

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

## Study Guide



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## Questions

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1. What was the Middle Passage?
  - A. The journey of European explorers to the Americas
  - B. A commercial trading route between Europe and Asia
  - C. A brutal sea journey endured by enslaved Africans being transported to the Americas
  - D. An alliance formed between Native Americans and European settlers
2. What was one major effect of the French and Indian War?
  - A. It resulted in French dominance in North America
  - B. It caused Native American tribes to unite against colonists
  - C. It strained the relationship between Britain and its American colonies due to war debts
  - D. It led to the immediate independence of the colonies
3. Which of the following colonies was described as the most democratic and least aristocratic of the Southern Colonies?
  - A. South Carolina
  - B. North Carolina
  - C. Virginia
  - D. Georgia
4. Which group was involved in an armed march on Philadelphia to protest the Quaker establishment's policies?
  - A. Paxton Boys
  - B. Regulators
  - C. Militia of Virginia
  - D. Backcountry Farmers
5. What was the Emancipation Proclamation?
  - A. A law passed by Congress to free all slaves
  - B. An executive order that freed enslaved people in Confederate states
  - C. An international treaty abolishing slavery
  - D. A letter to Congress demanding the end of slavery

6. Who was the leader associated with the failed Roanoke settlement?
  - A. Sir Walter Raleigh
  - B. Captain John Smith
  - C. George Calvert
  - D. Lord Baltimore
7. What was the major economic system in the Southern U.S. before the Civil War?
  - A. Industrial manufacturing
  - B. Plantation agriculture reliant on slave labor
  - C. Small-scale farming without slaves
  - D. Barter trading between states
8. What was the purpose of the Treaty of Tordesillas?
  - A. To establish a trade route through the Americas
  - B. To divide newly discovered lands between Spain and Portugal along a meridian
  - C. To create a peace treaty between England and Spain
  - D. To recruit Native Americans into European armies
9. What major social changes were evident during the Gilded Age?
  - A. Rural depopulation and urban migration.
  - B. Restoration of tribal lands.
  - C. Increased agricultural exports.
  - D. Decrease in child labor laws.
10. Which rebellion involved backcountry settlers in North Carolina between 1768 and 1771?
  - A. Bacon's Rebellion
  - B. Regulator Movement
  - C. Paxton Boys
  - D. New York Slave Revolt

## Answers

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

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## Explanations

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## 1. What was the Middle Passage?

- A. The journey of European explorers to the Americas
- B. A commercial trading route between Europe and Asia
- C. A brutal sea journey endured by enslaved Africans being transported to the Americas
- D. An alliance formed between Native Americans and European settlers

The Middle Passage refers specifically to the horrific and inhumane sea journey that enslaved Africans were forced to endure as they were transported to the Americas. This journey was part of the larger transatlantic slave trade and involved overcrowded, unsanitary conditions aboard ships, where enslaved individuals faced extreme cruelty, disease, and often death. It is a critical part of the history of slavery in the Americas, representing the suffering and dehumanization encountered by millions. The other options do describe significant historical phenomena but do not accurately capture what the Middle Passage was. The journeys of European explorers to the Americas were about exploration and colonization efforts, while commercial trading routes between Europe and Asia were focused on trade in goods, not involving the slave trade. Lastly, the alliance between Native Americans and European settlers pertains to various interactions and agreements that occurred during colonization but is unrelated to the concept of the Middle Passage. Thus, option C is distinctly correct in the context of the Middle Passage's historical significance.

## 2. What was one major effect of the French and Indian War?

- A. It resulted in French dominance in North America
- B. It caused Native American tribes to unite against colonists
- C. It strained the relationship between Britain and its American colonies due to war debts
- D. It led to the immediate independence of the colonies

One major effect of the French and Indian War was that it strained the relationship between Britain and its American colonies due to war debts. The war significantly expanded British territorial claims in North America, but it also left Britain with a massive debt. To compensate for these expenses, Britain sought to increase revenues from the American colonies through a series of taxes and regulations, such as the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts. This newfound expectation for the colonies to help pay for the war created resentment. Many colonists felt that they should not be taxed without their consent and began to rally against British authority. This growing discontent eventually contributed to the revolutionary sentiments that led to the American Revolution.

