

AP U.S. History Mini-Test 2

Multiple-Choice Answers

1. (A)

Joseph McCarthy, the junior senator from Wisconsin, set the tone for the early 1950s in America with his relentless attacks on the “Communist menace” in America. McCarthy used American fears of Communist subversion to catapult himself out of obscurity in the United States Senate and into national prominence. He made his initial charges in a Lincoln’s Birthday speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, claiming that the U.S. State Department was infested with Communists. Although he was lying, his charges struck a chord in the national psyche and within days people were clamoring for the ouster of the alleged Communists. He used these charges to build a political base of support from which he went on to blame virtually all of America’s failures since World War II on wealthy intellectuals supposedly selling out the country to the Communists. His attacks played upon latent bigotry, racism, and anti-Semitism, but the Korean War and the arrest of alleged spies such as the Rosenbergs, convinced enough people that he was probably correct in his allegations, that few attempted to stop him. President Eisenhower tried to ignore McCarthy and hoped he would undercut himself with his reckless allegations and unfounded charges.

Eventually, McCarthy did ruin his own career. His charges became more and more spectacular and more and more unprovable. Finally, when he charged that the Army officer corps was a hotbed of Communist activity, Eisenhower decided enough was enough. Senate hearings were called in 1954 to investigate McCarthy’s charges, and they were nationally televised. McCarthy was as bullying and overbearing as ever, attempting to ruin the reputation of virtually anyone who stood up to him. In the end, these tactics disgusted the American public and fellow senators. McCarthy’s popularity plummeted and the Senate condemned him. He remained a senator but finished his career a broken man. He died of alcohol-related causes in 1957.

2. (B)

During the 1880s and 1890s, U.S. railroads had a stranglehold on the transportation of goods, particularly agricultural goods, to the marketplace. In major markets where there were several competing rail lines, shipping costs were low. However, many farmers and manufacturers lived in areas served by only one major rail line or a “short line.” On these noncompetitive lines, railroads charged exorbitantly high rates, often so high that the producers of goods could not make a profit on their goods. After bitter struggles in Congress and several Supreme Court challenges, the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 was passed to curb pricing and other abuses by the railroad industry. In the related court cases, the Supreme Court ruled that only Congress had the right to regulate interstate commerce. This act created the Interstate Commerce Commission, whose major purpose was to keep an eye on railroad policies and to prevent further abuses.

3. (D)

Of the choices listed, a lack of available credit was the only choice that did not contribute to the Great Depression. In fact, just the opposite was true. Throughout the 1920s, to help spread the new ethic of consumerism, banks and industries made several new forms of credit and installment loans available to the public. This credit was essential because while industry was pushing people to consume, it was refusing to pay workers the wages they needed to buy the whole range of new consumer goods being made available. Credit was also essential to farmers who could not earn enough from their crops, because of depressed crop prices, to break even. Without the new forms of credit being offered, consumers and farmers could not have sustained the economy as long as they did. Even with the new credit extensions, without wage increases and increases in crop prices workers and farmers could not continue to purchase new goods and equipment indefinitely. Eventually, they reached their credit limits and often found they couldn't pay off their loans. The resulting foreclosures and bankruptcies weakened the entire banking system, making banks particularly vulnerable when the stock market crash began the final collapse of the economic boom of the 1920s. So, if anything, it was the easy availability of too much credit with too little screening to make sure those who borrowed could pay back the loans that contributed to the Great Depression.

4. (A)

While each of the choices was a factor in Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb, the major factor was Truman's belief that it would shorten the war and save lives. Germany had already surrendered, and Americans wanted the war to end. Thus far, the Japanese had been fighting fanatically, usually to the last man, to defend the islands approaching Japan itself. Casualties had been heavy for both sides. It looked as if the only way the Japanese would surrender was through an all-out invasion of the Japanese home islands. Given the ferocity of Japanese defenses of the outlying islands, predictions of casualties ranged up to 2 million Americans dead and 10 million Japanese dead in an all-out invasion. Given that the United States had lost only 300,000 servicemen throughout the entire war thus far, 2 million dead American servicemen was a politically unacceptable cost to Truman if it could possibly be avoided. The atomic bomb gave him a tool to avoid that cost. Predictions also emphasized that the invasion could take from one to four more years to eliminate major centers of Japanese resistance, and the United States could face a protracted struggle against Japanese partisans. A Japanese surrender before a full-scale invasion could prevent this. Again, the atomic bomb gave Truman a tool to avoid an invasion. Therefore, if it worked it would shorten the war and save American lives.

