

American Studies - History  
FINAL EXAM

**Multiple Choice** (On the space provided, write the letter that *best* answers the question.)

1. The Constitution was ratified in 1789 as the foundation of the United States government because
  - A) the people wanted a change
  - B) Thomas Jefferson insisted that “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” be a part of government
  - C) it was meant to replace a weak confederacy
  - D) the government was bankrupt and needed a new boost of confidence
  
2. Which of the following best describes the Declaration of Independence?
  - A) It was written by Abraham Lincoln and it freed the slaves
  - B) It was written by Thoreau and declared his reasons for going to the woods
  - C) It was written by Thomas Jefferson and is a legal document
  - D) It was a statement of political ideas and philosophy
  
3. In which of the following years did a group of educated, wealthy immigrants settle in Massachusetts?
  - A) 1607
  - B) 1620
  - C) 1623
  - D) 1630
  
4. During what years was the country engulfed in hysteria and suspicion?
  - A) 1613-15
  - B) 1691-93
  - C) 1901-03
  - D) 1977-79
  
5. The purpose of this act was to prevent future settlement beyond the Appalachian Mtns. so to eliminate conflict between settlers, Indians, and the French.
  - A) The Mayflower Compact
  - B) The Kansas-Nebraska Act
  - C) The Proclamation of 1763
  - D) The Relocation Act of 1763
  
6. The American Revolution broke out in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts in this year.
  - A) 1775
  - B) 1776
  - C) 1861
  - D) 1865
  
7. Which of the following best characterizes the ideas of government and economics advocated by Alexander Hamilton?
  - A) small, decentralized national government; state supremacy; agrarian economy
  - B) small, decentralized national government; supremacy of Congress; industrial economy
  - C) strong, centralized Federal government; national supremacy; industrial economy

D) none of the above

8. In which year was the United States brought into war as a result of annexing the Republic of Texas?

- A) 1798
- B) 1836
- C) 1846
- D) 1898

9. Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution--the “elastic clause”--does what?

- A) It gives Congress the power to do anything it wants
- B) It allows Congress to do things it deems “necessary and proper” for executing the foregoing powers
- C) It enables Congress to stretch the truth about what it intends to do
- D) It provides Congress with a back-door way of getting what it wants

10. Which of the following statements is most accurate about the “Boston Massacre”?

- A) It was a terrible bloodbath; dozens of colonial citizens were killed by British Redcoats
- B) The word “massacre” is an exaggeration; only about five colonials were killed
- C) There are two different accounts of what occurred
- D) Both A and D
- E) Both B and C

11. Which of the following wars are examples of the United States’ stand against communism?

- A) WWI and WWII
- B) The Spanish-American War and The Civil War
- C) The Korean War and The Gulf War
- D) The Korean War and Vietnam
- E) Vietnam and The Gulf War

12. Of the following sets of dates, which dates fit together the most logically?

- A) 1607, 1849, 1950
- B) 1857, 1896, 1954
- C) 1781, 1787, 1932
- D) 1901, 1912, 1969

13. The precursor of the United States Constitution was

- A) the Declaration of Independence
- B) the Emancipation Proclamation
- C) the Mayflower Compact
- D) the Articles of Confederation

14. An event that did the *most* to worsen relations with the Indians occurred during which of the following years?

- A) 1803
- B) 1849
- C) 1869
- D) 1897

15. The Missouri Compromise (1820) determined that Missouri could become a state if

- A) slavery was outlawed in the state and Maine could come into the Union as a free state
- B) the Indians of Missouri signed a peace treaty with the U.S. government
- C) slavery was prohibited throughout the rest of the West north of Missouri and Maine came into the Union as a free state
- D) Missouri agreed to limit slavery for a few years while Maine filed the necessary paperwork for statehood

16. The purpose of the Monroe Doctrine was

- A) to lower tariffs and make trading with Europe easier
- B) provide President Monroe with a doctrine for dealing with Congress
- C) to allow the United States to form alliances with European nations
- D) to prevent further colonization of the Western Hemisphere by Europe

17. In the Dred Scott case, the Supreme Court ruled that

- A) segregated facilities in public places were legal
- B) Dred Scott was a citizen, and as such was entitled to all the rights granted him under the Constitution
- C) Dred Scott was property, and his owner could not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law
- D) public facilities must be desegregated

18. U.S. forces fought in World War I during what years?

- A) 1941-45
- B) 1917-18
- C) 1914-19
- D) 1920-29

19. The year 1904 is important because

- A) Progressives succeeded in getting a Meat Inspection law passed
- B) Theodore Roosevelt took control of the Suez Canal zone
- C) Theodore Roosevelt took control of the Panama Canal zone
- D) William McKinley was assassinated and Theodore Roosevelt took office

