
American History 8 – 2009-10 Midterm Exam Study Guide
Exam on Thursday, January 28th, 2010

Your Exam Study Guide is comprised of several different resources:

1. An overall discussion of the exam / format / study tips (this sheet)
 2. The Exam Essay Question (this sheet)
 3. Chapter Quizzes/Tests You Have Taken For Chapters 16-21 (available online)
 - a. Note: These are in PDF format and are not printable
 4. Chapter Summary Readings (available online)
 5. Chapter Outlines (available online)
 6. Study Questions for each individual section of the text (available online)
 7. Chapter Homework Packets (in your possession)
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4. You have quite a few nights to study and prepare for an exam covering 6 Chapters. Make yourself a study schedule. Space out your review and don't CRAM!

For example:

Friday night – Get your review materials together and read the synthesis / summary readings / outlines

Sat. -- 1.5 hrs reviewing Chp. 16 in depth (textbook, HW packet, old quiz and test questions and online study questions.)

Sun. – same but with Chp. 17...begin essay prep.

Mon. – same but with Chp. 18...begin essay prep.

Tues. – same but with Chp. 19...continue essay prep.

Wed. – same but with Chp. 20 and 21...come in for extra review w/ Mr. Ruppert after your morning exam...finalize essay preparation.

Thurs. -- EXAM – YOU ARE THE MAN!!!

5. Good luck, but remember, with solid preparation, luck never enters the picture!

Exam Format:

- 85 Multiple Choice Main Idea Questions (13 to 15 per chapter)
- 30 Identifications of Key People / Places / Events (6 groups of 5)
- 10 Chronology Questions (in groups of 3 events)
- 50 Skills Based Questions (Maps, Reading Comprehension, Charts, Critical Thinking Skills, etc.)
- 175 x .4 each = 70 points
- Political Cartoon Analysis = 10 points
- Essay = 20 points

8th Grade Midterm Exam Essay

Mr. Rosedale & Mr. Ruppert

Setting the scene for your essay:

In 1862, during the Civil War, you left the United States disillusioned with the fact that the nation couldn't solve its differences peacefully. You spent the next 38 years in Tibet meditating with monks, totally isolated from the outside world. It is now the year 1900 and you have decided to return to your homeland.

After taking a six-week steamship journey across the Pacific Ocean, you approach the port of San Francisco but off in the distance things appear very strange. A fellow passenger informs you that this is a modern city skyline, which is of course a very new and strange sight to you. Obviously you already sense that 1900 America is far different from 1862 America.

Your essay:

Upon your arrival you are scheduled to take a train going east. Your trip will be broken into three legs (parts of the trip). Refer to the map below. The first leg of the journey is from San Francisco heading east to Kansas City through the land once known as the frontier. As you travel you begin to ask yourself questions such as, "What happened to the frontier? Where did it go?" (Chapter 18)

The second leg of your rail journey takes you southeast through the reconstructed South to Savannah, Georgia where you will be visiting relatives. Oh the stories they have about life in the South since the Civil War. What a drastically different society and economy they have compared to pre-Civil War days. (Chapter 17)

The third and final leg of your rail journey takes you through the industrial North to a crowded city that is an unimaginable size, New York City. The sight is almost too much for your senses. You are flooded with questions. "Where did all these people come from?" "Why are they all packed into this city?" "What are all these black cables crisscrossing above my head?" (Chapter 19)

Directions:

CHOOSE 2 OUT OF 3 of the parts of the cross country journey described above to write about. Write separate diary entries for each of those two choices. Each diary entry should be written in first person and focus on providing details from the textbook which correspond to that leg of the journey. (Leg 1 – Chapter 18, Leg 2 – Chapter 17, and Leg 3 – Chapter 19) Each of the diary entries should serve as a summary of the major geographic, technological, and societal changes which took place in that area of the country between 1862 and 1900.

