**Midterm Study Guide**

These questions will help you to prepare for the midterm exam. The material on which the multiple choice questions will be based will be drawn directly from this study guide. If you are able to answer the review questions, 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 is it incorrect to say that Abraham Lincoln “freed the slaves” by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation?
4. Why did Congress decide to amend the Constitution (13th amendment) rather than simply pass a law that abolished slavery?
5. What had Northerners won as a result of the Civil War? Politically? Economically?
6. What is a tariff? Who stood to benefit from a high tariff and why? Who benefited from a low tariff and why?
7. Why did the assassination of Lincoln make it less likely that reconstruction would be easy on the South?
8. Why were the changes the Radical Republicans proposed for the South so radical? Why were most Americans reluctant to support the Radical Republicans' plans for the South?
9. How did James Hill insure ahead of time that once his railroad was built, there would be customers and goods to fill the trains?
10. Why was James Hill able to build a profitable railroad line without government subsidies? What were the “secrets of his success”?
11. What unintended consequences resulted when the federal government subsidized the building of the transcontinental railroads? Why did the subsidies lead to political corruption?
12. Why did several of the transcontinental railroads that took government subsidies end up going bankrupt?
13. Unlike earlier transport systems (lakes, rivers, canals, mud roads), how were railroads “liberated” from the limits imposed by both geography and climate?
14. 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.)?
15. How did the coming of the railroad enable farmers to take advantage of “economies of scale” and “economies of scope”?
16. 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)?
17. 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?
18. 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?
19. How did the development of a national railroad system nurture economic expansion across the United States during the late nineteenth century?
20. 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.]  
21. Why did “cooperation” prove ineffective as a way prevent decreases in prices that came with competition?  
22. What is the difference between “vertical integration” and “horizontal integration”?  
23. How did the arrival of Big Business and the shift from a producer to a consumer culture affect workers’ jobs and workers’ identities?  
24. Why does Jay Mandle (Not Slave, Not Free) believe that implementing a policy of land redistribution (taking land from the planters and giving it to the freedman) would have produced a significantly different economic reality in the South after the Civil War?  
25. Why did the Southern Homestead Act fail to achieve its intended purpose?  
26. Why was it hard for blacks to escape plantation labor? Why didn’t they find work elsewhere doing other things?  
27. How did the plantation labor system deny African Americans the chance to develop entrepreneurial and managerial skills?  
28. Why does Mandle say that, for African American sharecroppers, the labor system in the plantation South was not truly a “free labor” system?  
29. Why did northern family farmers actively embrace new labor-saving technologies while southern cotton planters largely ignored them?  
30. How did the structure of the plantation economy in the South reinforce southern racism and encourage a culture of paternalism to continue?  
31. Why did some freemen accept the culture of paternalism in the post-Civil War South?  
32. Why was it hard for African Americans to start their own businesses (or to sustain them if they did start them)?  
33. What effect did the Supreme Court decision Plessy v. Ferguson have on African Americans?  
34. Identify three specific instances in Pudd’nhead Wilson where Mark Twain suggests that upbringing (and not “blood”) determines one’s character and behavior.  
35. 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?  
36. How does Mark Twain critique southern society indirectly in Pudd’nhead Wilson? Why could one argue that this indirect criticism, especially through the use of humor, ends up being more powerful than direct criticism?  
37. 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?  
38. 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?  
39. Why might one argue that in the novel Pudd’nhead Wilson, David Wilson himself is a tragic figure?  
40. How does Twain use the duel between Judge Driscoll and Luigi – a scene narrated through Roxy’s point of view – to make fun of the “southern code of honor”?  
41. 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)?  
42. Why did some Americans in the 1890s come to believe that the U.S. should pursue a more expansionist foreign policy?
43. Why did the Depression of 1893 convince some Americans that the need to open overseas markets for US goods was urgent?
44. Why was there a “crisis of masculinity” during the 1890s? What evidence of this crisis do we see in popular culture?
45. How did newspaper men and politicians like Theodore Roosevelt use “gendered” language and imagery to pressure President William McKinley to declare war on Spain?
46. Why did so many Americans sympathize with the Cuba Libre! movement? How did the nature of Spanish colonial rule – particularly the reconcentration policy of General “Butcher” Weyler – fuel these sympathies?
47. What were the goals of President McKinley’s Cuba policy? Why was it impossible for him to achieve them short of declaring war on Spain?
48. Why did big business’s opposition to the Spanish-American war actually build support for the pro-war side?
49. What were some of the significant events in early 1898 that seemed to push the United States closer to war with Spain?
50. How do the “Four D’s” – duty, destiny, defense, and dollars – each explain in part the motivations for American foreign policy at the turn of the twentieth century? Which were “idealistic” motives and which were “realistic”?
51. Why did the Philippine insurrection after the Spanish-American War convince many Americans that pursuing an overseas empire was not such a good idea after all?
52. What did Mark Twain think about the behavior of the U.S. military in the Philippines?
53. How were American workers’ lives changing by the late nineteenth century? Why had leisure time at places like Coney Island become more important to them?
54. How did Frederick Thompson blend “respectability” with “fun” to draw large crowds to Luna Park?
55. Why did young working class people – men and women – love to go to the amusement parks on Coney Island? How did Coney Island provide relief from the stress and boredom of their daily lives?
56. According to David Nasaw, why is the phrase “poverty in the midst of plenty” a good description of the American city of 1900?
57. According to David Nasaw, why did boys have more freedom than did girls in the early 20th century city?
58. Unlike the child laborers of an earlier generation, why did the children of the city actually enjoy their jobs?
59. Why was having money important for the children of the city?
60. Why did the “child savers” (reformers) fail to make much progress in “reforming” the behavior and habits of the street children?
61. Why were children – especially boys – better able than their parents to see and take advantage of opportunities in the cities of the late 19th century?
62. How was the Progressive reform movement of the 1910s both a “response to industrialization” and a “search for order”?
63. Why were Progressives worried about social turmoil and economic inequality? How did they try to get wealthy Americans to share their concerns?
64. In what ways did Social Darwinists and Progressives differ when it came to addressing the problem of urban poverty?
65. Why do some observers say Progressives’ approach to solving social problems was grounded in “innovative nostalgia”?
66. Progressives sought to think “systematically.” What does “thinking systematically” entail? Why was it important to think systematically in a society that had become increasingly interdependent?
67. In looking at how Progressives set out to solve social problems, how do we know they were both “interventionists” and “optimists”?

68. What is the difference between a “social control” Progressive and a “social justice” Progressive? [Think in terms of how each would “solve” the problem of trash piling up in poor neighborhoods.]

69. Why did Woodrow Wilson come to believe that the US had to declare war on Germany?

70. What steps many Americans – particularly bankers and investors – take that made it more likely the US would enter the war on the Allies’ side?

71. How did German submarine warfare bring the United States into the Great War? If the Germans feared submarine warfare would bring the US into the war on the Allies’ side, why did they continue to engage in it?

72. Why was it difficult for Woodrow Wilson to win support for his views while negotiating peace in Paris? Why did he fail to win support at home for the League of Nations?