Enduring Vision Focus Questions

Chapter 5

• How did Britain and its colonies view their joint victory over France in the Seven Years’ War?
• How did colonial resistance to the Stamp Act differ from earlier opposition to British imperial measures?
• In what ways did resistance to the Townshend duties differ from earlier colonial resistance efforts?
• In what ways did colonists’ views of parliamentary authority change after 1770?
• What led most colonists in 1776 to abandon their loyalty to Britain and choose national independence?

Chapter 6

• What factors enabled the Americans to defeat the British in the American Revolution?
• How did the Revolution affect relationships among Americans of different classes, races, and genders?
• What political concerns were reflected in the first state constitutions and Articles of Confederation?
• What were the principal issues dividing proponents and opponents of the new federal constitution?

Chapter 7

• Which points in Hamilton’s economic program were most controversial and why?
• What was the impact of the French Revolution on American politics?
• What principal issues divided Federalists and Republicans in the election of 1800?
• On what basis were some Americans denied full equality by 1800?

Chapter 8

• How did Jefferson’s philosophy shape policy toward public expenditures, the judiciary, and the Louisiana Purchase?
• What led James Madison to ask Congress for a declaration of war against Britain in 1812?
• How did the War of 1812 influence American domestic policies/affairs?
• To what extent did Jefferson’s legacy persist into the Era of Good Feelings?
Chapter 9

• What caused the upsurge of westward migration after the War of 1812?
• How did the rise of the market economy affect where Americans lived and how they made their living?
• What caused the rise of industrialism?
• What caused urban poverty in this period?
• How did the rise of the market economy and industrialization influence relationships within families and communities?

Chapter 10

• How did the democratization of American politics contribute to the rise of Andrew Jackson?
• How did Jackson’s policies and the Panic of 1837 help launch and solidify the Whig party?
• What new assumptions about human nature lay behind the religious movements of the period?
• Did the reform movements aim primarily at making Americans more free or more orderly?

Chapter 11

• What technological improvements increased industrial productivity between 1840 and 1860?
• How did technology transform the daily lives of middle-class Americans between 1840 and 1860?
• How did American pastimes and entertainment change between 1840 and 1860?
• How did Americans try to express national distinctiveness in literature and art?

Chapter 12

• How did the rise of cotton cultivation affect the society and economy of the Old South?
• What major social divisions segmented the white South?
• Why did non-slaveholding whites feel their futures were tied to the survival of slavery?
• What were the distinctive features of African-American society and culture in the South?

Chapter 13

• How did immigration in the 1840s influence the balance of power between the Whig and Democratic parties?
• What economic and political forces fed westward expansion during the 1840s?
• How did Westward expansion threaten war with Britain and Mexico?
• How did the outcome of the Mexican-American War intensify intersectional conflict?
Chapter 14

• How did the Fugitive Slave Act lead to the undoing of the Compromise of 1850?
• Why did the Whig party collapse after the Kansas-Nebraska Act while the Democratic Party survived?
• How did the Republican doctrine of free soil unify northerners against the South?
• Why did southerners conclude that the North was bent on extinguishing slavery in southern states?

Chapter 15

• What advantages and disadvantages did each combatant, Union and Confederate, possess at the start of the Civil War?
• How successfully did the governments and economies of the North and South respond to the pressures of war?
• How did the issue of emancipation transform the war?
• What factors determined the military outcome of the war?
• In what lasting ways did the Civil War change the United States as a nation?

Chapter 16

• How did Radical Republicans gain control of Reconstruction politics?
• What impact did federal Reconstruction policy have on the former Confederacy and ex-Confederates?
• How did the newly freed slaves reshape their lives after emancipation?
• What political and economic problems arose in the North during the era of Reconstruction?
• What factors contributed to the end of Reconstruction in 1877?

Chapter 17

• How was Indian life on the Great Plains transformed in the second half of the nineteenth century?
• What roles did the federal government, the army, and the railroads play in the settlement of the West?
• How did ranchers and settlers displace Spanish-speaking Americans in the Southwest?
• How was the Wild West image of cowboys and Indians created?
• What discoveries and developments prompted the establishment of national parks?
Chapter 18

• What innovations in technology and business drove increases in industrial production after 1865?
• How did Carnegie, Rockefeller, and other corporate leaders consolidate control over their industries?
• Why did the South’s experience with industrialization differ from that of the North and Midwest?
• How did the changing nature of work affect factory workers’ lives, and how did they respond?
• How did corporations undercut labor’s bargaining power in the 1890s?