3. Which of the following colonies was described as the most democratic and least aristocratic of the Southern Colonies?

A. South Carolina

B. North Carolina

C. Virginia

D. Georgia

North Carolina was considered the most democratic and least aristocratic of the Southern Colonies primarily due to its settlement patterns and social structure. Unlike Virginia and South Carolina, which developed a plantation-based economy reliant on a wealthy elite, North Carolina's economy was more diverse, with smaller farms and less dependence on enslaved labor. This fostered a more egalitarian social structure, where land ownership was more accessible to a broader segment of the population. Additionally, North Carolina's government structure allowed for greater participation by the common people, reflecting a more democratic ethos. During its early years, the colony attracted a mix of settlers, including dissenters from other colonies, which contributed to the development of a culture that valued individual rights and local governance. The emphasis on a more inclusive approach to governance and society distinguished North Carolina from its Southern counterparts, reinforcing its reputation as a more democratic colony.

4. Which group was involved in an armed march on Philadelphia to protest the Quaker establishment's policies?

A. Paxton Boys

B. Regulators

C. Militia of Virginia

D. Backcountry Farmers

The Paxton Boys were a group of frontiersmen from Pennsylvania who, in 1763, marched on Philadelphia to protest against the Quaker-led government's policies regarding Native Americans. They were particularly frustrated with the Quakers' leniency towards Native American tribes after the brutal massacre of settlers by these tribes during the Pontiac's Rebellion. The Paxton Boys demanded action from the government, seeking more protection and support for frontier settlers. Their march was significant as it highlighted the growing tensions between the settlers on the frontier and the Quaker establishment, which was more focused on peaceful relations with Native Americans. This armed protest reflected the deep-seated frustrations of backcountry settlers with the government's inability to protect their interests and safety, ultimately leading to a more complicated relationship between different groups in colonial Pennsylvania.

## 5. What was the Emancipation Proclamation?

- A. A law passed by Congress to free all slaves
- B. An executive order that freed enslaved people in Confederate states
- C. An international treaty abolishing slavery
- D. A letter to Congress demanding the end of slavery

The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, was an executive order that declared the freedom of all enslaved people in Confederate states that were in rebellion against the Union. This landmark document served as a significant turning point in the Civil War, reshaping the conflict's purpose to include the moral imperative of ending slavery. While it did not immediately free all enslaved persons across the nation, it was a crucial step toward abolition, as it applied specifically to states in rebellion against the United States. Lincoln's proclamation also allowed for the enlistment of African American soldiers into the Union Army, which further reinforced the commitment to ending slavery and the importance of African Americans in fighting for their own freedom. This executive order was significant in demonstrating the federal government's stance on slavery during the war, positioning emancipation as a central issue in the fight to preserve the Union and transforming the war into a battle for freedom.

## 6. Who was the leader associated with the failed Roanoke settlement?

- A. Sir Walter Raleigh
- B. Captain John Smith
- C. George Calvert
- D. Lord Baltimore

Sir Walter Raleigh is recognized as the leader associated with the failed Roanoke settlement, which was an English attempt to establish a colony in North America in the late 16th century. Raleigh sponsored the expeditions and is credited with the idea of colonization at Roanoke Island, which is located off the coast of present-day North Carolina. The Roanoke colony, established in 1585 and later in 1587, faced numerous challenges, including difficulties with supply ships and conflicts with Indigenous peoples. When supplies were finally sent from England, the colony was found to be abandoned, and the fate of the settlers remains one of the great mysteries of American history. This failure highlighted the risks and complexities of early colonial efforts and the challenges that would continue to confront future settlements. The other individuals listed, such as Captain John Smith, who played a prominent role in the Virginia Colony and its survival, and George Calvert (Lord Baltimore), who was associated with the founding of Maryland, did not have any direct connection to the Roanoke settlement's establishment or its demise. This context emphasizes the importance of Sir Walter Raleigh's role and the significance of the Roanoke experiment in the broader narrative of English colonization in America.

