

# AMSCO Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

SAMPLE

- 1. Which individual would most likely agree with the sentiments expressed in the excerpt?**
  - A. Winston Churchill**
  - B. Franklin Roosevelt**
  - C. Joseph Stalin**
  - D. Charles Lindbergh**
- 2. Which statement describes a similarity between the Prohibition movement and other Progressive reforms?**
  - A. Both began as national movements**
  - B. Both were initiated by major corporations**
  - C. Both started at local and state levels before going national**
  - D. Both had government opposition from the outset**
- 3. What was the primary economic reason for the rationing program mentioned in the document?**
  - A. Boosting wartime employment**
  - B. Control inflation caused by shortages of consumer goods**
  - C. Encouraging price wars**
  - D. Increasing exports to allies**
- 4. Who was a principal architect of the containment policy during the Cold War?**
  - A. Harry S. Truman**
  - B. George F. Kennan**
  - C. John F. Kennedy**
  - D. Dwight D. Eisenhower**
- 5. In which context can Susan B. Anthony's arguments for women's suffrage be best understood?**
  - A. The Reconstruction Amendments**
  - B. The Civil Rights Act**
  - C. The Seneca Falls Convention**
  - D. The Suffrage Movement**

- 6. What was the main goal of the Marshall Plan?**
- A. To increase military presence in Europe**
  - B. To aid the economic recovery of European nations after World War II**
  - C. To promote democratic governance in Eastern Europe**
  - D. To establish NATO alliances**
- 7. What effect did the Spanish-American War have on American foreign policy?**
- A. It established isolationism as a policy**
  - B. It marked the U.S. as a world power and expanded its influence**
  - C. It led to the U.S. joining the League of Nations**
  - D. It ended colonialism in the Philippines**
- 8. What was the main event that triggered the U.S. entry into World War II?**
- A. The sinking of the Lusitania**
  - B. The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941**
  - C. The declaration of war by Germany**
  - D. The bombing of London**
- 9. What ideology contrasts with laissez-faire economics according to historical context?**
- A. Socialism**
  - B. Capitalism**
  - C. Mercantilism**
  - D. Libertarianism**
- 10. During World War I, government propaganda most likely contributed to which of the following?**
- A. Increased support for peace treaties**
  - B. Increased fear of foreigners and immigrants**
  - C. Decreased enlistment in the military**
  - D. Reduced tensions in international relations**

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which individual would most likely agree with the sentiments expressed in the excerpt?**

- A. Winston Churchill**
- B. Franklin Roosevelt**
- C. Joseph Stalin**
- D. Charles Lindbergh**

The sentiments expressed in the excerpt are most likely aligned with the views of Franklin Roosevelt due to his leadership during a pivotal time in American history, particularly during World War II. Roosevelt emphasized the importance of unity, international cooperation, and active involvement in global affairs to combat totalitarianism. His administration was characterized by a commitment to democratic values and a proactive stance against the Axis powers, which resonates with sentiments of solidarity and the necessity of collective action reflected in the excerpt. Winston Churchill, while a significant ally, focused more on British resilience and leadership against Nazi Germany than specifically on American sentiments. Joseph Stalin, as the leader of the Soviet Union, had a drastically different ideological perspective that prioritized communism and often rejected democratic principles, which would not align with the democratic sentiments in the excerpt. Charles Lindbergh, known for his isolationist views and opposition to U.S. involvement in WWII, would likely disagree with the notion of active engagement and solidarity typical of Roosevelt's positions. Thus, Franklin Roosevelt is the best fit for the sentiments expressed in the excerpt.

**2. Which statement describes a similarity between the Prohibition movement and other Progressive reforms?**

- A. Both began as national movements**
- B. Both were initiated by major corporations**
- C. Both started at local and state levels before going national**
- D. Both had government opposition from the outset**

The similarity between the Prohibition movement and other Progressive reforms is that both started at local and state levels before gaining national prominence. The Prohibition movement, which aimed to ban the manufacture and sale of alcohol, initially garnered support from local temperance groups and state legislatures before eventually leading to the adoption of the 18th Amendment in 1919, which prohibited alcohol nationwide. This pattern is also seen in other Progressive reforms, such as women's suffrage and labor rights, which often began with grassroots efforts and local initiatives. Progressives would mobilize support within their communities and secure victories at lower levels of government before pushing for broader changes at the national level. This grassroots approach was essential for building momentum and gaining the political support necessary to effect change on a larger scale.

