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Free US History II CLEP Practice Test

10 questions from InstantCert's 530-card History of the United States II study guide

How to use this PDF

Each of these questions is a sentence with one blank and four choices. 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 7 and a half minutes for the set. One caveat before you start: these 10 do not follow the exam weights. Culture and ideas are 20% of the real exam and get one question here, social history is 30% and gets two, and nothing in the set is later than the 1970s.

What your score means

0 to 4 correct

US History II is names, laws, court cases, and dates, plus the reason behind each one. A score in this range usually means a lot of them 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

Right in the middle. Close enough to the line to be worth studying for, and not close enough to walk in cold on an exam that only 56% of civilian test takers pass according to College Board. Check whether your misses bunch up before 1915 or after it, then take Round 2 and see if the number holds.

8 to 10 correct

You know Reconstruction, the Progressive Era, the New Deal, and the Cold War. Keep in mind that a good score here says nothing about the parts this set does not sample. It has one question on culture and ideas, which are 20% of the real exam, and two on social history, which is 30%. Take Round 2, then put your study time into the social and cultural half of the exam.

Questions

QUESTION 1 OF 10 | SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

A key to elimination of the Indian resistance on the Great Plains was the destruction of the _____.

A. watering holes
B. Bison
C. forests
D. cliff dwellings

QUESTION 2 OF 10 | POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Compromise of _____ led to a massive scaling back of Reconstruction's accomplishments.

A. 1865
B. 1870
C. 1879
D. 1877

QUESTION 3 OF 10 | POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY

In 1906, two important laws regulating food and drugs--the Pure Food and Drug Act, and the _____ Inspection Act.

A. Livestock
B. Meat
C. Meatpacking
D. Processed Meat

QUESTION 4 OF 10 | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

One of President Wilson's most important accomplishments in office was the reorganization of the nation's banking system through the creation of the _____.

A. US Treasury
B. Department of Justice
C. Federal Reserve
D. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

QUESTION 5 OF 10 | CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

By the mid-1920s, many state legislatures had debated outlawing the teaching of _____, and three states had made it a crime. In the state of Tennessee, a teacher named John Scopes challenged the law.

A. sex education
B. evolution
C. creation
D. bilingual education

QUESTION 6 OF 10 | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The National Labor Relations Act, popularly known as the _____ Act, restored the worker protections which had been provided for by the NIRA (National Industrial Recovery Act).

A. Clayton
B. Hoover
C. Hearst
D. Wagner

QUESTION 7 OF 10 | SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

In _____ v. the United States, the constitutionality of Internment was challenged. This was a result of the evacuation of Japanese-Americans to relocation centers.

A. Hirohito
B. Korematsu
C. Hideki Tojo
D. Hideyoshi

QUESTION 8 OF 10 | DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The United States provided financial aid to Europe--over $13 billion--through the _____ Plan of 1947, in an effort to help in the reconstruction of Western Europe.

A. Acheson
B. Chamberlain
C. Marshall
D. Churchill

QUESTION 9 OF 10 | DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The _____ crisis was an incident where the Soviet union and the United States went to the brink of nuclear war during President Kennedy's term.

A. Cuban Missile
B. Invasion of Czechoslovakia
C. Korean War
D. Berlin Blockade

QUESTION 10 OF 10 | POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY

Richard Nixon resigned as president as a result of the _____ scandal which first began in June 1972.

A. Fast and Furious
B. Benghazi
C. Watergate
D. Whitewater

Answer Key

1. B Bison

Soldiers, settlers, and "sportsmen" killed millions of bison, or buffalo. The Native Americans of the Great Plains depended on the bison for life--they used its dung for fuel, its skin for clothing and shelter, and its meat for food. Hunting bison was how they could support their nomadic style of life; without the bison, they were forced to settle down.

2. D 1877

Reconstruction ended as part of a compromise after the 1876 elections which saw the Republican presidential candidate, Rutherford B. Hayes admitted to office. Hayes was elected President in exchange for the agreement that no Republican administration would ever again disturb the Southern world of segregation. Taxes were slashed; so too was spending on education, especially for black schools. Throughout the South, a campaign ensued to put blacks in their place, which culminated around the turn of the century when one state after another passed laws providing for the rigid segregation of the races and for the disfranchisement of blacks through such devices as literacy tests, poll taxes, and political primaries that were open only to whites. These devices prevented almost all Southern blacks and some poor whites from voting or choosing candidates. During the first half of the 20th century, the South became a rigidly segregated society dominated by an all-white Democratic Party.

3. B Meat

The Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act were passed in 1906, the year Upton Sinclair's book "The Jungle" was published. The Pure Food and Drug Act required food and drugs to be accurately labeled, and the Meat Inspection Act enforced sanitary conditions in the meatpacking industry.

4. C Federal Reserve

Under President Wilson's administration, the Federal Reserve System was created under the Federal Reserve Act of 1913. This system involves 12 Federal Reserve banks set up across the United States which acted as "banks for banks." The Federal Reserve Board sets the interest rates charged on loans by these banks.

5. B evolution

This case in Tennessee was popularly known as the monkey trial, and was followed by many Americans mainly because of the two men representing the different sides. Clarence Darrow, the most famous lawyer in the U.S. defending Scopes, and William Jennings Bryan, who was a three-time presidential candidate was on the prosecution's side.

6. D Wagner

The NIRA was struck down in 1935 in Schechter Poultry Corporation v. United States by the Supreme Court. The Wagner Act restored the worker protections under the NIRA, which included the right for workers organize and to collectively bargain.

7. B Korematsu

The constitutionality of internment was challenged, and upheld by the Supreme Court on the basis of national security. It was not until 1982 that the government finally admitted the injustice of the internment.

8. C Marshall

The Marshall Plan was named after Secretary of State George Marshall. Communist ideas were beginning to spread in many Western European countries as a result of the hardships the people were suffering--by helping to rebuild the economies, Marshall sought to undermine the Communist influence and at the same time provide a market for American goods.

9. A Cuban Missile

The Cuban missile crisis occurred when the U.S. discovered that the Soviets were constructing medium-range missile sites in Cuba. The Soviets backed down to U.S. demands and removed the missiles. In return, American missiles were removed from Turkey.

10. C Watergate

The Watergate scandal began in 1972 when five men were arrested while breaking into the Democratic party headquarters in the Watergate apartment complex in Washington, D.C.. After two years of investigations, it was clear Nixon was going to be impeached, and he resigned from office in August 1974.

Want 10 more? Take Round 2 online

Round 2 is 10 more questions from the same 530 cards, and 4 of the 10 are foreign policy. It covers a railroad strike that stopped traffic in the West, civil service reform after President Garfield was shot, the New Deal's farm program, the resolution that widened the war in Vietnam, and a scandal from President Reagan's second term. 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 II study guide

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