**US I STS Midterm Questions**

You should be prepared for any of these questions to be on the exam. There will be 5 questions selected for the exam and you will have to choose 3 to answer.

1. Describe the varying Native groups that populated the Americas prior to European settlement. How were these groups similar and different from one another?
2. Compare/contrast the Spanish, French, and English models of settlement in the New World. Think about goals, geography, interactions with Natives, who was sponsoring settlement, etc.
3. Describe the variations in settlement of the early English colonies (Virginia, New England, Maryland, the Carolinas, Georgia, etc.). Think about differences in economic systems, religion, culture, etc.
4. What were the Salem Witch Trials and what was their short and long term impact on U.S. ideas of justice?
5. How did the Great Awakening and Enlightenment influence early American ways of thinking and understanding?
6. What was the significance of the French and Indian War? Think particularly about how this conflict set the seeds for the American Revolution and how it altered colonial/Native relations.
7. Describe the build up to the American Revolution. You should look at the events that are the most influential to the eventual outbreak of war.
8. Why did the Articles of Confederation fail as a foundational set of laws for the country? Your answer should include discussion of weaknesses of the document itself, as well as some of the events that reveal these weaknesses.
9. How can the Constitution be seen as a compromise between pro-slavery and anti-slavery ideologies? A good answer will discuss ways in which compromise over slavery is evident in the Constitution itself and why those provisions were deemed necessary.
10. Discuss the historical precedence for key provisions of the Bill of Rights (for example, why does the 2nd Amendment stress the importance of a militia? Why does the 3rd Amendment protect against quartering troops, etc.?)
11. Describe the difference between republicanism and democracy, using our history as a framework for your discussion. A good answer will address how America began to shift from an embrace of republicanism to one of democracy and why that happened.
12. Why is Washington considered to be such a virtuous figure in US history? What key ideas did he espouse, and how did his decisions set important precedents for future military and political leaders?
13. Every figure pictured on a major piece of US currency is a former president of the United States, with the exception of Alexander Hamilton who appears on the $10 bill. Why is Hamilton considered such an influential figure in American history? What was his impact?
14. The evolution of political parties was not a foregone conclusion in the eyes of the Founders, and yet parties did quickly begin to evolve. Describe the major differences in ideas that began to emerge, dividing the U.S. into Federalists and Republicans, as they came to be known.
15. Describe the US relationship with France from the time of the American Revolution forward. How did it change and evolve over time?
16. How did the War of 1812 impact the following groups: the Americans, the British, and the Native Americans?
17. Describe the ways that debate over slavery continued in the United States following the passage of the Constitution. Your answer might address various major slave rebellions, the U.S. reaction to Haitian Independence, the Missouri Compromise, etc.
18. Evaluate the presidency of either Thomas Jefferson or John Adams. What do you think were the major triumphs of their leadership? The major failures?
19. Choose 2 primary source documents that you believe speak to one another in an interesting way. Discuss their connections.
20. Discuss the impact of media (think newspapers, partisan publications, etc.) on this period of history. Consider from the earliest instances of advertisements attracting settlers to the New World all the way through Jefferson.