

AP U.S. History – Period 8: Unit – 8 - 1945-1980 Practice Test

Question 1:

What two nations were in competition with each other during the Cold War?

- A. Spain and Portugal
- B. England and France
- C. Germany and Italy
- D. United States and Soviet Union

Question 2:

“The American people are sick and tired of being afraid to speak their minds lest they be politically smeared as ‘Communists’ or ‘Fascists’ by their opponents. Freedom of speech is not what it used to be in America. . . . The American people are sick and tired of seeing innocent people smeared and guilty people whitewashed.”

“As an American, I am shocked at the way Republicans and Democrats alike are playing directly into the Communist design of ‘confuse, divide, and conquer.’ As an American, I do not want a Democratic administration ‘whitewash’ or ‘coverup’ any more than I want a Republican smear or witch hunt.”

- Source: Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, in the “Declaration of Conscience,” 1950

The excerpt is best understood as a response to which historical development?

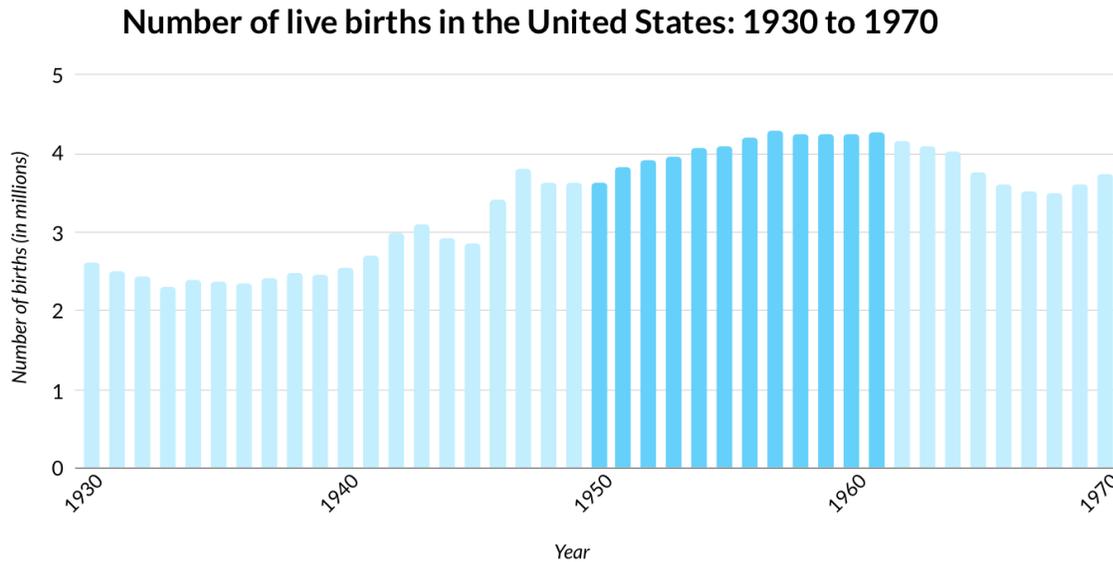
- A. McCarthyism
- B. Détente
- C. the Palmer Raids
- D. the Korean War

Question 3:

President Truman adopted a new foreign policy during the Cold War known as the Truman Doctrine. What was the main goal of the Truman Doctrine?

- A. To expand trade with Europe
- B. To limit the build up of nuclear weapons
- C. To stop the spread of communism
- D. to send financial aid to Europe

Question 4:



- Source: US Census Bureau

Which of the following historical developments was a direct effect of the trend illustrated by the graph?

- A. the rise of suburban communities
- B. the decrease in consumerism
- C. the start of a civil rights movement
- D. the emergence of a conservative movement

Question 5:

“The commercial development of television in the post-World War II years as a mechanism for reaching into the household represents a singularly significant moment in the development of the American economy and culture. Through television, American business has represented, penetrated and constructed the family. . . In the television age, consumption and social control have become linked.”

- Source: Nick Browne, historian, “The Political Economy of the Television (Super) Text (1984),” *American Television: New Directions in History and Theory*, 2013

The rise of what the excerpt describes as “the commercial development of television” most directly contributed to which of the following characteristics of US society during the period?

