

### **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 from this study guide. If you are able to answer the review questions and *understand* the material they cover, you should have no trouble answering the exam questions.

1. Why were southern plantation owners in particularly bad financial shape after the Civil War?
2. 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?
3. Why did poor southern whites who had no *economic* stake in slavery feel like they had lost status once the slaves were freed?
4. 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?
5. How did the Port Royal Experiment undermine white Americans’ assumptions about African Americans? How did Port Royal represent a “road not taken” when it came to establishing a process of reconstructing the Union?
6. Why is it incorrect to say that Abraham Lincoln “freed the slaves” by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation? Why did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
7. How did President Lincoln and the Republicans in Congress differ with regard to how each believed Reconstruction should be handled?
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. Why did the assassination of Lincoln make it less likely that reconstruction would be easy on the South?
11. 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?
12. 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?
13. How did President Johnson attempt to undermine the Radicals’ plans for Reconstruction? Why did the Radicals eventually try to impeach Johnson?
14. 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.]
15. 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]
16. Why did moderate Republicans move closer to 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]
17. How did the Reconstruction Act of 1867 protect the freedmen in the South? How did it help to *enforce* civil rights for all freedmen?

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 most Americans (even Americans in the North) reluctant to support the Radical Republicans' plans for the South?
20. How did James Hill insure ahead of time that once his railroad was built, there would be customers and goods to fill the trains?
21. Why was James Hill able to build a profitable railroad line without government subsidies? What were the "secrets of his success"?
22. What unintended consequences resulted when the federal government subsidized the building of the transcontinental railroads?
23. Why did building railroads quickly and cheaply often lead railroad companies into bankruptcy?
24. Unlike earlier transport systems (lakes, rivers, canals, mud roads), how were railroads "liberated" from the limits imposed by both geography and climate?
25. 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.)?
26. 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)?
27. How did the railroads contribute to the massive economic expansion across the United States during the late 19th century? How did they help create a "national" economy (as opposed to numerous local or regional economies)?
28. How did the coming of the railroad enable those with "latent resources" to monetize them?
29. How did the coming of the railroad enable farmers to take advantage of "economies of scale" and "economies of scope"?
30. What role did British investors play in the rise of big business in the US? Why were they in a position to invest so heavily in US companies?
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 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?
33. Explain how the Four "C"s – competition, cooperation, consolidation, and centralization – resulted in the development of large corporations during the late 19th 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.]
34. Why did Rockefeller believe that competition was bad for business and undermined profits?
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. What did Rockefeller do when he wanted to "vertically integrate" his business both "forward" and "backward"?
38. Why did Rockefeller decide not to raise the price of refined oil even after he had gained a large share of the market by consolidating?
39. How did Rockefeller manage to lower the transportation costs for shipping his oil?
40. 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.)
41. Why did Big Businesses need to hire skilled accountants and develop management information systems?

42. How did the founding of the Grange help farmers?
43. Why were farmers in debt during the late nineteenth century? Why was it so difficult for them to get out of debt?
44. How did farmers use both self-help and appeals for government assistance to improve their economic situation during the 1890s?
45. According to the farmers of the 1890s, why was the source of their problems “underconsumption” and not “overproduction”?
46. How did farmers try to get around “middle men” such as 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?
47. Why did farmers have more influence with local and state governments than they did with Congress at the national level?
48. Why does an economy tied to the gold standard limit the amount of currency the government can print?
49. 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?
50. If prices are rising, is the dollar becoming more or less valuable? What about when prices are falling?
51. Why does a creditor prefer deflation while someone in debt prefers inflation?
52. What groups supported the coinage of silver? What groups opposed it? Why?
53. 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?
54. How did lack of gold in the U. S. 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?
55. Along what lines was the nation sharply divided during the election of 1896? Why were the “haves” (the wealthy) more unified than the “have nots” (the poor and working class wage earners)?