

TEST #3 STUDY GUIDE

These questions will help you to prepare for the third test. The material on which the multiple-choice questions are 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. When World War I broke out, President Woodrow Wilson claimed the U.S. would follow a policy of “neutrality” in the European conflict. Why did the Germans believe the U.S. was not really being neutral?
2. Why did the Germans resort to submarine warfare? Why was German submarine warfare a major reason why the U.S. entered World War I?
3. Why did President Wilson believe that Germany’s agreement to the “Sussex Pledge” would help ensure that the U.S. didn’t become involved in the European War?
4. Why did the Germans pledge to stop using submarine warfare but then reverse this pledge? If resuming submarine warfare was likely to lead the U. S. to declare war on Germany, why did the Germans take this step anyway?
5. What was the Zimmermann Telegram and why was it significant in shifting American public opinion toward a more anti-German position?
6. Explain how Wilson’s 14 Points – particularly Points 9-13 – tried to address the reasons that Europe had gone to war in the first place.
7. Why was Wilson’s goal of implementing a policy of “self-determination” in which each ethnic group would choose its own government so difficult to bring about? Why did colonial powers like France and Britain express skepticism about “self-determination”?
8. Why did more practical figures like the French leader Georges Clemenceau express skepticism about Wilson’s 14 Points and his hope for a “peace without victory”? Given how many casualties there had been in the war, why would a “peace without victory” be hard to achieve?
9. Why did the U.S. Congress believe Wilson’s Point 14 was unconstitutional?
10. By being neither too harsh nor too lenient on the Germans, how did the Treaty of Versailles create a situation in which the Germans were in a position to exact revenge on the British and French later on?
11. How did German war reparations and French and British war debt involve the United States? How did this 3-way relationship work and why did it cause international economic instability?
12. What were some alternatives to the circular system of debt repayment and reparations? Why would they have made the world economy more stable? Why were such alternatives never implemented?
13. Why was the U.S. government’s refusal to forgive European war debts during the late 1920s and early 1930s a bad idea?
14. Why was it nearly impossible for the British and French governments to pursue a policy in which they would cancel Germany’s payment of reparations?
15. Why did the German government pursue a policy of hyperinflation? Why did the French and British oppose this policy? Why did the German people come to oppose the policy?
16. What was the Dawes Plan and how did it temporarily stabilize the international economy?

17. Why did the U.S. stock market draw so many speculators during the 1920s? What was "buying on margin" and why was it a dangerous practice?
18. How did large banks sometimes manipulate the rise and fall of stock prices during the 1920s? How did issuing "margin calls" sometime enable banks to make a profit by buying stocks?
19. What caused the U.S. stock market crash in 1929 and why did this crash have a global effect?
20. Why did the U.S. government raise the tariff on most imported goods in the early 1930s? Why did raising tariffs end up hurting, not helping, the US economy? Why did the high tariffs of the 1930s have a global effect?
21. Why did the U.S. decision to raise its tariffs make it more difficult for European nations to pay back the money they owed the Americans?
22. 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?
23. Why did the entire US economy suffer when the demand for housing and cars declined during the mid- to late-1920s?
24. 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?
25. Why was it a bad idea for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates as the Great Depression was beginning? Why did doing this create the wrong economic incentives?
26. 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?
27. How did the Glass-Steagall Banking Act make entrusting one's money to the bank less risky for depositors?
28. What reforms did the SEC bring to the process of investing in stocks? How did it make the buying and selling of stocks more "transparent"?
29. Why did Franklin Roosevelt refer to direct cash payments from the government to those in need as a way of "priming the pump"?
30. 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?
31. Why were farmers suffering during the 1930s? How did Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal propose to help them? Why were some tenant farmers and sharecroppers hurt by the AAA?
32. 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 workers higher wages during the 1930s?
33. Why did African Americans find that some New Deal policies – such as the NRA and AAA – ended up hurting them more than helping them?
34. How did Roosevelt's NRA help labor unions and the workers who belonged to them?
35. 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?
36. 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?
37. How did German leader Adolf Hitler justify his moves into places like the Rhineland, Austria, and the Sudetenland? Why did this argument collapse when the German army invaded Poland?

38. During the late 1930s, why did the British and French governments choose to "appease" Hitler rather than confront him? How did they justify this decision?
39. Why did the Soviet Union hope that France and Britain would join it in pursuing a policy of "Collective Security"? Why did this policy fail to happen?
40. 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?
41. Identify the two biggest mistakes that Hitler made during World War II and explain why these mistakes were so costly.
42. What was the public reaction to Franklin Roosevelt's "Quarantine Speech" in 1938? How did this reaction affect U.S. foreign policy for the next few years?
43. Why did Roosevelt come up with the program of "Lend Lease"? What problem was it meant to solve?
44. Why was Roosevelt's top priority to keep Germany from taking over the entire European continent? Why did Roosevelt consider German domination over all of Europe 1) an economic threat; 2) a political threat; and 3) an existential threat to the US?
45. Why was Hitler's decision to bomb civilians in London rather than military targets in the south of England a bad idea? What provoked him to make this bad decision?
46. Why did Hitler attack the Soviet Union in 1941 even though he had not yet compelled Great Britain to surrender? Why were the Soviets not well-prepared for this attack?
47. Why did "interventionists" believe the U.S. priority should be to help Great Britain? Why did "isolationists" oppose helping Great Britain?
48. What role did the United States play in helping the Japanese to expand their empire?
49. Why did the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor? In hindsight, why did this prove a costly mistake?
50. 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?
51. 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?
52. What was the significance of D-Day? How did it affect the course of World War II in Europe?
53. What advantages did the United States have over Japan in waging war? Why was the U.S. more likely to defeat the Japanese in an extended war of attrition?
54. What factors led to the surrender of the Japanese? Why was the dropping of the Atomic Bomb not a major reason for their surrender? [refer to the article by Ward Wilson on the Atomic Bomb.]
55. According to Ward Wilson's article, how did the Japanese high command react to the dropping of the Atomic Bombs? Why does he argue that the bombs actually weren't that significant in pushing the Japanese to surrender?
56. According to Ward Wilson's article, why have both the U.S. and the Japanese found it convenient to say that the dropping of the Atomic bombs explains why the Japanese surrendered?
57. The 1950s were characterized by the "Four A"s - anxiety, anticommunism, affluence, and alienation. Explain how each "A" led logically to the next one.
58. Why were many Americans anxious after the end of World War II?

59. 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?
60. Why did the Soviets' launching of "Sputnik" cause anxiety in the U.S.? How did it affect education spending the U.S.?
61. Why were so many Americans strongly 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?
62. Why did politicians (like Richard Nixon and Joseph McCarthy) embrace the cause of anticommunism? How was the "Red Scare" of the 1950s "political payback" for the "Brown Scare" of the 1930s?
63. Why was it especially troubling to many Americans that someone "normal looking" like Alger Hiss turned out to be a Communist spy?
64. Why did the anticommunism of the 1950s make American society more conformist?
65. How did American family life, gender roles, and religion during the 1950s distinguish the United States from the Soviet Union?
66. What provisions were in the GI Bill and the Marshall Plan? Why did they help to expand the American economy and the middle class after World War II?
67. How did the introduction of "franchising" enable more Americans to go into business for themselves?
68. How did new products and innovations help fuel the affluence of the 1950s?
69. Why did African Americans not benefit from the housing boom in the suburbs and the movement of more and more jobs to suburban locations?
70. 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?
71. 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?
72. 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?
73. 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?
74. 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?
75. 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?