

## Ronald Reagan

### Government and Economics

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

“Throughout the 1980 presidential campaign and in the early days of his administration, President Reagan emphasized the perilous state of the economy during the Carter administration. In a speech to the nation on February 5, 1981 – his first televised speech from the White House – Reagan announced his new economic program. He called for a reduction in income tax rates for individuals and a big reduction in government spending. President Reagan would deal with the nation’s economic problems by consistently stressing a sweeping package of new economic policies. These economic policies, dubbed ‘Reaganomics,’ consisted of three parts: (1) budget cuts, (2) tax cuts, and (3) increased defense spending.

As soon as Reagan took office, he worked to reduce the size and influence of the federal government, which, he thought, would encourage private investment. Because people were anxious about the economy in 1980, their concern opened the door for new approaches to taxes and the federal budget. Reagan’s strategy for downsizing the federal government included deep cuts in government spending on social programs. Yet his cuts did not affect all segments of the population equally. Entitlement programs that benefited the middle class, such as Social Security, Medicare, and veterans’ pensions, remained intact. On the other hand, Congress slashed by 10 percent the budget for programs that benefited other groups: urban mass transit, food stamps, welfare benefits, job training, Medicaid, school lunches, and student loans.

‘Reaganomics’ rested heavily upon supply-side economics. This theory held that if people paid fewer taxes, they would save more money. Banks could then loan that money to businesses, which could invest the money in resources to improve productivity. The supply of goods then would increase, driving down prices. At Reagan’s urging, Congress lowered income taxes by about 25 percent over a three-year period. Reagan based his ideas for supply-side economics on the work of economists such as George Gilder and Arthur Laffer.

At the same time, Reagan authorized increases in military spending that more than offset cuts in social programs. Between 1981 and 1984, the Defense Department budget almost doubled. Indeed, the president revived two controversial weapons systems – the MX missile and the B-1 bomber. In 1983, Reagan asked the country’s scientists to develop a defense system that would keep Americans safe from enemy missiles. Officially called the Strategic Defense Initiative, or SDI, the system quickly became known as Star Wars, after the title of a popular movie. The Defense Department estimated that the system would cost trillions of dollars.” ~ *The Americans*

1. The “supply-side” economic theory that President Reagan called for
  - (1) Increasing government spending to stimulate consumption.
  - (2) Maintaining high interest rates.
  - (3) Cutting taxes to encourage new investment.
  - (4) Raising taxes to stimulate the economy.

2. In response to concerns about the federal budget, the Reagan administration
  - (1) Raised income taxes.
  - (2) Cut defense spending.
  - (3) Cut the budgets for “discretionary” domestic programs.
  - (4) Raised interest rates.
  - (5) Raised income taxes and interest rates.

## The Reagan Presidency, 1981 – 1989

<p><u>Domestic Policy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Believed businesses would be more successful if they could make decisions with less governmental interference; supported the New Federalism begun under Nixon</li> <li>b) Reagan believed in “supply-side economics” and thus gave tax breaks to businesses and the wealthy (some called this “Reaganomics”)</li> <li>c) In 1983, the economy came out of recession</li> <li>d) Reagan cut taxes on businesses and the wealthy in order that these wealthy individuals would invest their tax savings to raise productivity and employment</li> <li>e) Eliminated many federal regulations (deregulation) on industry, making it easier to compete</li> <li>f) Increased military spending through borrowing</li> <li>g) To deal with problems posed by illegal immigration, the Mazzoli-Simpson Act of 1986 “legalized” illegal aliens who had been in the U.S. since 1981</li> </ul> <p><i>~ Adapted from The Key to Understanding U.S. History and Government</i></p>	<p><u>Foreign Policy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In 1986, Reagan announced the Reagan Doctrine – the United States would no longer confine itself to containing Communism, but would attempt to roll back Communism by aiding anti-Communist “freedom fighters” in Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and Cambodia</li> <li>b) Reagan proposed research into a defense system, known as Star Wars, using lasers to prevent nuclear attack</li> <li>c) Terrorism refers to the use of bombing, assassination, kidnapping, and other acts of terror to ensure that a political group’s voice will be heard and that governments will meet their demands; Reagan announced that he would not negotiate with terrorists</li> <li>d) But Reagan Administration secretly sold arms to Iran in exchange for the release of American hostages in Lebanon; profits from the sales to Iran were diverted to support the Contras or anti-Communists fighters in Nicaragua (Iran-Contra Affair)</li> <li>e) Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, agreed to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and allow peaceful changes in Eastern Europe; Reagan and Gorbachev held a series of meetings and signed an agreement to dismantle thousands of nuclear weapons</li> </ul>
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1- What was Nixon’s policy of New Federalism and why did Reagan support it?