- A. the reduction in anti-Communist sentiment
- B. the increase in consumerism in American culture
- C. the globalization of American culture
- D. the use of news broadcasts for political protest

Question 6:

“The head pin was China. It is down already. The two pins in the second row are Burma and Indochina. If they go, the three pins in the next row, Siam, Malaya, and Indonesia, are pretty sure to topple in their turn. And if all the rest of Asia goes, the resulting psychological, political, and economic magnetism will almost certainly drag down the four pins of the fourth row, India, Pakistan, Japan, and the Philippines.”

- Source: Stewart Alsop, “We Are Losing Asia Fast,” *Saturday Evening Post*, 1950

The ideas about Asia expressed in the excerpt are most consistent with which of the following?

- A. the positive good theory
- B. the compact theory
- C. the social Darwinism theory
- D. the domino theory

Question 7:

The protest is keeping the people off the bus, and we know it is more than successful. A number of people are working from more than full time to part time to operate a transportation system inspite [sic] of all obstacles placed against us. The people have walked when they could not get rides in the most inclimate [sic] weather. Many are still saying they will walk forever before they will go back to riding the bus under the same conditions.”

- Source: Rosa Parks, Rosa Parks Papers, Library of Congress, 1955-1956

The events described in the excerpt contributed most directly to which of the following?

- A. the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- B. the ratification of the Twenty-fourth Amendment
- C. the Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- D. the establishment of the NAACP

Question 8:

Which of the following lead to Carter's downfall as a president?

- A. Stagflation
- B. Watergate
- C. Bay of Pigs
- D. Iran-Contra

Question 9:

“Those who uphold the Administration defense budget are right on one count: we cannot be certain that the Soviets will have, during the term of the next Administration, the tremendous lead in missile striking power which they give every evidence of building — and we cannot be certain that they will use that lead to threaten or launch an attack upon the United States. Consequently those of us who call for a higher defense budget are taking a chance on spending money unnecessarily. But those who oppose these expenditures are taking a chance on our very survival as a nation.”

- Source: Senator John F. Kennedy, “An Investment for Peace,” 1960

Based on the excerpt, Kennedy would most likely support which of the following?

- A. increasing taxes on businesses producing military weapons
- B. engaging in talks aimed at disarmament with the Soviet Union
- C. creating federal grants for technological innovators in science
- D. expanding federal benefits for veterans of the armed services

Question 10:

“The integrity of the U.S. commitment is the principal pillar of peace throughout the world. If that commitment becomes unreliable, the communist world would draw conclusions that would lead to our ruin and almost certainly to a catastrophic war. So long as the South Vietnamese are prepared to fight for themselves, we cannot abandon them without disaster to peace and to our interests throughout the world.”

- Source: Secretary of State Dean Rusk, 1965

Which of the following United States actions most directly resulted from the goals expressed in the excerpt?

- A. donating funds to the Southern Vietnamese army
- B. training Vietnamese troops in the United States
- C. negotiating peace talks between the warring countries
- D. sending troops and military resources to South Vietnam

Question 11:

Read the excerpt and answer the question below.

“The task of public authority, like that of private individuals, will be to distribute this increase in accordance with relative need. Schools and road will then no longer be at a disadvantage . . . The practical solution would be much eased were the revenues of the federal government available for the service of social balance. . . . The test is not that high military costs make reductions in other public outlays necessary. Rather, it is whether, given these military outlays (which may be regretted), we are more in need of the services that improve social balance or the additional private goods with which we are more affluently supplied than ever before.”

- Source: John Kenneth Galbraith, economist, *The Affluent Society*, 1958

Ideas similar to those expressed in the passage directly contributed to the development of which of the following aspects in the 1960s?

- A. the rise of civil rights movements aimed at promoting social and economic equality
- B. the establishment of the Social Security Administration to support the elderly population
- C. the reduction in military spending and taxes on businesses to support economic growth
- D. the creation of domestic programs that combat poverty and promote social welfare

Question 12:

The court case that ended segregation in public schools

- A. Brown v. Board
- B. Plessy v. Ferguson
- C. Miranda v. Arizona
- D. Tinker v. DesMoines

Question 13:

Which of the following did NOT grow during the 1950s?

- A. Nuclear Arsenal
- B. Opposition to the Vietnam War
- C. Suburbs
- D. Counterculture

Question 14:

“[In 1963,] peaceful protests— and the violent backlash against them— had spread across the South, from lunch counter sit-ins and ‘Freedom Rides’ aimed at desegregating public places and interstate buses, to firebombing mobs and defiant public school boards that had closed their districts’ doors rather than mix black and white students. Rigid racial segregation remained a fact of law and life in the states of the Old Confederacy nearly a century after the War Between the States had ended.”