5. (A)

During his second term, Franklin Roosevelt decided to ask Congress to shift the balance on the Supreme Court to pro-New Deal justices. He thinly disguised his plan by making it part of a general reorganization of the judiciary. Roosevelt's plan provided for the retirement of Supreme Court justices at the age of 70 with full pay. If a justice chose not to retire, the president was to appoint an additional justice, up to a maximum of six, to ease the work

load for the aged justices who remained on the court. Congress failed to pass Roosevelt's plan.

6. (B)

The launching of *Sputnik* reverberated across the United States like nothing had since Pearl Harbor. After World War II Americans were taught to fear the Soviet Union through the glasses of the Cold War. However, one area of U.S.-Soviet relations in which nearly all Americans felt more than secure was the superiority of U.S. technology and U.S. scientific know-how. Sure, the Russians had developed an atomic bomb and later a hydrogen bomb, but only after their spies had managed to steal plans from America. The inferiority of Soviet weapons was well known and widely joked about. Then came *Sputnik*, a little metal sphere which, when placed in orbit around the earth making it the world's first man-made orbital satellite, shook the world.

Suddenly Soviet technological ineptitude was no longer a laughing matter. It became increasingly less funny when repeated U.S. attempts to duplicate *Sputnik* failed miserably. American self-confidence was badly shaken. The quality of American science education was questioned, as was the moral fiber of the country. For the military, a new term suddenly blossomed into existence: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM). If the Soviets could put a satellite into orbit, then it was no great leap for them to place a nuclear warhead on top of a missile and drop it right down Washington's collective throat. American Cold War fears intensified.

Using *Sputnik* as an excuse, Washington demanded and got increased funding for the military, particularly funding for missile research, as well as increased funding for education. Most of the education money was directed at colleges and universities and focused on mathematics and science education. It roused the United States from its complacency and led to a new wave of technical advances related to the influx of science-related funding.

7. (C)

Most Americans welcomed the economic growth and prosperity of the mid-1920s. However, some found the collapse of Progressivism, the subsequent dominance of materialistic consumerism, laissez-faire capitalism with its greed, corruption, and conspicuous consumption, as well as the emphasis on social conformity and dearth of spirituality, to be morally repugnant. This repugnance and cynicism regarding America's social framework were captured most poignantly in the works of several young American authors. F. Scott Fitzgerald, H. L. Mencken, Ernest Hemingway, and Sinclair Lewis wrote stories of heroes as flawed as the villains they sought to conquer. Their works raised questions about traditional assumptions of right and wrong and often left those questions unanswered. They painted unsettling pictures of American society, frequently with a sharply critical, sometimes satirical portrayal of American hypocrisy and decadence.

Their unsettling works, with the inherent crying out at the loss of ideals, values, and purpose as well as the interwoven criticism of the current dominance of materialism, led critics and historians to label them the "Lost Generation." A whole generation of young

writers faced what they believed to be a spiritually lost America desperately needing to find new and meaningful goals and values. These writers' works attempted to point out the folly of 1920s America and rekindle the idealism and sense of deeper purpose they felt necessary for America to live up to its potential for all its citizens.

8. (B)

The primary reason for the internment of Japanese-American citizens by the United States was that they were Japanese. There was tremendous anger at Japan because of the Pearl Harbor attack. The Japanese were also victims of unabashed racism. American attitudes toward Japan were much different than the same. Thus, hostility at anyone of Japanese descent was much greater than that aimed at German- or Italian-Americans.

