

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. Why were southern plantation owners more likely to use their slaves rather than their land as collateral to secure loans?
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?
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. 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?
7. Why is it incorrect to say that Abraham Lincoln “freed the slaves” by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation? Why did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
8. How did President Lincoln and the Republicans in Congress differ with regard to how each believed Reconstruction should be handled?
9. Why did President Lincoln favor a more lenient approach to Reconstruction? How could offering lenient terms affect the length and outcome of the Civil War?
10. 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?
11. What is a tariff? Who stood to benefit from a **high** tariff and why? Who benefited from a **low** tariff and why? Why had planters in the South long opposed raising the tariff?
12. Why did the assassination of Lincoln make it less likely that reconstruction would be easy 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. What aspects of President Johnson’s plans for “restoration” did the Radicals most sharply oppose? How did Johnson’s plans affect African Americans in the South?
16. How did President Johnson, in his role as commander-in-chief, attempt to undermine the Radicals’ plans for Reconstruction?
17. Why did the Radicals eventually try to impeach Johnson? How did they try to set him up for impeachment?
18. Why were the changes the Radical Republicans proposed for the South so *radical*? How would they have changed power relations in southern society?

19. 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]
20. 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]
21. How did the Reconstruction Act of 1867 protect the freedmen in the South? How did it help to *enforce* civil rights for all freedmen? [see the article on Radical Reconstruction]
22. 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]
23. How did the results of the election of 1868 (Grant vs Seymour) reveal that support for Radical Reconstruction had declined considerably, even among northern white people?
24. By the 1870s, why were most Americans (even Americans in the North) reluctant to support the Radical Republicans' plans for the South? How did the economic depression that began in 1873 contribute to this shifting attitude?
25. How did James Hill ensure ahead of time that once his railroad was built, there would be customers and goods to fill the trains?
26. Why was James Hill able to build a profitable railroad line without government subsidies? What were the "secrets of his success"?
27. What unintended consequences resulted when the federal government subsidized the building of the transcontinental railroads?
28. Why would building "spur lines" benefit a railroad company? If building these lines was a good idea, why did the government urge companies not to build them?
29. Why did building railroads quickly and cheaply often lead railroad companies into bankruptcy?
30. Unlike earlier transport systems (lakes, rivers, canals, mud roads), how were railroads "liberated" from the limits imposed by both geography and climate?
31. According to William Cronon, how did the arrival of the railroad alter people's conceptions of time and space?
32. According to William Cronon, how did railroads change the way people interacted with the environment (geography, weather, etc.)? Why were railroads considered both "natural" and "supernatural"?
33. 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)?
34. How did the railroads contribute to the massive economic expansion across the United States during the late 19th century? Why can we say that the railroads were a catalyst for economic expansion?
35. Why did it require such significant amounts of "start up capital" to launch a transcontinental railroad line?
36. How did the coming of the railroad enable those with "latent resources" to monetize them?
37. How did the coming of the railroad enable farmers to take advantage of "economies of scale" and "economies of scope"?
38. Why was the establishment of a national railroad system a huge job creator?
39. 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?

40. 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 during the late nineteenth century?
41. In what ways did the government help the growth of the economy during the late 19th century? How did Supreme Court rulings also help empower business?
42. 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?
43. How did division of labor and the deskilling of jobs transform workers from “producers” to “consumers”?
44. How did adopting “continuous flow” enable Andrew Carnegie to increase profits at his steel mills?
45. 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.]
46. Why did John D. Rockefeller believe that competition was bad for business and undermined profits?
47. Why did “cooperation” prove ineffective as a way to prevent decreases in prices that came with competition?
48. What is the difference between “horizontal integration” (consolidation) and “vertical integration” (centralization)?
49. What did Rockefeller do when he wanted to “horizontally integrate” his business?
50. What did Rockefeller do when he wanted to “vertically integrate” his business?
51. 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?
52. How did Rockefeller manage to lower the transportation costs for shipping his oil without buying his own railroad?
53. How did the new “Big Businesses” (oil, steel, railroads) differ from older “mom and pop” businesses? What was “new” about the Big Businesses?
54. 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.)
55. How was Rockefeller portrayed in the media? Why were people critical of him?
56. Why did the emergence of huge corporations like Standard Oil frighten or anger so many Americans, even if these corporations were contributing the fall in consumer prices for various items?