2- Explain supply-side economics.

- 3- Why did Reagan cut taxes on businesses and the wealthy?  
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- 4- Explain deregulation.  
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- 5- What did Reagan increase spending on?  
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- 6- The federal deficit is any amount the federal government spends each year beyond what it collects in taxes. Why did the federal deficit increase under Reagan?  
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- 7- Reagan's policies led to growing trade imbalance. During the Reagan years, Americans bought more goods and services from abroad than they sold overseas. What was the impact of this trade imbalance on the American economy?  
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- 8- What was the Mazzoli-Simpson Act?  
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- 9- Explain the Reagan Doctrine.  
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- 10- How did the Reagan Doctrine differ from the containment policy?  
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- 11- How was the Reagan Doctrine similar to containment?  
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- 12- What was Star Wars?  
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- 13- Define terrorism.  
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- 14- How did Reagan deal with the issue of terrorism?  
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- 15- What did the Reagan administration sell to Iran?  
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- 16- Why did the administration's actions in Iran contradict its terrorism policy?  
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- 17- What happened with the profits from sales to Iran?  
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- 18- Who were the Contras?  
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- 19- How did Reagan and Gorbachev change world history?  
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**Explain the meaning of the political cartoon.**

1. The “supply side” economics of President Ronald Reagan and President George Bush favored
  - (1) raising tariffs to increase the number of imports
  - (2) increasing Federal taxes to support social welfare programs
  - (3) providing incentives to stimulate business growth
  - (4) establishing government programs to provide jobs for the unemployed
2. According to the supply-side economics principles promoted by President Ronald Reagan, economic growth would occur when
  - (1) corporate business taxes were reduced
  - (2) business was regulated by antitrust legislation
  - (3) unemployment benefits were increased
  - (4) investment in capital goods was decreased
3. In 1988, Congress voted to pay \$20,000 to each of the surviving Americans of Japanese descent who were interned during World War II because
  - (1) the danger of war with Japan no longer existed
  - (2) all of the interned Japanese Americans eventually became American citizens
  - (3) the World Court ordered the United States to pay reparations
  - (4) many Americans believed the internment was unjust and unnecessary
4. During the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan used the ideas of supply-side economics to justify
  - (1) increases in social welfare spending
  - (2) expansion of the Social Security program
  - (3) tax cuts for businesses
  - (4) reductions in military spending
5. A major goal of the Republican Party since the 1980s has been to
  - (1) increase welfare benefits
  - (2) increase the size of the federal workforce
  - (3) reduce defense spending
  - (4) cut federal taxes
6. A major policy of President Ronald Reagan’s administration was to
  - (1) reduce defense spending
  - (2) lower federal income tax rates
  - (3) end desegregation of public facilities
  - (4) promote regulation of small businesses
7. President Ronald Reagan’s supply-side economic policy was successful in
  - (1) increasing government spending on social programs
  - (2) lowering tax rates on personal and business income
  - (3) reducing defense spending
  - (4) enforcing stricter environmental regulations

## Richard Milhous Nixon

“In November of 1968, Richard M. Nixon had just been elected president of the United States. He chose Henry Kissinger to be his special adviser on foreign affairs. Nixon and Kissinger ended America’s involvement in Vietnam, but as the war wound down, the nation seemed to enter an era of limits. The economic prosperity that had followed World War II was ending. President Nixon wanted to limit the federal government to reduce its power and to reverse some of Johnson’s liberal policies. At the same time, he would seek to restore America’s prestige and influence on the world stage.