Japanese-Americans were never found to be involved in treasonous activities. Most were appalled at the Japanese government's attack on Pearl Harbor and very few openly supported Japanese government policy. Many were insulted that they would be expected to take an oath of loyalty to the United States, but there is no evidence that they would have refused to do so. In fact, many Japanese-Americans joined the U.S. military where, organized into an independent infantry unit, they fought extremely well in Italy against the Germans. While there were many businessmen who took advantage of the Japanese internment to buy up valuable property for almost nothing from the internees, this was not the primary motive for interning them. The major motive was based on prejudice, anger, and to a minor degree, a desire to protect them from attacks by angry, racist Americans who had already attacked some Japanese-Americans several times.

9. (B)

When the United States declared war on Germany and entered World War I, a massive mobilization effort was needed to prepare the nation for wartime requirements. Procedures for drafting, training, and transporting soldiers had to be quickly organized. Industrial production had to be regeared for wartime production needs. At first, this mobilization effort was headed by a number of industrial committees that advised the government on selection and cost of equipment. However, it soon became apparent that many of the businessmen running these committees had more than the nation's interests at heart. Many were using the committees as vehicles to quick wartime riches. Press reports of the corruption quickly led to public demands for reform. Wilson responded by disbanding the various committees and replacing them in July 1917 with the War Industries Board (WIB). The WIB coordinated war production for the remainder of the war.

10. (B)

In his 1964 State of the Union message, President Lyndon Johnson called for a "War on Poverty." The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 established the Office of Economic Opportunity to carry out antipoverty programs.

11. (B)
The Lend-Lease Act (1941) gave the president the authority to lend or lease equipment to any nation “whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States.” During World War II, the United States provided \$50 billion in lend-lease aid to its allies, and the British received over \$31 billion of the total.
12. (B)
During the late summer of 1962, reports began to circulate about Soviet plans to install intermediate-range missiles in Cuba. On October 14, U-2 reconnaissance flights over Cuba provided confirmation that missile sites were being prepared for the installation of Soviet-made missiles. President John F. Kennedy was determined to force the removal of the missiles. Ruling out both an air strike against the missile sites and a full-scale invasion, Kennedy announced an American naval quarantine of Cuba to prevent Soviet ships from bringing additional offensive weapons to Cuba. On October 28, the Cuban missile crisis ended when the Soviets agreed to dismantle the missile launching pads and remove the missiles. In return, Kennedy pledged not to invade Cuba.
13. (B)
The Populists (The People’s Party) raised questions of social, political, and economic consciousness. By incorporating issues in their platform such as the eight-hour day for government employees, government control of big business, a graduated income tax, and government ownership of communications and the railroad, the party enjoyed an appeal to farmers and blue collar workers in the 1890s. The Free Silver Issue that called for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of (with gold) 16 to 1 led to the demise of the party.
14. (A)
The rejection of the Versailles Treaty by the United States Senate signaled not only anger and frustration at Woodrow Wilson, but a generalized rejection of his whole effort to make America an international leader. Many Americans, examining the provisions of the Versailles Treaty, felt betrayed by the European “Allies” whom we had saved from German domination. Many accurately feared that the harsh, punitive provisions against Germany would inevitably lead to another European war and we would again be called upon to save the Europeans from themselves. Many felt that Wilson had allowed the United States to be “used” by the Europeans for their own purposes and these people were determined never to let it happen again.

The result was not only the rejection of the Versailles Treaty, but a rejection of internationalism and a determination to return America to George Washington’s principles of “avoiding European entanglements.” U.S. leaders sought a return to isolationism in the belief that the Atlantic Ocean provided a big buffer between the United States and Europe and from now on it was better that the Europeans stay on their side of it and we would stay on ours. The refusal of the United States Senate to allow U.S.

entry into the League of Nations, for fear that League membership would allow Europe to draw U.S. forces into future wars, epitomized American feelings at this time.

The election of Warren G. Harding in 1920, with his emphasis on domestic politics and economic prosperity, reflected the desires of most Americans to take care of the “home front” and let Europe take care of itself. During the 1920s, when weak European leadership might have been positively swayed by active American involvement in world affairs, the United States withdrew, letting the Europeans flounder. This would pose tremendous difficulties for Franklin Roosevelt in the late 1930s when he realized that Hitler and Nazi expansionism would have to be dealt with by U.S. military force. Yet he could not convince the powerful forces of isolationism that America needed to prepare for war until it was nearly too late.

