

The University of the State of New York
REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

**UNITED STATES HISTORY
AND
GOVERNMENT**

Tuesday, January 27, 1998 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

The last page of the booklet is the answer sheet. Fold the last page along the perforations and, slowly and carefully, tear off the answer sheet. Then fill in the heading of your answer sheet.

When you have completed the examination, you must sign the statement printed at the end of the answer sheet, indicating that you had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the examination and that you have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the examination. Your answer sheet cannot be accepted if you fail to sign this declaration.

DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION BOOKLET UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN.

Part I (55 credits)

Answer all 48 questions in this part.

Directions (1–48): For each statement or question, write on the separate answer sheet the *number* of the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question.

1 Which document is best described as a statement of democratic principles rather than a framework for government?

- 1 Albany Plan of Union
- 2 Articles of Confederation
- 3 Declaration of Independence
- 4 United States Constitution

2 The United States Government is considered a federal system because

- 1 national laws must be passed by both houses of Congress
- 2 powers are divided between the State and National Governments
- 3 the States are guaranteed a republican form of government
- 4 the President is selected by the electoral college

3 The United States Constitution grants certain powers only to the Federal Government. For example, only Congress can declare war. These powers are called

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 police powers | 3 delegated powers |
| 2 reserved powers | 4 concurrent powers |

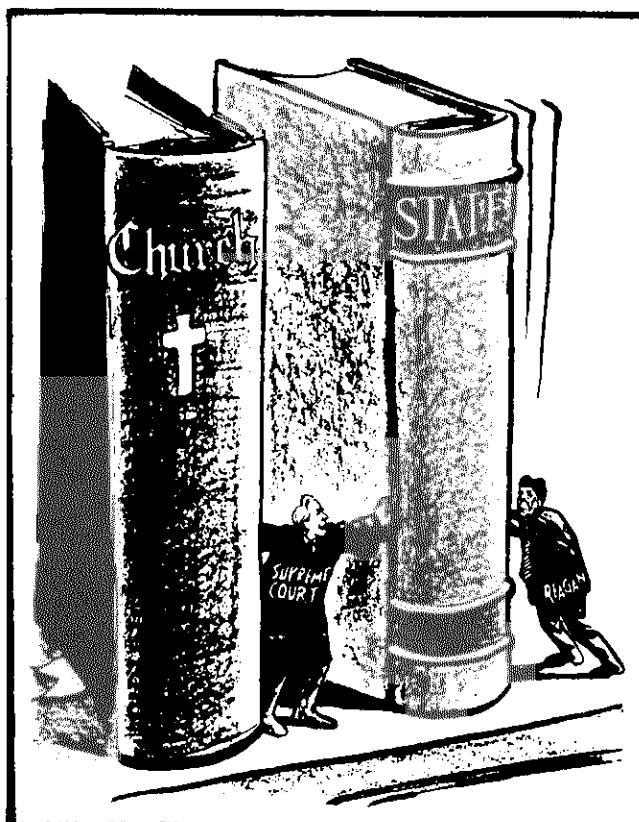
4 Which action would be necessary before the government could deny a person a public trial by an impartial jury?

- 1 a national referendum
- 2 passage of a law by Congress
- 3 a unanimous ruling by the Supreme Court
- 4 ratification of a constitutional amendment

5 Which feature of the Presidency is a result of a constitutional amendment?

- 1 two-term limit in office
- 2 power to appoint ambassadors
- 3 duty to act as Commander in Chief
- 4 responsibility to nominate Justices to the Supreme Court

Base your answer to question 6 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Bill Mauldin
Chicago Sun-Times
News America Syndicate

6 What is the main idea of the cartoon?

- 1 Different branches of the Federal Government have disagreed about important constitutional issues.
- 2 The wishes of the President should not have been opposed by the United States Supreme Court.
- 3 The Federal Government operates without any real checks and balances.
- 4 Issues related to the church-state relationship no longer create controversy in the United States.