One of the main items on President Nixon’s agenda was to decrease the size and influence of the federal government. Nixon believed that Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society programs, by promoting greater federal involvement with social problems, had given the federal government too much responsibility. Nixon’s plan, known as New Federalism, was to distribute a portion of federal power to state and local governments. To implement this program, Nixon proposed a plan to give more financial freedom to local governments. Normally, the federal government told state and local governments how to spend their federal money. Under revenue sharing, state and local governments could spend as they saw fit within certain limitations.

The president deescalated America’s involvement in Vietnam and oversaw peace negotiations with North Vietnam. At the same time, he began the ‘law and order’ policies that he had promised his ‘silent majority’ – middle-class Americans who wanted order restored to a country beset by urban riots and antiwar demonstrations. To accomplish this, Nixon used the full resources of his office – sometimes illegally. Nixon and members of his staff ordered wiretaps of many left-wing individuals and the Democratic Party offices at the Watergate office building in Washington, D.C. The administration even used the Internal Revenue Service to audit the tax returns of antiwar and civil rights activists.

The architect of Nixon’s foreign policy was his adviser for national security affairs, Henry Kissinger. Kissinger believed in evaluating a nation’s power, not its philosophy or beliefs. If a country was weak, Kissinger argued, it was often more practical to ignore that country, even if it was Communist. On the other hand, Kissinger’s philosophy called for the United States to fully confront the powerful nations of the globe. Thus, they adopted a more flexible approach in dealing with Communist nations, a policy known as détente or easing Cold War tensions. One of the most startling applications of détente came in early 1972 when President Nixon – who had risen in politics as a strong anti-Communist – visited Communist China. By going to China, Nixon was trying, in part, to take advantage of the decade-long rift between China and the Soviet Union.” ~ *The Americans*

1. To halt the growth of government spending, Nixon tried to

- (1) Cut social programs.
- (2) Cut the defense budget.
- (3) Discourage consumerism.
- (4) Secure corporate donations.

2. In foreign affairs, perhaps Nixon’s greatest accomplishment was

- (1) Abandoning practical politics.
- (2) Bringing about détente.
- (3) The end of communism in Vietnam.
- (4) His personal conversion to Communism.

## The Nixon Presidency, 1969 – 1974

### Domestic Policy:

- Nixon, a Republican, moved the nation in a more conservative direction
- Under his policy of New Federalism, Nixon reversed the trend of increasing federal control by turning some federal revenues over to state governments

### Foreign Policy Under Nixon:

- Pursued a policy of “Vietnamization,” shifting the fighting from Americans to the South Vietnamese
  - a) In 1973, U.S. troops were withdrawn from Vietnam
- Ever since the Communist Revolution in China in 1949, U.S. leaders refused to establish diplomatic relations with Communist government
  - a) Nixon, however, visited Communist China and took the first steps towards normalization of diplomatic relations
- Also introduced a policy of détente – a relaxing of relations – with the Soviet Union; in 1972, Nixon signed the SALT I Accord which limited the development of certain types of missile systems

### The Watergate Crisis:

- In 1972, a group of former CIA agents, working for Nixon’s re-election, were caught breaking into the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C.
- The Senate appointed a committee to investigate the scandal
- In the Senate hearings, it was revealed that Nixon had secretly recorded all his White House conversations
  - a) When the Senate asked to hear the tapes, Nixon refused, claiming executive privilege – that Congress could not question members of the executive branch without Presidential approval
  - b) In *United States v. Nixon* (1974), the Supreme Court ruled that Nixon must turn over the tapes [no one is above the law]
- The tapes revealed that Nixon had lied; the House of Representatives moved to impeach Nixon
  - a) Fearing impeachment, Nixon became the first President to resign

### The Ford Presidency, 1974 – 1977:

- One of Ford’s first acts as President was to pardon Nixon for any crimes
- The nation suffered from stagflation – high unemployment combined with high inflation; OPEC also raised world oil prices; South Vietnam fell to communism
- Signed the Helsinki Accords (1975) with Soviet Union, recognizing post-World War II borders and promising to respect human rights

~ The Key to Understanding U.S. History and Government

1- In what direction did Nixon move the country?

2- What did Nixon believe about federal social programs?

3- Explain Nixon’s New Federalism.

4- What was Vietnamization?

5- What did Nixon do regarding China?

6- What was détente?

7- What was the SALT I Accord?

