

APUSH Period 5: Formative Multiple-Choice Questions



1. The belief that the United States had a special mission to expand over the entire North American continent was known as
 - a. divine providence.
 - b. Manifest Destiny.
 - c. nullification.
 - d. American exceptionalism.
2. With regard to the Oregon Territory, in 1846, the United States
 - a. provoked a shooting war to acquire the lands it sought.
 - b. concluded a peace treaty with Britain establishing the United States' northern border at 54°40' north latitude.
 - c. hammered out a compromise agreement with the British Empire.
 - d. denied any further Asian immigration into the region.

3. The Wilmot Proviso

- a. encouraged slavery's expansion westward.
- b. called for American annexation of lands conquered from Mexico as free territory.
- c. successfully postponed the outbreak of the Civil War for 10 years.
- d. proclaimed that western territories would be open to slavery if their citizens voted to allow it.

4. A central element in the conquest and submission of the American Indians of the West was the

- a. decision of many western tribes to side with the Confederacy during the Civil War.
- b. rapid growth of cities and population on the California coast.
- c. destruction of the buffalo herds.
- d. prolonged drought and harsh winters of the 1860s and 1870s.

5. American interests and priorities with regard to Asia in the 1840s and 1850s primarily centered around

- a. seeking opportunities for colonization.
- b. fishing rights.
- c. trade and commerce.
- d. a fear of Japanese domination of the Far East.

6. The American or "Know-Nothing" Party of the 1850s

- a. gave birth to the free-soil movement.
- b. sought to limit the rights of immigrants.
- c. gained support as the result of fierce opposition to the Compromise of 1850 on the western frontier.
- d. sought to challenge British domination of the Canadian Northwest.

7. Which of the following was the MOST important reason why immigrants tended to cluster in ethnic communities in urban areas during the antebellum period?

- a. Native-born whites had already settled the majority of America's productive farmland.
- b. Local and state laws restricted their movements.
- c. The majority of immigrants came from urban areas of Europe.
- d. It allowed immigrants to retain their languages and customs to a greater degree.

8. Which of the following was NOT a cause of increased American settlement of the West after the Civil War?

- a. The construction of a transcontinental railroad
- b. Passage of the Homestead Act
- c. The deployment of the Army in the region
- d. Sharp increases in urban food prices

9. As whites moved westward into Indian territories in the last half of the 19th century,

- a. Indians were granted U.S. citizenship through the reservation system.
- b. the American Indians themselves were often blamed for the troubles that ensued.
- c. Indians increasingly traded with the British for firearms and ammunition.
- d. Christian missionaries discontinued their attempts to convert American Indians.

10. Southern critics of slavery most often asserted that

- a. slavery was immoral.
- b. the plantation economy made the South a colony of the North.
- c. mass insurrection by slave populations was only a matter of time.
- d. global demand for cotton was so great that the Southern economy would remain profitable with white wageworkers in the fields.

