NC Final Exam Info: American History II

* The test will be online.
* The test will contain 40 items. 38 Multiple Choice Questions and 2 Constructed Response Question.
* Students will have 120 minutes to complete the test.

The NC Final is based on these Essential Standards for Am History II

AH1.H.1 & AH2.H.1 (Connected to All NC Final Questions)

Apply the four interconnected dimensions of historical thinking to the American History Essential Standards in order to understand the creation and development of the United States over time.

AH1.H.2 & AH2.H.2 (15 – 20% of NC Final)

Analyze key political, economic and social turning points in American History using historical thinking.

AH1.H.3 & AH2.H.3 (18 – 22% of NC Final)

Understand the factors that led to exploration, settlement, movement, and expansion and their impact on United States development over time.

AH1.H.4 & AH2.H.4 (15 – 21% of NC Final)

Analyze how conflict and compromise have shaped politics, economics and culture in the United States.

AH1.H.5 & AH2.H.5 (11 – 15% of NC Final)

Understand how tensions between freedom, equality and power have shaped the political, economic and social development of the United States.

AH1.H.6 & AH2.H.6 (11 – 15% of NC Final)

Understand how and why the role of the United States in the world has changed over time.

AH1.H.7 & AH2.H.7 (12 – 16% of NC Final)

Understand the impact of war on American politics, economics, society and culture.

AH1.H. 8 & AH2.H.8 (3 – 7% of NC Final)

Analyze the relationship between progress, crisis and the “American Dream” within the United States.

Sample Multiple Choice Question

“We choose to go to the moon. **We choose to go to the moon in this decade** and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because **that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win**, and the others, too.”

* President John F. Kennedy, September 12, **1962**

Why did President Kennedy decide to focus U.S. resources on going to the moon?

A The United States wanted to gain the British as allies by proving it could defeat the Soviets in space exploration.

B The United States wanted to seize the opportunity to land on the moon because the Soviet Union was in decline.

**C The United States wanted to win the race to the moon in the aftermath of the Soviet success with the Sputnik satellite.**

D The United States wanted to colonize the moon in order to establish missile defense bases against the Soviets.

Tips for Multiple Choice Questions

\*Read the question first so you know what to look for in the passage (if provided).

\*Read the passage (if provided) and question closely to look for connections.

\*Cross out answers that clearly do not answer the question.

\*Use the available information combined with your own knowledge of American History to choose the answer which you believe best answers what the question is asking for.

Sample Constructed Response Question

*Read the text and the excerpt below to respond to the item.*

In 1886, striking McCormick farm equipment workers met in Chicago’s Haymarket Square to protest poor working conditions and the murder of two striking workers. Someone in the crowd threw a bomb, instantly killing a policeman. The panicked police fired their pistols into the crowd. The Haymarket Affair resulted in the deaths of seven Chicago policemen and labor activists, with dozens more wounded. Eight labor activists were arrested and despite weak evidence, four were hanged, one committed suicide while in prison, and the other three served seven years in prison. **The Haymarket Affair forever damaged the reputation of the radical Knights of Labor workers’ union and hampered the labor movement for decades** until the success of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations in the 1930s.

**If it takes the entire army and navy of the United States to deliver a postcard in Chicago, that card will be delivered.**

* **President Grover Cleveland’s remark** when he sent federal troops to Chicago to stop a railroad workers’ strike in 1894

Evaluate **the lasting impact** of the Haymarket Affair as a **positive or negative turning point** for American society. **Use one detail from the selections** above to support your position.

*Sample Response (Negative)*

*The events of the Haymarket Affair, which took place in 1886, had a lasting impact on American Society in a negative way. The violence that took place between protestors and police created an environment of distrust between workers and authorities that,* ***as mentioned in the text****,* ***permanently damaged the reputation of the Knights of Labor workers’ union and set the labor movement back for decades.***  *The lasting impact of the damaged relations between government authority and labor unions is clearly demonstrated by* ***President Cleveland’s remark*** *about a railroad worker’s strike in Chicago in 1894. He stated,* ***“If it takes the entire army and navy of the U.S. to deliver a postcard in Chicago, that card will be delivered.”*** *This quote demonstrates that relations between the President and workers on strike were struggling to the point that military force might even be used.*

Tips for Constructed Responses

\*Short answer constructed response items on the NC Final Exams require a brief response.

\*Scorers only review for the specific criteria as stated in the item. Additional information not required in the answer does not increase the student’s score. Students must not be led to believe longer responses may receive higher scores. It is permissible to respond in bullets.