

Apush Midterm Study Guide

Unit 5 Study Guide: 1844-1877

As you work, take note of the importance of such ideas, potential connections to other ideas, as well as causes and effects.

MAIN THEME: As the nation expanded and its population grew, regional tensions, especially over slavery, led to a civil war—the cause and aftermath of which transformed American society.

Key Concepts 8.1 The United States became more connected with the world as it pursued an expansionist foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere and emerged as the destination for many immigrants from other countries.

Key Concepts 8.2 Intensified by expansion and deepening regional divisions, debates over slavery and other economic, cultural, and political issues led the nation into civil war.

Key Concepts 8.3 The Civil War and the subsequent Reconstruction of the South ended the issue of slavery and, however, left unresolved many questions about the power of the federal government and citizenship rights.

Vocabulary IDs should include the term, date(s), definition, and significance of the term. Questions should be explained completely in at least 3-4 sentences, and include specific details from your readings/notes. These will help you provide more specific evidence in your writings, and help you think through more difficult multiple-choice questions. Make sure to answer all parts of the question.

DUE DATE 1: December 19/22

Chapter 11 p. 347-355, 374-376, 382-387

Chapter 12 p. 376-387; Chapter 13 p. 392-400

(AP concepts 3.1, 5.2)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Explain the tactics used by abolitionists in the American Anti-Slavery Society to gain attention to their cause.

- How did the national government respond to these tactics?
- How did abolitionists contribute to sectionalism?

2. Explain the development of the southern argument for slavery as a "positive good."

- Why would non-slaveholding whites support slavery, considering only 25% of white southern families owned slaves by 1850?

3. Why did "King Cotton" rule over the South? (How did cotton become the cash crop of the South?)

4. Describe the culture of slaves in the antebellum South.

5. What were the driving forces behind westward expansion?

- Why were Americans drawn to Texas and California, despite Mexican rule of these areas prior to the 1840s?
- Explain the controversy surrounding the annexation of Texas.

6. Compare the causes and effects of the Mexican-American War.

7. What were the main constitutional arguments surrounding slavery in the territories between 1830-1860?

- Why did abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison reject the free-soil doctrine?
- Why did Lewis Cass's ideas about squatter sovereignty fail to hold the Democrats together?
- In what ways did James Buchanan help increase sectionalism prior to the Civil War?

Vocabulary Identifications Chapter 11, 12, 13
Abolitionism
William Lloyd Garrison/The Liberator
Harriet Beecher Stowe/Uncle Tom's Cabin
Frederick Douglass
David Scott's Speech (1850)
American Colonization Society
Nat Turner Rebellion
"King Cotton"
Manifest Destiny
Proclamation Act/Homestead Act
"Popular sovereignty"/"squads"
Oregon Trail/Furman Fletch
Zachary Taylor
The Alamo/Santa Anna
Free Soil movement
William O'Connell
Freeport Doctrine
"Fifty-four forty or fight"
Kansas-Nebraska Act/"Bleeding Kansas"
John Brown
Seneca Falls Incident
Lois Longfellow

APUSH Midterm Study Guide: Conquer Your Exam with This Comprehensive Resource

Facing your AP US History midterm? The sheer volume of material can feel overwhelming, leaving you stressed and unsure where to even begin. Fear not! This comprehensive APUSH midterm study guide will equip you with the strategies and content review you need to ace your exam. We'll break down key periods, themes, and effective study techniques, transforming your apprehension into confident preparation. This guide isn't just a list of dates – it's a roadmap to success.

Understanding the APUSH Exam Format

Before diving into the content, understanding the exam's structure is crucial. Typically, APUSH midterms cover a significant portion of the first semester's curriculum. This usually includes periods from colonization to Reconstruction, or a slightly broader range depending on your teacher's syllabus. Familiarize yourself with the specific time periods and themes your teacher has emphasized in class. Knowing what types of questions to expect (multiple choice, short answer, essays) allows you to tailor your study approach. Check your syllabus or ask your teacher directly for clarification on the exam's format and weighting of different sections.