8- What happened at the Watergate?

9- What had Nixon secretly recorded?

10- Why did Nixon refuse to hand his tapes over to the Senate?

11- What did the Supreme Court rule regarding the tapes?

12- What did the tapes reveal?

13- What did the House of Representatives move to do?

14- What did Nixon do?

15- Who became President after Nixon resigned?

16- What was one of President Ford's first acts?

17- Describe stagflation.

18- What did OPEC do in the seventies?

19- What were the Helsinki Accords?



20. Explain the political cartoon.

1. The main significance of the Watergate affair was that it
  - (1) led to the impeachment and conviction of President Richard Nixon
  - (2) showed that the laws of the United States are superior to the actions of a President
  - (3) was the first time a President had disagreed with Congress
  - (4) proved that Presidential powers are unlimited
2. The Presidency of Gerald Ford was different from all previous Presidencies because he was the first President who
  - (1) won the office by running on a third-party ticket
  - (2) resigned from the office of the President
  - (3) ran for office as a nonpartisan candidate
  - (4) was not elected to either the Presidency or the Vice- Presidency
3. What was a lasting effect of the Watergate scandal under President Richard Nixon?
  - (1) The system of checks and balances was weakened.
  - (2) The scope of executive privilege was broadened.
  - (3) Trust in elected officials was undermined.
  - (4) Presidential responsiveness to public opinion was lessened.
4. Easing of Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union during the 1970s was called
  - (1) containment      (3) neutrality
  - (2) détente            (4) isolationism
5. What was a major result of the Watergate controversy?
  - (1) Presidential veto power was expanded.
  - (2) The president resigned from office.
  - (3) Congressional power was reduced.
  - (4) The Supreme Court was weakened.
6. President Richard Nixon supported the policy of détente as a way to
  - (1) reduce tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union
  - (2) introduce democratic elections to communist nations
  - (3) encourage satellite nations to break their ties with the Soviet Union
  - (4) undermine Soviet influence among nonaligned countries in Africa and Asia
7. President Richard Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China in 1972 was significant because it
  - (1) convinced the Chinese to abandon communism
  - (2) brought about the unification of Taiwan and Communist China
  - (3) reduced tensions between the United States and Communist China
  - (4) decreased United States dependence on Chinese exports
8. An effect of the War Powers Act of 1973 was that
  - (1) NATO became more involved in world conflicts
  - (2) the authority of the president as commander in chief was limited
  - (3) congressional approval was not needed when appropriating funds for the military
  - (4) women were prevented from serving in combat roles during wartime



## Psychedelic Sixties

“In 1966, Alex Forman left his conventional life in mainstream America and headed to San Francisco. Arriving there with little else but a guitar, he joined thousands of others who were determined to live in a more peaceful and carefree environment. He lived in San Francisco’s Haight-Ashbury district, the hub of hippie life. In the late 1960s, the historian Theodore Roszak deemed these idealistic youths the counterculture. It was a culture, he said, so different from the mainstream ‘that it scarcely looks to many as a culture at all, but takes on the alarming appearance of a barbarian intrusion.’

Members of the counterculture, known as hippies, shared some of the beliefs of the New Left movement. Specifically, they felt that American society – and its materialism, technology, and war – had grown hollow. Influenced by the nonconformist beat movement of the 1950s, hippies embraced the credo of Harvard psychology professor and counterculture philosopher Timothy Leary: ‘Tune in, turn on, drop out.’ Throughout the mid- and late 1960s, tens of thousands of idealistic youths left school, work, or home to create what they hoped would be an idyllic community of peace, love, and harmony.

The hippie era, sometimes known as the Age of Aquarius, was marked by rock ‘n’ roll music, outrageous clothing, sexual license, and illegal drugs – in particular, marijuana and a new hallucinogenic drug called LSD, or acid. Timothy Leary, an early experimenter with the drug, promoted the use of LSD as a ‘mind-expanding’ aid for self-awareness. Hippies also turned to Eastern religions such as Zen Buddhism, which professed that one could attain enlightenment through meditation rather than the reading of scriptures. Hippies donned ragged jeans, tie-dyed T-shirts, military garments, love beads, and Native American ornaments. Thousands grew their hair out, despite the fact that their more conservative elders saw this as an act of disrespect. Signs across the country said, ‘Make America beautiful – give a hippie a haircut.’ Hippies also rejected conventional home life. Many joined communes, in which the members renounced private property to live communally. By the mid-sixties, Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco was known as the hippie capital, mainly because California did not outlaw hallucinogenic drugs until 1966.

