

AP US HISTORY

The required textbook for the course is *The American Pageant*, Kennedy, Bailey and Cohen, 16th edition. Read **Chapters 1 – 9** prior to the first day of school. Be prepared for an 80 question multiple choice test the first or second class period.

The text is available in hard copy or as a 365-day eRental. Purchase whichever one you prefer.

Hard copy: ISBN-13: 978-1305075917

While you are reading the eight chapters of *The American Pageant*, 16th edition (AP), you should consider using the following questions as guided practice to insure some understanding of the relationship of the concepts. In addition, you should look at the practice multiple choice questions at the end of the chapter and defining the key concepts. This work will not be graded but will help you read the text more closely.

Focus Questions

Chapter 1

1. What was Native American society like before European contact?
2. What factors led to Europe's increased exploration and to the discovery of the New World?
3. What is the Columbian Exchange? What are some of the results of the Columbian Exchange?
4. What role did forced labor play in the early settlement of America?

Chapter 2

1. What international events and domestic changes prompted England to begin colonization?
2. Why were Native Americans unable to repel the English colonization of North America?
3. What crops were important to the English colonies in the south of North America? How did the cultivation of those crops shape those colonies?
4. How did slavery develop in North America during colonization?

Chapter 3

1. How did the colony of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony contribute to the origins of American independence and government? What were the contributions to American independence and government from the New England Confederation, the Dominion of New England, and the Glorious Revolution?
2. How were government and religion – or church and state – related in New England and the middle colonies? How does the colonial view of these matters compare with more recent understandings?

3. What were the push and pull factors for immigrants coming to each region of English colonies (New England, middle colonies and southern colonies)?

Chapter 4

1. How did the climate in the southern colonies influence life expectancy, family life, immigration, and economic development?
2. What role did Bacon's Rebellion play in the adoption and expansion of slavery in the southern colonies?
3. What are the differences in the legal standing of women in southern colonies and New England colonies?
4. In what ways were all American colonists similar?

Chapter 5

1. What ethnicities contributed to the mosaic of the thirteen colonies?
2. What was the leading industry in eighteenth century America? What other industries were important?
3. How did the Great Awakening influence religion in America?
4. How were colonial governments similar and different, and how influential was England in colonial governance?

Chapter 6

1. What region in North America did both France and Britain view as critical to their colonial empires?
2. What nations were the principal adversaries in the Seven Years' War in Europe?
3. How did the Albany Congress portend the American Revolution?
4. In what ways did British policy during and after the Seven Years' War upset and unite the colonists?

Chapter 7

1. What role did mercantilism play in creating discord between British authorities and the colonists?
2. What were the advantages and disadvantages of Britain on the eve of the American Revolution?
3. What were the advantages and disadvantages of the American colonists on the eve of the American Revolution?
4. Was the American Revolution inevitable?
5. Were all of the American grievances really justified or were the British actually being more reasonable than most Americans have traditionally believed?
6. What was the Revolutionary movement, at its core, really all about? Was the Revolution truly a radical overturning of government and society – the usual definition of revolution – or something far more limited or even conservative in its defense of traditional rights?

Chapter 8

1. How did Thomas Paine convince colonists to fight for independence? What were his views on government?

2. Why was Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence so inspiring at the time and for future revolutions?
3. What was radical and new in the Declaration and what was old and traditional?
4. How did Old World tensions contribute to the success of American diplomats in securing the Treaty of Paris and its generous provisions?

Chapter 9

1. Which of the social changes brought about by the Revolution was the most significant? Could the Revolution have gone further toward the principle that all men are created equal by ending slavery or granting women's rights?
2. Was the United States in a crisis under the Articles of Confederation, or was the crisis exaggerated by the Federalists to justify their movement? Could the United States have survived if the Articles had stayed in effect? What successes did the Articles of Confederation achieve? Was the Constitutional Convention a second American Revolution?
3. Why was the United States so uniformly held in contempt by European governments after the Revolution? Was it due more to the Articles of Confederation or to being a recently created nation?
4. What would have happened to the Constitutional Convention if Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Thomas Paine, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and Patrick Henry all attended?
5. Should the Founding Fathers general elitism and indifference to the rights of people, women, African Americans, and Indians be held against them? Or should they be viewed with more understanding in their historical context?