

CLEP US History II Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. Which concept described by Wilson's Fourteen Points promoted fairness in international relations?**
 - A. Imperialism**
 - B. Anti-imperialism**
 - C. Colonization**
 - D. Mercantilism**
- 2. What was reinforced in the 1950s regarding women's roles in society, particularly through media and literature?**
 - A. The importance of women in the workforce**
 - B. Scientific evidence supporting women's roles in the home**
 - C. A push for women's suffrage**
 - D. The rise of feminism**
- 3. What is the primary purpose of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?**
 - A. Reduction of immigration**
 - B. Creation of a free trade zone**
 - C. Promotion of military alliances**
 - D. Standardization of labor laws**
- 4. What ideology did Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. advocate regarding the law?**
 - A. Conservatism as a foundation for legal decisions**
 - B. Law should remain fixed and unchanging**
 - C. Law should evolve as society evolves**
 - D. Judicial restraint in all legal matters**
- 5. Why did the U.S. aim to remove Saddam Hussein?**
 - A. For oil acquisition**
 - B. To establish a military base**
 - C. To remove a dictatorship and promote democracy**
 - D. To retaliate for the 9/11 attacks**

- 6. During which conflict did the U.S. intervene to support South Vietnam?**
- A. World War II**
 - B. The Korean War**
 - C. The Vietnam War**
 - D. The Gulf War**
- 7. Which event involved the U.S. and Britain flying supplies into West Berlin?**
- A. Marshall Plan**
 - B. Berlin Airlift**
 - C. Truman Doctrine**
 - D. Desegregation of Armed Forces**
- 8. Which of the following was criticized as part of the Populist Party's emergence?**
- A. The rise of big business and national banks**
 - B. The expansion of public education**
 - C. The growth of labor unions**
 - D. The ban on silver coinage**
- 9. Which term refers to the U.S. strategy of preventing the spread of communism around the globe?**
- A. Isolationism**
 - B. Containment**
 - C. Suppression**
 - D. Expansionism**
- 10. What distinguishes old immigrants from new immigrants in U.S. history?**
- A. Old immigrants came from Southern and Eastern Europe**
 - B. New immigrants sought to escape poor living conditions**
 - C. Old immigrants primarily sought economic opportunity**
 - D. New immigrants typically transitioned to permanent residency**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which concept described by Wilson's Fourteen Points promoted fairness in international relations?

- A. Imperialism**
- B. Anti-imperialism**
- C. Colonization**
- D. Mercantilism**

The concept that promoted fairness in international relations as described by Wilson's Fourteen Points is anti-imperialism. President Woodrow Wilson proposed the Fourteen Points in 1918 as a framework for peace following World War I. One of the main themes of the Fourteen Points was the idea of self-determination for nations, which is rooted in the principle of anti-imperialism. This principle called for the dismantling of empires and the establishment of a world order where peoples could choose their own governments and have a say in their affairs, promoting fairness and equality among nations. In contrast, imperialism, colonization, and mercantilism all involve the domination and control of one nation over another, which contradicts the principles of fairness and equality that anti-imperialism advocates. Wilson aimed to ensure that nations would coexist peacefully without the oppressive hierarchies and exploitation often associated with these other concepts, highlighting the significance of anti-imperialism in his vision for a more equitable international landscape.

2. What was reinforced in the 1950s regarding women's roles in society, particularly through media and literature?

- A. The importance of women in the workforce**
- B. Scientific evidence supporting women's roles in the home**
- C. A push for women's suffrage**
- D. The rise of feminism**

The correct answer emphasizes how media and literature of the 1950s often reinforced traditional gender roles that confined women primarily to domestic duties in the home. During this decade, mainstream narratives in television shows, magazines, and popular literature typically portrayed women as homemakers, emphasizing their responsibilities for child-rearing and household management. This cultural messaging aligned with societal expectations and was often presented as the ideal lifestyle for women, suggesting that fulfillment and identity were primarily found in domesticity rather than in careers or personal ambitions outside the home. The context of this period shows a stark contrast to later decades, especially following the feminist movements of the 1960s and 1970s, which challenged these traditional roles. It's important to observe that while there were advancements regarding women's participation in the workforce, the dominant depiction in the 1950s did not promote this view. In fact, options regarding suffrage and feminist movements correspond more closely to events surrounding and following the earlier decades, rather than the 1950s' focus on reinforcing established domestic roles.