Base your answer to question 7 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



7 What is the main idea of the cartoon?

- 1 The electoral college has more value now than it did in the past.
- 2 Only the Congress should have the power to elect a President.
- 3 The electoral college decreases the value of a citizen's vote.
- 4 Free elections in the United States have almost disappeared.

8 Which aspect of lawmaking is a result of the unwritten constitution?

- 1 Congress overriding the President's veto
- 2 special-interest groups lobbying to try to influence legislation
- 3 bills passing both houses of Congress by majority vote
- 4 revenue bills originating in the House of Representatives

9 In the United States Government, members of the Cabinet are directly responsible to the

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1 Congress | 3 Supreme Court |
| 2 Senate | 4 President |

10 The Supreme Court's power of judicial review is a result of

- 1 an order by the President
- 2 the Court's own interpretation of the Constitution
- 3 a provision in the Bill of Rights
- 4 the Court's decision to hear appeals regarding taxation

11 The label "Solid South" was applied to the former Confederate States after Reconstruction because they

- 1 consistently supported the Democratic Party
- 2 could not participate in national politics
- 3 rejected efforts to pass Jim Crow laws
- 4 continued to support abolitionist causes

12 In response to the demands of farmers and small business owners, Congress enacted laws in the late 19th century that

- 1 supported the organization of farm cooperatives
- 2 regulated the activities of railroads and trusts
- 3 provided direct payments to farmers to help them buy modern machinery
- 4 dropped tariff rates to the lowest point in the century

13 A negative effect of holding companies, mergers, and pools on the United States during the late 19th century was that these combinations

- 1 encouraged the Federal Government to spend more than its income
- 2 reduced the need for labor unions
- 3 decreased competition between businesses
- 4 ended United States participation in international trade

14 Nativism in the late 19th century was motivated primarily by

- 1 hostility toward immigrant workers
- 2 the need to reduce overcrowding in western states
- 3 cultural conflicts with Native American Indians
- 4 the migration of African Americans to northern cities

Base your answers to questions 15 and 16 on the speakers' statements below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Speaker A: Consumers in the marketplace must be allowed to choose the goods they want to buy, and their demand for those goods will establish a fair and reasonable price.

Speaker B: The factories are dangerous to work in and wages are at the poverty level. Only labor unions can convince managers to improve wages and working conditions.

Speaker C: The economy is far too complex to remain unregulated! Businesses have gotten big and powerful. Too many monopolies and too many companies ignore the public good.

Speaker D: This government has fostered economic growth through its willingness to allow businesses to compete with one another. Government regulation will discourage, not encourage, economic growth!

15 The focus of these statements is a concern over the

- 1 future of the free enterprise system
- 2 growing power of unions
- 3 effects of the Great Depression
- 4 safety of consumer products

16 Which individual held ideas most like those of speaker B?

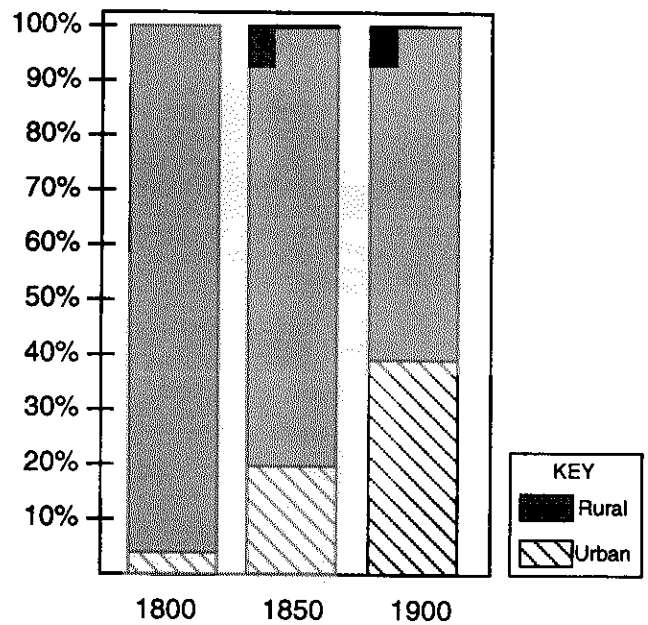
- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Andrew Carnegie | 3 Henry Ford |
| 2 John D. Rockefeller | 4 Samuel Gompers |

