

Test One Study Guide

These questions will help you to prepare for the first test. The material on which the multiple choice questions will be based will be drawn *directly* from this study guide.

In studying, you should not simply “find the answer” in the notes and try to memorize it. Instead, be sure you understand the material and can even explain it to someone who lacks that understanding.

1. Why were southern plantation owners in particularly bad financial shape after the Civil War?
2. Why was loss of slaves as a source of **capital** even worse for planters than loss of slaves as a source of unpaid labor?
3. What had African Americans in the South “won” as a result of the Civil War? What had they lost? Why could “freedom” be both a blessing and a curse for African Americans right after the Civil War?
4. Why did poor southern whites who had no *economic* stake in slavery feel like they had lost status once the slaves were freed? How did this affect race relations in the South?
5. Even though poor whites and the newly freed slaves had similar economic interests, why did they not ally with each other against the wealthy white southerners?
6. Why is it incorrect to say that Abraham Lincoln “freed the slaves” by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation? Why, in fact, did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
7. Why did President Lincoln wish to abolish slavery through ratifying a constitutional amendment rather than simply passing a law in Congress?
8. Why had the North gained political power during and after the Civil War? What kinds of policies did Northern politicians pursue once they had this power?
9. What is a tariff? Who stood to benefit from a high tariff and why? Who benefited from a low tariff and why?
10. How did the Port Royal Experiment prove wrong whites’ racist assumption that blacks would only work if supervised by whites?
11. How did President Lincoln and the Republicans in Congress differ with regard to how each believed Reconstruction should be handled? Why did Lincoln offer a lenient plan in the middle of the Civil War? Why did Congress want to treat the South more harshly?
12. Why did the assassination of Lincoln make it likely that reconstruction would be harsher on the South?
13. President Johnson used the term “restoration” while Radical Republicans used the term “reconstruction.” What did this reveal about their different plans for the South after the Civil War?

14. Why did President Johnson and the Radical Republicans end up becoming political enemies when, at first, the Radicals believed Johnson's views on Reconstruction were similar to their own?
15. How did Johnson attempt to undermine the Radicals' plans for Reconstruction? Why did the Radicals eventually try to impeach Johnson?
16. Why did making freedmen citizens but not allowing them to vote actually increase the political power of the white South? [see the article on Radical Reconstruction]
17. Why did moderate Republicans move toward some of the Radical positions as time went on? What role did President Johnson and events on the ground in the South play in shifting these Republicans' views? [see the article on Radical Reconstruction]
18. What did the 14th Amendment do to protect the freedmen? How did the southern states respond to the 14th Amendment? Why did some Radical Republicans believe it did not go far enough? [see the article on Radical Reconstruction]
19. Why were the changes the Radical Republicans proposed for the South so radical? [Recall that "radical" refers to someone who supports a drastic alteration in power relations between individuals or groups.]
20. Why were most Americans (even Americans in the North) reluctant to support the Radical Republicans' plans for the South?
21. How did James Hill insure ahead of time that once his railroad was built, there would be customers and goods to fill the trains?
22. Why was James Hill able to build a profitable railroad line without government subsidies? What were the "secrets of his success"?
23. Why did Hill's building of "spur" lines prove helpful to his business?
24. What unintended consequences resulted when the federal government subsidized the building of the transcontinental railroads?
25. Why did building railroads quickly and cheaply often lead railroad companies into bankruptcy?
26. Why did giving government subsidies to railroad builders lead to political corruption?
27. Unlike earlier transport systems (lakes, rivers, canals, mud roads), how were railroads "liberated" from the limits imposed by both geography and climate?
28. According to William Cronon, how did the arrival of the railroad alter people's conceptions of time and space? How did railroads change the way people interacted with the environment (geography, weather, etc.)?
29. Why did the development of large transcontinental railroads create a whole new class of white-collar professional workers (like accountants, payroll administrators, human resource specialists)?
30. How did the development of a national railroad system contribute to economic growth throughout the United States during the late nineteenth century?
31. Beyond the development of a national railroad system, what other factors helped fuel the incredible economic expansion in the United States between 1865 and 1900?

