rule with minority rights means that while the majority generally governs, certain basic rights of individuals and minorities cannot be taken away. The Bill of Rights protects those liberties. This balance guards against the tyranny of the majority.