7. What was the major economic system in the Southern U.S. before the Civil War?

- A. Industrial manufacturing
- B. Plantation agriculture reliant on slave labor
- C. Small-scale farming without slaves
- D. Barter trading between states

The major economic system in the Southern U.S. before the Civil War was plantation agriculture reliant on slave labor. This economic model was characterized by large plantations that produced cash crops such as cotton, tobacco, and sugar, which were labor-intensive and required a significant workforce to cultivate and harvest. The reliance on enslaved African Americans was central to this system, as they provided the labor necessary for these plantations to thrive and generate substantial profits. The growth of the plantation economy contributed to the region's social and political structures, as well as its cultural norms, which were deeply intertwined with the institution of slavery. This reliance on a slave-based economy created a distinct Southern identity and led to significant tensions with the industrialized North. Plantations needed not just the labor force but also the complex social systems that supported slavery economically, politically, and culturally. Other options represent different economic activities but do not accurately capture the prevailing economic system of the South during this period. Industrial manufacturing was primarily concentrated in the North, small-scale farming without slaves was less prevalent due to the dominance of large plantations, and barter trading was not significant enough to define the economic landscape.

8. What was the purpose of the Treaty of Tordesillas?

- A. To establish a trade route through the Americas
- B. To divide newly discovered lands between Spain and Portugal along a meridian
- C. To create a peace treaty between England and Spain
- D. To recruit Native Americans into European armies

The Treaty of Tordesillas, signed in 1494, primarily aimed to address the territorial claims of Spain and Portugal in the newly discovered lands of the Americas. This treaty established a line of demarcation that divided the world between these two powerful maritime nations, allowing Spain to claim territories to the west of the line and Portugal to claim lands to the east. The division was intended to prevent conflict over newly explored regions and secure both nations' interests in their respective territories. The importance of this treaty lies in its role in shaping European colonial ambitions in the New World and influencing the subsequent patterns of exploration and settlement. It reflected the rivalries of the period and the desire of both Spain and Portugal to expand their influence and control over new lands without infringing upon each other's claims. The agreement is a significant moment in history as it laid the groundwork for future colonization efforts and established a framework for European powers' dealings with indigenous peoples and uncharted territories.

9. What major social changes were evident during the Gilded Age?

A. Rural depopulation and urban migration.

B. Restoration of tribal lands.

C. Increased agricultural exports.

D. Decrease in child labor laws.

During the Gilded Age, which spanned from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, one of the most significant social changes was the depopulation of rural areas and the migration of people into urban centers. This period was marked by rapid industrialization and urbanization, as job opportunities in factories and the promise of a better life in cities attracted many individuals and families from the countryside. The movement from rural areas to cities led to significant demographic shifts, transforming the landscape of American society. Cities grew in population, leading to the development of urban infrastructure, new social dynamics, and, in some cases, challenging living conditions, such as overcrowded tenements. This phenomenon was a result of various factors, including technological advancements in agriculture, which reduced the number of laborers needed on farms, as well as economic opportunities created by industrial growth. While other options mention related issues or trends of the era, they do not capture the breadth of social change regarding population movement and urbanization that characterized the Gilded Age as profoundly as rural depopulation and urban migration did. The restoration of tribal lands is contrary to the policies of the time, as Native American lands were often taken away rather than restored, and increased agricultural exports

10. Which rebellion involved backcountry settlers in North Carolina between 1768 and 1771?

A. Bacon's Rebellion

B. Regulator Movement

C. Paxton Boys

D. New York Slave Revolt

The Regulator Movement involved backcountry settlers in North Carolina between 1768 and 1771 and is characterized by the settlers' frustrations with colonial authorities, particularly regarding issues of taxation, land disputes, and a lack of proper representation. The settlers, primarily from the western regions of the colony, felt neglected and maltreated by the eastern government, which led them to organize protests against perceived corruption and abuse of power. This movement culminated in confrontations with colonial militia forces, and while it did not achieve its immediate goals, it highlighted the growing tension between backcountry settlers and the established colonial government. The Regulator Movement is significant as it reflected broader colonial resistance that would eventually contribute to the American Revolutionary spirit. In contrast, Bacon's Rebellion occurred in Virginia in 1676 and was led by Nathaniel Bacon against Governor William Berkeley's administration over protection from Native American attacks. The Paxton Boys were vigilantes in Pennsylvania responding to issues with Native American tribes in the 1760s. The New York Slave Revolt, which took place in 1712, was an uprising by enslaved Africans in New York City against their conditions. Each of these events occurred in different contexts and locations, emphasizing the uniqueness of the Regulator Movement in North