32. How does economy of “scope” differ from economy of “scale”? How did the expansion of railroad lines increase *both* economies of scope and economies of scale?
33. How did the introduction of “limited liability” make it easier for aspiring entrepreneurs to raise investment money to create new businesses during the late nineteenth century?
34. Explain how the Four “C”s – competition, cooperation, consolidation, and centralization – resulted in the development of large corporations during the late nineteenth century. How did one “C” lead logically to the next “C”? [In thinking about how to answer this question, use Rockefeller’s Standard Oil as a case study.]
35. Why did “cooperation” prove ineffective as a way to prevent decreases in prices that came with competition?
36. What is the difference between “horizontal integration” (consolidation) and “vertical integration” (centralization)?
37. Why did Rockefeller’s implementation of vertical integration in his business lead to him amassing so much wealth?
38. Why did Rockefeller cut a deal with an already existing railroad line to ship his oil rather than buying his own railroad line?
39. How did the arrival of Big Business and the shift from a producer to a consumer culture affect workers’ jobs and workers’ identities? (Think about how a master craftsman shoemaker differed from a worker on the assembly line of a shoe factory.)
40. Why did Big Businesses need to hire skilled accountants and develop management information systems?
41. Why were farmers in debt during the late nineteenth century? Why was it so difficult for them to get out of debt?
42. According to the farmers, why was the source of their problems “underconsumption” and not “overproduction”?
43. How did farmers try to improve their bargaining position with local merchants and railroad owners? Even when they “cooperated,” why did they find that they still could not make many significant improvements in their economic status?
44. How could the proposed “subtreasury system” help farmers escape debt and also solve the problem of overproduction?
45. Why did farmers have more influence with local and state governments than they did with Congress at the national level?
46. Why does an economy tied to the gold standard limit the amount of currency the government can print?
47. Why did the shortage of gold during the late nineteenth century have a negative effect on the financial position of many farmers who were in debt?
48. If prices are rising, is the dollar becoming more or less valuable? What about when prices are falling?
49. Why does a creditor prefer deflation while someone in debt prefers inflation?
50. What groups supported the coinage of silver? What groups opposed it? Why?
51. How were bankers and financiers able to convince small businessmen and working people that inflating the currency (through the coinage of silver) was a bad idea?
52. How did lack of gold in the US treasury help produce the Depression of 1893? Why did

concern about the Gold Standard and the coining of silver become less of an immediate issue right after the presidential election of 1896?

53. What evidence is there in *Pudd'nhead Wilson* that Twain believes the residents of Dawson's Landing are narrow-minded and provincial (that is, they reject new ideas as "foolish" without even understanding them).
54. How does Pudd'nhead Wilson's joke about killing "half a dog" point out that white supremacy and segregation have corrupted *all* of southern society – black and white?
55. Identify any three specific instances in *Pudd'nhead Wilson* where Mark Twain suggests that training and upbringing (and not "blood") determine one's character and behavior.
56. Why do you think Mark Twain the author disagrees with "Roxy" the character that "Tom" is a bad person simply because he has black blood in him (if only 1/32 part)? What evidence is there in the novel that suggests Twain disagrees with her?
57. How does the character of Chambers show that the idea of white supremacy is wrong? How has Chambers' "training" made him "black" and a "slave" even though he has "white" blood?
58. *Pudd'nhead Wilson* ends with "Tom" being sold down the river. Does Twain intend this to be a "happy ending" in which justice has been served and "order" has been restored? If not, why not? Why is especially sad that it is Pudd'nhead Wilson who "sets things right" at the end?
59. Why is Roxy, who switched the two babies at birth, not charged with a crime? Why can't the society of Dawson's Landing even acknowledge that Roxy has "assigned" the boys a new race by switching them?
60. How does Mark Twain use humor to advance his social message? How, by getting his readers to laugh at episodes and situations in the novel, might he also be "nudging" them to rethink their own views? [Think of specific examples from the book in which you think he is doing this.]