**3. What was the primary economic reason for the rationing program mentioned in the document?**

**A. Boosting wartime employment**

**B. Control inflation caused by shortages of consumer goods**

**C. Encouraging price wars**

**D. Increasing exports to allies**

The primary economic reason for the rationing program was to control inflation caused by shortages of consumer goods. During wartime, particularly in the context of World War II, the demand for resources often outstrips supply due to increased military needs. This can lead to significant inflation as consumers compete for limited goods, driving prices up. Rationing was implemented to ensure that essential items were distributed fairly among the population and to stabilize prices by preventing excessive demand that could exacerbate inflationary pressures. By regulating the availability of certain goods, the government aimed to maintain a balance in the economy and ensure that everyone had access to necessary products during a time of scarcity. This economic strategy not only supported the war effort by prioritizing resources for military use but also addressed the potential economic instability that could arise from uncontrolled consumer spending during such critical times.

**4. Who was a principal architect of the containment policy during the Cold War?**

**A. Harry S. Truman**

**B. George F. Kennan**

**C. John F. Kennedy**

**D. Dwight D. Eisenhower**

The principal architect of the containment policy during the Cold War was George F. Kennan. Kennan was a diplomat and historian who articulated the strategy of containment in his famous "Long Telegram" sent from Moscow in 1946. In this telegram and subsequent writings, he argued that the Soviet Union was driven by a desire to expand its influence and that Western powers should adopt a policy of containment to prevent this expansion. This strategy became the foundational principle guiding U.S. foreign policy during the early years of the Cold War, influencing various policies and actions aimed at curbing the spread of communism around the world. Kennan's strategic insights emphasized diplomatic and economic measures rather than military confrontation, which shaped how the United States approached international relations with the Soviet Union for decades. His ideas laid the groundwork for various initiatives, including the Marshall Plan and NATO, aiming to strengthen Western Europe against potential Soviet aggression. The other figures listed played significant roles in Cold War policies; however, their contributions were more about executing or adapting the containment strategy rather than devising its original framework. For example, Harry S. Truman implemented containment through actions like the Truman Doctrine, while Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy expanded U.S. involvement in global conflicts shaped by the

**5. In which context can Susan B. Anthony's arguments for women's suffrage be best understood?**

**A. The Reconstruction Amendments**

**B. The Civil Rights Act**

**C. The Seneca Falls Convention**

**D. The Suffrage Movement**

Susan B. Anthony's arguments for women's suffrage are best understood in the context of the Reconstruction Amendments, particularly the 15th Amendment, which was ratified in 1870. This amendment prohibited the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." However, it did not extend these voting rights to women, which led to significant frustrations among women's suffragists like Anthony. During the period after the Civil War, many women activists were advocating for their right to vote, prompting debates about the broader implications of citizenship and rights. Anthony argued that since women were citizens, they deserved the same rights as men, including the right to vote. This argument was rooted in the belief that the fight for racial equality and the fight for gender equality were interconnected; therefore, the failure to include women in the promise of suffrage with the Reconstruction Amendments highlighted the ongoing inequality they faced. While the Seneca Falls Convention and the Suffrage Movement are also important contexts in which Anthony's arguments can be placed, the specific timing and implications of the Reconstruction Amendments directly framed her argument against the backdrop of a newly redefined American citizenship, making this the most fitting context to understand

**6. What was the main goal of the Marshall Plan?**

**A. To increase military presence in Europe**

**B. To aid the economic recovery of European nations after World War II**

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**D. To establish NATO alliances**

The primary objective of the Marshall Plan was to aid the economic recovery of European nations after World War II. This initiative, formally known as the European Recovery Program, was enacted in 1948 and aimed to provide extensive financial assistance to help rebuild war-torn Europe. The rationale behind the plan was rooted in the belief that economic stability would promote political stability and help prevent the spread of communism in the region. By revitalizing the economies of European countries, the United States sought to create a stronger, more unified Europe that could resist Soviet influence and foster democratic governance. The plan provided over \$12 billion (approximately \$130 billion in today's dollars) in aid to various European countries, enabling them to rebuild infrastructure, stabilize their currencies, and restore industrial and agricultural production. The success of the Marshall Plan is widely recognized as a significant factor in Europe's rapid recovery and resurgence as a global economic power in the post-war period.