15. (A)
The Truman Doctrine was issued in response to the threat of Communist expansion in Greece and Turkey. The Marshall Plan was issued in response to the devastated economic condition of post-war Europe (B). The threat posed by the Red Army in Central Europe (C) led to the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. The Communist invasion of South Korea (D) began the Korean War, and the Communist threat to South Vietnam (E) led to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.
16. (D)
“Yellow journalism” is the reporting of the news in an exaggerated, distorted, and sensationalized manner. The Muckrakers focused on corruptions and abuses in government and big business (C). While popular concern in one part of the country or another might from time to time focus on the supposed dangers of Chinese immigration (A) or Japanese power (B), and while a large corporation might occasionally have a paper as its mouthpiece (E), none of these characterized a school of journalism in itself.
17. (D)
During the latter half of the nineteenth century, the invention of numerous mechanized tools and devices allowed workers to accomplish their tasks in shorter times. Combined with changing attitudes about work and leisure, these devices led to reductions in the workday for large numbers of U.S. workers. This reduced workday for urban workers gave them more leisure time than any generation of Americans had ever previously acquired. Now the question became what to do with all the free time. Sports became a primary means of spending free time, and this period of U.S. history was marked by the emergence of professional college leagues for football, basketball, and baseball. Cycling, croquet, and swimming became common sporting activities for the middle classes. In addition, popular entertainment activities included vaudeville, which was peaking in popularity at this time, stage plays, circuses, carnivals and amusement parks, and later on, silent movies. All competed to separate the American worker and his family from their entertainment dollar.

18. (B)
Marcus Garvey, a West Indian, was the leading force in the Universal Negro Improvement Association. In the early 1920s the association attracted hundreds of thousands of followers. Garvey had nothing but contempt for Whites, for light-skinned Negroes, and for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) that sought to bring Whites and Blacks together to fight segregation and other forms of prejudice. He preached that the black man must “work out his salvation in his motherland,” Africa.
19. (E)
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka was the first legal shot in the war to desegregate America’s public schools. Up to this time, many school districts, particularly in the South, had segregated schools for black and white schoolchildren under the doctrine of “separate but equal” education. Sadly, most education facilities for black children were anything but equal. Blacks usually got dilapidated facilities, the worst teachers, and an inferior education. Frustrated black parents challenged the “separate but equal” doctrine in several states and those challenges were consolidated into one case to be presented before the United States Supreme Court in 1954. Up until this case, previous civil rights cases had been heard before conservative Supreme Courts which had upheld the “separate but equal” doctrine. However, by 1954, the Court was a more liberal court, more sensitive to constitutional protections for all people.
20. (C)
In 1885, the federal government had enacted tariffs on more than 4,000 separate manufactured items. While this protected the manufacturers of these items, it also needlessly raised prices paid by consumers. Democrats began a major push at this time to enact “free trade” legislation, charging that most tariffs benefitted rich industrialists while hurting poor and middle-class consumers. They also charged that since nearly all the tariffs protected manufactured goods and few tariffs protected agricultural products, that farmers were being hurt by tariffs. Farmers had to pay the inflated prices for imported manufactured goods (or inflated prices for domestic goods because many American manufacturers raised their prices to levels near the artificially high import prices, making a huge profit) but could not get inflated prices for their unprotected agricultural products. Despite their efforts, high tariffs remained in effect throughout the period. Republican claims that the tariffs were necessary to protect American industries were strongly supported by the business leaders of the country, and Democratic reforms were defeated or so watered down as to be useless.
21. (E)
A member of the Social Gospel movement would probably argue that Christians should work to reorganize the industrial system and bring about international peace. He would probably not be very concerned about such “ordinary” sins as alcohol abuse and sexual permissiveness (A), nor would he hold the poor at fault for their plight (B) or suggest that

those who committed abuses simply lacked willpower (C)—all this was society’s fault. He did not see religion as individualistic (D) but rather as a social matter.