20. Carpetbaggers, scalawags, and the Ku Klux Klan were groups that flourished during the Reconstruction period which followed

- A) World War I
- B) the American Revolution
- C) the War of 1812
- D) the Civil War

21. This massive acquisition of land in 1803 more than doubled the size of the United States

- A) the purchase of Manhattan Island
- B) the purchase of the Nebraska Territory
- C) the purchase of the Louisiana Territory
- D) the purchase of Alaska

22. This event occurred on July 4, 1876
- A) the dedication of Arlington National Cemetery
  - B) Sherman's March to the Sea
  - C) the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge
  - D) Custer's Last Stand
23. This amendment to the Constitution prevents double jeopardy--that is, being tried twice for the same crime
- A) the 1st amendment
  - B) the 2nd amendment
  - C) the 4th amendment
  - D) the 5th amendment
  - E) the 8th amendment
24. This amendment to the Constitution gave black males the right to vote
- A) the 13th amendment
  - B) the 14th amendment
  - C) the 15th amendment
  - D) the 16th amendment
25. Of the following, who was NOT an abolitionist?
- A) Henry David Thoreau
  - B) Frederick Douglass
  - C) William Lloyd Garrison
  - D) Harriet Tubman
26. The New Deal was the name given to
- A) Theodore Roosevelt's programs of progressivism
  - B) Harry Truman's domestic agenda
  - C) Franklin D. Roosevelt's social and economic reforms
  - D) Lyndon Johnson's social programs for education and poverty
27. Of the following pairs of U.S. Presidents, which two dealt with the most serious crises during their Presidencies?
- A) Theodore Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy
  - B) Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon
  - C) Thomas Jefferson and James Madison
  - D) George Washington and Dwight Eisenhower
  - E) Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt
28. Xenophobia is
- A) an extreme fear of members of the opposite sex
  - B) an extreme hatred of blacks
  - C) an extreme hatred of foreigners

D) none of the above

29. The American Revolution ended with General Cornwallis's surrender at

- A) Appomattox Court House
- B) the Yorktown Peninsula
- C) Washington, D.C.
- D) New York City
- E) the Brooklyn Bridge

30. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated to give thanks for

- A) the rescue of Captain John Smith by Pocahontas
- B) the establishment of the colony at Jamestown
- C) the survival of the Plymouth Pilgrims through their first year
- D) the unification of the thirteen American colonies

31. At the turn of the century (1900), which of the following modes of transportation was NOT widespread?

- A) railroads C) horse and wagon
- B) walking D) automobiles

32. Which statement best describes the pattern of people movement in the US around the turn of the century (about 1900)?

- A) Americans were leaving the US in droves
- B) everyone was moving west and settling in frontier towns
- C) immigrants and rural Americans were settling in cities
- D) immigrants and others were settling on the prairie to farm

33. Of the following statements, which is consistent with Progressivism as evidenced at the turn of the century?

- A) Progressivism brought about many new technologies, like radio
- B) Progressivism was a reform movement, designed to improve the social, political and living conditions of everyday people
- C) Progressivism was a movement established to protect trusts
- D) Progressivism took power away from the people and gave it back to government

34. In the Supreme Court case *Marbury v. Madison*, the upshot of the case was

- A) Marbury did not get a judgeship
- B) Madison was fired for not doing his job as Secretary of State
- C) Chief Justice Marshall created the power of judicial review
- D) Madison sued Marbury for wrongful prosecution
- E) None of the above

35. In the case *McCullough (McCulloch) v. Maryland*, the Supreme Court established which of the

following precedents?

- A) “separate but equal” facilities must be provided for blacks and whites
- B) state governments reign over the federal government
- C) “the power to tax is the power to destroy”
- D) McCullough was considered property
- E) the federal government is supreme to the state governments
- F) none of the above

36. Which of the following plagued the Union army the most during the Civil War?

- A) incompetent, indecisive leadership
- B) lack of a unified cause
- C) underestimating the strength and leadership of the Confederate forces
- D) all of the above

37. The American Revolution can be best compared to

- A) the Korean War
- B) World War II
- C) the Gulf War
- D) the War of 1812
- E) the Vietnam conflict

38. The Watergate scandal began when

- A) Richard Nixon resigned the presidency under pressure from Congress
- B) five men were arrested for breaking into a hotel office
- C) a U.S. pilot was caught running guns to Nicaragua
- D) the House Un-American Activities Committee discovered Communist sympathizers in the Senate