After only a few years, the counterculture’s peace and harmony gave way to violence and disillusionment. The urban communes eventually turned seedy and dangerous. Alex Forman recalled, ‘There were rip-offs, violence . . . people living on the street with no place to stay.’ Having dispensed with society’s conventions and rules, the hippies had to rely on each other. Many discovered that the philosophy of ‘do your own thing’ did not provide enough guidance for how to live. ‘We were together at the level of peace and love,’ said one disillusioned hippie. ‘We fell apart over who would cook and wash dishes and pay the bills.’ By 1970, many had fallen victim to the drugs they used, experiencing drug addiction and mental breakdowns.” ~ *The Americans*

1. Which of the following is an example of the counterculture in the 1960s

- (1) Democrats
- (2) Hippies
- (3) Civil Rights Activists

2. The counterculture of the sixties collapsed due to

- (1) too much happiness
- (2) a lack of organization
- (3) the insistence of parents to come home

The Youth Culture of the Sixties:

- A large number of “baby boomers” reached their twenties in the 1960s and 1970s
- This generation was influenced by the post-war prosperity, new permissive methods of child care, and exposure to television
- By the mid-1960s, some baby boomers adopted a spirit of rebelliousness
- They challenged the materialism of those in charge of American society – whom they called the “Establishment”
- The new “youth culture” was especially affected by rock music, experimenting openly with drugs and sex
- Some hippies left mainstream society and went to live on communes

The Anti-War Movement:

- Many youths focused on American involvement in Vietnam
- By 1968, millions of young people were actively protesting the war
- Protests continued until the United States withdrew from the war in 1973
- The Vietnam War also brought about an amendment (the twenty-sixth amendment) lowering the voting age, since eighteen-year olds were being drafted to fight but could not even vote

The Women’s Liberation Movement or Feminist Movement:

- In the 1950s and early 1960s, most women accepted traditional roles as wives and mothers
  - Movies and television reinforced this image
  - The Women’s Liberation Movement sought to achieve economic and social equality for women
  - Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963, revealing the unhappiness of many American women and their traditional roles as mothers and housewives
  - Friedan and other feminists helped form the National Organization for Women (NOW), which became the chief voice of the Women’s Movement
  - Birth control pills protected women from pregnancy
  - Many women in the Civil Rights Movement were inspired to use the same tactics to promote women’s rights
- ~ The Key to Understanding U.S. History

1- Who were the “baby boomers” and what had they been influenced by?

2- What did some baby boomers adopt?

3- What was the “youth culture” affected by?

4- What did some hippies do?

5- What were millions of young people doing by 1968?

- 6- What was the Twenty-sixth Amendment and why was it adopted?

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- 7- What did most women accept in the 1950s and 1960s?

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- 8- Why do you think many women were unhappy in the 1950s and 1960s?

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- 9- Who was Betty Friedan and why was she significant?

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- 10- Identify two facts about NOW:

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- 11- How did the introduction of birth control pills change the lives of American women?

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- 12- What had inspired many American women in their fight for equality? Why?

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Spotlight: Roe v. Wade, 1973

“No topic related to the feminist movement has aroused such passion and controversy as much as the right to an abortion. In the 1960s, there was no federal law regulating abortions, and many states had banned the practice entirely, except when the life of the mother was endangered.

Women’s groups argued that illegality led many women to seek black market abortions by unlicensed physicians or to perform the procedure on themselves. As a result, several states such as California and New York began to legitimize abortions. With no definitive ruling from the federal government, women’s groups sought the opinion of the United States Supreme Court.

The battle began in Texas, which outlawed any type of abortion unless a doctor determined that the mother’s life was in danger. The anonymous Jane Roe challenged the Texas law, and the case slowly made its way to the highest court in the land.

