Midterm Test Themes  

Name__________  
Test date______  
Rm #__________

American History Themes

Colonial Period

- Impact of religion/ Puritan beliefs
- Impact of French & Indian War / salutary neglect
- Terms of British Proclamation of 1763

Revolutionary War Period

- Declaration of Independence Objectives and Purpose
- Jefferson and Locke’s influence
- Concept of “no representation without taxation”
- Traitors and Patriots influence

The Constitution

- “We the People” concept
- Articles of Confederation Purpose and Reasons for failure
- Shay’s Rebellion
- The Constitution takes different approach> federalism> separation of powers> checks and balances = limited government (Magna Carta)
- The Plans= small states (NJ) vs. big states (Va.)
- The Compromises and their importance (3/5, The Great Compromise)
- Importance of Due Process + Bill of Rights
- Sovereignty and the consent of the governed
- Writ of Habeas Corpus concept
- Different duties of Senate + House
- Filibuster purpose + procedure
- Anti Federalists vs. Federalists / Federalists Papers cause tension
- Elastic Clause purpose
- Amendment process
- Separation of Powers= Concurrent > Delegated> Reserved
- Executive Powers
- Supreme Court and original jurisdiction
- Impeachment Reason + Process
Early Government

- Judicial Review Purpose + History
- Jefferson and Jeffersonian Republicans (role of government)
- Jefferson vision of US agrarian republic
- Alexander Hamilton and The Federalists view of French Revolution
- States Rights vs. Federal Power = McCulloch v Maryland > Gibbons v. Ogden
- Alien & Sedition Act of 1789 and First Amendment issue
- Monroe Doctrine purpose + declaration
- Louisiana Purchase history + use of loose interpretation
- Nationalism and Sectionalism causes
- Tariffs, Nullification and Secession threaten Union
- The American System + Erie Canal impact
- Andrew Jackson’s Imperial Presidency examples > national bank, Indian Removal Act, Georgia v Worcester, Spoils System

Industrialization

- Regional economic difference contribute to industrialization
- Social Darwinism, Laissez-Faire capitalism, socialism impact
- Urbanization effects

Disunion

- How Sectionalism grows
- How 3 Compromises fail = Missouri > 1850 > Kansas-Nebraska Act
- Popular Sovereignty Impact
- Dred Scott v Sanford (1857) sparks controversy
- Abolitionist + Underground Railroad impact
- Explain Political parties sides = Know-Nothing > Free Soil > Republican > Democrats

Reconstruction

- How black codes > KKK > create segregation
- Explain South Lifestyle = tenant farming > sharecropping > carpetbagger > scalawag
- The Plans = Lincoln (10%) > Johnson > Radical Republicans differences
- Thaddeus Stevens + Reconstruction Act + Wade Davis Bill Impact
- How Amendments = 13 > 14 > 15 protect African Americans
- How 1876 Election brings home rule to the South

Remember to Consult your US Timeline Chart
American Foundations

- Balance of Trade
- Salutary Neglect
- Navigation Acts
- Cash Crop
- Triangular Trade
- Middle Passage
- Enlightenment
- French & Indian War
- Sugar Act
- Natural Rights
- Monarchy
- Indentured Servant
- Royal Colony
- Mercantilism
- John Locke
- Colonization
- Checks & Balances
- John Winthrop
- Roger Williams
- William Penn
- Jonathan Edwards
- Great Awakening
- Benjamin Franklin
- Mayflower Compact
- Puritans
- Massachusetts Bay Colony
- Proclamation of 1763
- Nathaniel Bacon
- House of Burgesses
- Quaker
- Dominion of New England

The War For Independence

- Alliances
- Unalienable Rights
- Articles of Confederation
- Boston Massacre
- Saratoga
- Valley Forge
- Boston Tea Party
- Intolerable Acts
- Common Sense
- Inflation
- Profiteering
- Egalitarianism
- Martial Law
- Patriot
- Loyalist
- Stamp Act
- Samuel Adams
- Townshend Acts
- Thomas Jefferson
- Declar. of Independence
- Treaty of Paris
- Yorktown
- Olive Branch Petition
- Committee of Correspondence
- Second Continental Congress