22. (D)
Sinclair Lewis depicted small-town America as dreary, prejudiced, and vulgar, rather than in any of the more traditional and positive ways reflected in the other answer choices.
23. (D)
Mark Twain’s writings pioneered a trend toward realism in U.S. literature at the turn of the century. This trend portrayed the lives of real, flawed, and often quite colorful human beings. There was no effort to make the characters in these stories “larger than life” or pillars of virtue to be admired for their flawless character. These people struggled with the everyday issues of life as well as the bigger social and moral questions of the day, sometimes reaching successful resolutions to their quests, more often than not finding only partial answers to their problems. The focus of these stories was often on the temptations of sin, sexuality, and other of life’s evils. The hero or heroine often faced difficult tests or questions regarding what was right or wrong in their particular situation. The realistic school of writing was in many ways a coming of age for American literature and bore its own unique stamp as a uniquely American contribution to the world of written fiction.
24. (B)
Hoover did *not* see the Depression as akin to an act of nature, about which nothing could be done. He did stress the desirability of localism and private initiative (A) and urged the nation’s business leaders to maintain wages and full employment (C), but his efforts ended in failure (D), and he was the target of growing unpopularity (E).
25. (B)
Germany’s 1917 declaration of its intent to wage unrestricted submarine warfare was the most important factor in bringing the United States into World War I. German violation of Belgian neutrality in 1914 (A) did nothing to aid Germany’s cause in America, and revelation of Germany’s suggestions to Mexico (C) was even more damaging, but neither of these had the impact of the U-boats. The fall of the Tsar and beginning of the Russian Revolution (D) may or may not have had an influence on President Woodrow Wilson, and the deteriorating situation for the Allies (E) was not fully known.
26. (C)
Roosevelt felt the good trusts should be tolerated and the bad controlled. Despite his reputation as the trust-buster, Roosevelt was by no means in favor of eliminating all trusts (A) and (E). Trusts of which he tended to take a particularly dim view were those in the railroad, oil, and meatpacking industries (B) and (D).

27. (D)
The Gulf of Tonkin Incident led to major U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. In the Gulf of Sidra during the 1980s two clashes occurred involving the shooting down of Libyan, not Vietnamese, jets approaching U.S. ships (B). Off the coast of North Korea in 1968, Korean, not Vietnamese, forces seized the U.S. Navy intelligence ship *Pueblo* (C). In an incident in the Persian Gulf in 1987 the U.S. Navy frigate, not destroyer, *Stark*, was struck by a guided missile fired by an Iraqi, not North Vietnamese, plane (E).
28. (A)
Many American intellectuals of the 1920s expressed a sense of alienation for a country whose manners and direction they found distasteful. They tended to be more cynical than either romantic (C) or complacent (B), and many became expatriates while few if any could be called patriotic (D) or pietistic (E).
29. (B)
Roosevelt declared a banking holiday, closing all banks to prevent anxious depositors from demanding their money and causing the banks to default. Curtailing government spending and taxes (A) was the last thing Roosevelt wanted to do and would probably have had little effect on the immediate banking crisis at the time of Roosevelt's inauguration. Nationalizing banks (E) on the other hand would have been rather extreme and was probably seen by Roosevelt as politically inadvisable. Banning fractional reserve banking (C) would at least have addressed the root problem but was as extreme in another direction and was not suggested by anyone in government at that time. A multibillion-dollar federal bailout (D) has been the federal government's response to the savings and loan crisis of the late 1980s and early 1990s.
30. (A)
The Sherman Silver Purchase Act required the federal government to purchase a certain specified amount of silver each month (B). The president had no discretion in the matter (E). Private citizens were not directly affected by the Act (C) and (D).
31. (A)
In August 1914, Venustiano Carranza seized power in Mexico, and Pancho Villa emerged as the leader of an anti-Carranza movement. In January 1916, Villa's forces killed 18 Americans in northern Mexico; and in March, he raided across the border into New Mexico killing 17 Americans. President Wilson secured Carranza's permission and dispatched an American force, commanded by General John Pershing, into northern Mexico in an unsuccessful pursuit of Villa.
32. (B)
The leaders of the victorious European powers sought revenge against Germany and did not agree with Woodrow Wilson's conciliatory philosophy. At the peace conference, a fundamental and bitter clash developed between Premier Georges Clemenceau of France

and Wilson. While Clemenceau wanted a hard peace that would mutilate Germany and make her harmless in the future, Wilson wanted a “just” peace free of any kind of vindictiveness.