After two years of hearing evidence, the Court invalidated the Texas law by a 7-2 vote. Using the same reasoning as the *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision, the majority of the justices maintained that a right to privacy was implied by the Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments. No state could restrict abortions during the first three months, or trimester, of a pregnancy.

States were permitted to adopt restrictive laws in accordance with respecting the mother’s health during the second trimester. The practice could be banned outright during the third trimester. Any state law that conflicted with this ruling was automatically overturned.

Women’s groups were ecstatic. But immediately an opposition emerged. The Roman Catholic Church had long criticized abortion as a form of infanticide. Many fundamentalist Protestant ministers joined the outcry. The National Right to Life Committee formed with the explicit goal of reversing *Roe v. Wade*.” ~ ushistory.org

- 1- What is abortion and what had many states in the 1960s done regarding abortion?

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- 2- What did women’s groups claim regarding the illegality of abortion?

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- 3- Who was Jane Roe and what did she do?

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- 4- What did the Supreme Court rule?

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5- Why is abortion still a controversial issue in the United States?

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Spotlight: Affirmative Action

“On March 6, 1961 President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 10925, which included a provision that government contractors ‘take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin.’ The intent of this executive order was to affirm the government’s commitment to equal opportunity for all qualified persons, and to take positive action to strengthen efforts to realize true equal opportunity for all. This executive order was superseded by Executive Order 11246 in 1965.” ~ uci.edu

Definition: Affirmative Action

“An active effort to improve the employment or educational opportunities of members of minority groups and women; *also*: a similar effort to promote the rights or progress of other disadvantaged persons” ~ Merriam Webster Dictionary

1- What is affirmative action?

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2- Why do some Americans support affirmative action?

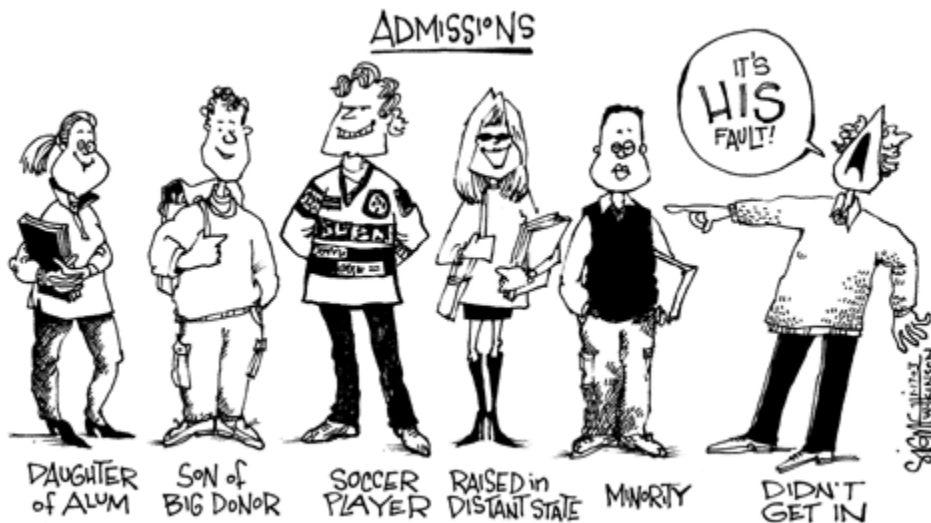
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3- Why do some Americans believe that affirmative action is unfair?

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4- What do you think? Explain your answer.

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Explain the meaning of the political cartoon:

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The program that promotes preference in hiring for African Americans and other minorities to correct past injustices is known as

1. Title IX
2. Open Admissions
3. Head Start
4. Affirmative Action

1. The Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan was an influential book in the 1960s because

- (1) it helped strengthen family values
- (2) it led directly to the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment
- (3) it energized a new women's rights movement
- (4) it reinforced the importance of women's traditional roles

2. "My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man."  
~ John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, 1961

To implement the idea expressed in this statement, President Kennedy supported the

- (1) creation of the Marshall Plan
- (2) formation of the Peace Corps
- (3) removal of United States troops from Korea
- (4) establishment of the South East Asia Treaty Organization

3. The ratification of the 26th amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18, was a result of the

- (1) participation of the United States in the Vietnam War
- (2) fear of McCarthyism
- (3) reaction to the launching of Sputnik by the Soviet Union
- (4) reporting of the Watergate scandal