17 The activities of the muckrakers led Congress to pass laws that

- 1 curbed the power of labor unions
- 2 placed strict limits on immigration
- 3 protected the consumer
- 4 increased taxes on imports

Base your answer to question 18 on the graph below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Percentage of United States Population Urban and Rural: 1800 - 1900



18 Which generalization concerning population trends during the 19th century is most clearly supported by the information provided by the graph?

- 1 Jobs attracted about 60% of the population to urban areas.
- 2 Most immigrants moved to rural areas.
- 3 Family size was greater in rural areas than in urban areas.
- 4 The percentage of the population living in urban areas grew.

19 During the late 1800's, labor unions in the United States had their greatest success in

- 1 persuading the government to limit most immigration
- 2 organizing skilled workers into craft unions
- 3 winning the great majority of strikes
- 4 achieving a legally guaranteed minimum wage

20 "I took the Canal and let Congress debate."
— Theodore Roosevelt

This quotation best demonstrates

- 1 an effort by a President to maintain a policy of isolationism
 - 2 a decline in the use of militarism as a defense policy
 - 3 an increased reliance on the legislative process
 - 4 a Presidential action that achieved a foreign policy objective
- 21 Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Robert M. LaFollette are all considered progressives because they
- 1 supported the formation of the first trade union
 - 2 used Presidential power to break up strikes
 - 3 worked to limit the power of big business
 - 4 formed the first civil rights organizations
- 22 Early in the 20th century, Presidents William Taft and Woodrow Wilson used the concept of dollar diplomacy to
- 1 help European nations avoid war
 - 2 expand United States influence in China
 - 3 protect United States investments in Latin America
 - 4 support welfare programs for immigrants to the United States
- 23 A progressive income tax is based on the idea that
- 1 taxpayers with larger incomes should be taxed at a higher rate
 - 2 all taxpayers should be taxed equal amounts of money
 - 3 all income should be taxed at the same rate
 - 4 taxation should be used to encourage social programs
- 24 President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points were intended to
- 1 make the United States, Great Britain, and France into leading world powers
 - 2 redistribute Germany's colonies among the Allied nations
 - 3 prevent international tensions from leading to war
 - 4 punish Germany for causing World War I
- 25 Which generalization most accurately describes the literary works of Langston Hughes, Sinclair Lewis, and John Steinbeck?
- 1 Politics and art seldom mix well.
 - 2 The best literature concerns the lives of the wealthy.
 - 3 Literature often reflects the times in which it is created.
 - 4 Traditional American themes are the most popular.
- 26 One reason for the economic decline in the United States in the late 1920's was
- 1 a drastic reduction in tariffs
 - 2 industrial and agricultural overproduction
 - 3 excessive government regulation
 - 4 insufficient capital for investment
- 27 The election of Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Presidency in 1932 reflected the desire of many Americans to
- 1 return to a policy of laissez faire
 - 2 abandon capitalism in favor of socialism
 - 3 continue the domestic policies of the Hoover administration
 - 4 have government take an active role in solving economic problems
- 28 A major effect of the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act, 1935) was that labor unions
- 1 were soon controlled by large corporations
 - 2 experienced increasing difficulty in gaining new members
 - 3 obtained the right to bargain collectively
 - 4 lost the right to strike
- 29 The effectiveness of the New Deal in ending the Great Depression is difficult to measure because
- 1 President Franklin D. Roosevelt died during his fourth term
 - 2 United States involvement in World War II rapidly accelerated economic growth
 - 3 the Supreme Court declared most New Deal laws unconstitutional
 - 4 later Presidents failed to support most New Deal reforms

30 "Section 202. (a) Every qualified individual shall be entitled to receive . . . on the date he attains the age of sixty-five, . . . and ending on the date of his death, an old-age benefit . . ."

