

# University of Central Florida (UCF) AMH2010 U.S. History: 1492-1877 Final Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## Questions

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1. What are the provisions established by the 14th Amendment?
  - A. Outlaws slavery and involuntary servitude
  - B. Denies former confederates from holding office and grants citizenship
  - C. Provides voting rights regardless of race
  - D. Establishes the income tax law
2. What concept refers to the belief that the United States was destined to expand across North America?
  - A. American Exceptionalism
  - B. Manifest Destiny
  - C. Isolationism
  - D. Colonial Supremacy
3. What was the Alabama Platform advocating for during the slavery debate?
  - A. Gradual emancipation of slaves
  - B. No limits on slavery's expansion
  - C. Abolition of slavery
  - D. Colonization of free blacks
4. What system of government is established by the U.S. Constitution?
  - A. Unitary system
  - B. Confederation
  - C. Federal republic
  - D. Monarchy
5. What was the significance of the 19th Amendment?
  - A. It abolished slavery in the United States
  - B. It granted women the right to vote
  - C. It prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages
  - D. It provided for direct election of U.S. senators

6. What was the Monroe Doctrine?
- A. A declaration of war against Britain
  - B. A policy of trade with Asia
  - C. A policy stating European intervention in the Americas would be seen as aggression
  - D. A treaty with native tribes
7. What was Reconstruction?
- A. A period of military rule in the South
  - B. A time for economic expansion in the West
  - C. A period after the Civil War focused on rebuilding the South and integrating freed slaves
  - D. A movement to establish civil rights
8. Which amendment is responsible for the repeal of the 3/5 Compromise?
- A. 13th Amendment
  - B. 14th Amendment
  - C. 15th Amendment
  - D. 16th Amendment
9. Which political party was formed in opposition to the expansion of slavery?
- A. Democratic Party
  - B. Free Soilers
  - C. Whig Party
  - D. Libertarian Party
10. What was a significant outcome of the formation of the Republican Party?
- A. Support for popular sovereignty
  - B. Opposition to the expansion of slavery
  - C. Alliance with the Whig Party
  - D. Promotion of land grants for settlers

## Answers

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

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## Explanations

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1. What are the provisions established by the 14th Amendment?

- A. Outlaws slavery and involuntary servitude
- B. Denies former confederates from holding office and grants citizenship
- C. Provides voting rights regardless of race
- D. Establishes the income tax law

The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, was a significant milestone in American constitutional law, primarily aimed at defining citizenship and protecting individual rights. The correct provisions established by the 14th Amendment include granting citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including former slaves, thereby ensuring that they were recognized as full citizens with equal protection under the law. Additionally, this amendment includes clauses that address issues such as the denial of life, liberty, or property without due process and the guarantee of equal protection of the laws to all persons. Thus, it effectively counters any attempts by former Confederate states to disenfranchise or deny rights to newly freed African Americans. The other options do not encompass the primary focus of the 14th Amendment. While the abolition of slavery is addressed in the 13th Amendment, the provisions regarding voting rights are more directly associated with the 15th Amendment. Similarly, the income tax law is not part of the 14th Amendment but rather stems from later legislation and constitutional changes. Therefore, the correct answer highlights the critical elements of citizenship and the legislative measures taken to protect the rights of individuals in the post-Civil War era.

2. What concept refers to the belief that the United States was destined to expand across North America?

- A. American Exceptionalism
- B. Manifest Destiny
- C. Isolationism
- D. Colonial Supremacy

The belief that the United States was destined to expand across North America is known as Manifest Destiny. This concept emerged in the 19th century and encapsulated the idea that it was America's divine right and duty to spread its values and governance across the continent, ultimately stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. Manifest Destiny was used to justify westward expansion and resulted in significant events such as the annexation of Texas, the Oregon Trail migration, and the aftermath of the Mexican-American War. This idea was intertwined with notions of American Exceptionalism, which suggests that the U.S. has a unique mission to lead the world in freedom and democracy, but the specific term that directly refers to the expansionist belief is Manifest Destiny. In contrast, isolationism is a policy of remaining apart from the affairs or interests of other groups, particularly foreign countries, and colonial supremacy relates more to the dominance of colonial powers over their colonies rather than the expansionist ideology of the United States.