- Source: Todd S. Purdum, historian, *An Idea Whose Time Has Come*, 2014

The pattern described in the excerpt most directly contributed to which of the following developments during the 1960s?

- A. The United Nations sanctioned the United States for civil rights violations.
- B. The federal government used its power to promote racial equality.
- C. The National Guard enforced integration in southern schools.
- D. The state governors signed a petition to honor federal laws on civil rights.

Question 15:

Read the excerpt and answer the question below.

“If the rules to settle our economic problems are not forthcoming, we will call a general strike to paralyze the state’s agricultural economy. [applause] We will call a general strike to let the legislators and the employers know that we mean business. We will take economic pressure, strikes, boycotts, to force recognition and obtain collective bargaining rights. The social and economic revolution of the farm workers is well underway and it will not be stopped until we receive equality. The farm workers are moving. Nothing is going to stop them.”

- Dolores Huerta, march and rally in Sacramento, transcript from University of California San Diego, 1966

Which of the following movements used tactics most similar to those expressed in the excerpt?

- A. the civil rights movement
- B. the education reform movement
- C. the anti-war movement
- D. the conservation movement

Question 16:

“We saw the seriousness of the early antiwar movement not so much in an analysis of whether it was a minority or a majority— it was always a minority. We saw that as affecting overall public opinion, we saw that as affecting the Congress, and as furthering the defection of the press. . . . This might be a bunch of wild-eyed kids or little old ladies in tennis shoes walking down Pennsylvania Avenue. . . but it had an insidious effect in public opinion and in the Congress.”

- Source: Roger Morris, in an interview with Tom Wells, printed in *The War Within: America’s Battle Over Vietnam*, 1994

By the 1970s, the ideas of the antiwar movement contributed most directly to the:

- A. ratification of the Twenty-fourth Amendment.
- B. impeachment of Richard Nixon after he authorized the bombing of Cambodia.
- C. withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam.
- D. negotiation of a peace treaty between North and South Vietnam.

Question 17:

“There was no question that in 1974-75, we faced a serious energy problem. Nuclear energy was just beginning to be a factor. Hydroelectric power was at its peak. . . . Oil and gas were having troubles. Domestically, we were so much more dependent on foreign oil. We had a real crisis, so it was important that we make some headway, not only in conservation but in more production.”

- Source: Gerald Ford, former president, in an interview with Yanek Mieczkowski, 1994

Which of the following political shifts resulted most directly from the trends described in the excerpt?

- A. the development of a federal department to regulate and develop sources of energy
- B. the creation of laws and programs that aimed to protect the environment from poor business practices
- C. the withdrawal of the United States from OPEC in protest of the embargo placed on it
- D. the establishment of federal gas rationing laws to keep the price of gas low during the embargo

Question 18:

Read the passage and answer the question below.

“To propose federal ‘intrusion’ into the sanctity of the state-local-private preserve of education was to stride boldly into a uniquely dangerous political [minefield] that pitted Democrat against Republican; liberal against conservative; Catholic against Protestant and Jew; federal power against states rights; white against black; and rich constituency against poor in mercurial cross-cutting alliances.”

- Source: Hugh Davis Graham, historian, *The Uncertain Triumph: Federal Education Policy in the Kennedy and Johnson Years*, 1984

The developments described in the excerpt best illustrate which of the following?

- A.** the rise in debates over continued American intervention in the Vietnam War
- B.** the growing clashes between political groups over the power of the federal government
- C.** the passage of a provision in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that increased opportunities for women
- D.** the loss in public confidence in the federal government’s ability to solve social and economic problems

Question 19:

Students practiced nuclear safety drills in school known as?

- A.** Bert the Turtle
- B.** Duck and Cover
- C.** Stop, Drop, and Roll
- D.** Operation Alert

Question 20:

Which of the following was NOT a factor in the rise of conservatism before 1980?

- A.** Backlash against the counterculture
- B.** Backlash against the Civil Rights Movement
- C.** Backlash against the Rights Revolution
- D.** Backlash against the hawks of the Vietnam era

Answer Key:

- 1. D
- 2. A
- 3. C

4. A
5. B
6. D
7. A
8. A
9. C
10. D
11. D
12. A
13. B
14. B
15. A
16. C
17. A
18. B
19. B
20. D