

University of Central Florida (UCF) AMH2020 U.S. History: 1877-Present Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. What was the primary goal of the Marshall Plan?
 - A. To rebuild the economies of European countries after World War II
 - B. To promote democracy in Eastern Europe
 - C. To support the establishment of NATO
 - D. To contain the spread of communism
2. Which labor organization explicitly included women, African-Americans, and immigrants in its membership?
 - A. Knights of Labor
 - B. American Federation of Labor
 - C. National Labor Union
 - D. Industrial Workers of the World
3. Which legislation was passed in response to the Civil Rights Movement to eliminate racial discrimination?
 - A. The Social Security Act
 - B. The Fair Labor Standards Act
 - C. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - D. The Medicare Act
4. What was the result of the U.S.-China treaty regarding some labor provisions before it was revoked?
 - A. Enhanced military cooperation
 - B. Increased economic sanctions
 - C. Encouraged Chinese labor migration
 - D. Restricted American exports
5. What legislation allowed for the issuance of legal tender notes backed by silver bullion?
 - A. Sherman Silver Act of 1890
 - B. Gold Standard Act
 - C. Coinage Act of 1873
 - D. Emergency Banking Act

6. What issue led to the Pullman Strike of 1894?
- A. High wages and low rents
 - B. Low wages and high rents
 - C. Unsafe working conditions
 - D. Child labor laws
7. What technique did John D. Rockefeller use to create a monopoly in certain markets?
- A. Vertical Integration
 - B. Horizontal Integration
 - C. Collective Bargaining
 - D. Market Diversification
8. In what year did the Treaty of Fort Wise occur?
- A. 1851
 - B. 1861
 - C. 1871
 - D. 1887
9. What organization was created to promote world peace after World War II?
- A. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 - B. The United Nations
 - C. The World Health Organization
 - D. League of Nations
10. What major legislation was passed in response to the events of the Civil Rights Movement?
- A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - B. The Immigration Act of 1965
 - C. The Social Security Act of 1965
 - D. The Education Amendments of 1972

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the primary goal of the Marshall Plan?

- A. To rebuild the economies of European countries after World War II
- B. To promote democracy in Eastern Europe
- C. To support the establishment of NATO
- D. To contain the spread of communism

The primary goal of the Marshall Plan was to rebuild the economies of European countries after World War II. This initiative, officially known as the European Recovery Program, was launched in 1948 and aimed to provide extensive financial assistance for the reconstruction of war-torn Europe. The devastation following the war left many countries struggling with their economies, infrastructure, and basic living conditions. By providing aid, the United States sought not only to help Europe recover but also to stabilize the region economically and politically, thereby reducing the appeal of communism. This economic revival was crucial for a continent that had faced significant destruction, and it also played a strategic role in fostering strong economic ties with Western nations. While the other options incorporate relevant historical themes, they do not capture the primary objective of the Marshall Plan as effectively. Promoting democracy in Eastern Europe and containing the spread of communism were indeed important aspects of U.S. foreign policy during this era, but they were not the primary focus of the Marshall Plan itself. Similarly, while support for NATO was part of the broader context of post-war reconstruction and security, it was not the fundamental aim of the Marshall Plan specifically.

2. Which labor organization explicitly included women, African-Americans, and immigrants in its membership?

- A. Knights of Labor
- B. American Federation of Labor
- C. National Labor Union
- D. Industrial Workers of the World

The Knights of Labor is recognized for being one of the first significant labor organizations in the United States to advocate for inclusivity across diverse demographic groups, including women, African-Americans, and immigrants. Founded in 1869, this organization sought to unite all workers, regardless of their background, and believed that collective action could lead to better working conditions and fairness in the workforce. This inclusivity was a radical departure from many labor organizations of the time, which often excluded certain groups, particularly based on race and gender. The Knights of Labor aimed to bring together individuals from various sectors of society, believing that a united front would enhance their bargaining power and improve labor conditions across the board. In contrast, the American Federation of Labor primarily focused on skilled laborers and often did not prioritize the inclusion of women, African-Americans, or immigrant workers. The National Labor Union was more focused on unifying skilled workers but also had limitations regarding inclusivity, particularly for marginalized groups. The Industrial Workers of the World later emerged with a similar focus on inclusivity, but it was founded after the Knights of Labor and their initiatives. Thus, the Knights of Labor stands out for its commitment to inclusivity in its membership right from its inception.