Launching the New Nation

- Alexander Hamilton
- cabinet
- neutrality
- Alien and Sedition Acts
- John Marshall
- Louisiana Purchase
- embargo
- Andrew Jackson
- Democratic Republican
- Two-Party System
- National Bank
- Excise Tax
- Thomas Pinckney
- John Jay
- Sectionalism
- XYZ Affair
- Nullification
- Aaron Burr
- Midnight Judges
- Marbury v. Madison
- Judicial Review
- Impression
- Embargo
- War Hawk
- William Henry Harrison
- Thomas Jefferson

US Constitution

- Supreme Court
- Ratify/Ratification
- Amendment
- Executive Branch
- Legislative Branch
- Judicial Branch
- Popular Election
- Federalism/Federal System
- Constitutional Convention
- Federalist Papers
- Checks & Balances
- Universal Suffer age
- Bill of Rights
- Great Compromise
- Writ of Habeas Corpus
- Elastic Clause
- Due Process
- Separation of Powers
- Reserved/Residual Powers
- Concurrent Powers
- Tariff
- Delegated/Enumerated Powers
American Economics 1800-1860

Industrial Revolution
National Road
Erie Canal
Strike
Market Revolution
Eli Whitney
John Deere
Monopolies
Tariff of 1816
Mass Production
Putting-out System
National Trades’ Union
Capitalism
Henry Clay
Samuel F.B. Morse
Interchangeable Parts
American System
Apprentice
Specialization
Entrepreneur
Andrew Jackson
Cyrus McCormick

Manifest Destiny
Manifest Destiny
Santa Fe Trail
Fifty-Four Forty or Fight
Land Grant
Alamo
Republic Of Texas
Bear Flag Republic
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
Forty-niners
Gold Rush
Joseph Smith
Brigham Young
Antonio-Lopez de Santa Anna
Zachary Taylor
James K. Polk
Wilmot Proviso
Winfield Scott
Oregon Trail
Texas Revolution
Annex
Gadsden Purchase
Mormons
Stephen F. Austin
Sam Houston
Stephen Kearny
Monroe Doctrine

Pre Civil War American Politics

Nationalism
Underground Railroad
Fugitive Slave Act
Kansas-Nebraska Act
Emancipation
John Q. Adams
Whig
John Tyler
Nat Turner
Harriet Tubman
Dred Scott v. Sanford
Secession
Tariff of Abominations
Popular Sovereignty
Abolition
Republican Party
John C. Calhoun
McCulloch v. Md.
Gibbons v. Ogden
Frederick Douglass
Harriet Beecher Stowe
James Buchanan
Bleeding Kansas
Compromise of 1850
Abraham Lincoln
Know-Nothing Party
Free Soil Party
Daniel Webster
Martin Van Buren
William H. Harrison
Stephen A. Douglas
John Brown
Abolitionist

Reconstruction and its Effects

Reconstruction
Black Codes
15th Amendment
Sharecropping
Redemption
Thaddeus Stevens
Ku Klux Klan
Radical Republican
13th Amendment
Scalawag
Tenant Farming
Home Rule
Wade-Davis Bill
Freedman’s Bureau
14th Amendment
Carpetbagger
Panic of 1837
Andrew Johnson
Hiram Revels
Amendment
A change in the US Constitution.

Appointment
"To designate someone to an office. For example, the President appoints judges to the Federal Courts."

Bill of Rights
"The first ten amendments to the US Constitution that describe, for the most part, the civil rights of individuals."

Branches of Government
"The three sections include the legislative (makes laws), executive (enforces laws), and judicial (interprets laws); found in federal and state governments."

Cabinet
Appointed officials who head government departments and act as advisors to the President.

Civil Liberties
The freedoms and protections found in the Bill of Rights.

Constitution
"The document which outlines the structure of the federal government, incorporating the legislative, executive, and judicial branches."

Delegated Powers
"Powers specifically given to the federal government by the US Constitution, for example, the authority to print money."

Elastic Clause
Part of the Constitution which justifies the implied powers of Congress.

Federal Government
Type of political system in which a union of states recognizes a central authority while retaining certain residual powers of government.
Federal Supremacy

"According to Article VI, the Constitution is the law of the land. It grants many powers to the Congress and thus insures the supremacy of the national or federal government."

Implied Powers

"Powers assumed by the federal government, that are assumed to be necessary and proper to carry out its delegated powers into effect."

Judicial Activism

"A term associated with the decisions of Chief Justice Earl Warren. Under him, the Supreme Court took a liberal approach to social issues, such as the decision in Miranda v. Arizona."

