

AMERICAN HISTORY FINAL EXAM REVIEW SHEET

Your final exam will count as 10% of your course grade. The final will be much like the midterm in that you will be answering 100 multiple choice questions, as well as an essay.

Possible Essays

The Cold War was a defining time in America's history. Identify and explain what makes a cold war different from a hot war, as well as at least two of the various reasons for the beginning of the Cold War. Next, identify and explain in detail any three significant Cold War conflicts. Finally, conclude your essay by explaining at least two of the reasons why by the late 1980's, the Cold War ended in victory for the United States.

You are running for political office in the year 2040 and are participating in a political debate. The moderator asks you this question: "Mr. or Ms. Candidate, it is very important for our elected leaders to have an appreciation for the history of their nation, as it guides them in making the decisions of the future. Please identify in detail the history surrounding the four most significant historical occurrences of 20th century American history, and why you made these choices." Well, go ahead and answer the moderator's question.

In the 1950's we studied an American citizenry that was conformist and looked to President Eisenhower with reverence. In less than a decade, Americans were standing outside the White House chanting "Hey, hey LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?" Offer at least two historical examples of 1950's conformity in action, and then explain in detail how and why this change occurred within the context of the Vietnam War, civil rights movement, and social upheaval of the middle to late 1960's.

Objective Questions

What significant impacts did Henry Ford's auto industry have on American industry and culture?

How was the 1920's a time of contrasting culture in urban versus rural America?

How was the role of women in American society changing in the 1920's?

Why were the 1920's a time of heroism? Who were some of the great heroes of this decade?

How did the Harlem Renaissance allow for a celebration and advancement of black culture?

What was the Red Scare? How did the Palmer Raids exemplify life in America during the Red Scare?

What was so scandalous about the Teapot Dome Scandal?

What groups were targets of hate by the Ku Klux Klan during the 1920's? What were their tactics?

How was President Hoover's reaction to the Bonus Army marchers politically disastrous?

Explain President Hoover's philosophy of rugged individualism. Why was this message unpopular to many Americans in the early 1930's?

What were the various causes of the 1929 stock market crash?

What were Hoovervilles? How was this name indicative of a growing resentment and disrespect for President Hoover?

How did Franklin Roosevelt's political philosophy with regard to recovering from the Great Depression contrast with that of Hoover's?

How did FDR use radio to convey his political messages to the American people?

What were the major criticisms of the New Deal?

How was the 2nd New Deal different from the 1st New Deal?

What has the significant impact of Social Security been for the American people?

Explain the devastation of the Dust Bowl.

What were Huey Long's criticisms of New Deal policy?

Why was President Franklin Roosevelt frustrated with the U.S. Supreme Court? How did he attempt to ease his frustration? Why did this plan fail?

While the New Deal did not bring about an end to the Great Depression, it did have positive impact upon the American nation. What were some of these positive impacts?

Explain Hitler's concept of the Master Race. How did Jesse Owens disprove this in the 1936 Olympics?

How did the 1919 Treaty of Versailles work to create a climate that would eventually lead to the onset of a second world war?

How did the Nazi Party gain popular support in Germany?

Prior to Pearl Harbor, explain U.S. policy with regard to World War II. Why did the majority of Americans advocate this position?

Who were the major Allied nations in WWII? Who were the major Axis nations in WWII?

Explain the concept of appeasement and how it relates to the rise of dictators in Europe prior to WWII. How did Neville Chamberlain appease Hitler at Munich in 1938?

What were the provisions of the Lend Lease Act?

Why did the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor? How was this attack a unifying event for the American people?

Explain major Allied war strategy in Europe from 1942-1945.

What was the significance of the D-Day Invasion? What American general was the mastermind of this attack?

Explain the significance of women with regard to their efforts on the WWII home front? How was entering the world of work a change for most women?

In August 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on these two Japanese cities. What was President Truman's justification for using these weapons?

What were the various motives for Allied nations in entering WWII?

What was the Holocaust? What lessons have been learned from the Holocaust?

What was the purpose behind the creation of the United Nations?

What were the major provisions of the GI Bill of Rights?

What is the difference between a cold war and a hot war? Why did the Cold War begin shortly after World War II ended?

How did the Marshall Plan constitute a Cold War battle victory for the United States?

What is containment? Be able to identify examples of U.S. application of the Containment Doctrine during the Cold War.

How was the Bay of Pigs a foreign policy disaster for President Kennedy? What was Kennedy's motive in approving this military exercise?

How were the Korean and Vietnam Wars limited wars?

Describe the type of leadership that Josef Stalin brought to the Soviet people.

Why did China fall to communism in 1949? How was this politically damaging to President Truman?

What were the significant provisions of Harry Truman's Fair Deal?

How did China's entrance into the War in Korea change the stakes of the war? On what point did President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur disagree? Why was MacArthur fired?

What was the purpose of the House Un-American Activities Committee?

Who was Joseph McCarthy? How was he, arguably, the most powerful man in America for a brief time in the 1950's?

Explain the response of most Americans to the Soviets success with Sputnik in 1957. How did this impact American education?

How was the Cuban Missile Crisis one of the tensest moments of the Cold War? How did President Kennedy successfully resolve this crisis?

Who was Ho Chi Minh? Why did he seek to overthrow the French in Vietnam? What lessons did Ho Chi Minh take from his studies of the General Washington and the American Revolution?

What was the basic premise behind the domino theory?

How did the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident lead to major U.S. military involvement in Vietnam?

The alleged assassin of President Kennedy is _____. Why do many believe that there may have been a conspiracy in this assassination?

What did President Lyndon Johnson desire to be the legacy of his presidency?

How was the War in Vietnam a great impediment to this aforementioned desired legacy of LBJ?

What was the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling in the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education case?

What were the fundamental differences in approach to achieving civil rights between Martin Luther King and Malcolm X?

What was Martin Luther King's position on American involvement in Vietnam? Why did he advocate this position?

How was an ordinary woman like Rosa Parks able to initiate significant change in the area of civil rights?

What was the baby boom? Why were so many children being born during this period of time?

Describe U.S. economic conditions in the late 1970's. How did these harm President Carter's reelection chances?

Define each of these Cold War terms:

Brinkmanship

Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)

Who said "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

How did the Strategic Defense Initiative cripple the Soviet economy?

How has life in the former Soviet Union changed since December 1991?

What were the reasons for the Iranians taking American hostages at the American Embassy in November 1979? How was this crisis politically damaging to President Carter?

What were some of the most significant factors in the U.S. achieving victory over the Soviets in the Cold War?

What was the purpose of the Berlin Wall? What did President Reagan demand of Premier Gorbachev with regard to this wall? How was the 1989 dismantling of the wall a Cold War victory for the United States?

Which U.S. president was nicknamed the “Great Communicator?”

The United States went to war with Iraq in 1991 after Iraq’s leader Saddam Hussein seized control of this Middle Eastern nation:

What obstacles did President George Bush face in his bid for reelection in 1992?

What was President George W. Bush’s response to the September 11th terrorist attacks?

In what nations has the United States used major military efforts to fight its War on Terror, after September 11, 2001?