

TEST 3 STUDY GUIDE – Tuesday/Thursday

The questions below are from all of the lectures since the last test. You should also be sure to have read the assigned chapters of *Coming of Age in Mississippi* and viewed the documentary “Freedom on my Mind.” The final exam will include several questions related to the book and the film. To help you prepare to answer these questions, refer to the *Coming of Age* study guide posted on the History 271 syllabus.

1. Explain the origins of World War II in Europe. How and why did the conflict begin? What were the key events that led to the official beginning of the war on September 1, 1939?
2. How did Hitler justify his moves into places like the Rhineland, Austria, and the Sudetenland?
3. During the late 1930s, why did the British and French choose to “appease” Hitler rather than confront him? How did they justify this decision?
4. Despite their ideological differences, why did Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union sign a non-aggression pact in 1939? How did each nation stand to benefit from this agreement?
5. Why did Hitler fail to defeat the British after he had forced the surrender of France?
6. Identify the two biggest mistakes that Hitler made during World War II and explain why these mistakes were so costly.
7. Why did Roosevelt come up with the program of “Lend Lease”? What problem was it meant to solve?
8. Why was it Roosevelt’s top priority that Germany be kept from taking over the entire European continent? How did this priority affect the way he decided to wage war once the U.S. was involved?
9. How was Roosevelt’s “quarantine” speech received? How did its reception influence his efforts to pursue a more anti-German foreign policy?
10. How did interventionists differ from isolationists (or non-interventionists)? Why did one side believe the U.S. priority should be to help Great Britain? Why did the other oppose helping Great Britain?
11. How did the United States inadvertently contribute to the expansion of the Japanese empire during the 1930s?
12. Why did the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor? In hindsight, why did this prove a costly mistake?
13. How did American racism make the attack on Pearl Harbor even more costly for the U.S. military? How did Japanese racism contribute to the Japanese decision to attack Pearl Harbor in the first place?
14. Why did Josef Stalin want the Americans and the British to open a “Second Front” in France? Why did Roosevelt and Churchill delay in doing so?
15. What was the significance of D-Day? How did it affect the course of World War II?

16. What advantages did the United States have over Japan in waging war? Why was the U.S. more likely to defeat the Japanese in a war of attrition?
17. What factors led to the surrender of the Japanese?
18. The 1950s were characterized by the “Four A”s – anxiety, anticommunism, affluence, and alienation. Explain how each “A” led logically to the next one.
19. Why were many Americans anxious after the end of World War II?
20. Why was inflation, more than the return of unemployment and economic depression, a problem in the years immediately after World War II? What factors caused the rise in prices?
21. What role did spying play in the Soviet Union’s detonation of an atomic bomb? Why did this heighten anxiety in the U.S.?
22. Why was the arms race between the U.S. and the USSR called “MAD”?
23. Why did the Soviets’ launching of “Sputnik” cause anxiety in the U.S.? Why did it affect education spending in the U.S.?
24. Why were so many Americans ardently anticommunist during the 1950s? Why did they tend to focus their anticommunism inward (at their fellow citizens) rather than demand that their government directly confront the Soviet Union?
25. Why have some argued that conservatives’ attacks on liberals for being “soft on communism” during the 1950s constituted “payback” for when liberals attacked conservatives for being “soft on fascism” during the 1930s?
26. Why was there a “blacklist” in Hollywood during the 1950s? What was its purpose?
27. Why did some Americans accused of having Communist sympathies “take the Fifth”? How did “taking the Fifth” contribute to the impression that there were more Communists in the U.S. than there really were?
28. Why did politicians (like Richard Nixon and Joseph McCarthy) embrace the cause of anticommunism?
29. Why was it especially troubling to many Americans that someone “normal looking” like Alger Hiss turned out to be a Communist spy?
30. Why did the anticommunism of the 1950s make American society more *conformist*?
31. How did American family life, gender roles, and religion during the 1950s distinguish the United States from the Soviet Union?
32. What provisions were in the GI Bill and the Marshall Plan? Why did they help to stimulate the American economy and expand the middle class after World War II?
33. How were the GI Bill, the housing boom, the construction of the highway network, and the baby boom all connected in helping to expand the American economy?
34. How did the introduction of “franchising” enable more Americans to go into business for themselves?
35. How did “populuxe” differ from previous notions of luxury? Why was populuxe consumerism considered more of a process than a financial transaction?
36. How did new products and innovations help fuel the affluence of the 1950s?
37. Why did African Americans not benefit from the housing boom in the suburbs and the movement of more and more jobs to suburban locations?

