

AMSCO AP United States History Exam (APUSH) - Period 6 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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- 1. What role did the Supreme Court play in shaping civil rights during this period?**
 - A. It expanded voting rights**
 - B. It enforced segregation laws**
 - C. It abolished slavery**
 - D. It promoted women's rights**
- 2. Which legislative act was designed to improve labor conditions by regulating working hours and conditions?**
 - A. The Fair Labor Standards Act**
 - B. The National Labor Relations Act**
 - C. The Child Labor Act**
 - D. The Mine Safety and Health Act**
- 3. What term describes the government's policy of non-interference in business during this era?**
 - A. Mercantilism**
 - B. Laissez-faire capitalism**
 - C. Planned economy**
 - D. Interventionist capitalism**
- 4. Which innovative device was NOT invented by Thomas A. Edison?**
 - A. Phonograph**
 - B. Light Bulb**
 - C. Television**
 - D. Dynamo for generating electric power**
- 5. What did the Homestead Act encourage in the Great Plains?**
 - A. Mining activities**
 - B. Agricultural settlement**
 - C. Urban development**
 - D. Trade expansion**

- 6. What was one of the main effects of the Second Industrial Revolution on American society?**
- A. Increased agricultural output**
 - B. Urbanization and changes in labor**
 - C. Reduction of factory jobs**
 - D. Decline in population**
- 7. Who established an industrial and cultural school at Tuskegee, Alabama, focusing on teaching skilled trades to African Americans?**
- A. Frederick Douglass**
 - B. W.E.B. Du Bois**
 - C. Booker T. Washington**
 - D. Langston Hughes**
- 8. Who was known for creating a fortune through the railroad business?**
- A. Andrew Carnegie**
 - B. Cornelius Vanderbilt**
 - C. John D. Rockefeller**
 - D. Henry Ford**
- 9. Which of the following is true about the Plessy v. Ferguson case?**
- A. It declared segregation unconstitutional.**
 - B. It upheld segregation as long as accommodations were equal.**
 - C. It focused on women's voting rights.**
 - D. It ended the use of literacy tests.**
- 10. Who rapidly advanced in the railroad industry, eventually becoming superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad?**
- A. John D. Rockefeller**
 - B. Andrew Carnegie**
 - C. J. Pierpont Morgan**
 - D. Henry Ford**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What role did the Supreme Court play in shaping civil rights during this period?

- A. It expanded voting rights**
- B. It enforced segregation laws**
- C. It abolished slavery**
- D. It promoted women's rights**

The Supreme Court played a pivotal role in shaping civil rights during this period by enforcing segregation laws, as seen in significant cases such as *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896. This landmark decision upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation under the "separate but equal" doctrine, which sanctioned discriminatory practices and laws across the United States. The ruling legitimized state laws that enforced segregation in public facilities, schools, and transportation, thereby reinforcing systemic racism and inequalities that persisted well into the 20th century. The enforcement of segregation laws by the Supreme Court effectively curtailed efforts toward civil rights for African Americans and established a legal framework that obstructed social and racial equality for decades. While there were moments later in history when the Supreme Court began to dismantle these segregation laws, during this period, it played a critical role in maintaining and legitimizing the status quo of racial discrimination.

2. Which legislative act was designed to improve labor conditions by regulating working hours and conditions?

- A. The Fair Labor Standards Act**
- B. The National Labor Relations Act**
- C. The Child Labor Act**
- D. The Mine Safety and Health Act**

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) was a landmark piece of legislation enacted in 1938, specifically aimed at improving labor conditions across the United States. It established key regulations regarding minimum wage, overtime pay, and the prohibition of child labor, thereby addressing various aspects of workers' rights and working conditions. This act directly responded to the grievances of labor movements and the need for fair labor practices, especially during a time when industrialization had led to harsh working conditions and excessive hours for many employees. By mandating a 40-hour work week and setting minimum wage standards, the FLSA sought to ensure that workers were compensated fairly for their labor while promoting a healthier work environment. In contrast, other acts like the National Labor Relations Act primarily focused on the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively, the Child Labor Act addressed specific restrictions on child labor without broader employment standards, and the Mine Safety and Health Act aimed at protecting health and safety specifically within the mining industry. Thus, while all these acts contributed to labor rights, none offered the comprehensive approach to hours and conditions that the Fair Labor Standards Act did.