3. What is the primary purpose of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?

- A. Reduction of immigration**
- B. Creation of a free trade zone**
- C. Promotion of military alliances**
- D. Standardization of labor laws**

The primary purpose of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was the creation of a free trade zone among the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Enacted in 1994, NAFTA aimed to eliminate trade barriers, such as tariffs and import quotas, in order to facilitate an increase in cross-border trade and investment among the three nations. By removing these barriers, the agreement was designed to boost economic growth and enhance the competitiveness of the participating countries in the global market. The emphasis on creating a free trade zone reflects the agreement's focus on economic integration. NAFTA intended to create a more integrated economy among its member countries, encouraging companies to invest across borders and expand their operations. This resulted in various economic benefits, although it also led to debates about its impact on labor markets and the environment. In contrast, the other options do not capture the essence of what NAFTA was designed to accomplish. For instance, while immigration might be affected by trade agreements, NAFTA itself was not focused on reducing immigration. Similarly, promotions of military alliances and the standardization of labor laws fell outside the scope of NAFTA's objectives. The agreement was strictly focused on economic aspects and trade relations.

4. What ideology did Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. advocate regarding the law?

- A. Conservatism as a foundation for legal decisions**
- B. Law should remain fixed and unchanging**
- C. Law should evolve as society evolves**
- D. Judicial restraint in all legal matters**

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. is well-known for advocating the idea that law should evolve alongside society. He believed that the law is not a static set of rules but a dynamic construct that must adapt to the changing realities of social conditions and norms. This perspective reflects a pragmatic approach to law, emphasizing that legislation should be informed by the practical outcomes it produces, rather than merely adhering to past precedents or rigid doctrines. Holmes viewed law as a living entity that should respond to the needs and values of society; therefore, legal interpretations and decisions should be rooted in current societal contexts. This adaptability underscores his belief that the law is a tool for achieving justice in a changing world, aligning it with contemporary moral and social challenges. Holmes' philosophies had lasting influences on legal thought, particularly in the context of judicial decision-making, promoting a flexible understanding that allows for progress and reform.

5. Why did the U.S. aim to remove Saddam Hussein?

- A. For oil acquisition**
- B. To establish a military base**
- C. To remove a dictatorship and promote democracy**
- D. To retaliate for the 9/11 attacks**

The U.S. aimed to remove Saddam Hussein primarily to eliminate a dictatorship and promote democracy in Iraq. After the September 11 attacks in 2001, the U.S. government, under President George W. Bush, adopted a foreign policy approach that linked the fight against terrorism with the promotion of democratic governance in the Middle East. The administration portrayed Hussein's regime as a significant threat not only to Iraqis but also to regional stability and U.S. interests. Consequently, the argument was made that removing Hussein could pave the way for a democratic government that would be more aligned with American values and less likely to support terrorism or aggression in the region. This rationale was underscored by the belief that establishing a democratic Iraq could serve as a model for reform in the broader Middle East, ultimately fostering stability and decreasing the likelihood of future conflicts. This approach formed a substantial part of the justification presented for the military intervention in Iraq in 2003.

6. During which conflict did the U.S. intervene to support South Vietnam?

- A. World War II**
- B. The Korean War**
- C. The Vietnam War**
- D. The Gulf War**

The U.S. intervened to support South Vietnam during the Vietnam War, which lasted from the late 1950s until 1975. This conflict arose primarily from the struggle against the spread of communism in Southeast Asia, as North Vietnam, backed by communist allies, sought to unify the country under a single communist government. The U.S. involvement escalated significantly during the 1960s following the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964, which led to increased military assistance and the deployment of combat troops. The U.S. aimed to prevent the domino effect, where neighboring countries would also fall to communism if Vietnam did. This effort was part of broader Cold War policies focused on containing communism worldwide. The significant military and economic support provided to South Vietnam included not only troops but also extensive bombing campaigns and resources to combat the North Vietnamese forces and the Viet Cong insurgents. The commitment to South Vietnam and the eventual withdrawal of U.S. forces culminated in the fall of Saigon in 1975, marking the end of the conflict.

