Test Bank for American Paradox A History of the United States Since 1945 4th Gillon

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Chapter 2: In the Shadow of FDR

Multiple Choice

1. All of the following were economic problems facing Americans after World War II, EXCEPT:
A) inflation.
B) shortage of consumer goods.
C) a large trade deficit.
D) growing unemployment.
Ans: C
Difficulty: Medium

2. Why did unions organize a massive strike wave in the spring of 1946?
A) to gain wage increases that could compensate for rising prices
B) to protest the defamation of longtime communist allies in the labor movement
C) to protest the discrimination of women in the workplace
D) to demand racial segregation in factories and offices
Ans: A
Difficulty: Medium

3. Who pushed Harry S. Truman to fire Henry Wallace?
A) Henry Luce
B) James Byrnes
C) Strom Thurmond
D) Henry L. Stimson
Ans: B
Difficulty: Easy

4. Who triggered the formation of the Americans for Democratic Action organization?
A) American liberals to distance themselves from communist sympathizers
B) experts thinking the growing national security state threatened democratic institutions
C) veterans lobbying the federal government to support democratic revolutions abroad
D) African Americans trying to salvage the old New Deal coalition
Ans: A
Difficulty: Difficult

5. In 1944, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Smith v. Allwright* that
A) parties could not ban African Americans from their primaries.
B) lynching was a federal crime.
C) black veterans had equal rights to benefits.
D) "separate but equal" had no place in American education.
Ans: A
Difficulty: Difficult

6. Which of the following prepared Thomas E. Dewey for the Republican presidential

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nomination?
A) He had successfully steered the Taft-Hartley Act through Congress.
B) He had worked closely with Franklin D. Roosevelt and could claim to continue his legacy.
C) He was governor of New York.
D) He had been a general during World War II.
Ans: C
Difficulty: Easy

7. Harry S. Truman sought all of the following reforms in his Fair Deal initiative, EXCEPT:
A) a minimum wage increase
B) extended rent controls
C) the construction of low-income housing units
D) the passage of Medicaid and Medicare
Ans: D
Difficulty: Medium

8. What broader development undermined Truman's Fair Deal initiative?
A) economic recession
B) economic growth
C) Republican disunity over Social Security
D) the Cold War
Ans: D
Difficulty: Medium

9. The remarkable growth in productivity during World War II
A) restored liberal's faith in capitalism.
B) reinforced liberal's commitment to a planned economy.
C) made conservatives doubt their faith in the free market.
D) eroded the reputation of American corporations only further.
Ans: A
Difficulty: Difficult

10. At the heart of the concept of the vital center was the belief that Americans could raise the standard of living, promote social justice, and secure interests abroad without
A) sacrifice.
B) Republican support.
C) white votes.
D) having to purge communists.
Ans: A
Difficulty: Easy

True/False

11. At the end of World War II, many liberals had hoped for a revival of the New Deal, even without an economic crisis.

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Ans: True; Medium

12. Within ten days of the surrender of Japan, 2.7 million men and women lost their jobs.
Ans: True; Medium

13. The Taft-Hartley Act restored the concept of the "closed shop" to the American workplace.
Ans: False; Medium

14. The report *To Secure These Rights* from the President's Committee on Civil Rights demanded the abolition of white primaries.
Ans: False; Medium

15. Outraged by Truman's embrace of a civil rights plank in the Democratic Party platform in 1948, Strom Thurmond switched to the Republican Party.
Ans: False; Easy

16. In his speech at the Democratic Party Convention in Philadelphia in 1948, Hubert Humphrey urged delegates to compromise.
Ans: False; Difficult

17. Despite his strong appeal among Southern whites, Strom Thurmond only won the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee in the 1948 presidential election.
Ans: False; Difficult

Fill in the Blank

18. In April 1946, _____, the President of the United Mine Workers, led 400,000 coal miners out of the pits, prompting Truman to order troops to take over the mines.
Ans: John Lewis; Easy

19. Liberals, who had worked together with communists on domestic issues in the wartime _____ now distanced themselves from their former allies.
Ans: Popular Front; Medium

20. On election night the *Chicago Tribune* was so certain Truman would lose that it ran the headline "_____."
Ans: DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN; Medium

21. Truman proposed to create a _____ in the Department of Justice to protect the right to vote, but Southern Democrats and Republicans killed the bill before it reached the floor for debate.
Ans: civil rights division; Difficult

22. In a popular book published in 1949, Arthur Schlesinger Jr. referred to the new liberalism of the postwar years as the _____.