Key Themes and Periods to Master

The APUSH curriculum revolves around specific themes. Focusing your study on these recurring themes will significantly improve your comprehension and ability to connect different historical events. Here are some core themes you'll likely encounter on your midterm:

1. Colonial America and the Road to Revolution (1607-1775):

H4: Early Colonization: Focus on the differences between the various colonies (New England, Middle, Southern), their economic systems, and relationships with Native Americans. Key figures like John Smith, William Bradford, and Powhatan are essential to understand.

H4: Mercantilism and its impact: Understand how Britain's economic policies affected the colonies and fueled colonial resentment.

H4: The Road to Revolution: Trace the escalating tensions between Britain and the colonies, focusing on key events like the Stamp Act, the Boston Massacre, and the Intolerable Acts.

2. The American Revolution and the Early Republic (1775-1800):

H4: The Revolutionary War: Understand the major battles, key figures (Washington, Franklin, Jefferson), and the significance of the American victory.

H4: The Articles of Confederation: Analyze its weaknesses and the reasons for its failure.

H4: The Constitution and the Federalist Papers: Understand the debates surrounding the creation of the Constitution and the key principles it established.

3. Westward Expansion and Sectionalism (1800-1860):

H4: Louisiana Purchase and Manifest Destiny: Understand the implications of westward expansion, including territorial disputes and the displacement of Native Americans.

H4: The Rise of Sectionalism: Analyze the growing tensions between the North and the South over slavery, economics, and states' rights. Key events like the Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, and Bleeding Kansas are crucial.

4. The Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-1877):

H4: Causes of the Civil War: Understand the complex interplay of factors leading to the war, including slavery, states' rights, and political polarization.

H4: Major Battles and Figures: Familiarize yourself with key battles and the roles of significant figures like Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, and Robert E. Lee.

H4: Reconstruction: Analyze the successes and failures of Reconstruction efforts to rebuild the South and integrate formerly enslaved people into society.

Effective Study Strategies for APUSH

Beyond content review, effective study techniques are crucial for success.

Active Recall: Instead of passively rereading notes, actively test yourself. Use flashcards, practice questions, and create outlines to force yourself to retrieve information from memory.

Spaced Repetition: Review material at increasing intervals to strengthen memory retention.

Connect the Dots: Don't memorize facts in isolation. Identify connections between different events and themes to create a cohesive understanding of the historical narrative.

Practice Essays: Write practice essays on potential essay prompts to refine your argumentation skills and improve your writing clarity.

Utilize Resources: Your textbook, class notes, and online resources like Khan Academy and Crash Course US History can supplement your learning.

Conclusion:

Conquering your APUSH midterm requires a strategic approach combining thorough content review and effective study techniques. By focusing on key themes, understanding the exam format, and utilizing effective study strategies, you can transform the daunting task of midterm preparation into a confident and successful experience. Remember, consistent effort and strategic learning are the keys to unlocking your full potential.

FAQs

1. What if I'm struggling with a specific time period? Focus on identifying the core concepts and key events within that period. Utilize supplementary resources like online videos or review books to clarify your understanding.
2. How many practice questions should I do? Aim for a variety of practice questions, focusing on different question types. The more you practice, the better you'll become at identifying patterns and recalling information.
3. Are there any specific books or websites recommended for APUSH review? Many excellent resources are available, including the official AP US History textbook, online platforms like Khan Academy, and review books from reputable publishers.
4. How can I improve my essay-writing skills for the APUSH exam? Practice writing essays on various topics, focusing on clear thesis statements, strong evidence, and well-organized arguments. Seek feedback from your teacher or peers to identify areas for improvement.
5. What should I do the night before the midterm? Get a good night's sleep! Avoid cramming; instead, review your key notes and practice questions. A well-rested mind performs much better under pressure.

Placement United States History for the student serious about doing well in the course. It serves as a great resource either while going through the course, or at the end of the course as a review before the AP exam. This book is directly aligned with American Pageant so the student will do as well as possible during the course. Included are detailed outlines for each chapter. The outline links directly to the chapter and even chapter sub-sections making it great for a student taking U.S. History and using Bailey and Kennedy's American Pageant as his or her main text and who strives to excel in the course. Since history is really textbook-independent, students using other textbooks will also find this book very useful. Study guides for other editions of the textbook and digital editions (ebook/epub/ipad/others) can be found on lulu.com as well.

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