

## AMERICAN HISTORY, LIFE, AND INSTITUTIONS

1. Colonization of America/American colonial period
  - General idea of colonization (who, why, where),
  - English colonies: Roanoke, Jamestown, Plymouth – reasons for settling and basic history of all these places.
  - Life in the colonies (Northern colonies v. Middle colonies v. Southern colonies),
  - Puritanism, Mayflower Compact, creation of the Protestant Work ethic.
2. Main events leading to the American Revolution
  - French and Indian War and its aftermath
  - Relations with George III, taxation, boycotts, and incidents leading up to the American Revolution
  - The outbreak of the Revolution (Lexington and Concord incident; advantages and disadvantages of both sides of the conflict; end of war; Peace of Paris)
  - The Declaration of Independence – its philosophical and political meaning
3. USA under the Articles of Confederation/Constitutional Convention and the US Constitution
  - The post-revolutionary United States (newly acquired lands, challenges on the domestic and foreign fronts)
  - Achievements and failures of the young country under the Articles of Confederation
  - Towards the US Constitution: the Constitutional Convention and the creation of the US Constitution
  - Adding the Bill of Rights (when, why, and what it includes)
4. American Expansionism and the Western Movement
  - Louisiana Purchase
  - Oregon Trail
  - Indian Removal Policy
  - Mexican Cession
  - Gold Rush
  - The Wild West experience – the role of frontier in American History (see also individualism, American Exceptionalism)
5. Black African-American experience in the US – towards the Civil War and through to Reconstruction
  - First Blacks in Virginia
  - Development of Southern economy (plantation system vs small farms in the North – see also (1) life in the colonies)
  - The establishment of the Peculiar Institution – the role of slavery in the South
  - Events leading up the outbreak of the Civil War (including Missouri Compromise, Dred Scott Decision, John Brown, election of Abraham Lincoln)
  - The war itself – main war theaters, advantages/disadvantages of both sides, Emancipation Proclamation, the Northern victory
  - Aftermath of the Civil War (social, economic, demographic, etc.)
  - Reconstruction (including 13, 14, 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments, Black Codes)
  - Ways of disenfranchising Black African Americans after the War: Grandfather Clauses, poll taxes, literacy tests, KKK, etc.)
  - Post-reconstruction issues: Plessy v. Ferguson and legal segregation

- Civil Rights Movement and its achievements (including Rosa Parks; Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Martin Luther King and Malcolm X and their philosophies; acts of Congress)
6. The Great Depression
    - The causes of the stock exchange crash
    - America after the crash
    - Roosevelt's New Deal and getting out of the crisis (see also: (7) American involvement in World War I)
  7. Modern US (selected issues)
    - American involvement in World Wars I and II
    - The Vietnam War.
    - Cold War: definition and main characteristics of the period
  8. American political system
    - Idea of federalism
    - Powers vested in States, in Federal Government and concurrent powers
    - Role and characteristics of the US Constitution
    - Division of Power (three branches)
    - Checks and Balances (see also powers of the Congress and President)
    - Two-party system (including the general character of Democrats and Republicans)
    - The US Congress (chambers, major powers, the bill to law procedures)
    - The US President (powers, position, role in international politics) and the executive branch (examples of departments and agencies)
    - The Supreme Court of the United States (functions, powers, the power of Judicial Review, examples of famous Supreme Court cases)
    - Presidential elections in the US (primaries, conventions, campaigns, counting the votes: popular vote v. Electoral College, inauguration)
  9. American schooling system
    - Main characteristics of American educational system (financing, responsibilities of Boards of Education, decentralization)
    - Types of schools and degrees (from primary to tertiary education)
  10. Religion in the US
    - Separation of church and state
    - Current religious make-up/trends
    - Believers vs church goers.
    - Evangelicals
  11. Ethnicity and multiculturalism in US
    - Concepts/definitions of race, ethnic group, minority group, prejudice, de jure and de facto discrimination, cultural hegemony
    - Biggest ethnic minorities in the US
    - Salad Bowl v. Melting Pot
  12. American Creed – values and characteristics
    - Idea of American Exceptionalism
    - Idea of American Dream
    - Main national values (including examples and historical origins)