7. Which event involved the U.S. and Britain flying supplies into West Berlin?

- A. Marshall Plan**
- B. Berlin Airlift**
- C. Truman Doctrine**
- D. Desegregation of Armed Forces**

The event that involved the U.S. and Britain flying supplies into West Berlin is the Berlin Airlift. This operation took place from June 1948 to May 1949, responding to the Soviet blockade of all ground routes into West Berlin. The Soviet Union sought to gain control over the entire city by cutting off access to the western parts, which were occupied by the U.S., the United Kingdom, and France. The U.S. and British forces organized a massive airlift to supply West Berlin's residents with food, fuel, and other essential goods. Over the course of the airlift, thousands of flights were conducted, delivering tons of supplies to sustain the population until the blockade was lifted. The Berlin Airlift was not only a significant logistical achievement but also a pivotal moment in the early Cold War, demonstrating the U.S. commitment to containing Soviet expansion and supporting West Berlin's freedom. In contrast, the Marshall Plan aimed at economic recovery in Europe after World War II, the Truman Doctrine set forth a policy to contain communism globally, and the desegregation of the armed forces was a domestic civil rights issue that addressed racial segregation within the military. Each of these events has its own historical significance, but none directly pertains to the air

8. Which of the following was criticized as part of the Populist Party's emergence?

- A. The rise of big business and national banks**
- B. The expansion of public education**
- C. The growth of labor unions**
- D. The ban on silver coinage**

The emergence of the Populist Party in the late 19th century was largely a response to the economic challenges faced by farmers and working-class citizens, particularly in the rural Midwest and South. One of their critical concerns was the rise of big business and national banks, which they believed were monopolizing the economy and manipulating financial conditions to the detriment of ordinary people. The Populists argued that large corporations and banks wielded excessive power and contributed to the inequalities and hardships faced by small farmers, particularly due to high-interest rates on loans and unfavorable market conditions. The Party advocated for reforms such as the regulation of railroads, the establishment of a graduated income tax, and the direct election of Senators to counteract this influence. Their platform was fundamentally built on the notion of promoting the interests of common people against the elite and powerful interests that emerged during this period of rapid industrialization. In contrast, the other options do not align with the core criticisms of the Populist Party. The expansion of public education was generally seen as a positive development, while labor unions, despite their own struggles, were often viewed as allies against big business. The ban on silver coinage relates to monetary policy debates but was not a specific criticism tied to the broader critique

9. Which term refers to the U.S. strategy of preventing the spread of communism around the globe?

- A. Isolationism**
- B. Containment**
- C. Suppression**
- D. Expansionism**

The term that refers to the U.S. strategy of preventing the spread of communism around the globe is Containment. This strategy emerged during the early years of the Cold War, particularly as the Soviet Union expanded its influence in Europe and beyond after World War II. The idea behind containment was to restrict the expansion of communism into new territories by supporting nations economically and militarily that were threatened by Soviet influence or communist insurgencies. The strategy of containment was articulated by U.S. diplomat George F. Kennan in the late 1940s and served as the basis for various U.S. foreign policies aimed at countering Soviet power, including military interventions, alliances with other nations (such as NATO), and support for anti-communist regimes. Over time, containment became a central pillar of U.S. foreign policy throughout the Cold War, influencing actions in regions including Korea, Vietnam, and Latin America. Other options like isolationism, suppression, and expansionism do not accurately capture the focus of U.S. Cold War strategy. Isolationism refers to a national policy of avoiding involvement in international affairs, which is contrary to the proactive stance of containment. Suppression implies forcing communist ideologies down rather than strategic measures to prevent their spread. Expansion

10. What distinguishes old immigrants from new immigrants in U.S. history?

- A. Old immigrants came from Southern and Eastern Europe**
- B. New immigrants sought to escape poor living conditions**
- C. Old immigrants primarily sought economic opportunity**
- D. New immigrants typically transitioned to permanent residency**

The distinction between old immigrants and new immigrants in U.S. history primarily stems from the time period and the regions from which these groups originated. Old immigrants generally refer to those who arrived in the United States from Northern and Western Europe, especially between the early 19th century and the 1880s. Many of these immigrants came for various reasons, including seeking economic opportunities and escaping unrest or famine in their home countries, but their backgrounds often included a higher level of education and more established social structures. New immigrants, arriving from the 1880s onwards, came primarily from Southern and Eastern Europe, often facing dire living conditions in their homelands, such as poverty, political instability, and religious persecution. This group included a significant number of Italians, Jews from Eastern Europe, and Slavs, who sought better lives and greater opportunities for themselves and their families. The correct answer highlights that new immigrants sought to escape poor living conditions, which is a crucial part of their experience in the United States. Unlike many old immigrants, the conditions that drove new immigrants to migrate were often more urgent and dire, making their motivations quite distinct and shaping their experiences in America. Both groups faced challenges but represented different waves of immigration with varying backgrounds and motivations