Chapter 19

• How did the influx of immigrants before 1900 create an awareness of ethnic and class differences?
• How did Victorian morality shape middle-class society and culture?
• How did social and religious reformers address urban poverty?
• How did the urban working class change attitudes toward leisure and recreation by 1900?
• How did writers, artists, and educational reformers address issues of cultural conflict?

Chapter 20

• How did political parties build coalitions out of their diverse ethnic and regional constituencies?
• What factors prompted the rise of the Grange and the Farmers’ Alliance movements?
• Why did William Jennings Bryan fail to win the presidency in 1896?
• Why did the United States go to war with Spain and become an imperial power?

Chapter 21

• How did intellectuals, novelists, and journalists inspire the progressive movement?
• How did state and local progressives seek to reform cities and the new industrial order?
• How did progressives try to control morality, and how did they view immigrants and blacks?
• What strategies did African-Americans, women, and industrial workers use to improve their lot?
• As progressivism became a national movement, what issues proved most important?
Chapter 22

• What goals underlay America’s early-twentieth-century involvements in Asia and Latin America?
• Considering both immediate and long-term factors, why did the United States go to war in 1917?
• How did Washington mobilize the nation for war, and what role did U.S. troops play in the war?
• What was the war’s economic, political, and social impact on the American home front?
• How did the League of Nations begin, and why did the Senate reject U.S. membership in the League?

Chapter 23

• What economic innovations came in the 1920s, and what was their effect on different social groups?
• What political and social ideas shaped the administrations of Presidents Harding and Coolidge?
• What developments underlay 1920s’ mass culture, and how did they affect American life and leisure?
• What social developments contributed to the cultural creativity and conflicts of the 1920s?
• How did Herbert Hoover’s social and political thought differ from that of Harding and Coolidge?

Chapter 24

• What caused the Great Depression, and how did President Hoover respond?
• What strategy guided the early New Deal, and what problems and challenges arose in 1934-1935?
• What key measures and setbacks marked the course of the New Deal from 1935 on?
• How did the depression and the New Deal affect specific social groups in the United States?
• What key developments shaped American culture in the 1930s?

Chapter 25

• How did the American people and government respond to the international crises of the 1930s?
• How did war mobilization transform the American economy and government?
• What were the major aspects of Allied military strategy in Europe and Asia?
• What were the major effects of World War Two on American society, including minorities and women?
• What new issues did the U.S. government confront in defeating Germany and Japan in 1945?
Chapter 26

• How did the policies of both the United States and Soviet Union lead to the start of the Cold War?
• What effect did the Cold War have on the domestic programs of Truman and Eisenhower?
• What domestic and international events led to the Second Red Scare?
• In what ways did Eisenhower continue - and change - Truman’s foreign policy?
• What actions support the notion of Eisenhower as a centrist or moderate politician?

Chapter 27

• What were the main sources of the postwar economic expansion and affluence?
• What, if any, were the negative consequences of the era’s preoccupation with economic growth and prosperity?
• What factors account for the growth of suburbia in postwar America, and how accurate is the image of the 1950s suburban life as one of contentment, conservatism, and conformity?
• What actions by minorities and youth foretold the movements for social change to come in the 1960s?
• What innovative strategies were developed by the civil rights movement in the era, and what were the main reasons for the increasing success of the movement?

Chapter 28

• To what extent did the Kennedy administration’s domestic record reflect its liberal rhetoric?
• What were the major successes and failures of the civil-rights movement from 1960-1968?
• How and why did the protest movements of minorities shift from the goals and tactics associated with Martin Luther King to those of Black Power?
• How did Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society program exemplify the new liberalism of the 1960s?
• How and why did Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon each deepen America’s involvement in the war in Indochina?

Chapter 29

• In what ways did the student movement and counterculture shape the 1960s and 1970s?
• What were the major successes and failures of the Women’s Liberation Movement?
• How did Richard Nixon’s political strategy reflect the racial upheavals and radicalism of this era?
• What were the main causes and consequences of the Watergate scandal?
• What were the major failures of the Ford and Carter presidencies?
Chapter 30

• What core beliefs guided Ronald Reagan’s presidency?
• What were George H.W. Bush’s principal achievements and failures as president?
• What domestic policy issues, political events, and economic trends most influenced Bill Clinton’s presidency?
• How did the Clinton administration respond to political and economic developments abroad?
• What economic trends, technological innovations, and cultural trends shaped American life in the 1990s?

Chapter 31

• How did the Bush administration respond to the September 11th attacks, internationally and domestically?
• Beyond security concerns, what economic and social issues did Bush address in his first term?
• What challenges faced the United States in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world after 2000?
• What demographic and economic trends have most shaped contemporary America?
• What domestic challenges confronted the nation in Bush’s second term and beyond?