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Free US History I CLEP Practice Test

10 questions from InstantCert's 365-card History of the United States I study guide

How to use this PDF

Nine of these questions are a sentence with one blank and four choices, and one is a plain question. Pick the best fit, mark it, and keep going. The answer key with explanations starts after question 10, so do all 10 before you look. No timer. On the real exam you get 45 seconds per question, so if you want a challenge, give yourself 8 minutes for the set.

What your score means

0 to 4 correct

The US History I CLEP is mostly names, acts, and dates, plus the reason behind each one, and a score in this range usually means the names are not there yet. Ten questions is a sample, not a diagnosis. Take Round 2 on the page linked at the end before you decide how much work is ahead of you.

5 to 7 correct

This is where most people land on a first pass. Close enough to the line to be worth studying for, and not close enough to walk in cold. Take Round 2 and see if the number holds.

8 to 10 correct

You know the names and dates. Keep in mind that the real exam leans on cause and effect, asking why an act passed or what a treaty changed, and it gives you 45 seconds a question. Take Round 2, then put your study time into the 1800s, where about 70% of the questions live.

Questions

QUESTION 1 OF 10 | POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Proclamation of 1763, passed by George Grenville, did not allow settlers to move west of the _____.

A. Appalachians
B. Great Lakes
C. Mississippi
D. Smokey Mountains

QUESTION 2 OF 10 | POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY

In the Civil War, the Union had the advantage in terms of _____ and manpower.

A. geography
B. resources
C. officers
D. home advantage

QUESTION 3 OF 10 | SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Compromise of 1850 was supposed to smooth relations between the North and South, but the _____ Slave Law, which was part of the Compromise, angered Northerners.

A. Missing
B. Absconded
C. Fugitive
D. Absent

QUESTION 4 OF 10 | SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

What is known as the lost colony?

A. Plymouth
B. Cape Cod
C. Jamestown
D. Roanoke

QUESTION 5 OF 10 | SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the _____ Compromise.

A. 1850
B. Three-fifths
C. Connecticut
D. Missouri

QUESTION 6 OF 10 | CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Massachusetts colony was founded primarily to show the world how a proper _____ society should be.

A. Christian
B. Calvinist
C. Anglican
D. Lutheran

QUESTION 7 OF 10 | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Soon after President Andrew Jackson passed the Specie Circular, the United States suffered an economic _____.

A. revival
B. recovery
C. downturn
D. boom

QUESTION 8 OF 10 | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The National Road, which connected Cumberland, Maryland, and Wheeling, Virginia, linking the _____ and Ohio Rivers, was built in 1818.

A. Mississippi
B. Red
C. Columbia
D. Potomac

QUESTION 9 OF 10 | DIPLOMACY AND TRANSNATIONAL INTERACTIONS

_____ sold the land between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains to the US for $15 million, in what is known as the Louisiana purchase.

A. Napoleon
B. Louis XIV
C. Rousseau
D. Richelieu

QUESTION 10 OF 10 | DIPLOMACY AND TRANSNATIONAL INTERACTIONS

The _____ were a group of young politicians, eager for war, in the Congress of 1811. They resulted in President Madison asking for a declaration of war in 1812.

A. Federalists
B. Jayhawks
C. War Hawks
D. Blackhawks

Answer Key

1. A Appalachians

The Proclamation of 1763 forbade settlers from moving west of the Appalachians, and was supposed to appease the Indians, who were constantly attacking settlers and costing England a lot of money.

2. B resources

The Union had a three-to-one advantage in manpower, had highly developed industry, and a system of railroads.

3. C Fugitive

The Fugitive Slave Law, which was strengthened under the Compromise of 1850, was designed to return blacks in the north who had run away from the south as slaves.

4. D Roanoke

Roanoke; when English returned, every member of the colony was gone, without a single trace.

5. D Missouri

The Kansas-Nebraska Act, introduced by Senator Douglas, created the Kansas and Nebraska territories. It also repealed the Missouri Compromise, which would have forbidden slavery in those territories.

6. A Christian

The Puritans settled Massachusetts with the intent of creating a model Christian community. Religious freedom was a secondary reason.

7. C downturn

Andrew Jackson issued the Specie Circular, requiring gold or silver as payment for federal land--soon after he did this, there was a depression.

8. D Potomac

The National Road was financed by the federal government.

9. A Napoleon

The Louisiana Purchase effectively doubled the size of the United States.

10. C War Hawks

The War Hawks were led by Henry Clay and John Calhoun.

Want 10 more? Take Round 2 online

Round 2 is 10 more questions from the same 365 cards. It runs earlier, with colonial governors, the Navigation Acts, and the Land Ordinance of 1785, and it ends with the Monroe Doctrine. Take Round 1 on the page below, enter your email on the score screen, and the Round 2 link follows.

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The full US History I study guide

365 US History I flashcards, each one with an explanation of why the answer is right, plus 3 full-length timed practice tests in software built to feel like the real CLEP screen, plus the Specific Exam Feedback forum on DegreeForum.net, where members post what was on their exam. $20/month, cancel anytime. 30-day money-back guarantee. 95% of InstantCert students who reported a US History I score passed, against a 59% national pass rate (FY25 College Board).

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