A major purpose of this section of Federal legislation was to

- 1 guarantee an annual income to experienced employees
- 2 assure adequate medical care for the elderly
- 3 reward workers for their support of the union movement
- 4 provide economic assistance to retired workers

31 The Lend-Lease Act and the Destroyers-for-Bases deal were adopted prior to World War II primarily because these actions would

- 1 help Allied nations without the United States entering the war
- 2 stop the spread of communism
- 3 convince the American people that war was necessary
- 4 create jobs to end the Great Depression

32 Which statement about Japanese Americans interned during World War II is most accurate?

- 1 Many were forced to return to Japan at the conclusion of the war.
- 2 No Japanese Americans were allowed to serve in the United States armed services during the war.
- 3 Most were released after signing a loyalty oath.
- 4 Many lost their homes and businesses.

33 President Harry Truman's decision to use atomic bombs against Japan was primarily based on his belief that

- 1 an invasion of Japan would result in excessive casualties
- 2 Germany would refuse to surrender in Europe
- 3 an alliance was developing between Japan and the Soviet Union
- 4 Japan was in the process of developing its own atomic weapons

34 After World War II, the United States departed most sharply from its traditional foreign policy when it

- 1 stopped foreign-aid programs
- 2 sponsored disarmament treaties
- 3 organized global systems of alliances
- 4 recognized revolutionary governments

35 What was the main purpose of the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the Berlin airlift?

- 1 controlling Nazism in Europe
- 2 establishing friendly relations between the United States and the Soviet Union
- 3 spreading democracy to developing nations
- 4 limiting Soviet expansion

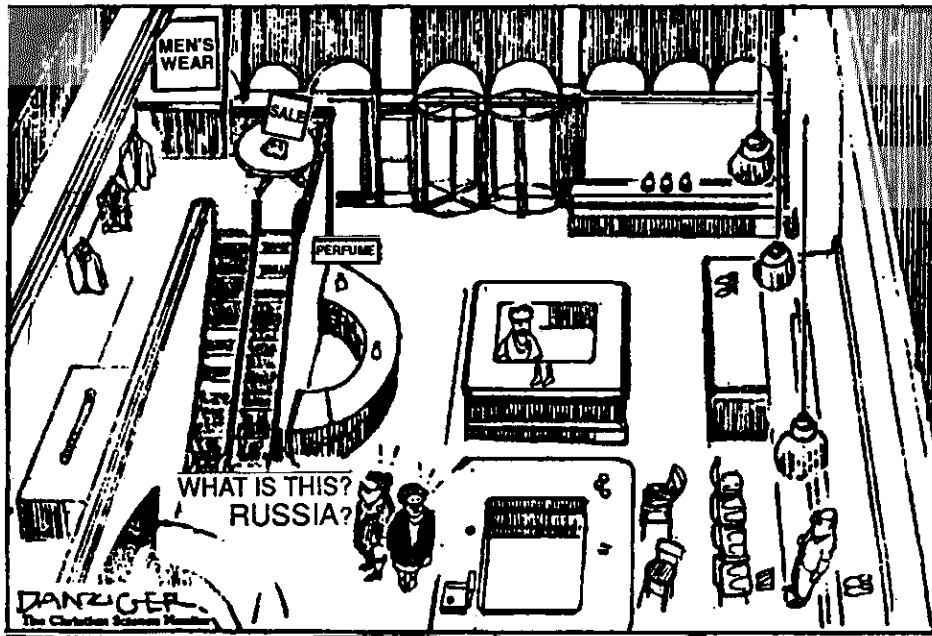
36 Which situation resulted from Senator Joseph McCarthy's search for Communists within the United States during the 1950's?

- 1 Thousands of American citizens who believed in communism were either jailed or deported.
- 2 The reputations of many people were ruined by false accusations of disloyalty.
- 3 Many high-ranking government officials were exposed as spies of the Soviet Union.
- 4 Organized groups of Communists began a wave of violent political terrorism.