Judicial Review

The power of the Supreme Court to decide the constitutionality of laws prepared by the Legislative and Executive branches of the U.S. government; established by the 1803 case of Marbury v. Madison.

Loose Interpretation

"Interpreting the US Constitution in favor of strengthening the power of the federal government by often stretching the meaning of its delegated powers by using the elastic clause; that is, using implied powers."

Necessary and Proper Clause

"The last paragraph of Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution that explains that Congress has the right to make all laws that are "necessary and proper." This clause stretched the power of Congress and is also called the elastic clause."

Political Party

"A group organized around certain ideas and philosophy of government; for example, Democratic and Republican Party; or the formation of a "third party," the Progressives, in the 1912 election."
Ratification

"Approval, as in the ratification of the Constitution or of a treaty or agreement."

Senate

One house of the two house Legislative Branch. Each state provides for the election of two members for six year terms. The representatives must be at least 30 years of age.

States' Rights

"As first used in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions as they regarded the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, the individual states believed they had a right to limit the power of the federal government by declaring a federal act "null and void.""

Strict Interpretation

"The US Constitution is subject to an interpretation favoring the limiting of federal government powers, adhering strictly to the powers listed in the Constitution."

Supreme Court

The highest court in the federal government; part of the Judicial Branch; final interpreter of the U.S. Constitution.

Unconstitutional

That which is not allowed according to a nation's constitution.

Unwritten Constitution

"Precedents, judicial decisions, expansion of legal power and procedures not officially in the Constitution."

Veto

The rejection of a bill from the legislative branch by the executive branch; an example of checks and balances.
1791

The Bill of Rights, Then & Now

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are still sparking debate 220 years after they were ratified.

BY VERONICA MAJEROL
Across the Middle East this year throughs of people took to the streets in the hope of replacing their autocratic governments with more democratic ones.

Tunisia and Egypt are now in the throes of transition after ousting their leaders early this year. And much like a nation that threw off the shackles of tyranny more than two centuries ago, they’ve begun drafting new constitutions and at least discussing provisions to protect fundamental liberties, like freedom of speech, worship, political expression, and a right to due process of law.

Those freedoms should sound familiar to anyone who’s read the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights. Ratified 220 years ago, it continues to serve as one of the foundations of American democracy, and an inspiration to many around the world.

A Newborn Nation

“There is no document in the history of the United States more critical to the protection of the rights of American citizens than the Bill of Rights,” says Andrew Cayton, a professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

But despite the example it still provides to budding democracies around the world, the Bill of Rights has long stirred debate. Indeed, the question of whether a Bill of Rights was even necessary sharply divided the Founding Fathers. Today, it still has Americans debating—not only about what the Framers really meant but also about how the Supreme Court should interpret the document in the modern world.

After America won its independence from Great Britain in the Revolutionary War (1775-83), delegates from 12 of the 13 states* at the 1787 Constitutional Convention fiercely debated what kind of government should be established. On the one hand, they understood that the Articles of Confederation, which had created a weak government, needed to be strengthened. At the same time, they wanted to make sure that the states and individuals didn’t give up basic freedoms.

“They had just come out of fighting for eight long years against Great Britain, who they thought had violated various rights that British subjects were entitled to,” says Cayton. “So they

With reporting by Adam Liptak of The Times.
were very sensitive to the idea of a government having big powers."

The Constitution—which John Adams once called the result of "the greatest single effort of national deliberation that the world has ever seen"—laid out a carefully calibrated structure for the new American nation, balancing the powers of the three branches of government, as well as the relationship between the federal government and the states.

But many people at the time thought the Constitution was incomplete. During the ratification debates of 1787 and 1788, detractors said the Constitution lacked protections for fundamental rights, like freedom of speech and the right to worship as one chooses. It lacked, in other words, a bill of rights.

Anti-Federalists, those who opposed the Constitution for a variety of reasons, said the shortcoming was so grave that states should refuse to ratify the Constitution. George Mason, a Virginia planter, was among them. He said he'd "sooner chop off my right hand than put it to the Constitution as it now stands."

James Madison and other supporters of the Constitution—the Federalists—offered a compromise: They agreed to propose a set of constitutional amendments in the first session of Congress.

With Madison's promise in mind, key states like Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, and New York voted for the Constitution, which took effect in March 1789.

