

Part 1: The Anchor Facts of American History

Write a brief description of the key event occurring at the date indicated.

1. 1914-19

America saves Europe from itself in World War I. (1 pt)

2. 1939-45

America saves the world from Nazi Germany and imperial Japan. (1 pt)

3. 476 AD

European barbarians cause the fall of the Roman Empire. (1 pt)

4. 1861-65

The Civil War results in the eradication of slavery in America. (1 pt)

5. 1215 AD

The Magna Carta begins the English tradition of constitutional monarchy. (1 pt)

Part 2: America Becomes and International Police Power

6. What is a “doctrine”? What did the Monroe Doctrine say?

In this context, a doctrine is a set of *recommended actions* for a government, by a president. The Monroe Doctrine said that America and Europe were essentially different, and that America, which wanted to protect the rights of its citizens therefore wanted a separation between European and American affairs. (1 pt for definition, 1 pt for political separation, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

7. What did some American think the Monroe Doctrine advised about Cuba in 1898? What happened in the war that followed that was definitely not advised by the Monroe Doctrine?

Americans were generally interested in keeping the Americas separate from Europe and helping other American countries, like Cuba, to be independent. They thought the Monroe Doctrine meant that they should help Cuba in 1898. An unexpected outcome of participation in a war with Cuba was that America ended up policing the Philippines as well, which was clearly not in the Americas and meant America would become involved in the politics of Asia. (1 pt for explaining belief that Monroe Doctrine meant intervention, 1 pt for Philippines involvement, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 11 points

8. Who was the the first president to say that America should be an “international police power”? What country’s independence did America support as a police power under this president, and why?

The first president to advise that America should be an international police power was Theodore Roosevelt. America decided to support Panama in its bid to become independent from Colombia because Panama would not strike a deal with the US in order to facilitate the construction of the Panama Canal. (1 pt for Roosevelt, 1 pt for Panama vs. Colombia, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Part 3: The World Wars

9. Who was president during World War I? Why did he advise that America should enter a *European* war?

Woodrow Wilson was president during World War I. He advised that America should enter a European war because he believed the United States should try to “make the world safe for democracy.” (1 pt for Wilson, 1 pt for “make the world safe for democracy,” and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

10. What is “normalcy”? Why did Americans want a “return to normalcy” after WWI?

“Normalcy” means the condition of things being “normal.” For Americans up to WWI, normalcy meant neutrality and non-involvement in European wars. 117,000 Americans died in WWI, which was extremely shocking and upsetting. Americans did not want such a thing to happen again, so they chose to return to “normalcy.” (1 pt for normal, 1 pt for cost of WWI, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

11. Why did America pass “Neutrality Acts” starting in 1935?

The Neutrality Acts of the 1930s said that America would stay neutral in wars between other countries. This was connected to WWI because Americans believed America had been dragged into a European war, in which it should not have interfered, and they did not want to repeat such a tragedy in a new European war that was expected. (1 pt for explaining the neutrality acts, 1 pt for reasoning, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 12 points

Part 4: The Cold War

12. Who did America chose as a temporary ally in World War II? Why did this country become America's greatest enemy after the war?

The United States chose became the temporary ally of the Soviet Union (a.k.a communist Russia) in WWII. This created problems after the war, because the Soviet Union was not a friendly country. Its people accepted a form of government opposed to American freedom called communism, and it became America's worst enemy. (1 pt for the Soviet Union/Communist Russia, 1 pt for explaining freedom vs. communism, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

13. What did Harry Truman advise America should do about communism? Why did this doctrine lead to a "cold war"?

Harry Truman advised America that it should not return to normalcy after WWII, and instead should continue to work to stop the spread of communism. This Truman Doctrine led to the Cold War because both the United States and communist Russia had nuclear weapons and had to make constant preparations for war. This situation was not peace, but it was not a "hot war" either. Historians call it a "cold war." (1 pt for containment doctrine, 1 pt for explaining concept of a cold war, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Part 5: America and the War on Terror

14. Why did America support the formation of Israel in 1948? What did America's presence as a police power lead to in 1979 **despite** the great resentment of Israel's neighbors of Israel's presence?

America supported the formation of Israel in 1948 in order to help the Jewish people, who had suffered religious persecution for centuries, and, worst of all, had suffered the Holocaust, where six million were killed in WWII. Because of America's support, Israel's neighbors could not prevent the rise of Israel, and could not destroy it in later wars. In 1979, because of America's involvement, Egypt decided to make peace with Israel. (1 pt for support of Jews, 1 pt for peace with Egypt, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 9 points

15. What is terrorism? How did the Iranian Revolution encourage the spread of terrorism?

Terrorism is a tactic of war, whereby terrorists attack non-military persons, including women and children in order to “terrorize” them. This is designed to make them pressure their government to act differently. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 involved a terrorist attack on the American embassy. It was *successful*. America did not punish Iran. This made it seem that terrorism could succeed against the greatest military power the world has ever known, which otherwise would be irresistible. (1 pt for definition, 1 pt for precedent, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

16. What are the two main forms of Islamic culture today? What was America done in Afghanistan and Iraq to encourage the one and discourage the other?

Islamic culture is deeply divided between a peaceful form, such as most Muslims in America and Israel, and a violent kind called Islamism. In Afghanistan and Iraq, America has tried to destroy dangerous governments and replace them with democracies, where the Muslim people there can be in charge of their governments. It is hoped that this will encourage peaceful Muslims and stop violent ones. (1 pt for definition, 1 pt for precedent, and 1 pt for spelling and grammar.)

Total Points for this page: 6 points

Part 6: Bonus Questions

17. What American ship was sunk before America’s entry into World War I?

It was British! The Lusitania. (0.5 bonus pts)

18. What American ship was sunk before America’s entry into the Spanish-American War?

USS Maine (0.5 bonus pts)

19. What American base was attacked in 1941, bringing America into World War II?

Pearl Harbor (0.5 bonus pts)

20. What Japanese cities did America destroy with atomic bombs in World War II?

Hiroshima / Nagasaki (0.5 bonus pts)

Total points on test: 38 pts

Total bonus points available: 2 pts

Note: This grading key includes a suggested scoring schema that includes spelling and grammar. It may not be suitable for scoring the work of all students.