37 The equal protection clause of the 14th amendment has been used to challenge the death penalty on the grounds that

- 1 tremendous differences exist from state to state in the application of capital punishment laws
- 2 media coverage severely limits a defendant's ability to receive a fair trial
- 3 judges lack the necessary experience to hear capital cases
- 4 trials are often delayed for trivial reasons

Base your answer to question 38 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Doing their patriotic bit, Floogle's Department Store stops selling imported goods.

38 What is the main idea of the cartoon?

- 1 Shortages of consumer goods have become a serious problem in the United States.
- 2 The economies of the United States and Russia are similar.
- 3 Economic recession leads to a severe decline in trade.
- 4 Imported products make up a significant part of the American economy.

39 Constitutional amendments have been proposed to ban forced busing, forbid abortion, and prohibit burning the United States flag. These proposals indicate that

- 1 the Constitution is an inflexible document
- 2 amending the Constitution is a simple process
- 3 some people disagree with certain Supreme Court decisions
- 4 American society has been unwilling to deal with complex social issues

40 The power of the Presidency has increased in the 20th century mainly because

- 1 Congress has granted much of its authority to the President
- 2 events have often required the personal diplomacy and leadership of the President
- 3 constitutional amendments have increased the power of the executive branch
- 4 Supreme Court rulings have enhanced Presidential authority

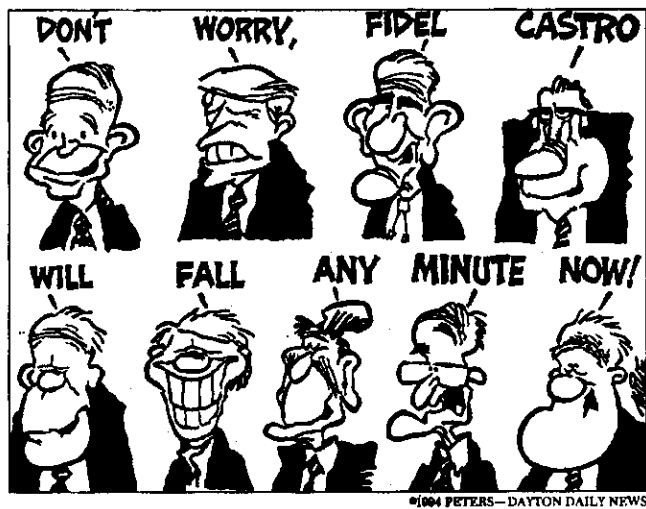
41 The successful launching of *Sputnik* by the Soviet Union in 1957 signaled the beginning of

- 1 American fears that the Soviets had achieved technological superiority
- 2 the Cold War with the United States
- 3 Soviet aggression in Afghanistan and China
- 4 disarmament discussions between the superpowers

42 Since the Russian people rejected communism in the early 1990's, the United States has provided support to the new nation by

- 1 creating a military alliance with Russia
- 2 destroying most United States nuclear weapons
- 3 opposing the independence of the other Russian republics
- 4 giving foreign aid to Russia in the form of low-interest loans

Base your answer to question 43 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



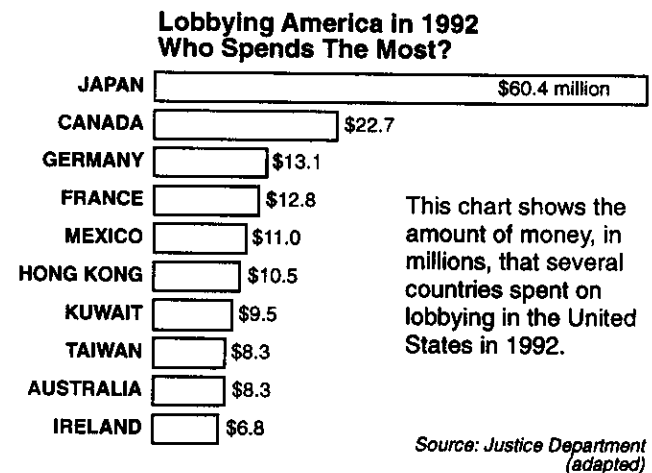
- 43 The main point of the cartoon is that Fidel Castro has
- 1 tried to spread communism to the United States
 - 2 frustrated many Presidential administrations
 - 3 allowed many Cuban refugees to come to the United States
 - 4 failed to influence United States foreign policy

- 44 Which heading would be most appropriate for this list?