4. In 1965, Congress established Medicare to

- (1) provide health care to the elderly
- (2) assist foreign nations with their health problems
- (3) grant scholarships to medical students
- (4) establish universal health care

*Lyric A:* . . . Father, father  
We don't need to escalate  
You see, war is not the answer  
For only love can conquer hate  
You know we've got to find a way  
To bring some lovin' here today. . .  
— "What's Going On," Al Cleveland,  
Marvin Gaye, Renaldo Benson, 1971

*Lyric B:* . . . Yeah, my blood's so mad  
Feels like coagulin'  
I'm sittin' here, just contemplatin'  
I can't twist the truth  
It knows no regulation  
Hand full of senators don't pass  
legislation  
And marches alone can't bring  
integration  
When human respect is disintegratin'  
This whole crazy world  
Is just too frustratin'. . .  
— "Eve of Destruction," P.F. Sloan,  
1965

5. Which conclusion is most clearly supported by an examination of these song lyrics?

- (1) In the 1960s and early 1970s, Americans shared common views on foreign policy.
- (2) Social conflict existed over war and civil rights in the 1960s and early 1970s.
- (3) The music of the 1960s and early 1970s supported government policies.
- (4) Most songwriters of the 1960s and early 1970s used their music to advocate violent

## Power to the People

US History

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

“In the mid-1960s, clashes between white authority and black civilians spread like wildfire. In New York City in July 1964, an encounter between white police and African-American teenagers ended in the death of a 15-year-old student. This sparked a race riot in central Harlem. On August 11, 1965, only five days after President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, one of the worst race riots in the nation’s history raged through the streets of Watts, a predominantly African-American neighborhood in Los Angeles. Thirty-four people were killed, and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of property was destroyed. The next year, 1966, saw even more racial disturbances, and in 1967 alone, riots and violent clashes took place in more than 100 cities. The African-American rage baffled many whites. ‘Why would blacks turn to violence after winning so many victories in the South?’ they wondered. Some realized that what African Americans wanted and needed was economic equality of opportunity in jobs, housing, and education.

The anger that sent rioters into the streets stemmed in part from African-American leaders who urged their followers to take complete control of their communities, livelihoods, and culture. One such leader, Malcolm X, declared to a Harlem audience, ‘If you think we are here to tell you to love the white man, you have come to the wrong place.’ Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little, went to jail at age 20 for burglary. While in prison, he studied the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, the head of the Nation of Islam, or the Black Muslims. Malcolm changed his name to Malcolm X (dropping what he called his ‘slave name’) and, after his release from prison in 1952, became an Islamic minister. As he gained a following, the brilliant thinker and engaging speaker openly preached Elijah Muhammad’s views that whites were the cause of the black condition and that blacks should separate from white society. In March 1964, Malcolm broke with Elijah Muhammad over differences in strategy and doctrine and formed another Muslim organization. One month later, he embarked on a pilgrimage to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, a trip required of followers of orthodox Islam. In Mecca, he learned that orthodox Islam preached racial equality, and he worshiped alongside people from many countries. When he returned to the United States, his attitude toward whites had changed radically. He explained his new slogan, ‘Ballots or bullets,’ to a follower: ‘Well, if you and I don’t use the ballot, we’re going to be forced to use the bullet. So let us try the ballot.’ Because of his split with the Black Muslims, Malcolm believed his life might be in danger. ‘No one can get out without trouble,’ he confided. On February 21, 1965, while giving a speech in Harlem, the 39-year-old Malcolm X was shot and killed.

In early June of 1966, tensions that had been building between SNCC and the other civil rights groups finally erupted in Mississippi. Black Power, Carmichael said, was a ‘call for black people to begin to define their own goals . . . [and] to lead their own organizations.’ Dr. King urged him to stop using the phrase because he believed it would provoke African Americans to violence and antagonize whites. Carmichael refused and urged SNCC to stop recruiting whites and to focus on developing African-American pride.” ~ *The Americans*

1. Malcolm X left the Nation of Islam

2. Black Power meant

(1) After his pilgrimage to Mecca

(1) pride and empowerment

(2) Before his pilgrimage to Mecca

(2) nonviolence and integration

The Ghettos Erupt, 1965 – 1968:

- In the North, African Americans faced segregation based on residential living patterns; Many African Americans were confined to decaying inner cities
- In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee
- African American frustration erupted in a series of riots that shook Northern cities three summers in a row
- The Kerner Commission concluded that the lack of job opportunities for African Americans, urban poverty, and racism were the chief factors for the riots

#### The Black Power Movement:

- New militants believed in Black Power – that African Americans should use their votes to win concessions from government and that they should control their own communities, patronize their own businesses, and free themselves from domination
- Advocates believed that they should be proud of themselves and that “Black is Beautiful”
- New groups challenged the leadership of traditional, non-violent organizations like the NAACP
  - a) The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) barred white participation
  - b) Black Muslims believed Islam should be the religion of African Americans
  - c) Black Panthers demanded reparations to the black community

#### Malcolm X:

- A leading black Muslim, questioned Dr. King’s policy of non-violent resistance
- He urged African Americans to obtain control of their own businesses and communities; he was assassinated by rival black Muslims in 1965

#### Native American Indians:

- Under the slogan “Red Power,” Native American Indians formed the American Indian Movement
- Sought greater pride and respect for their heritage
- Introduced the term “Native American” and protested racial biases and stereotypes commonly found in textbooks, television, and movies
- Dramatized the plight of Native American Indians by temporarily occupying government monuments like Alcatraz Island and Wounded Knee, South Dakota

~ The Key to Understanding U.S. History and Government

1- What is a ghetto?

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2- Why did many African Americans live in ghettos in the North?

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3- What happened in the late sixties in some ghettos?

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4- Why did this happen?

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5- Explain “Black Power.”

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6- Explain “Black is Beautiful.”

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7- What did the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee bar?

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8- What did Black Muslims believe?

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9- What did Black Panthers want?

10- Define reparations.

11- Who was Malcolm X?

12- What did Malcolm X believe?

13- What happened to Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King?

14- What does “Red Power” mean?

15- What did Native American Indians want in the sixties?

16- What organization did Native American Indians form in the sixties?

17- What did the American Indian Movement do to dramatize the plight of Native American Indians?



Explain the meaning of the political cartoon.

What shapes the public's perception of diverse groups in the United States?



1. After the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments, African Americans continued to experience political and economic oppression mainly because
  - (1) the amendments were not intended to solve their problems
  - (2) many African Americans distrusted the Federal Government
  - (3) Southern legislatures enacted Jim Crow laws
  - (4) poor communications kept people from learning about their legal rights

2.

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.’” —Martin Luther King, Jr. Washington, D.C., 1963, March on Washington

Which step was taken following this speech to advance the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr.?

- (1) desegregation of the Armed Forces
  - (2) ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson
  - (3) elimination of the Ku Klux Klan
  - (4) passage of new civil rights acts
3. Cesar Chavez created the United Farm Workers Organization Committee (UFWOC) in 1966 primarily to
  - (1) secure voting rights for Mexican Americans
  - (2) improve working conditions for migrant laborers
  - (3) provide legal assistance to illegal aliens
  - (4) increase farm income

4. Filibusters were used by United States Senators from the South in the 1950s and 1960s to
  - (1) block passage of civil rights bills
  - (2) protest United States involvement in Vietnam
  - (3) override presidential vetoes of environmental bills
  - (4) gain approval of presidential appointments to the Supreme Court
5. During the civil rights movement of the 1960s, activities of the Congress of Racial Equality, the National Urban League, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) illustrated that
  - (1) all civil rights groups use the same tactics
  - (2) different approaches can be used to achieve a common goal
  - (3) organizational differences usually lead to failure
  - (4) violence is the best tool for achieving social change
6. Lunch counter sit-ins and the actions of freedom riders are examples of
  - (1) steps taken in support of the Americans with Disabilities Act
  - (2) programs dealing with affirmative action
  - (3) violent acts by the Black Panthers
  - (4) nonviolent attempts to oppose segregation

P.S Definition: Filibuster

“Informal term for any attempt to block or delay Senate action on a bill or other matter by debating it at length, by offering numerous procedural motions, or by any other delaying or obstructive actions.”

~ senate.gov