11. Who advocated for the immediate and uncompensated release of all slaves held in the United States?
 a. William Lloyd Garrison b. Abraham Lincoln c. John C. Calhoun d. Henry Clay
12. In terms of politics, the 1850s were noteworthy because they witnessed the
 a. decline in the power of the free-soil movement.
 b. dissolution of national political parties over sectional concerns.
 c. South gradually extend its control over both the Presidency and Congress.
 d. Supreme Court distance itself from the slavery issue.
13. As a result of the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1852,
 a. calls for political compromise over the issue of slavery increased.
 b. the American Colonization Society began transporting ex-slaves back to Africa.
 c. the Underground Railroad was formed.
 d. abolitionism gained ground in the North.
14. The theory that individual states do not necessarily have to carry out any federal laws with which they disagree is known as
 a. popular sovereignty. b. federalism.
 c. nullification. d. the reserved powers clause of the Constitution.
15. What became the most controversial element of the Compromise of 1850?
 a. The admission of California as a free state
 b. The Fugitive Slave Act
 c. The banning of the slave trade in Washington, D.C.
 d. The potential opening up of Utah and New Mexico territories to slavery
16. In the 19th century, Southerners used all of the following arguments to justify slavery EXCEPT
 a. slavery was in the Bible.
 b. slavery provided a civilizing influence for the slave.
 c. the international slave trade was highly profitable for all regions of the country.
 d. keeping slaves was fully constitutional and thus perfectly legal.
17. Which of the following was NOT a result or consequence of the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857?
 a. Free states in the North saw the need to speak politically with one voice.
 b. Congress had no right to restrict slavery in the territories.
 c. The Fugitive Slave Act was repealed.
 d. The Democratic Party became divided along sectional lines.
18. Which of the following statements best explains why the Mormons migrated west?
 a. They sought to escape the intense national debates over slavery.
 b. Much of the farmable soil in the Mississippi River Basin was exhausted.
 c. The lure of easy gold strikes in California proved irresistible to them.
 d. They were seeking out their own new promised land.
19. The Republican Party campaign platform of 1860 called for
 a. the restriction of slavery from the territories.
 b. restoration of the old 36°30' free state–slave state boundary line from the Missouri Compromise.
 c. the immediate abolition of slavery.
 d. the use of popular sovereignty to determine the fate of slavery on the frontier.
20. The logic and reasoning employed by Southerners in seceding from the Union borrowed heavily from the
 a. *Dred Scott* decision. b. Declaration of Independence.
 c. Lecompton Constitution of the Kansas Territory. d. concept of popular sovereignty.
21. The faction of Northern Democrats who opposed the Civil War became known as the
 a. Know-Nothings. b. National Unionists. c. Scalawags. d. Copperheads.
22. The Emancipation Proclamation had which of the following effects?
 a. It freed all the slaves in the South.
 b. It prevented England and France from joining the conflict.
 c. It only freed slaves in the border states.
 d. It led the South to enlist and arm slaves in the Confederate Army.

23. At the outset of the war, which of the following was the greatest advantage possessed by the Confederacy?
- a. Powerful foreign allies
 - b. Access to natural resources
 - c. Superior military leadership
 - d. Its influence in the border states
24. All of the following were major elements of the Union strategy for victory in the Civil War EXCEPT
- a. gaining full control of the Mississippi River.
 - b. preventing European powers from entering the conflict.
 - c. destroying the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.
 - d. impressing ex-slaves into the Union army.
25. The ultimate consequence of the sharecropping system for the South was
- a. economic independence from the North.
 - b. an increase in poverty for both blacks and whites.
 - c. an awareness of the need for wise stewardship of the region's environment.
 - d. a gradual increase in the region's overall crop yields and productivity.
26. President Andrew Johnson was impeached as a result of his
- a. veto of the Civil Rights Bill of 1866.
 - b. refusal to pardon former Confederate leaders and members of the planter class.
 - c. inability to control the rampant corruption in the federal government.
 - d. violation of the Tenure of Office Act.
27. The term "redemption" as used in the Reconstruction era refers to
- a. the post-Reconstruction return of the South to white rule.
 - b. ambitions on the part of some Southerners to make the region the economic equal of the North.
 - c. programs that were introduced in the period to integrate ex-slaves into Southern society as citizens.
 - d. a national movement that stressed that Northern and Southern war dead were heroes who did not die in vain.
28. In *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that
- a. state use of poll taxes and literacy tests as voting requirements was permissible.
 - b. the Freedmen's Bureau had no legal right to redistribute land to ex-slaves.
 - c. separate but equal public facilities for blacks and whites were legal.
 - d. the grandfather clause was illegal.
29. The primary focus of women's reform movements in the fifty years after the Civil War was the struggle for
- a. national prohibition.
 - b. suffrage.
 - c. the establishment of settlement houses.
 - d. obtaining wage equality with men.
30. Which of the following refers to the Southern culture of segregation that existed for almost a century after the Civil War?
- a. Dixiecrat Populism
 - b. The Solid South
 - c. Uncle Tom
 - d. Jim Crow