3. What term describes the government's policy of non-interference in business during this era?

- A. Mercantilism**
- B. Laissez-faire capitalism**
- C. Planned economy**
- D. Interventionist capitalism**

The term that describes the government's policy of non-interference in business during this era is laissez-faire capitalism. This concept is rooted in the idea that economic success is best achieved when the government minimizes its involvement in the market. The belief is that free markets, driven by supply and demand, should operate without government intervention, allowing businesses to compete freely. During the late 19th century, particularly in the context of industrialization in the United States, laissez-faire capitalism encouraged rapid growth of industries and the expansion of markets. This ideology was often reflected in governmental practices where regulations on businesses were minimal, fostering an environment where entrepreneurs and corporations could operate independently. In contrast, mercantilism refers to a trade system used before capitalism, emphasizing government regulation of the economy to enhance state power; planned economy indicates a system where the government makes all economic decisions; and interventionist capitalism implies a more active role for the government in regulating economic activities, which is contrary to the principle of laissez-faire.

4. Which innovative device was NOT invented by Thomas A. Edison?

- A. Phonograph**
- B. Light Bulb**
- C. Television**
- D. Dynamo for generating electric power**

The television is the correct choice, as it was not invented by Thomas A. Edison. While Edison was a prolific inventor and made significant contributions to technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the technology for television developed later, around the 1920s and 1930s. Early inventors associated with the development of television include John Logie Baird and Philo Farnsworth. Edison is credited with the invention of the phonograph, which was the first device capable of recording and reproducing sound. He also improved the incandescent light bulb, making it practical for widespread use, and developed a dynamo for generating electric power, contributing to the establishment of electrical systems in urban areas. His inventions helped shape the modern electrical age, but the innovations related to television came long after his major contributions.

5. What did the Homestead Act encourage in the Great Plains?

- A. Mining activities**
- B. Agricultural settlement**
- C. Urban development**
- D. Trade expansion**

The Homestead Act, passed in 1862, significantly encouraged agricultural settlement in the Great Plains by providing individuals with the opportunity to claim and occupy land. Under this act, any adult citizen or intended citizen could claim 160 acres of public land, provided they improved the land by building a dwelling and cultivating crops over a period of five years. This legislative measure aimed to promote westward expansion and encourage farming as a means to develop the region, which was predominantly seen as a vast expanse of unsettled land with the potential for agriculture. Due to the promise of land ownership, many families and individuals migrated to the Great Plains, leading to the establishment of farms and the spread of agricultural practices in an area that would become crucial to the nation's food supply and economic growth.

6. What was one of the main effects of the Second Industrial Revolution on American society?

- A. Increased agricultural output**
- B. Urbanization and changes in labor**
- C. Reduction of factory jobs**
- D. Decline in population**

The Second Industrial Revolution, which took place from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, significantly transformed American society, particularly through urbanization and changes in labor. This period was characterized by the expansion of industries, such as steel, electricity, and railroads, which led to an influx of workers migrating from rural areas to urban centers in search of job opportunities. As cities expanded rapidly to accommodate factories and the workforce, they saw substantial population growth and changes in the socio-economic landscape. The demand for labor in factories resulted in new working environments that differed greatly from agricultural settings, leading to shifts in the types of jobs available and the demographics of the workforce. The rise of industrial labor also prompted new dynamics regarding labor rights, wages, and working conditions, eventually setting the stage for labor movements and reforms. This transformation brought about significant societal changes, including the rise of a consumer economy, the restructuring of family roles, and alterations in social classes as industrial capitalism took hold. Thus, the Second Industrial Revolution played a crucial role in shaping modern American life through its effects on urbanization and labor practices.

7. Who established an industrial and cultural school at Tuskegee, Alabama, focusing on teaching skilled trades to African Americans?