39. August, 1945 is important to remember for which of the following reasons?

- A) WWI ended
- B) the United States used the atomic bomb on Japan
- C) the United States used the atomic bomb on Germany
- D) all of the above
- E) none of the above

40. A famous speech that begins with, “Four score and seven years ago,” was given

- A) at the dedication of a national monument
- B) in Congress
- C) at the dedication of a cemetery
- D) on a train
- E) on the battleship *U.S.S. Enterprise*

41. Which of the following pairs is correct?

- A) General Lee -- World War I

- B) General Grant -- World War II
- C) General McClellan -- Civil War
- D) General Patton -- World War II
- E) both A and D
- F) both C and D
- G) none of the above

42. The event that occurred in 1791 happened because

- A) colonists wanted to declare their independence from England
- B) the United States needed a stronger form of government than a confederation of states
- C) the states wanted protections for individual rights and liberties
- D) none of the above

43. In the battle of Gettysburg, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain was a hero because

- A) he led a victorious assault during Pickett's Charge
- B) he guarded Big Round Top against a confederate attack
- C) he protected the left flank of the Union army
- D) all of the above

44. General Longstreet's plan for the Confederate Army at Gettysburg--which Lee did not accept--was

- A) to steer around the Union Army and get between them and Washington, D.C.
- B) to lead a full assault on the center of the Union line
- C) to retreat to Richmond and fight when the weather was better
- D) to lead a night attack behind the Union line
- E) none of the above
- F) both B and D

45. Which of the following sets of dates DO NOT fit logically together?

- A) 1861, 1863, 1865
- B) 1607, 1620, 1630
- C) 1898, 1917, 1941
- D) 1912, 1992
- E) all of the above fit together logically
- F) none of the above fit together logically

46. Which person and date match up below?

- A) Abraham Lincoln -- 1845
- B) Franklin D. Roosevelt -- 1932
- C) John F. Kennedy -- 1969
- D) Theodore Roosevelt -- 1921
- E) all of the above

47. Both Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft established reputations regarding *trusts*. What were their reputations?

- A) they were both experts in international relations, and thus developed strong ties, or trusts, with other nations
- B) they became known for attacking monopolies and taking them to court
- C) they became known for helping trusts because big business helped the little people
- D) out of a sense of *noblesse oblige*, they wanted trusts to prosper

48. All of the following were causes of the Spanish-American War EXCEPT

- A) military buildup
- B) patriotism/nationalism
- C) desire for new ports, territories, and markets
- D) sinking of the *U.S.S. Maine* in Havana harbor

49. The most important result of the Spanish-American War was

- A) Cuba became independent
- B) the US became a two-ocean power
- C) the US got Puerto Rico and Guam
- D) the US bought the Phillipines for \$20M

50. Which of the following is NOT an expression we associate with TR?

- A) “the strenuous life”
- B) “bully pulpit”
- C) “speak softly and carry a big stick”
- D) “good to the last drop”
- E) all of the above are TR expressions

51. The Coal Mine Strike of 1901 and the Northern Securities Case of 1904 are important because they established the precedent of

- A) government looking out for its own interests
- B) using government power to protect the interests of working people
- C) *laissez faire*
- D) Rugged Individualism

52. What was the reason for TR taking the Panama Canal Zone in 1904?

- A) to give US warships and merchant ships a more direct route to the Pacific
- B) to secure control of the zone and to control traffic through our hemisphere
- C) to further establish the US’s power on the world stage
- D) all of the above
- E) none of the above

53. Which of the following are causes of WWI?

- A) German aggression, Serbian xenophobia, and American isolationism
- B) European nationalism, entangling alliances, competition over colonies
- C) American pride, American aggression, military buildup
- D) German neutrality, Austrian xenophobia, American benevolence

54. Which of the following was the “last straw” that prompted the US to enter WWI?

- A) sinking of the *Lusitania*

- B) the Zimmerman Letter
- C) entangling alliances
- D) both A and B
- E) both B and C

55. Which of the following were characteristics of WWI?

- A) trench warfare
- B) mustard gas
- C) machine guns
- D) airplanes
- E) all of the above

56. At the end of WWI, Germany had to accept which of the following terms?

- A) to accept blame for the war and to pay reparations
- B) to allow the US to control them
- C) to give land to France
- D) to stop speaking German
- E) none of the above

58. This amendment, which was in effect during the 1920's, prohibited the sale, production, or transportation of alcohol.