38. How was the alienation that African Americans experienced during the 1950s different from the alienation that artists, writers, musicians, and young, white suburban kids experienced?
39. How did the nation's affluence contribute to African Americans' alienation?
40. How did U.S. participation in World War II undermine support for racial segregation in the United States? Why, even to many white Americans, did defending segregation now seem hypocritical?
41. How did the ongoing Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union actually help the activists of the Civil Rights Movement make their case against segregation and racism?
42. How did banks and unscrupulous realtors contribute to housing segregation during the 1950s? What kept African Americans from settling in newly built suburban neighborhoods?
43. How did some artists, writers, and musicians during the 1950s express their alienation from mainstream American society? What particular aspects of mainstream society did they find so alienating?
44. Why were many young people alienated from the bland, secure, yet boring suburban lives of their parents? Why did their parents find satisfaction in such a life, but their children did not?
45. How did Elvis Presley blur the lines between white and black culture? How did he help to change some white teenagers' attitudes about black culture?
46. How did Elvis Presley undermine traditional notions about gender, sexuality, and the Protestant work ethic? How, for example, did his purchase of a pink Cadillac ridicule the goals and priorities of many hard-working Americans?
47. When observers referred to the early 1960s as a "promising time," what two conceptions of "promising" did they have in mind?
48. Why was "It's time to get the country moving again" an effective slogan for John F. Kennedy during the 1960 presidential campaign?
49. Why was Kennedy's use of the so-called missile gap as a campaign issue against Nixon misleading?
50. Why did Eisenhower not want to reveal to the public that the U.S. was far ahead of the Soviet Union in constructing missiles?
51. Why had Cuba become a concern to the American government after 1959? How did it become an issue in the presidential election of 1960?
52. What was the "Bay of Pigs Invasion" and why did Kennedy agree to support it? Why did the failure of the Bay of Pigs Invasion encourage Kennedy to adopt a more aggressive anticommunist foreign policy?
53. What effect did the Bay of Pigs invasion have on Cuban-Soviet relations? Why did the Bay of Pigs invasion lead to the Cuban Missile Crisis?
54. Why was the U.S. "victory" in the Cuban Missile Crisis not as resounding as it first appeared?
55. What was the United States' goal when it intervened in Vietnam? Why did Kennedy feel the U.S. must assist and support the anticommunist government in South Vietnam?
56. Why did the Vietnamese see the Vietnam War in a different light than the Americans?

57. Why did Kennedy have such difficulty in getting Congress to pass Civil Rights legislation? How did the structure of Congress – particularly the committee system – prevent the passage of such laws?
58. Why were Civil Rights activists disappointed with Kennedy? Why did Kennedy believe the activists were not being realistic?
59. How was Lyndon Johnson able to use the death of President Kennedy to advance the liberal agenda, particularly with regard to the issue of civil rights?
60. Why did many black Americans' perceptions of the Watts riots in 1965 differ from the perceptions of many white Americans?
61. Why did riots (or rebellions) erupt in the Black neighborhoods of northern cities during the mid- and late-1960s?
62. How did the Vietnam War undermine Lyndon Johnson's popularity? More broadly, how did Johnson's handling of the war erode confidence in the credibility of the federal government?
63. Why did the Vietnam War and opposition to the Vietnam War divide Americans along class lines?
64. If older Americans were most likely to oppose the war, why did they also oppose the anti-war demonstrators?
65. By 1968, why had American society become so divided? What were the bases of the divisions and how had urban unrest, the Vietnam war, and the anti-war movement fueled them?