### 3. What was the Alabama Platform advocating for during the slavery debate?

- A. Gradual emancipation of slaves
- B. No limits on slavery's expansion
- C. Abolition of slavery
- D. Colonization of free blacks

The Alabama Platform was a significant document during the slavery debate in the 1850s, primarily reflecting the views of pro-slavery advocates in the southern United States. By asserting no limits on slavery's expansion, the Alabama Platform endorsed the idea that slavery should not only be maintained but also allowed to spread into new territories and states. This stance was driven by a belief in the economic and social benefits of slavery and the desire to protect the institution against growing opposition, especially in the context of the westward expansion. The platform arose in response to political and social changes occurring in the U.S., particularly as debates intensified over the status of slavery in newly acquired or organized territories. Advocating for the unrestricted extension of slavery was seen as crucial for maintaining the balance of power between free and slave states and ensuring the survival of the plantation economy that many southern states relied upon. By pushing for no limitations, the Alabama Platform aimed to solidify slavery's place in American society, countering any abolitionist movements or policies that could threaten it.

### 4. What system of government is established by the U.S. Constitution?

- A. Unitary system
- B. Confederation
- C. Federal republic
- D. Monarchy

The U.S. Constitution establishes a federal republic, which is a system of government that combines federal and state powers. In a federal republic, power is divided between a central government and various regional governments, allowing for both national and local governance. This structure enables a balance by ensuring that different levels of government can operate independently while still being connected under the umbrella of a single national framework. The term "republic" indicates that the head of state is elected or appointed rather than being a hereditary monarch, emphasizing democratic principles and representation. The federal aspect of the government signifies that states retain certain powers and authority, as outlined in the Constitution, while also ceding other powers to the federal government, particularly in areas that affect the nation as a whole, such as defense, taxation, and interstate commerce. Understanding this structure is crucial because it reflects the Framers' intent to create a government that would prevent the concentration of power and protect individual liberties, which were key concerns that arose from their experience under British rule. Thus, recognizing the U.S. government as a federal republic highlights the foundational principles of shared power and representation that are central to its functioning.

## 5. What was the significance of the 19th Amendment?

- A. It abolished slavery in the United States
- B. It granted women the right to vote
- C. It prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages
- D. It provided for direct election of U.S. senators

The significance of the 19th Amendment lies in its crucial role in advancing women's rights in the United States. Ratified on August 18, 1920, the amendment granted women the legal right to vote, reflecting a pivotal moment in the long struggle for gender equality. This achievement was the result of decades of activism, campaigning, and advocacy by suffragists who fought for their rights in the face of social, legal, and political barriers. The passage of the 19th Amendment marked a significant expansion of democracy in the U.S., enabling women to participate formally in the political process and influence legislation and leadership. It represented a transformative shift in American society and is often viewed as a foundational element of the modern women's rights movement, leading to further advancements for women's participation in various aspects of public life. The amendment's importance is underscored by its lasting impact on subsequent generations advocating for gender equality and social justice.

## 6. What was the Monroe Doctrine?

- A. A declaration of war against Britain
- B. A policy of trade with Asia
- C. A policy stating European intervention in the Americas would be seen as aggression
- D. A treaty with native tribes

The Monroe Doctrine was a significant policy articulated by President James Monroe in 1823, emphasizing that any European intervention in the affairs of nations in the Americas would be viewed as an act of aggression that would warrant U.S. intervention. This doctrine was formulated in the context of growing concerns about European colonial ambitions and the potential for re-colonization of territories in the Americas that had recently gained independence. By asserting this policy, the United States aimed to discourage further European imperialism in the Western Hemisphere, reinforcing the idea that the Americas were under the sphere of influence of the United States. The doctrine had long-lasting implications for U.S. foreign policy, as it established the principle that the Americas should be free from European intervention, setting a precedent for future American actions in the region. Understanding this context demonstrates why this option is the correct answer, highlighting the protective stance the United States adopted in response to potential threats from European powers.