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Ans: *Vital Center*; Easy

Short Answer

23. Explain why American workers engaged in a record number of strike actions in the year following World War II:
Ans: American workers had joined unions during the New Deal years and World War II in record numbers but had pledged not to strike during the war out of loyalty and in the interest of a productive home front. When the lift of price controls, a lack of consumer goods, and large pent-up demand pushed up prices, existing wages lost much of their buying power. With the war won, unions argued, it was time to share the rewards of this victory with all working Americans.
Easy

24. Explain the significance of the Taft Hartley Act.
Ans: Over the veto of President Truman, Congress passed the Labor-Management Relations Act in 1947. This was a stunning setback for organized labor at the time since it ended the practice of the closed shop, opened the door for right-to-work-laws that sidelined unions, and permitted federal injunctions against strikes considered a threat to public health or safety. Finally, union leaders had to swear an oath that they were not communists, which lead to a self-purging in organized labor.
Medium

25. Describe the impact of President Truman's executive order 9981.
Ans: President Truman's executive order from July 1948 set up procedures to end racial discrimination in the armed forces. The military leadership balked at this command, claiming that their organization was not the place to institute social reform. White rank-and-file soldiers also offered organized resistance. Only when the army experienced a man-power shortage during the Korean War did the order see execution.
Medium

26. Why did President Truman win the presidential election of 1948?
Ans: Given that Truman lacked the charm and popularity of his predecessor and had to run against two additional challengers—Wallace and Thurmond—that tried to appeal to the liberal and Southern segregationist wings of the Democratic Party respectively, it seemed certain that Truman was going to lose. However, Republican challenger Thomas Dewey ran a lackluster campaign while Truman made his case vigorously across the country. At the same time, fear of a possible Strom Thurmond presidency led that vast majority of liberals to abandon Wallace and stick with Truman.
Medium

27. Explain the significance of Hubert Humphrey's speech at the National Democratic Convention of 1948 in Philadelphia.
Ans: In 1948, the civil rights issue was threatening to become a dividing issue for the Democratic Party during their national convention. Sensing the revolt of southern party members, Truman withdrew from his commitment to strong plank on civil rights in the party

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platform, seeking to compromise. The speech of Hubert Humphrey—a representative of the Northern liberal wing of the party—demanded that the party commit firmly on the issue. His argument won the day, which also led a number of Southern delegates to walk out of the Philadelphia convention.
Medium

Essay

28. Identify the factors that contributed to the breakdown of the Roosevelt coalition between 1945 and 1949.
Ans: Responses will vary but should include:

- Labor and the Democratic Party
  - Strike waves
  - Truman's push back against John Lewis
  - Taft-Hartley Act
- Southerners, African Americans, and the Democratic Party
  - Riots in Detroit and Harlem in 1943
  - Double Victory Campaign
  - President's Committee on Civil Rights, *To Secure These Rights*
  - Executive Order 9981
  - *Smith v. Allwright*
  - National Democratic Convention in Philadelphia
  - Humphrey's speech on civil rights
  - Strom Thurmond and the Dixiecrats

Medium

29. Describe President Truman's Fair Deal plans and explain why much of it did not come to pass.
Ans: Responses will vary but should include:

- Passed
  - increase in the minimum wage
  - extended rent controls
  - Displaced Persons Act
  - National Housing Act
  - increase in Social Security benefits
- Did not pass
  - federal aid to education
  - crop-subsidy system
  - repeal of Taft-Hartley
  - national health insurance
  - civil rights legislation:
    - Department of Justice civil rights division
    - abolition of the poll tax
    - permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee
- Causes for defeat:

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- Cold War drained attention and resources
- Cold War increased conservatives' weight with the president

Medium

30. Discuss the ways in which World War II and the Cold War had changed the old brand of New Deal liberalism in the postwar years.
Ans: Responses will vary but should include:

- World War II
  - restored the reputation of capitalism and big corporations
  - demonstrated that the government could steer economic growth
  - suggested that social problems and inequities could be solved through growth
  - highlighted the importance of addressing racial discrimination
- Cold War
  - emphasized the importance for liberals of distancing themselves from communists
    - Americans for Democratic Action
  - Put domestic issues behind foreign policy issues

Difficult

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