3. Which legislation was passed in response to the Civil Rights Movement to eliminate racial discrimination?

- A. The Social Security Act
- B. The Fair Labor Standards Act
- C. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
- D. The Medicare Act

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was landmark legislation that aimed to end racial discrimination in various areas of American life, including employment, education, and public accommodations. It was a direct response to the Civil Rights Movement, which highlighted the injustices faced by African Americans and other marginalized groups. The Act prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and empowered the federal government to enforce these provisions, marking a significant shift in American law and society. The other options, while significant in their own rights, do not address racial discrimination in the same way. The Social Security Act primarily focused on providing social insurance and welfare benefits. The Fair Labor Standards Act established minimum wage and working hours but did not specifically target racial equality. The Medicare Act introduced health insurance for the elderly but was not directly linked to the Civil Rights Movement or the elimination of racial discrimination.

4. What was the result of the U.S.-China treaty regarding some labor provisions before it was revoked?

- A. Enhanced military cooperation
- B. Increased economic sanctions
- C. Encouraged Chinese labor migration
- D. Restricted American exports

The U.S.-China treaty regarding labor provisions aimed to encourage Chinese labor migration, which was significant during a period when there was a demand for labor in the United States, particularly in the West. This treaty facilitated the movement of Chinese workers, who played a crucial role in industries such as railroad construction and mining. The incorporation of labor provisions in the treaty indicated a recognition of the contributions that Chinese laborers could make to the U.S. economy. By allowing and encouraging their migration, the treaty sought to address labor shortages in certain sectors, especially during times of economic expansion. In contrast, other options such as enhanced military cooperation or increased economic sanctions do not directly relate to the primary focus of the labor provisions in the context of the treaty. Similarly, while restricted American exports could be a broader economic concern, it does not align with the specific aims of the treaty regarding labor mobility. Thus, the emphasis on encouraging Chinese labor migration serves as the most accurate interpretation of the treaty's intended outcomes.

5. What legislation allowed for the issuance of legal tender notes backed by silver bullion?

A. Sherman Silver Act of 1890

B. Gold Standard Act

C. Coinage Act of 1873

D. Emergency Banking Act

The Sherman Silver Act of 1890 is recognized for its role in allowing the issuance of legal tender notes that were backed by silver bullion. This act aimed to increase the amount of silver the government would purchase and coin, intending to address the economic unrest and deflation that many farmers and laborers experienced during this time. By mandating the government to buy large amounts of silver, the act sought to inflate the currency and make it easier for people in debt to pay off their loans. In contrast, the Gold Standard Act established a gold-backed standard for U.S. currency, moving away from the bimetallic standard that included both gold and silver. The Coinage Act of 1873, often referred to as the "Crime of '73" by advocates of silver, effectively stopped the minting of silver dollars and favored gold, leading to deflationary pressures. The Emergency Banking Act primarily focused on stabilizing the banking system during the Great Depression and did not deal with currency backed by silver. Thus, the Sherman Silver Act is distinctly significant for its specific purpose regarding silver-backed legal tender notes.

6. What issue led to the Pullman Strike of 1894?

A. High wages and low rents

B. Low wages and high rents

C. Unsafe working conditions

D. Child labor laws

The Pullman Strike of 1894 was primarily driven by the disparity between low wages and high rents that the workers were facing. The Pullman Company, which manufactured railroad cars, had reduced wages for its employees due to the economic downturn known as the Panic of 1893. Despite these wage cuts, the company did not lower rents for housing in the company-owned town of Pullman, Illinois. As a result, workers found themselves struggling to meet their basic needs, leading to growing discontent and ultimately a strike. This situation exemplified the broader issues of labor relations during this period in American history, where industrial workers often faced exploitation and inadequate compensation, contributing to a rise in organized labor movements and strikes as employees sought to improve their living and working conditions. The Pullman Strike marked a significant event in U.S. labor history and highlighted the conflicts between labor and capital during the late 19th century.

