

HIS 111 Midterm Exam Study Guide • Prof. Mark Souther

Exam time: Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 9:45-10:50 a.m.

The following guide includes the actual directions for each section of the exam, as well as all of the potential content of the exam. Note that for Part III, I am giving you the exact content. Please do not become complacent. A study guide should focus your preparation, not minimize it. You are still responsible for providing precise, analytical answers throughout the exam and, in fact, should perform at a higher level given the benefit of focused preparation.

Part I Short Identification. 30 points (6 points each). On the exam you will define 5 of 7 terms, indicating the decade(s) of greatest relevance to them *and* explaining their significance (meaning why each was influential to American history beyond its immediate definition). Below is a list of possible terms.

Columbian exchange	New Jersey Plan	Thomas Paine
Spanish Armada	Articles of Confederation	French Revolutionary Wars
Powhatan	Stamp Act	Battle of Lake Erie
Bacon's Rebellion	Whiskey Rebellion	Battle of Saratoga
Great Awakening	Assumption Plan	Peace of Paris
Stono Rebellion	XYZ Affair	Coercive Acts
Albany Plan of Union	Chesapeake incident	Embargo Act of 1807
Alien & Sedition Acts	Barbados slave code	Northwest Ordinance
Hartford Convention	Tecumseh	
Tenskwatawa	Judiciary Act of 1789	

Part II Essay. 60 points. On the exam you will write a well-developed essay (typically several substantial paragraphs) that responds to 1 of 2 topics. Be sure you present as much *specific* evidence as you can to support your argument. Below are 3 possible topics from which I will draw.

1. Analyze the Atlantic world context for the development of British North America between 1588 and 1763. Be sure you discuss its development in the context of what was happening in England as well as in the larger European imperial struggles.
2. How revolutionary was the American Revolution? To answer this question, be sure you give attention to events before and after the Revolutionary War. How and to what extent did the Revolution produce a nation that was different from the colonies that preceded it? (Note that the best answers will be those that weigh the most evidence and are able to make a nuanced argument as there is no simple answer to this question.)
3. Assess the origins and development of the Federalists and Republicans through the War of 1812. Be sure to give attention to the impact of the Revolution itself and demonstrate the gradual evolution of two distinct political ideologies into actual political parties, as well as to the way that those with these viewpoints looked at specific events between 1789 and 1814.

Part III Document Analysis. 10 points. On the exam you will choose 1 of the following 2 items that are drawn from materials assigned on the course blog. You must draw upon *specific* details from the course thus far to support your answer.

1. Read the following excerpt from James Madison, *Federalist*, no. 37, 11 January 1788, also available at <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/preambles10.html>. Drawing on what you have learned about the Federalist Era, in a paragraph, react to the following: If James Madison had read *Federalist*, no. 37, in 1798, ten years after he wrote it, he would have been greatly saddened.

Would it be wonderful if under the pressure of all these difficulties, the Convention should have been forced into some deviations from that artificial structure and regular symmetry, which an abstract view of the subject might lead an ingenious theorist to

bestow on a Constitution planned in his closet or in his imagination? The real wonder is, that so many difficulties should have been surmounted; and surmounted with a unanimity almost as unprecedented as it must have been unexpected. It is impossible for any man of candor to reflect on this circumstance, without partaking of the astonishment. It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it, a finger of that Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution. We had occasion in a former paper, to take notice of the repeated trials which have been unsuccessfully made in the United Netherlands, for reforming the baneful and notorious vices of their Constitution. The history of almost all the great councils and consultations, held among mankind for reconciling their discordant opinions, assuaging their mutual jealousies, and adjusting their respective interests, is a history of factions, contentions, and disappointments; and may be classed among the most dark and degrading pictures which display the infirmities and depravities of the human character. If, in a few scattered instances, a brighter aspect is presented, they serve only as exceptions to admonish us of the general truth; and by their lustre to darken the gloom of the adverse prospect to which they are contrasted. In revolving the causes from which these exceptions result, and applying them to the particular instance before us, we are necessarily led to two important conclusions. The first is, that the Convention must have enjoyed in a very singular degree, an exemption from the pestilential influence of party animosities; the diseases most incident to deliberative bodies, and most apt to contaminate their proceedings. The second conclusion is, that all the deputations composing the Convention, were either satisfactorily accommodated by the final act; or were induced to accede to it, by a deep conviction of the necessity of sacrificing private opinions and partial interests to the public good, and by a despair of seeing this necessity diminished by delays or by new experiments.

2. Read the following excerpt from Benjamin Franklin, *A Plan for Colonial Union*, 1754, Letter II, also available by following the link on <http://southern111.clevelandhistory.org/2009/09/04/september-18-the-french-indian-war/>. Drawing on what you have learned about Anglo-American relations in the two decades after he sent this letter to the British, in a paragraph, react to the following: Rather than heed Franklin's concerns about burdensome measures, the British did the opposite—angering the colonists to the point that they no longer saw themselves as loyal subjects.

That, besides the taxes necessary for the defense of the frontiers, the colonies pay yearly great sums to the mother-country unnoticed: for

1. Taxes paid in Britain by the landholder or artificer must enter into and increase the price of the produce of land and of manufactures made of it; and a great part of this is paid by consumers in the colonies, who thereby pay a considerable part of the British taxes.
2. We are restrained in our trade with foreign nations; and where we could be supplied with any manufacture cheaper from them, but must buy the same dearer from Britain, the difference of price is a clear tax to Britain.
3. We are obliged to carry a great part of our produce directly to Britain; and where the duties laid upon it lessen its price to the planter, or it sells for less than it would in foreign markets, the difference is a tax paid to Britain.
4. Some manufactures we could make, but are forbidden, and must take them of British merchants; the whole price is a tax paid to Britain.
5. By our greatly increasing the demand and consumption of British manufactures, their price is considerably raised of late years; the advantage is clear profit to Britain and enables its people better to pay great taxes; and much of it, being paid by us, is clear tax to Britain.
6. In short, as we are not suffered to regulate our trade and restrain the importation and consumption of British superfluities, as Britain can the consumption of foreign superfluities, our whole wealth centers finally amongst the merchants and inhabitants of Britain; and if we make them richer, and enable them better to pay their taxes, it is nearly the same as being taxed ourselves and equally beneficial to the crown.