

APUSH Period 8 - Cold War and Civil Rights Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. In what year did John F. Kennedy become president?**
 - A. 1960**
 - B. 1961**
 - C. 1963**
 - D. 1964**

- 2. What was the primary purpose of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I)?**
 - A. To increase military spending**
 - B. To limit the arms race between the superpowers**
 - C. To enhance nuclear capabilities**
 - D. To improve international trade**

- 3. What was the purpose of the War Powers Act of 1973?**
 - A. To promote military funding**
 - B. To limit the President's ability to send U.S. forces into combat without Congressional approval**
 - C. To ensure immediate military readiness**
 - D. To formally end military conflicts**

- 4. What was the primary focus of civil rights movements in the 1960s?**
 - A. Promoting economic growth**
 - B. Advocating for racial equality**
 - C. Expanding the U.S. military presence**
 - D. Establishing new immigration laws**

- 5. What is the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?**
 - A. A landmark law that outlawed discrimination**
 - B. A law that established affirmative action**
 - C. A bill that focused on immigration reform**
 - D. A law that ended the Vietnam War**

- 6. What was the main concern of the beatniks in the 1950s and early 1960s?**
- A. Political reform through voting**
 - B. Social criticism and artistic expression**
 - C. Advocating for civil rights legislation**
 - D. Promoting military service**
- 7. How did the U.S. respond to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979?**
- A. By increasing military presence in Western Europe**
 - B. By imposing economic sanctions and supporting Afghan mujahideen fighters**
 - C. By establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union**
 - D. By withdrawing all U.S. troops from the region**
- 8. What significant event was triggered by the Watergate scandal in the early 1970s?**
- A. Passing of the Voting Rights Act**
 - B. President Nixon's resignation**
 - C. The beginning of the Cold War**
 - D. U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam**
- 9. What was the primary focus of the New Left movement in the 1960s?**
- A. Economic conservatism**
 - B. Social justice and civil rights**
 - C. Isolationist foreign policy**
 - D. Traditional family values**
- 10. Which conflict is also known as the Second Indochina War?**
- A. Korean War**
 - B. Vietnam War**
 - C. Cold War**
 - D. Gulf War**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. In what year did John F. Kennedy become president?

A. 1960

B. 1961

C. 1963

D. 1964

John F. Kennedy became president in 1961 after winning the presidential election in November 1960. He was inaugurated on January 20, 1961, marking the start of his presidency. This event is significant in American history as it represented a generational change in leadership, with Kennedy being the youngest elected president at the time. In understanding the context of the other options, while the election took place in 1960, it was not until the following January that Kennedy officially took office. The year 1963 is notable for Kennedy's assassination, and 1964 is associated with Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency, which began after Kennedy's death. Therefore, 1961 is the correct year marking when Kennedy assumed the role of President of the United States.

2. What was the primary purpose of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I)?

A. To increase military spending

B. To limit the arms race between the superpowers

C. To enhance nuclear capabilities

D. To improve international trade

The primary purpose of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) was to limit the arms race between the superpowers, specifically the United States and the Soviet Union. Signed in 1972, SALT I marked a significant effort to curtail the growing stockpiles of nuclear weapons and missile systems that defined the Cold War era. By establishing limitations on anti-ballistic missile systems and intercontinental ballistic missiles, the treaty aimed to create a framework for dialogue and negotiation that would help reduce the pressures of an escalating arms competition. The focus on limiting weapons not only contributed to a temporary easing of tensions between the superpowers but also laid the groundwork for future arms control agreements. Thus, the treaty was a pivotal step towards promoting stability in international relations during a time marked by fear of nuclear confrontation.

3. What was the purpose of the War Powers Act of 1973?

- A. To promote military funding
- B. To limit the President's ability to send U.S. forces into combat without Congressional approval**
- C. To ensure immediate military readiness
- D. To formally end military conflicts

The War Powers Act of 1973 was designed to limit the President's ability to engage U.S. forces in hostilities without Congressional approval. This legislation was enacted in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, during which there was significant concern about the expansion of presidential power in military engagements. The Act requires that the President must consult with Congress before sending U.S. armed forces into combat situations, and if forces are deployed, they must be withdrawn within sixty days unless Congress grants an extension, or formally declares war. This intent was to reassert Congressional authority over war powers, reflecting a desire to prevent future military actions that could result in prolonged conflicts without legislative oversight. Understanding this context clarifies why the War Powers Act focuses specifically on limiting presidential authority regarding military engagement, emphasizing the need for checks and balances in U.S. governance concerning issues of war.

4. What was the primary focus of civil rights movements in the 1960s?

- A. Promoting economic growth
- B. Advocating for racial equality**
- C. Expanding the U.S. military presence
- D. Establishing new immigration laws

The primary focus of civil rights movements in the 1960s was advocating for racial equality. This era witnessed significant activism to dismantle segregation and combat systemic racism, particularly in the United States. Organizations such as the NAACP, SNCC, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) were instrumental in mobilizing people to fight against discriminatory practices and laws that enforced racial inequality, such as Jim Crow laws in the South. The civil rights movement sought to secure equal rights for African Americans, which included the right to vote, access to public facilities, and fair treatment in various aspects of life. Key events, like the March on Washington in 1963, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, exemplified the movement's core goals of achieving justice and equality. This focus on racial equality led to significant legislative achievements, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which aimed to end discrimination and protect voting rights. In contrast, the other options do not align with the central issues addressed during the civil rights movement. While promoting economic growth, expanding military presence, and establishing immigration laws were relevant topics during the 1960s, they were not

5. What is the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

- A. A landmark law that outlawed discrimination**
- B. A law that established affirmative action**
- C. A bill that focused on immigration reform**
- D. A law that ended the Vietnam War**

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is significant primarily because it served as a landmark piece of legislation that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. This act was a crucial step in the Civil Rights Movement, addressing systemic inequalities and marking a turning point in the struggle for civil rights in the United States. It aimed to end segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination, thereby providing a legal framework for challenging discriminatory practices. This comprehensive approach helped to dismantle institutional racism and laid the groundwork for future legislation aimed at promoting equality. The act facilitated further advancements in civil rights, influencing subsequent laws and policies focused on discrimination and social justice. Its passage was a result of years of activism and advocacy and signaled a broader commitment by the federal government to address civil rights issues, transforming American society in significant ways. The other options address different topics: affirmative action, while related to civil rights, is not the central focus of the Civil Rights Act itself; immigration reform is not pertinent to the act; and the Vietnam War, while a significant aspect of American history, was not addressed by this legislation.

