APUSH

Exam questions comparing periods of time

1. Most major religious movements reflect significant shifts in religious beliefs and produce important social changes. Apply this generalization to TWO of the following:
   a. 17th Century Puritanism
   b. The First Great Awakening
   c. The Second Great Awakening
   d. The Social Gospel movement

2. Compare the ways in which TWO of the following reflected tensions in colonial society.
   a. Bacon’s Rebellion (1676)
   b. Pueblo Revolt (1680)
   c. Salem witchcraft trials (1692)
   d. Stono Rebellion (1739)

3. To what extent and in what ways did the roles of women change in American society between 1700 and 1860? Respond with reference to TWO of the following areas:
   Domestic
   Economic
   Political
   Social

4. Although the power of the national government increased during the early republic, this development often faced serious opposition. Compare the motives and effectiveness of those opposed to the growing power of the national government in TWO of the following.
   1. Whiskey Rebellion 1794
   2. Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, 1798-1799
   3. Hartford Convention, 1814-1815
   4. Nullification Crisis, 1832-1833

5. During the past four decades, historians consistently have rated Washington, Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt as the greatest Presidents. Assess the greatness of any TWO of these three chief executives, making clear the criteria on which you base your judgment.

6. Between 1776 and 1823 a young and weak United States achieved considerable success in foreign policy when confronted with the two principle European powers, Great Britain and France. Between 1914 and 1950, however, a far more powerful United States was far less successful in achieving its foreign policy objectives in Europe. Discuss by comparing United States foreign policy in Europe during the period 1776-1823 with United States policy in Europe during ONE of the following periods: 1914-1932 OR 1933-1950. (1979, FRQ 5)

8. At various times Americans have changed their positions on the constitutional question of loose construction or strict construction as best suited their economic or political interest. Discuss this statement with reference to any TWO individuals or groups who took positions on this constitutional question.

9. Throughout our history, the Supreme Court has acted as a partisan political body rather than a neutral arbiter of constitutional principles. Assess the validity of this generalization for the period 1800-1860. (1984, FRQ 3)

10. Compare the expansionist policies of Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James K. Polk. To what extent did their policies strengthen the United States? (1993, FRQ 2)

11. To what extent was the election of 1800 aptly named the “Revolution of 1800”? Respond with reference to TWO of the following areas:
   - Economics
   - Foreign policy
   - Judiciary
   - Politics

12. In American politics, the most significant battles have occurred within the major political parties rather than between them. Discuss this statement with reference to TWO of the periods 1850-1861; 1900-1912; 1968;1980.

13. How did the African American Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s address the failures of Reconstruction?

14. Although the United States is widely regarded as the home of free enterprise, business values, and materialism, American fiction since 1865 has generally been critical of business behavior and values. Assess the validity of this generalization with reference to the work of at least TWO writers who have treated the behavior and values of businessmen in their fiction since 1865.

15. Popular fascination with the cowboy, the pioneer, and the stories of Horatio Alger in the period 1870 to 1915 reflected Americans’ uneasiness over the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society. Assess the validity of this statement

17. A number of writers and reformers in the period 1865-1914 discussed the growing gap between wealth and poverty in the United States. Compare and contrast THREE of the following authors’ explanations for this condition and their proposals for dealing with it.
   a. Henry George, PROGRESS AND POVERTY
   b. Edward Bellamy, LOOKING BACKWARD
   c. Andrew Carnegie, THE GOSPEL OF WEALTH
   d. William Graham Sumner, WHAT SOCIAL CLASSES OWE TO EACH OTHER
   e. Upton Sinclair, THE JUNGLE

18. Reform movements of the 20th Century have shown continuity in their goals and strategies. Assess the validity of this statement for ONE of the following pairs of reform movements.
   Progressivism and the New Deal; Women’s suffrage and post-Second World War Feminism; The New Deal and the Great Society  (1986, FRQ 6)

19. Analyze the ways in which state and federal legislation and judicial decisions, including those of the Supreme Court, affected the efforts of any TWO of the following groups to improve their position in society between 1880 and 1920.
   African Americans      Farmers      Workers

20. Compare and contrast the attitudes of THREE of the following toward the wealth that was created in the U.S. during the late nineteenth century.
   Andrew Carnegie       Eugene V. Debs       Horatio Alger        Booker T. Washington  Ida M. Tarbell

21. Vice Presidents who have succeeded to the presidency on the death of the President have been less effective in their conduct of domestic AND foreign policy than the men they replaced. Assess the validity of this statement for any TWO of the following pairs.
   William McKinley &      Franklin D. Roosevelt &      John F. Kennedy &
   Theodore Roosevelt &      & Harry Truman       Lyndon B. Johnson

22. Shifts in party control of the presidency during the twentieth century have typically NOT brought major shifts in domestic policy. Assess the validity of this statement. Illustrate your argument by discussing the extent to which TWO of the following Presidents adopted the DOMESTIC programs of the previous presidential administrations given in parentheses between their names.
   Woodrow Wilson (Administrations of William H. Taft & Theodore Roosevelt)
   Franklin D. Roosevelt (Administration of Herbert Hoover)
   Dwight D. Eisenhower (Administrations of Harry S. Truman & Franklin Roosevelt)
   Richard M. Nixon (Administrations of Lyndon B. Johnson & John F. Kennedy)
23. In the 20th Century prohibition spread by states’ passing local option laws, which permitted a unit of local government, such as a county, to prohibit the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages. After an intensive campaign by the Anti-Saloon League and other prohibitionist organizations and reform groups, national prohibition was achieved by the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment to the federal Constitution in 1919. What accounts for the success of the prohibition movement in the U.S. during the era of progressive reform, 1900-1919? Consider the social composition of the prohibitionists, their motives, strategy and pressure-group tactics, and the relationship of prohibitionism to progressive reform.


25. During the 20th century, American “progressives” or “liberals” at some times advocated a strong presidency and expanded executive power, while “conservatives” opposed the expansion of these powers. At other times, the “liberal” and “conservative” positions were reversed. Assess the validity of this statement with reference to the periods 1900-1940 AND 1965-1974.

26. Most reform legislation since 1900 has been the work of special interests seeking to advance their own well-being, but the adoption of such legislation has required the general support of others who were not directly affected but who perceived it to be in the public interest. Assess the validity of this statement with reference to THREE examples of reform legislation since 1900. You may draw your examples from reform at any level of government: national, state, or municipal.

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