- I. _____
- A. Presidents appearing on major television networks to announce important policies
 - B. Candidates for public office spending large amounts on political advertisements
 - C. Presidents delivering "State of the Union" addresses to Congress at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

- 1 Political corruption
- 2 Reforms in television
- 3 Influence of the media
- 4 Duties of the President

Base your answer to question 45 on the chart below and on your knowledge of social studies.



- 45 Based on the chart, which statement is a valid conclusion?
- 1 Japan needs more United States foreign aid than any other country listed.
 - 2 The United States has a balance-of-payments problem.
 - 3 Foreign countries may have major influence on United States legislation.
 - 4 The American economy has come under the control of other nations.
- 46 The Sherman Antitrust Act, the Social Security Act, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) are examples of
- 1 Federal laws designed to protect consumers from unsafe products
 - 2 the Federal Government's response to changes in the economy
 - 3 Federal laws designed to control spending
 - 4 the Federal Government's attempts to regulate big business

47 What was one similarity between the Red Scare following World War I and the Cold War following World War II?

- 1 Fear of communism led to the suppression of the civil liberties of some Americans.
- 2 Large numbers of Russian revolutionaries settled in the United States.
- 3 Congressional investigations proved that the Federal Government was heavily infiltrated by Communist spies.
- 4 Renewed fighting between wartime enemies was a constant threat.

48 Which historical event best demonstrates the operation of checks and balances?

- 1 President George Washington used the Army to suppress a tax rebellion by Pennsylvania farmers.
- 2 South Carolina seceded from the Union over the issues of slavery and States rights.
- 3 President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent Federal troops to enforce the integration of public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 4 The Senate approved the appointment of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court.

Answers to the following questions are to be written on paper provided by the school.

Students Please Note:

In developing your answers to Parts II and III, be sure to

- (1) include specific factual information and evidence whenever possible
- (2) keep to the questions asked; do not go off on tangents
- (3) avoid overgeneralizations or sweeping statements without sufficient proof; do not overstate your case
- (4) keep these general definitions in mind:
 - (a) discuss means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”
 - (b) describe means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
 - (c) show means “to point out; to set forth clearly a position or idea by stating it and giving data which support it”
 - (d) explain means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of”

Part II

ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS PART. [15]

1. Since 1860, actions taken by the United States Government in various historical situations have involved democratic principles.

Democratic Principles

Due process
Religious freedom
Representative government
Right to privacy
Right to bear arms
Freedom of the press

Choose *three* of the democratic principles listed and for *each* one chosen:

- Show how a specific action taken by the Federal Government since 1860 dealt with that principle [Discuss a different action for each principle chosen.]
- Discuss how this action expanded or limited that principle [5,5,5]

2. Many features of the political process in the United States today are not part of the Federal Constitution. Some of these features are listed below.

Features

Primary elections
Political parties
The Cabinet
Congressional committee system
Presidential press conferences

Choose *three* of the features listed and for *each* one chosen:

- Explain a reason for the development of the feature
- Describe a positive *or* a negative effect of the feature on the political process in the United States [5,5,5]

Part III

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS PART. [30]

- 3 Throughout United States history, various domestic issues have led to governmental actions. Some of these domestic issues are listed below.

Domestic Issues

Railroad rates
Meatpacking practices
Child labor
Banking practices
Automobile safety
Music lyrics
Political campaign financing

- a* Choose *three* of the domestic issues listed and for *each* one chosen:

- Describe a specific problem associated with the issue that led to a governmental action
- Discuss a specific governmental action that was taken to address this problem [4,4,4]

- b* For *one* of the governmental actions discussed in part *a*, discuss the extent to which the action was successful in addressing the problem. [3]

- 4 The struggle by various groups to gain civil rights has been a constant theme in United States history. Some of these groups are listed below.