"Unnecessary & Dangerous"

Later that year, Madison was elected to the first House of Representatives, and he promptly introduced a series of amendments based on rights in state constitutions and other foundational legal documents from around the world, including Britain's 1689 Bill of Rights.

Though he kept his word to the anti-Federalists, Madison actually thought that the amendments were "unnecessary and dangerous." Unnecessary, he said, because the Constitution had not granted the government the powers that the Bill of Rights would guard against. And dangerous because any rights not on the list might be thought to be unprotected. (Amendment 9 was included to allay that fear; see page 19.)

Despite those misgivings, Congress agreed, by the required two-thirds majorities of the House and Senate, to approve Madison's handiwork. In September 1789, it sent 12 amendments to the states for ratification: That's right, 12, of which only 10 were initially adopted (see box, facing page).

On Dec. 15, 1791, Virginia became the 11th state (of what were by then 14 states) to ratify 10 of the amendments. That fulfilled the constitutional requirement of ratification by three-quarters of the states, and the Bill of Rights became the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

Debates over what they mean, however, are still going strong. For example, it took 219 years for the Supreme Court to finally answer the question of whether the Second Amendment grants individuals or just militias the right to have guns. The
Court ruled in McDonald v. Chicago last year that the amendment applies to individuals.

**Still Stirring Controversy**

And the resolution of three big debates in the news right now—the government’s use of technology for surveillance, the legal rights of terrorism suspects, and the Tea Party’s call for a less-powerful federal government—may hinge on how the Supreme Court interprets the 220-year-old Bill of Rights:

- **Government Surveillance & Technology:** A case now before the high court asks the Justices whether police need a warrant to track a suspect’s car using GPS. The issue involves the Fourth Amendment, which protects against “unreasonable searches and seizures.”

Prosecutors say the technology is a harmless tool that helps police do their job. But during arguments for the case last month, Justice Stephen Breyer said the idea of the government tracking citizens through technologies “sounds like 1984,” George Orwell’s futuristic novel in which “Big Brother” is always watching.

- **Civil Liberties & Terrorism Suspects:** Ever since 9/11, Americans have debated whether terrorism suspects deserve the protections accorded by the Bill of Rights. In 2008, the Supreme Court ruled they have the right to challenge their detention at Guantánamo Bay, the U.S. naval base in Cuba where hundreds have been imprisoned since 2002. But other questions remain, including whether they should be read Miranda rights (advising them of the right to an attorney and to remain silent); and whether it’s constitutional to assassinate a terror suspect without trial, as the Obama administration did recently with Anwar al-Awlaki, an American-born radical cleric who had preached violence against Americans from a base in Yemen.

- **States’ Rights:** Long one of the more obscure amendments, the 10th has made a comeback in recent years. Members of the Tea Party (see p. 12) say that the federal government has grown too large and is encroaching on states’ rights, which are protected by the 10th Amendment. One of their biggest gripes has been with President Obama’s 2010 health care bill, which imposes a penalty on individuals who don’t buy health insurance. The Supreme Court will hear challenges to the bill’s constitutionality this spring.

Americans may not all agree on how the courts should rule on such difficult questions, but openly debating these issues and taking the government to task when it fails to live up to its ideals are only possible because of the very protections enshrined in the Bill of Rights. It helps to ensure, in other words, that the people have a voice—an essential ingredient for the health of any democracy.

“This document guarantees that our government cannot tell us to shut up, it allows people like the Tea Party and Occupy movement to protest, to gather, to do all these kinds of things,” says Cayton, the history professor. “Without a Bill of Rights, who knows what people in government might decide to do.”

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*Why You Don’t Talk About Your Third Amendment Rights*

When people invoke their First Amendment right to freedom of speech and religion, they often argue that those rights were listed first because they’re the most important. That may sound good, but the reality is that those rights were originally slated to be the Third Amendment. Back in 1789, the states failed to ratify the original First Amendment—which had to do with the apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives—and the original Second Amendment—which said that Congressional pay raises can’t take effect until after an election.

With those two amendments off the table, freedom of speech, religion, and the right to protest were able to sneak into first place. The original Second was eventually ratified—more than 200 years later, in 1992, when it became the 27th Amendment.

—Adam Liptak

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*A Tunisian, 36, who participated in the demonstrations in the weeks following the revolution says, “We don’t have a chance to speak our minds. The*