**7. What effect did the Spanish-American War have on American foreign policy?**

- A. It established isolationism as a policy**
- B. It marked the U.S. as a world power and expanded its influence**
- C. It led to the U.S. joining the League of Nations**
- D. It ended colonialism in the Philippines**

The Spanish-American War marked a significant turning point in American foreign policy by positioning the United States as an emerging world power. Following the war, the U.S. acquired several territories, including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, which showcased its expanded influence beyond North American borders. This shift in foreign policy represented a move away from isolationism toward imperialism, as the U.S. began to actively engage in international affairs and exert its military and economic power on a global scale. The war not only demonstrated the U.S. military capabilities but also highlighted its willingness to intervene in foreign conflicts, particularly in the context of supporting liberation movements and protecting American interests. The aftermath of the war prompted the U.S. to adopt a more assertive role in international politics, promoting the idea of America as a global player rather than a nation isolated from the rest of the world. This change laid the groundwork for future U.S. interventions and involvement in global affairs throughout the 20th century.

**8. What was the main event that triggered the U.S. entry into World War II?**

- A. The sinking of the Lusitania**
- B. The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941**
- C. The declaration of war by Germany**
- D. The bombing of London**

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was the pivotal event that led to the United States' entry into World War II. On that day, the Japanese military conducted a surprise military strike against the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, resulting in significant loss of life and damage to the Pacific Fleet. This attack galvanized public opinion in the United States, which had been largely isolationist and reluctant to enter the conflict. Following the assault, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed Congress, famously calling December 7 "a date which will live in infamy," and sought a declaration of war against Japan, which Congress granted almost unanimously the following day. This marked the official entry of the United States into World War II and fundamentally shifted the course of the conflict, leading to a full-scale mobilization and eventual victory for the Allies. The other events listed, such as the sinking of the Lusitania and the bombing of London, were significant in their own right but occurred during World War I or prior, and while they contributed to the atmosphere of conflict, they did not directly trigger U.S. involvement in World War II. The declaration of war by Germany followed the Pearl Harbor attack and was a consequence of U.S.

**9. What ideology contrasts with laissez-faire economics according to historical context?**

- A. Socialism**
- B. Capitalism**
- C. Mercantilism**
- D. Libertarianism**

Laissez-faire economics advocates for minimal government intervention in the economy, allowing market forces to dictate the flow of goods, services, and capital. In contrast, socialism emphasizes the idea of collective or governmental ownership and regulation of production and distribution. This approach asserts that the state has a responsibility to manage resources and ensure equitable distribution among its citizens, often to address social inequalities that laissez-faire practices can exacerbate. Historically, socialism gained traction as a response to the inequalities wrought by unregulated capitalism during the Industrial Revolution. Proponents argued that laissez-faire allowed a significant concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few, leading to worker exploitation and social injustice, which socialism sought to remedy through more active governmental control of economic activities and the welfare of individuals. Hence, in this context, socialism stands as a direct ideological counterpart to laissez-faire economics.

**10. During World War I, government propaganda most likely contributed to which of the following?**

- A. Increased support for peace treaties**
- B. Increased fear of foreigners and immigrants**
- C. Decreased enlistment in the military**
- D. Reduced tensions in international relations**

During World War I, government propaganda played a significant role in shaping public perception and sentiment. One of the most notable effects of this propaganda was the increased fear of foreigners and immigrants. With the war framed as a struggle against dangerous enemies, propaganda often portrayed immigrants, particularly those from countries viewed as adversaries, in a negative light. This heightened sense of danger fostered xenophobia and contributed to a broader cultural narrative that painted foreigners as potential threats to national security. The portrayal of certain ethnic groups in stereotypes or as spies and saboteurs fueled mistrust and animosity, leading to discrimination against immigrants. Many governments used propaganda to promote the idea that loyalty to the nation required vigilance against perceived foreign dangers. This created an atmosphere where suspicion of immigrants became widespread, reinforcing social tensions and discrimination during the war years. Therefore, the correct answer reflects the impact of propaganda on societal attitudes toward foreigners, emphasizing the significant influence of government messaging during this period.