33. (A)
President Theodore Roosevelt believed that a Japanese victory in the war between Japan and Russia would upset the balance of power in Asia. He therefore took an active role in peace negotiations. The result was the Treaty of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, that was signed by the delegates of Russia and Japan. Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for his role in the peace process.
34. (E)
Henry Cabot Lodge, United States Senator from Massachusetts from 1893 to 1924, was a conservative Republican. Lodge was a bitter foe of Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points; and as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he led the attack on the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations.
35. (B)
Droughts, high tariffs, bankruptcies, and low prices had either a direct or indirect impact on all segments of society. Nevertheless, their greatest and most direct impact was on the stock market.
36. (A)
William Marcy Tweed, or “Boss Tweed,” led the powerful Democratic political machine that was able to control or crush the opposition. In two years (1869–1871), Tweed milked the City of New York of approximately \$100 million. Tweed eventually was sent to prison in 1872, where he died four years later.
37. (A)
Calvin Coolidge made this comment in a presidential speech. His advocacy of tax cuts, economy in government, and a strong laissez-faire policy toward business coincided with an era of general prosperity. Coolidge’s comment reflected his philosophy and that of the nation.
38. (E)
Early in his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt faced the Venezuelan debt crisis. Venezuela owed sizable debts to European and American creditors. Germany and Great Britain attempted to collect their debts in December 1902 by force. Roosevelt joined the Venezuelan president in urging arbitration, and the British and Germans agreed. In this crisis, Roosevelt made it clear that he would not permit European powers to intervene in Western Hemisphere affairs in any way that might endanger American interests.

After the settlement of the crisis, Roosevelt continued to be concerned about the intervention of European powers in Latin America. He believed that such intervention could be prevented only if the U.S. assumed responsibility for maintaining political and economic stability in the region. Therefore, in his annual message to Congress in May 1904, Roosevelt asserted that not only did the U.S. have the right to oppose European intervention in the Western Hemisphere, but it also had the right to intervene in the domestic affairs of the Western Hemisphere states to maintain order and to prevent intervention of others.

39. (E)

The tremendous growth in most late-nineteenth-century American cities was not the result of long-term or even short-term planning. It was not based on British growth models (D) or affected by federal regulations (C) or by the needs of the public (B), especially the poverty stricken members of the public. It was determined almost entirely by the desire of entrepreneurs to turn a profit. Nearly all of the major housing projects, skyscrapers, and transportation systems built in the cities at this time were financed by private businessmen who believed their investments could make them rich. While this led to the development of grandiose and spectacular projects, many of them quite practical, it also led to uncoordinated growth with little thought to the needs of the people living nearby. There was tremendous waste resulting from needless competition because city governments failed to coordinate projects. Basic public needs such as garbage disposal and water and sewage treatment often went unmet because no one saw a way to make a big profit from providing those services. Economically depressed areas of a city, needing the most help, often got the least because profits could be better made in middle- and upper-class neighborhoods. This led to cities that were a hodgepodge of inefficient, uncoordinated, inconsistent, and often inadequate city facilities and services, making most American cities dirty, foul smelling, overcrowded, disease ridden, and ugly monuments to greed over public need.

40. (A)

President William Howard Taft (1909–1913) believed that the best way to improve Latin American stability and promote American interests in the region was to use American dollars, bolster Latin American regimes, and spur investment in those regions. Taft felt that in the long run, this would be more cost-effective than Roosevelt's "Big Stick" approach and would drive European economic influence out of the region. This approach of spending American money to economically dominate the Caribbean became known as "Dollar Diplomacy."