



# United States History Exam Snapshot

<b>Time Allowed:</b>	240 minutes	
<b>Format:</b>	Multiple-choice	
<b>Number of Questions:</b>	125	
<b>On-Screen Exhibits:</b> (available as relevant)	None	
<b>Passing Score:</b>	Proficient: 279 Distinguished: 335	(The number of questions answered correctly is converted to a scaled score ranging from 0 to 500.)
<b>Exam Summary:</b>	<b>Content Domains</b>	<b>Approximate Percentage of Examination</b>
	Discovery and Settlement of the New World	3%
	The Colonial Era	14%
	Establishment and Growth of the Republic	19%
	The Jacksonian Era to the Civil War	14%
	The Civil War and Reconstruction	9%
	Post Civil War Period Through World War I	14%
	The Roaring Twenties Through World War II	15%
	Post World War II America	12%

## About This Exam

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence believes that highly skilled United States history teachers should possess a comprehensive body of knowledge that is research-based and promotes student achievement. The United States history exam is a rigorous assessment of a candidate's knowledge of the history of the United States from the discovery and settlement of the New World to contemporary America. The exam covers political, social, and military history.



### Discovery and Settlement of the New World

- Indigenous settlements in pre-Columbian North America
- Early New World explorations by the Vikings
- Political empire building in Europe
- Routes and accomplishments of major New World explorers
- Spanish, French, Dutch, and English New World settlements
- Conflicts, cooperation, and cultural exchange between the European settlers and the indigenous peoples in North America

### The Colonial Era

#### The Founding of the Colonies

- Leaders and groups responsible for founding the original English colonies in North America
- Demographic characteristics of New World settlements
- Structures and functions of colonial governments
- Economic and social factors that led to the colonial expansion of slavery

#### The Growth of the Colonies

- Development of agricultural practices and commercial economies
- Regions and goods involved in trans-Atlantic trade
- African antecedents to the North Atlantic slave trade
- Sources of immigration and settlement patterns of immigrant groups

#### *The Colonial Era (...continued)*

- Labor-intensive plantation economies in North America
- Conditions of enslaved and free Africans in the colonies
- Major leaders of the First Great Awakening

### Establishment and Growth of the Republic

#### The American Revolutionary Era

- Battles, participants, consequences, and significance of the Seven Years War
- Factors and events that led to the Revolutionary War
- Equality, natural rights, the rule of law, the right of revolution, the consent of the governed, and the purpose of government as reflected in the Declaration of Independence
- Patriots, Loyalists, and Neutrals and the Revolutionary War
- Battles, campaigns, and turning points of the Revolutionary War; political and military leaders of the Revolutionary era
- Articles of Confederation
- Constitutional Convention of 1787
- Federalist Papers 10, 51, and 78
- Bill of Rights

#### The Early Republic

- Policies and political developments during the presidencies of George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson
- Strict and loose interpretations of the Constitution embedded in the philosophies of Democratic-Republicans and Federalists



### *Establishment and Growth of the Republic (...continued)*

- Presidential election of 1800
- Evolution of the judiciary under Chief Justice John Marshall
- Causes, events, and results of the War of 1812
- Monroe Doctrine

## **The Jacksonian Era to the Civil War**

### **The Jacksonian Era**

- Presidential elections of 1824 and 1828
- Policies and political developments during the presidency of Andrew Jackson
- Religious and intellectual trends and movements in antebellum America

### **Industrial, Territorial, and Social Developments Prior to the Civil War**

- Clay's American System
- Changes in antebellum American society as a result of industrial growth
- Manifest Destiny and its relationship to westward expansion
- Growth of slavery in the South after 1800
- Attempts to abolish slavery and arguments in defense of slavery
- Experiences of free and enslaved African-Americans

## **The Civil War and Reconstruction**

- Economies and cultures of the North and South
- Presidential election of 1860
- Policies and political developments during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln

### *The Civil War and Reconstruction (...continued)*

- Union states, Confederate states, and border states in the Civil War
- Battles and participants of the Civil War; advantages and disadvantages of the North and South
- Physical, social, and economic destruction of the South caused by the Civil War
- Plans for and issues and events of Reconstruction
- Presidential election of 1876

## **Post Civil War Period Through World War I**

### **Development of Post Civil War America**

- Sources of immigration and its impact on the growth of cities
- Worker unions and labor strikes
- Political scandals of the Gilded Age
- Causes and effects of continuing American westward expansion
- Developments that led to the industrialization of agriculture
- The Populist movement
- Presidential election of 1896

### **The Progressive Era and the Emergence of America as a World Power**

- Individuals, events, and movements of the Progressive era
- Policies and political developments during the presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson
- Presidential election of 1912



### *Post Civil War Period Through World War I (...continued)*

- Principal nations and alliances involved in World War I
- Domestic developments and diplomatic consequences of World War I

### **The Roaring Twenties Through World War II**

#### **The Roaring Twenties, Great Depression, and New Deal**

- Political, economic, cultural, and social trends and events after World War I
- Causes and consequences of the global depression of the 1930s
- President Hoover's policies in response to the Great Depression
- President Roosevelt's policies during the First and Second New Deals

#### **World War II**

- Response of federal government to the progression of events in Europe and Asia leading to World War II
- Significant World War II battles, events, and figures
- Domestic effects of America's involvement in World War II
- American response to the Holocaust
- American contribution to reconstruction in Asia and Europe

### **Post World War II America**

#### **The Cold War Era**

- Soviet and American ideologies
- Events and factors that contributed to the beginning of the Cold War
- Causes, events, and outcomes of the Korean War and Vietnam War
- Causes and consequences of domestic, intellectual, and cultural trends after World War II
- Leaders, groups, events, and issues of the African-American civil rights movement
- Events and developments of the women's rights movement
- Leaders, groups, events, and issues of political, environmental, and social justice movements
- Presidential election of 1968

#### **Contemporary America**

- The end of the Cold War and subsequent changes in American foreign relations
- Presidential election of 2000
- Consequences of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack