

TEST 3 STUDY GUIDE

1. Why did the U.S. government raise the tariff on imported goods in the early 1930s? Why was this a bad idea?
2. Why did the high tariffs of the 1930s have a *global* effect?
3. Why did cutting taxes on the wealthiest Americans during the 1920s not necessarily mean that wealth and prosperity “trickled down” to those at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder?
4. Why did many wealthy people who received a major tax cut during the mid-1920s use the money to speculate on stocks rather than to build factories, expand their businesses, or hire more employees?
5. Why did the economy suffer when the housing and auto markets became weaker during the mid- to late-1920s?
6. What are the two main powers of the Federal Reserve? By using these powers, how did the Federal Reserve end up making the Great Depression worse?
7. Why would raising interest rates help limit speculation on the stock market?
8. In what ways did lack of economic knowledge contribute to the Great Depression?
9. Why did establishing the FDIC end the run on the banks? Why did some argue that establishing the FDIC might encourage banks to make risky investments?
10. The Glass-Steagall act separated savings banks from investment banks. What problem was this meant to solve?
11. What reforms did the SEC bring to the process of investing in stocks?
12. Why did Franklin Roosevelt refer to direct cash payments from the government to those in need as a way of “priming the pump”?
13. Why did Franklin Roosevelt believe that public works projects – building post offices, bridges, and dams – would help to stimulate the economy? Why did he prefer such projects to direct cash payments to those in need?
14. Why were farmers suffering during the 1930s? How did Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal propose to help them?
15. How did Roosevelt’s programs intended to help farmers end up hurting some of the poorest farmers in the south?
16. Why did higher wages for workers – required by the NRA – sometimes produce higher unemployment among low skilled and unskilled laborers? Why did some businesses actually *prefer* to pay higher wages during the 1930s?
17. How did Roosevelt’s NRA help labor unions?
18. Why did Roosevelt set up a “social security” system rather than simply give government aid to those who were too old or sick to work?
19. 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?

20. During the late 1930s, why did the British and French choose to “appease” Hitler rather than confront him? How did they justify this decision?
21. Despite their ideological differences, why did Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union sign a non-aggression pact in 1939?
22. Identify the two biggest mistakes that Hitler made during World War II and explain why these mistakes were so costly.
23. Why did Roosevelt come up with the program of “Lend Lease”? What problem was it meant to solve?
24. Why was Roosevelt’s top priority that Germany be kept from taking over the entire European continent?
25. 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?
26. Why did the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor? In hindsight, why did this prove a costly mistake?
27. 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?
28. Why did Josef Stalin want the Americans and the British to open a “Second Front”? Why were the Americans and the British slow to do so?
29. What was the significance of D-Day? How did it affect the course of World War II?
30. 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?
31. What factors led to the surrender of the Japanese?
32. The 1950s were characterized by the “Four A”s – anxiety, anticommunism, affluence, and alienation. Explain how each “A” led logically to the next one.
33. Why were many Americans anxious after the end of World War II?
34. 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?
35. What role did spying play in the Soviet Union’s detonation of an atomic bomb?
36. Why was the arms race between the U.S. and the USSR called “MAD”?
37. Why did the Soviets’ launching of “Sputnik” cause anxiety in the U.S.? Why did it affect education spending the U.S.?
38. 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?
39. Why was there a “blacklist” in Hollywood during the 1950s? What was its purpose?
40. 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?
41. Why did politicians (like Richard Nixon and Joseph McCarthy) embrace the cause of anticommunism?

42. Why was it especially troubling to many Americans that someone like Alger Hiss turned out to be a Communist spy?
43. Why did the anticommunism of the 1950s make American society more conformist?
44. How did American family life, gender roles, and religion during the 1950s distinguish the United States from the Soviet Union?
45. Why was the U.S. economy so globally dominant in the years immediately after the end of World War II?
46. 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?
47. 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?
48. How did the introduction of “franchising” enable more Americans to go into business for themselves?
49. How did “populuxe” differ from previous notions of luxury? Why was populuxe consumerism considered more of a process than a financial transaction?
50. How did new products and innovations help fuel the affluence of the 1950s?
51. Why did African Americans not benefit from the housing boom in the suburbs and the movement of more and more jobs to suburban locations?
52. 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?
53. How did the nation’s affluence contribute to African Americans’ alienation?
54. 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?
55. 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?
56. 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?
57. 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?
58. 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?
59. 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?
60. When observers referred to the early 1960s as a “promising time,” what two conceptions of “promising” did they have in mind?
61. Why was “It’s time to get the country moving again” an effective slogan for John F. Kennedy during the 1960 presidential campaign?

62. Why was Kennedy's use of the so-called missile gap as a campaign issue disingenuous?
63. Why had Cuba become a concern to the American government after 1959?
64. 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?
65. 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?
66. Why was the U.S. "victory" in the Cuban Missile Crisis not as resounding as it first appeared?
67. 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?
68. Why did the Vietnamese see the Vietnam War in a different light than the Americans?
69. 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?
70. Why were Civil Rights activists disappointed with Kennedy? Why did Kennedy believe the activists were not being realistic?
71. 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?
72. How did the reaction of many black Americans to the Watts riots in 1965 differ from the reaction of many white Americans?
73. How did the Vietnam War undermine Lyndon Johnson's popularity?
74. Why did the Vietnam War and opposition to the Vietnam War divide Americans along class lines?
75. If older Americans were most likely to oppose the war, why did they also oppose the anti-war demonstrators?