Groups That Have Struggled To Gain Civil Rights

Native Americans (1800–1900)
Women (1865–1920)
Asian immigrants (1870–1920)
African Americans (1945–present)
Hispanic immigrants (1950–present)
Persons with disabilities (1960–present)

- Choose *three* of the groups listed and for *each* one chosen:

- Describe *one* specific way in which this group was denied its civil rights during the time period indicated [You must use a different civil rights issue for each group chosen.]
- Discuss *one* action taken by an individual, a group, or government during the time period indicated to overcome this denial of civil rights [5,5,5]

- 5 Throughout United States history, some national actions have caused serious debates between supporters and opponents of these actions.

National Actions

Ratification of the United States Constitution
Expansion westward to the Pacific Ocean
Adoption of the Radical Republican's plan for Reconstruction
United States refusal to join the League of Nations
Passage of restrictive immigration laws in the 1920's
Use of affirmative action programs

- a* Choose *three* of the actions listed and for *each* one chosen, explain *one* argument often given by supporters of the action and *one* argument often given by opponents of the action. [4,4,4]
- b* For *one* action chosen in part *a*, discuss a specific social, economic, or political impact of the action on the United States. [3]

- 6 In the 1990's, the United States has faced some foreign policy concerns involving different nations.

Foreign Policy Concerns — Nations

Civil war — former Yugoslavia
Famine — Somalia
Human rights violations — China
Oil supplies and prices — Kuwait
Spread of nuclear weapons — former Soviet Union
Trade — Mexico
Political instability — Haiti

Choose *three* of the foreign policy concerns listed and for *each* one chosen:

- Describe an action the United States Government has taken in the 1990's regarding this concern
- Discuss the extent to which the action has been successful in dealing with the concern [5,5,5]

- 7 Technology has brought about great change in many areas of American life.

Areas of American Life

Worker productivity
Education
Transportation
Environment
Communication

Choose *three* of the areas of American life listed and for *each* one chosen:

- Identify a specific technological development that brought about a change in this area of American life [You must use a different technological development for each area chosen.]
- Show how the technological development brought about this change
- Discuss the extent to which this change had a positive *or* a negative effect on American life [5,5,5]

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**UNITED STATES HISTORY
AND GOVERNMENT**

Tuesday, January 27, 1998 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

ANSWER SHEET

Male

Student Sex: Female

Teacher

School

Write your answers for Part I on this answer sheet, and write your answers for Part II and Part III on the paper provided by the school.

Part I (55 credits)

- 1 25
- 2 26
- 3 27
- 4 28
- 5 29
- 6 30
- 7 31
- 8 32
- 9 33
- 10 34
- 11 35
- 12 36
- 13 37
- 14 38
- 15 39
- 16 40
- 17 41
- 18 42
- 19 43
- 20 44
- 21 45
- 22 46
- 23 47
- 24 48

FOR TEACHER USE ONLY

Part I Score

(Use table below)

Part II Score

Part III Score

Total Score

Rater's Initials:

PART I CREDITS

Directions to Teacher:

In the table below, draw a circle around the number of right answers and the adjacent number of credits. Then write the number of credits (not the number right) in the space provided above.

No. Right	Credits	No. Right	Credits
48	55	23	36
47	54	22	35
46	53	21	34
45	53	20	34
44	52	19	33
43	51	18	32
42	50	17	31
41	50	16	31
40	49	15	30
39	48	14	29
38	47	13	28
37	47	12	28
36	46	11	26
35	45	10	23
34	44	9	21
33	44	8	19
32	43	7	16
31	42	6	14
30	41	5	12
29	41	4	9
28	40	3	7
27	39	2	5
26	38	1	2
25	38	0	0
24	37		

No. Right

The declaration below should be signed when you have completed the examination.

I do hereby affirm, at the close of this examination, that I had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the examination and that I have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the examination.

Signature