6. What was the main concern of the beatniks in the 1950s and early 1960s?

- A. Political reform through voting**
- B. Social criticism and artistic expression**
- C. Advocating for civil rights legislation**
- D. Promoting military service**

The beatniks, a group of American writers and artists in the 1950s and early 1960s, primarily focused on social criticism and artistic expression. They sought to challenge the norms of mainstream American culture, which they perceived as conformist and materialistic. The beatniks were known for their embrace of spontaneity, personal freedom, and exploration of nonconformist lifestyles, often expressed through their literature, poetry, and art. Through works that celebrated individuality and critiqued societal values, they influenced the broader cultural movements that followed, including the counterculture of the 1960s. Their artistic pursuits were often characterized by themes of existentialism, nontraditional lifestyles, and a rejection of the moral constraints of their time. This focus on personal and artistic expression was a defining trait of the beatniks, setting them apart from groups that were more focused on direct political actions or advocacy for established social issues.

7. How did the U.S. respond to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979?

- A. By increasing military presence in Western Europe**
- B. By imposing economic sanctions and supporting Afghan mujahideen fighters**
- C. By establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union**
- D. By withdrawing all U.S. troops from the region**

The U.S. response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was characterized by a combination of economic sanctions and support for Afghan mujahideen fighters. This decision was driven by a broader strategy to counter Soviet expansionism during the Cold War. The U.S. perceived the invasion as a significant threat to its interests in the Middle East and as evidence of Soviet aggression. Supporting the mujahideen, a group of Afghan insurgents fighting against the Soviet-backed government, served multiple purposes. It allowed the U.S. to engage in indirect conflict with the Soviet Union, providing military assistance without deploying American troops directly into combat. This approach also aimed to drain Soviet resources and morale, similar to the U.S. strategy during the Vietnam War. Additionally, economic sanctions were imposed on the Soviet Union as a means to retaliate and apply pressure, aiming to undermine its economy and its capability to sustain the military campaign in Afghanistan. This multifaceted response reflected a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy and marked the beginning of heightened tensions between the two superpowers, influencing international relations for years to come.

8. What significant event was triggered by the Watergate scandal in the early 1970s?

- A. Passing of the Voting Rights Act**
- B. President Nixon's resignation**
- C. The beginning of the Cold War**
- D. U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam**

The Watergate scandal had profound implications for American politics, culminating in President Nixon's resignation, which marked a significant moment in U.S. history. The scandal involved a break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters and a subsequent cover-up that unraveled over time, revealing extensive abuses of power. As investigations progressed, including the discovery of recorded conversations that implicated Nixon, he faced mounting pressure from Congress and the public. Nixon's resignation on August 8, 1974, was unprecedented—he became the first sitting U.S. president to resign from office. This event underscored the principles of accountability and transparency in government, leading to increased skepticism regarding political leaders and a deepening sense of citizen engagement with political processes. It also had lasting effects on public trust in government institutions and increased scrutiny of subsequent presidents.

9. What was the primary focus of the New Left movement in the 1960s?

- A. Economic conservatism**
- B. Social justice and civil rights**
- C. Isolationist foreign policy**
- D. Traditional family values**

The New Left movement in the 1960s primarily focused on social justice and civil rights. This movement emerged as a response to the perceived shortcomings of the traditional left, which was largely focused on labor issues and economic structures. Instead, the New Left sought to address a broader range of social issues, including civil rights for African Americans, women's rights, and anti-war activism, particularly in opposition to the Vietnam War. The New Left was characterized by its emphasis on grassroots activism, youth involvement, and a more inclusive approach to social reform, which marked a significant shift in the political landscape of the time. Activists aimed to challenge established norms and promote equality and justice for marginalized groups, advocating for a society where civil liberties were respected and expanded. This focus on social issues distinguishes the New Left from other political movements of the era that may have concentrated more on economic policies or conservative values.

10. Which conflict is also known as the Second Indochina War?

- A. Korean War**
- B. Vietnam War**
- C. Cold War**
- D. Gulf War**

The Vietnam War is commonly referred to as the Second Indochina War. This conflict took place from the late 1950s through the mid-1970s and involved North Vietnam, supported by its communist allies, fighting against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. The term "Second Indochina War" is used to distinguish this conflict from the First Indochina War, which occurred from 1946 to 1954 and was primarily fought between the French colonial forces and the Viet Minh, a communist-led nationalist movement. The Vietnam War was marked by significant military escalation from the United States as it aimed to halt the spread of communism in Southeast Asia, which was a central concern during the Cold War period. While the Korean War and the Gulf War are significant conflicts in their own right, they are distinct from the Vietnam War and do not share the same historical context or outcomes in Indochina. The Cold War, on the other hand, refers to the broader geopolitical tension between the United States and the Soviet Union but is not a specific war like the others listed. Therefore, identifying the Vietnam War as the Second Indochina War is correct due to its historical context and the opposing sides involved in the conflict.