



US History Bee - A Set Qualifying Examination

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Instructions - Circle the correct answer or leave it blank. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are worth -1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points.

- Hernan Cortes is most notable for which of the following?
 - the discovery of the Northwest Passage
 - being the first European to sight the Pacific Ocean
 - conquering the Aztecs
 - establishing the colony of Santa Fe
- Which of the following first colonized the Hudson River Valley?
 - the English
 - the Spanish
 - the French
 - the Dutch
- Nicholas Biddle served as president of what institution opposed by Andrew Jackson?
 - Standard Oil
 - the Second Bank of the United States
 - the Maysville Road Company
 - the Cherokee Nation
- The most controversial aspect of the Compromise of 1850 was
 - the settlement of the Texas-New Mexico boundary dispute
 - the abolition of the slave trade in Washington, DC
 - the admission of California as a free state
 - the Fugitive Slave Law
- All of these men served as Vice President of the United States EXCEPT which of the following?
 - Hannibal Hamlin
 - Thomas Hendricks
 - Alexander Hamilton
 - Thomas Marshall
- The Seneca Falls Convention is an important milestone in what cause in American history?
 - women's rights
 - the temperance movement
 - the building of the transcontinental railroad
 - the settlement house movement
- Which of these guaranteed voting rights for freedmen after the Civil War?
 - the Twelfth Amendment
 - the Thirteenth Amendment
 - the Fourteenth Amendment
 - the Fifteenth Amendment
- Andrew Carnegie pioneered which of the following with his steel company?
 - the use of electricity in manufacturing
 - vertical integration
 - the use of holding companies
 - steamboat transportation
- J. Edgar Hoover led which of the following from its earliest days until the 1970s?
 - the CIA
 - the KKK
 - the AAA
 - the FBI
- Charles Guiteau was responsible for assassinating which American president?
 - Abraham Lincoln
 - James Garfield
 - William McKinley
 - John F. Kennedy
- Passage of the Twelfth Amendment was a direct result of the
 - the 'corrupt bargain' of 1824
 - the electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr in the election of 1800
 - the principle of one-man, one-vote conflicting with the system of the electoral college
 - loss of the 1796 presidential election by Thomas Jefferson
- The Republican campaign tactic of blaming Democrats for the violence of the Civil War in the late nineteenth century was known by what name?
 - Know-nothingism
 - America First
 - 'Waving the bloody shirt'
 - machine politics
- The 'Open Door' was an American diplomatic tactic focused on which of the following?
 - North Africa
 - Australia
 - Brazil
 - China

14. Robert McNamara guided American efforts in Vietnam from what position in the cabinets of John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson?
- Secretary of State
 - Secretary of Defense
 - Secretary of the Treasury
 - Attorney General
15. Franklin Roosevelt's response to the Great Depression was known by what name?
- the Great Society
 - the New Frontier
 - the Square Deal
 - the New Deal
16. The Morrill Land Grant Act was a major development for which of the following in the United States?
- public colleges and universities
 - the development of the transcontinental railroad
 - the settlement of the trans-Mississippi West
 - the construction of the Panama Canal
17. Which of the following African American leaders advocated a return to Africa for America's black population in the early twentieth century?
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Booker T. Washington
 - Ida B. Wells
 - Marcus Garvey
18. American involvement in World War II was opposed by which of the following groups, led by Charles Lindbergh?
- the America First Committee
 - the ACLU
 - the NAACP
 - the Bull Moose Party
19. The 'Fair Deal' was the domestic policy plan of which of the following?
- Harry Truman
 - Dwight Eisenhower
 - John Kennedy
 - Lyndon Johnson
20. The Supreme Court case of *Roe v. Wade* deals with which of the following issues?
- court-mandated busing to integrate American schools
 - the right of women to obtain legal abortions
 - interracial marriage
 - college admissions based on race
21. The Sugar Act was designed to do which of the following?
- raise revenue from the American colonies
 - prevent the American colonists from purchasing sugar
 - regulate the amount of sugar colonists could put into their tea
 - prevent the colonists from distilling rum or brewing ale
22. The 'Checkers speech' helped save the career of what candidate for Vice President in 1952?
- Henry Wallace
 - John Nance Garner
 - Richard Nixon
 - Lyndon Johnson
23. Throughout the 1840s, the Democratic party was mainly opposed by what other political party?
- the Whigs
 - the Republicans
 - the Federalists
 - the Populists
24. All of these resulted from the Tet Offensive EXCEPT for which of the following?
- Lyndon Johnson chose not to run for the presidency in 1968
 - Public opinion in America turned more strongly against the war
 - Antiwar protests became more widespread and intense
 - the United States immediately withdrew its ground troops from Vietnam
25. Which of the following was the major scandal of Richard Nixon's administration?
- Watergate
 - Teapot Dome
 - Iran-Contra
 - the 'Gold Ring'
26. The Strategic Defense Initiative of the 1980s was better known by what theatrical name?
- 'warp drive'
 - 'photon torpedo'
 - 'Star Wars'
 - '2001'
27. Which of the following best defines the concept of judicial review?
- the courts are able to determine whether or not laws are constitutional
 - the president has the power to veto laws
 - Congress has the power to review decisions of the Supreme Court
 - the president can remove judges from office
28. The novel *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair exposed the problems in what industry?
- meatpacking
 - railroads
 - farming
 - oil
29. The Truman Doctrine was designed to do which of the following?
- rebuild European economies following World War II
 - end segregation in the United States Army
 - reform the Electoral College system
 - prevent the spread of communism in European countries