- A) the 14th Amendment
- B) the 17th Amendment
- C) the 18th Amendment
- D) the 19th Amendment
- E) none of the above

59. When the stock market crashed in 1929, the BIG problem was

- A) no one knew who was responsible
- B) everyone had "paper wealth" and therefore made runs on banks to get money
- C) the government was trying to do too much to control the economy
- D) wealthy industrialists were buying too much stock

60. Which of the following does NOT describe FDR's work as President?

- A) he created many work programs like the CCC and WPA
- B) he reduced government spending
- C) he put the government into action to help the unemployed
- D) he established programs like Social Security, which are still in existence today

61. True or false: The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were not responsible for WWII.

- A) True
- B) False

62. The mistake that Hitler made during WWII--incidentally, the same mistake made by Napoleon--was

- A) entering into an alliance with Russia
- B) attempting to defend Germany on a single front

- C) attempting to attack on two fronts
- D) none of the above

63. This case overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896).

- A) Roe v. Wade
- B) Topeka Kansas v. U.S.
- D) Brown v. Topeka, Kansas Board of Education
- E) none of the above

65. The fight for civil rights involved all of the following EXCEPT

- A) Rosa Parks
- B) SNCC and SCLC
- C) the Peace Corps
- D) "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
- E) Malcolm X

66. Hot spots in the Cold War involved all of the following EXCEPT

- A) Vietnam
- B) the 38th Parallel
- C) the Berlin Blockade
- D) the Monroe Doctrine
- E) the Truman Doctrine

67. JFK's handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis is said to have made up for this miserable failure.

- A) the Bay of Pigs Invasion
- B) the Chappaquidick Affair
- C) the Sputnik Incident
- D) the U-2 Spy Plane Incident
- E) the Krushchev Affair

68. Which of the following pairs of people fit together the best?

- A) Herbert Hoover and F.D.R.
- B) Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson
- C) Thomas Jefferson and William Lloyd Garrison
- D) Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson
- E) none of the above

69. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution of 1964 authorized the President to use military force against North Vietnam. Which of the following Presidents violated this resolution?

- A) President Kennedy
- B) President Johnson
- C) President Nixon
- D) President Kissinger
- E) President Ford

70. How has Watergate MOST affected America?

- A) it has prompted a series of other scandals
- B) it has created a loss of confidence in government and stirred questions about rights of the press
- C) it has brought up questions about the rights of the President
- D) it has made Presidential Pardons commonplace

71. This U.S. President is said to have dramatically increased the federal debt through excessive deficit spending

- A) Andrew Jackson
- B) Alexander Hamilton
- C) Richard Nixon
- D) Ronald Reagan
- E) none of the above

72. The Cold War is said to have come to an end when \_\_\_\_\_ was in office.

- A) President Nixon
- B) President Wilson
- C) President Clinton
- D) President Reagan
- E) President Bush

73. D-Day was

- A) June 6, 1914
- B) June 6, 1898
- C) June 6, 1941
- D) June 6, 1944
- E) June 6, 1945

74. Who said, "I have a dream..."?

- A) Frederick Douglass
- B) Martin Luther King Jr.
- C) John F. Kennedy
- D) Lyndon Johnson
- E) none of the above

75. The Civil War was fought for which of the following reasons?

- A) states' rights
- B) slavery
- C) industrialism
- D) urbanization
- E) to obtain land

- F) to preserve the Union
- G) A, C, and D
- H) B, E, and F
- I) A, B, and F
- J) all of the above
- K) none of the above

BONUS QUESTIONS (1 point each)

76. Below are several groups of events, movements, or events in American history. Choose the group that makes the most sense in terms of chronological order.

- A) The Civil Rights movement; the Civil War; Civil Disobedience
- B) The American Revolution; Reconstruction; Westward expansion
- C) The New Frontier; Watergate; the Gulf War
- D) The Constitution; the Articles of Confederation; the Emancipation Proclamation
- E) The Panama Canal; World War I; Prohibition
- F) both A and D
- G) B, C, and E
- H) A, B, and E

77. Many of the ideas for the Civil Rights movement came from this man

- A) Thomas Jefferson
- B) Henry David Thoreau
- C) Franklin D. Roosevelt
- D) George Washington
- E) none of the above

78. "A day that will live in infamy..." The date referred to in this quote is

- A) April 5, 1775
- B) July 4, 1776
- C) December 7, 1941
- D) November 22, 1963
- E) none of the above

79. Which of the following is NOT a strength of the Constitution?

- A) It is an amendable document
- B) It establishes separation of powers
- C) It limits the president's power
- D) It provides for elections in the event of civil unrest
- E) It contains details on the order of succession to the presidency in the event of an assassination

80. Which of the following presidents was in office the longest?

- A) George Washington
- B) Thomas Jefferson
- C) Theodore Roosevelt
- D) Franklin D. Roosevelt
- E) John F. Kennedy

F) none of the above