- A. Frederick Douglass**
- B. W.E.B. Du Bois**
- C. Booker T. Washington**
- D. Langston Hughes**

Booker T. Washington established the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he focused on providing education in skilled trades for African Americans. His approach emphasized vocational training and self-help, believing that through acquiring practical skills, African Americans could improve their economic standing and gain respect in society. Washington's philosophy was rooted in the idea that economic self-sufficiency would lead to gradual social acceptance and advancement for African Americans. His work at Tuskegee became a model for many similar educational institutions developed in the South during this period. Frederick Douglass, while a prominent advocate for education and civil rights for African Americans, did not found the Tuskegee Institute and had a different focus, emphasizing liberal arts education and political activism. W.E.B. Du Bois is known for his more confrontational approach, advocating for immediate civil rights and higher education through the concept of the "Talented Tenth." Langston Hughes was a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance, known for his poetry and advocacy of African American culture, rather than for establishing a trade school.

8. Who was known for creating a fortune through the railroad business?

- A. Andrew Carnegie**
- B. Cornelius Vanderbilt**
- C. John D. Rockefeller**
- D. Henry Ford**

Cornelius Vanderbilt earned his wealth primarily through the railroad industry, making significant contributions to the expansion of America's transportation infrastructure in the 19th century. Initially establishing himself in the steamboat business, Vanderbilt later recognized the potential of railroads and invested heavily in that sector. Through aggressive competition and strategic acquisitions, he consolidated several key railroad lines, notably the New York Central, effectively creating a transportation network that facilitated commerce and movement across the Eastern United States. His efforts not only made him one of the richest individuals of his time but also set the stage for the growth of the modern American economy by enhancing trade and travel. Other figures like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller were also monumental in their respective industries—steel and oil—but did not primarily focus on railroads. Henry Ford revolutionized the automobile industry but was not involved in railroads. Thus, Vanderbilt is recognized specifically for his railroad ventures and the wealth derived from them.

9. Which of the following is true about the Plessy v. Ferguson case?

A. It declared segregation unconstitutional.

B. It upheld segregation as long as accommodations were equal.

C. It focused on women's voting rights.

D. It ended the use of literacy tests.

The Plessy v. Ferguson case, decided in 1896, is significant because it established the "separate but equal" doctrine, which allowed state-sponsored segregation as long as the separate facilities for the races were deemed equal. The case arose from Homer Plessy's arrest for sitting in a "whites only" railroad car, leading to a legal challenge on the grounds of civil rights. The Supreme Court's ruling effectively legitimized racial segregation, asserting that it did not violate the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause as long as the facilities provided to both white and African American citizens were comparable. This decision had far-reaching consequences for civil rights in the United States, reinforcing institutionalized segregation until it was finally overturned by later rulings, including Brown v. Board of Education in 1954. The other options do not accurately reflect the ruling of Plessy v. Ferguson, as the case did not declare segregation unconstitutional, nor did it focus on women's voting rights or the use of literacy tests.

10. Who rapidly advanced in the railroad industry, eventually becoming superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad?

A. John D. Rockefeller

B. Andrew Carnegie

C. J. Pierpont Morgan

D. Henry Ford

Andrew Carnegie was a key figure who advanced in the railroad industry, ultimately becoming involved in its management with his role as a superintendent in the Pennsylvania Railroad. His rise in this sector was facilitated by the rapid expansion of the railroad network during the late 19th century, which directly correlated with the growth of the steel industry—a field in which Carnegie would make his fortune. Carnegie's experience in the railroad sector provided him with crucial insights into the manufacturing and transportation of steel, which was essential for railroad construction and expansion. His understanding of the industry allowed him to innovate and capitalize on the growing demand for steel products, establishing himself as a major figure in American industrial history. In contrast, the other figures mentioned had different focuses: John D. Rockefeller concentrated on the oil industry, J. Pierpont Morgan dealt primarily with banking and finance, and Henry Ford was significant in the automobile industry. Each of these individuals made their mark in their respective fields, but Carnegie's direct involvement and advancements in the railroad sector set the stage for his later achievements in steel production and wealth accumulation.