



American History Honors Midterm Examination (First Semester) Review Guide

Exam Overview:

The intent of this examination is to assess your understanding of the history of the United States from Columbus' discovery of the New World in 1492 to the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Several of the questions have appeared on previous tests; however, many are designed as "broad-topic" questions drawing on material covered in multiple class sessions and on different chapters in the textbook.

Review Guide:

This review guide is intended to help focus your review of what we have discussed throughout the semester. It is certainly not a list of what will or will not be on the exam. You have been encouraged to continually review throughout the semester; therefore, your final preparations for this exam should draw on what you have studied since August.

Materials Covered:

- Textbook Chapters 1 – 12; Course Reader Units 1 – 3 (pages 1-90)
- Primary Source Readings assigned throughout the semester
- Material from the paper assignments
- Class Discussions (NOTE: Remember that the material in the textbook serves as the foundation for the course and our class discussions and activities expand on that foundation)

Topics to Review:

Colonial America, 1492 – 1763

- Reasons for European Exploration of the outside world (Crusades → 1300s → 1400s)
- Reasons for New World settlement; Reasons for English settlement (1588 →)
- Development of Slavery and the Atlantic World (profitable crop?)
- Effects of settlement on Native Americans
- Spanish presidios, and settlement
- Jamestown – problems, survival, House of Burgesses
- Bacon's Rebellion
- Puritan settlement: Plymouth/Mayflower; Massachusetts Bay Colony; Dissent and foundation of Rhode Island and Connecticut
- King Philip's War
- **Broad topics:** Development of democracy in the English colonies; Religion in the colonies
- Mercantilism; Navigation Acts; Dominion of New England; Glorious Revolution; Salutary Neglect
- Economy/Geography/Social Structures of the colonies: North, Middle, South
- William Penn, Pennsylvania
- Slave trade, Slavery in the southern colonies
- Great Awakening (and significance)
- Colonial Society – characteristics, comparisons to Europe
- Conflicts with French and British colonists
- French and Indian War: causes/results, colonial unity, Albany Plan of Union (1754)
- Be familiar with British complaints of the Americans by 1763 (setting the stage for the revolutionary period)
- Be able to review the basic "seeds of revolution" evident throughout the colonial period

Revolutionary Period, 1763 – 1788

- Post-French and Indian War return to mercantilism, Proclamation of 1763
- New British policies and reactions: Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Declaratory Act (1764-1766)
- Signs of growing colonial unity
- Townshend Duties, Response, Boston Massacre, Repeal

- Boston Tea Party, Intolerable Acts, First Continental Congress, outbreak of violence
- Influence of Enlightenment and American authors: John Locke, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson
- Declaration of Independence – components; significance; why Independence was chosen for 1776 and why the Continental Congress was hesitant to declare independence
- Advantages/Disadvantages in the War for Independence
- Major turning points; significance of French assistance
- Treaty of Paris of 1783
- Problems in forming a new government; components of new state constitutions
- Articles of Confederations – powers and limitations; problems; land ordinances
- Shays Rebellion (political significance)

Founding the New Republic, 1788 – 1815

- Philadelphia Constitutional Convention (delegates, leaders missing, agreements)
- Political compromise: Virginia & New Jersey Plans, Great Compromise, Three-Fifths Compromise, Commercial Compromise
- It is very important to understand what mechanics of government are contained in the U.S. Constitution and what procedures are created later – either by Washington, by Congress or as a result of political debate.
- Ratification battle: Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
- Significance of the *Federalist Papers*
- Creation of a Bill of Rights
- Alexander Hamilton's Financial Program – details/results, reactions, Whiskey Rebellion
- Formation of political parties
- President Washington's reaction to the French Revolution
- John Adams/Foreign Affairs: XYZ Affair
- John Adams/Domestic Affairs: Alien and Sedition Acts; Jefferson and Madison's Virginia and Kentucky Resolves
- Election of 1800 as a "revolution"
- Louisiana Purchase – original intent; results
- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
- Responses by Jefferson and Madison to foreign problems (timeline?)
- War of 1812 – support, course of the war, Native Americans and the west
- Tecumseh's Confederacy
- Treaty of Ghent and consequences of war
- **Be familiar with the major events of the time period and how they kept the fire of the republic burning through tumultuous times**

Nationalism, Age of Jackson, and growing sectionalism, 1815 – 1840

- Monroe years and the "Era of Good Feelings"
- Judicial nationalism (i.e. *McCulloch v. Maryland*)
- Henry Clay's American System
- Foreign Affairs: Treaty of 1818, Adams-Onís Treaty 1819, Monroe Doctrine 1823
- Panic of 1819 (and westward development)
- **Missouri Compromise**
- Effects of technology: Cotton gin, steam power, canal building, **transportation revolution**
- Era of the common man, universal white male suffrage, "Jacksonian democracy"
- Elections of 1824 & 1828 – how was 1828 revolutionary?
- Tariffs of 1828 & 1832, nullification crisis, Force Bill, Compromise Tariff of 1833
- Bank War: veto of re-charter, removal of federal funds, pet banks
- Formation of the Whig Party
- Panic of 1837 (causes), trouble for Martin Van Buren
- Immigration and nativism, 1830s-1850s
- Dynamics of southern society, growth of abolitionism, southern reaction
- Growth of the cotton kingdom → Second Middle Passage (remember our seminar?)
- Second Great Awakening
- Utopian movements, transcendentalism, women's rights (Seneca Falls)

Expansionism and the Crisis of Union, 1840 – 1860

- Settlement of the West; western trails; life on the trails; Mormon migration
- Be familiar with the political, social and economic effects of westward expansion
- Texas settlement; Texas War for Independence; denial of annexation in 1836
- British-American Relations: Incidents; Webster-Ashburton Treaty 1842; Treaty of 1846
- Manifest Destiny and the Election of 1844
- Causes, Course, and Results of the Mexican-American War
- Be familiar with opposition to the war – who/why
- Wilmot Proviso
- Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo
- Gadsden Purchase
- Free Soil Party, growing abolitionism, southern dependence on slavery and reaction to abolitionism – it is imperative that you review the anti-slavery and pro-slavery arguments (not simply abolitionism, but also the economic arguments as well)
- California Gold Rush → Compromise of 1850 (details, debates, significance)
- Fugitive Slave Law and reactions
- “Voices of Crisis”; Harriet Beecher Stowe, etc.
- Kansas-Nebraska Act debate/consequences
- Decline of the Whig Party; formation of the Republican Party
- *Dred Scott v. Sandford*; Lincoln-Douglas Debates; breakdown of political compromise – late 1850s
- At this point, you should review the overall history of political compromise in attempting to avert sectional tensions (and why those compromises eventually became ineffective → impossible); also review the major causes of the Civil War (long term and short term).

Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861 – 1877

- Reasons for secession: lower south, upper south
- Advantages/Disadvantages for both sides
- Early war strategies; Anaconda Plan; old tactics with new technology
- Major battles and campaigns: **East:** Shenandoah/Peninsular, Antietam, Gettysburg, Overland Campaign; **West:** Western rivers; Vicksburg; Sherman’s March to the Sea
- War of attrition strategy
- Emancipation Proclamation, reasons for issuance, details/effects/significance
- Politics in the north and south during the war
- Conscription and how the draft could be avoided
- How can the Civil War be characterized as a second American Revolution?
- Presidential Plans for Reconstruction: Lincoln and Johnson
- Impeachment of Andrew Johnson
- Radical (or Congressional) Reconstruction
- Southern resistance to Reconstruction; Ku Klux Klan
- End of Reconstruction with the Compromise of 1877