30. Eli Whitney is notable for which of the following inventions in the late eighteenth century?
- the magnetic telegraph
 - the cotton gin
 - the steamboat
 - mass production of steel
31. Which of these decades saw the completion of the transcontinental railroad in the United States?
- the 1830s
 - the 1840s
 - the 1850s
 - the 1860s
32. Which of the following was acquired from Mexico in the 1850s to allow the US to build a southern transcontinental railroad?
- Florida
 - the Gadsden Purchase
 - the Utah territory
 - Baja California
33. Which of the following was elected president in 1852?
- William Henry Harrison
 - Franklin Pierce
 - James Buchanan
 - Andrew Johnson
34. Which of the following was responsible for writing the Declaration of Independence?
- John Jay
 - James Madison
 - Alexander Hamilton
 - Thomas Jefferson
35. All of these were named as part of George W. Bush's 'Axis of Evil' EXCEPT which of the following?
- North Korea
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Iran
 - Iraq
36. A proprietary colony was one that was
- controlled by a joint-stock company that received a charter from the crown
 - established by settlers who took land from Native Americans
 - created when a grant of land was given to a wealthy individual
 - developed according to precise religious tenets
37. The Spanish Empire was primarily interested in the Americas as a
- source of raw materials
 - marketplace for finished products
 - source of gold and silver
 - penal colony for convicted criminals
38. Early in Bill Clinton's administration, Hillary Clinton took a major policy role in what area?
- tax reform
 - health care
 - legislative redistricting
 - voting rights
39. The United States purchased Alaska from which of the following in 1867?
- Russia
 - Great Britain
 - France
 - Spain
40. The 'thawing' of relations between the United States during Richard Nixon's administration was known by what term?
- ping-pong diplomacy
 - détente
 - Nixon shock
 - CREEP
41. The Manhattan Project was the code name for the American effort to do which of the following?
- create an atomic weapon
 - undertake a manned mission to the moon
 - place men into orbit around the Earth
 - send spy plane missions over the USSR during the Cold War
42. The Keating-Owen Act tried to regulate which of the following during the Progressive era?
- banks
 - voting rights in the South
 - child labor
 - annexation of foreign territory
43. The Stamp Act of 1765 was primarily intended to
- punish the colonies for protesting the Sugar Act
 - suppress the distribution of propaganda pamphlets
 - increase British revenues to offset Britain's mounting debt after the French and Indian War
 - thwart the colonial mercantile practice of triangular trade
44. Which of the following is a direct social change brought about by the American Revolution?
- The emancipation of slaves who fought against the British
 - The elimination of property qualifications for voting
 - Recognition of the right of women to inherit property
 - Complete separation of church and state
45. The Abraham Lincoln Brigade saw almost 3,000 Americans volunteer to fight in what European conflict?
- the Napoleonic Wars
 - the Crimean War
 - the Spanish Civil War
 - the Cold War

46. Since the New Deal, insurance on bank deposits in the US is overseen by what government agency?

- A. the SEC
- B. the WPA
- C. the FDIC
- D. the CIA

47. Which of the following was a 1920s international agreement meant to outlaw war?

- A. the Treaty of Versailles
- B. the League of Nations
- C. the Washington Arms Conference
- D. the Kellogg-Briand Pact

48. The Whiskey Ring and Credit Mobilier scandals were revealed during which presidential administration?

- A. Abraham Lincoln
- B. Ulysses Grant
- C. William Howard Taft
- D. Woodrow Wilson

49. Which of these directly resulted in the impeachment of Andrew Johnson?

- A. violation of the Tenure of Office Act
- B. his firing of Ulysses Grant at the end of the Civil War
- C. his resignation from the Republican Party in 1867
- D. a major financial scandal

50. Which of these best describes English settlement patterns as compared to the French and Spanish in the colonial period?

- A. they had deep respect for Native American cultures and beliefs
- B. they sought gold and silver to the exclusion of other pursuits
- C. they developed larger and more populous settlements
- D. they tried to convert large numbers of Native Americans to Catholicism