7. What technique did John D. Rockefeller use to create a monopoly in certain markets?

A. Vertical Integration

B. Horizontal Integration

C. Collective Bargaining

D. Market Diversification

John D. Rockefeller employed horizontal integration as a key technique to create a monopoly in the oil industry. This strategy involved acquiring or merging with other companies that produced the same product, which in Rockefeller's case was oil. By consolidating many smaller oil companies under the Standard Oil Company, he could control a significant portion of the market, effectively reducing competition and enabling him to set prices and influence the market more broadly. This approach allowed Rockefeller to achieve economies of scale, where larger operations could lower costs and increase efficiency. His control over the refining process and supply chain further strengthened his monopoly, as he could dictate terms and streamline production to outperform competitors. As a result, horizontal integration was instrumental in establishing Standard Oil as a dominant force in the petroleum industry during the late 19th century.

8. In what year did the Treaty of Fort Wise occur?

A. 1851

B. 1861

C. 1871

D. 1887

The Treaty of Fort Wise was signed in 1851. This treaty was significant as it involved negotiations between the United States government and various Native American tribes, specifically the Cheyenne and Arapaho. The treaty aimed to establish a reservation in what is now eastern Colorado, as well as to formalize U.S. control over the territory. The treaty is often discussed in the context of the larger patterns of U.S. expansion and Native American displacement during the mid-19th century. It's important to remember that treaties like Fort Wise often had lasting impacts, setting the stage for future conflicts and negotiations regarding land rights and sovereignty for Native American tribes. Understanding the historical context of the Treaty of Fort Wise is essential for grasping the complexities of U.S. history involving Native American relations during this period.

9. What organization was created to promote world peace after World War II?

A. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

B. The United Nations

C. The World Health Organization

D. League of Nations

The organization created to promote world peace after World War II is the United Nations. Established in 1945, the United Nations was formed with the primary goal of fostering international cooperation and preventing conflict through dialogue and diplomacy among nations. It aimed to provide a platform for its member countries to discuss and resolve their issues peacefully, with an overarching purpose to avoid the catastrophic consequences experienced during the two World Wars. The United Nations has a broad mandate that includes maintaining international peace and security, promoting fundamental human rights, fostering social and economic development, and coordinating international efforts to tackle global challenges. Its establishment marked a significant shift in how countries interacted on the global stage, emphasizing collective action and responsibility. Other options, like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, primarily focus on military defense and collective security among its members, while the World Health Organization is centered around public health. The League of Nations, although an earlier attempt at promoting peace following World War I, ultimately failed to prevent the outbreak of World War II, leading to the creation of the United Nations as a more robust and effective organization for ensuring global peace.

10. What major legislation was passed in response to the events of the Civil Rights Movement?

A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964

B. The Immigration Act of 1965

C. The Social Security Act of 1965

D. The Education Amendments of 1972

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 stands out as a landmark piece of legislation that was directly influenced by the events and advocacy efforts of the Civil Rights Movement. This act aimed to eliminate discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, fundamentally reshaping the landscape of American civil rights. The context of the Civil Rights Movement, particularly during the 1950s and early 1960s, is crucial for understanding the significance of this legislation. Activists and leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr., organized protests, marches, and other forms of activism that highlighted the pervasive injustices faced by African Americans and other marginalized groups. Events like the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington exemplified the urgent demand for equality and justice. The passage of the Civil Rights Act marked a pivotal moment in U.S. history, as it prohibited segregation in schools and public places, aimed to end employment discrimination, and enforced voting rights protections. This legislation was a direct response to the movement's calls for systemic change, making it a cornerstone of civil rights advancement in the United States. The other options, while historically significant, pertain to different aspects of social policy or immigration reform and were not direct outcomes of the Civil Rights