## 7. What was Reconstruction?

- A. A period of military rule in the South
- B. A time for economic expansion in the West
- C. A period after the Civil War focused on rebuilding the South and integrating freed slaves
- D. A movement to establish civil rights

Reconstruction was a significant period in U.S. history that occurred after the Civil War, specifically from 1865 to 1877. This era aimed to address the challenges of reintegrating the Southern states into the Union and to extend rights and integrate formerly enslaved African Americans into society. The period involved legislative measures, constitutional amendments, and significant social changes. The core focus was on rebuilding the South, both physically and politically, after the devastation of the Civil War. This included the establishment of new state governments that recognized the citizenship and voting rights of African Americans, which was a radical departure from the previous norms that allowed for systemic discrimination and slavery. The impact of Reconstruction was widespread, as it involved not only the reconstruction of infrastructure but also the transformation of social and political dynamics within Southern society. This included efforts to provide education, economic opportunities, and civil rights to freed slaves. The period included significant legislation, like the 14th and 15th Amendments, which were crucial in defining citizenship and voting rights, respectively. While the other statements might contain elements of truth regarding aspects of post-Civil War America, none encapsulate the comprehensive goals and transformative nature of Reconstruction as effectively as the chosen answer.

## 8. Which amendment is responsible for the repeal of the 3/5 Compromise?

- A. 13th Amendment
- B. 14th Amendment
- C. 15th Amendment
- D. 16th Amendment

The 14th Amendment is the correct answer because it fundamentally altered how representation was calculated by abolishing the 3/5 Compromise. Ratified in 1868, the 14th Amendment established that all persons born or naturalized in the United States are citizens and guaranteed that states would provide equal protection under the law and due process to all citizens. One significant component of the 14th Amendment addresses representation in Congress, stating that representatives would be apportioned based on the whole number of persons in each state, effectively ensuring that all individuals, regardless of race or previous condition of servitude, would be counted equally. This directly overturned the 3/5 Compromise, which had allowed a state to count three-fifths of its enslaved population for representation purposes, thus reducing the political power of freed individuals. The other amendments listed, such as the 13th, 15th, and 16th, while important in their own right, do not specifically address the repeal of the 3/5 Compromise. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 15th Amendment granted African American men the right to vote, and the 16th Amendment allowed the federal government to impose income taxes. Therefore, the

9. Which political party was formed in opposition to the expansion of slavery?

- A. Democratic Party
- B. Free Soilers
- C. Whig Party
- D. Libertarian Party

The Free Soilers were specifically formed to oppose the expansion of slavery into the territories of the United States. This political movement emerged in the late 1840s, primarily in response to debates surrounding the status of slavery in territories acquired during the Mexican-American War. The central tenet of the Free Soil ideology was that slavery should not be allowed to spread into these new territories, advocating instead for the rights of free labor. The party attracted a diverse coalition, including former Democrats and Whigs, as well as abolitionists, all united by the concern over the implications of slavery's expansion on the economic opportunities for free labor. The Free Soil Party's influence was significant in the elections of the late 1840s and early 1850s, as it helped to shape the national conversation about slavery and played a role in the eventual emergence of the Republican Party, which would take a more comprehensive stand against slavery. In contrast, the Democratic Party at the time had factions that were both pro-slavery and anti-slavery, and their policies were often tied to the interests of Southern slaveholders. The Whig Party, while it included members who were anti-slavery, was more ambiguous in its stance and ultimately disbanded due to internal divisions over slavery.

10. What was a significant outcome of the formation of the Republican Party?

- A. Support for popular sovereignty
- B. Opposition to the expansion of slavery
- C. Alliance with the Whig Party
- D. Promotion of land grants for settlers

The formation of the Republican Party in the 1850s represented a critical response to the issues surrounding the expansion of slavery into the western territories of the United States. One of the party's main platforms was its opposition to the spread of slavery beyond the states where it was already established. This stance was rooted in the belief that allowing slavery to expand would undermine the values of free labor and personal liberty, which were central to the party's ideology. The Republicans emerged primarily from a coalition of former Whigs, Free Soilers, and anti-slavery Democrats, uniting against the influence of the pro-slavery factions. This newly formed political entity positioned itself as the primary opponent to Democratic policies that favored the further expansion of slavery into new territories, such as the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed for the possibility of slavery to expand into those areas through popular sovereignty. In addition to opposition to the expansion of slavery, the party supported various progressive policies, but the defining characteristic and significant outcome of its formation was its anti-slavery platform, which ultimately played a crucial role in shaping the political landscape of the United States leading up to the Civil War. This opposition significantly impacted national discourse and mobilized public sentiment against the institution of slavery, contributing to the broader