

HISTORY 118
FINAL EXAM HANDOUT
Thursday, May 10, 2018 2pm to 5pm

On the actual exam, students will have to answer one question from each section.

Section 1: US Role in the World

Option A: Which event or development in the early years of the Cold War (1945-1962) had the longest-lasting legacy for post-war US foreign policy? Identify a few possible answers to this question in addition to explaining the rationale for your ultimate choice.

Option B: During the later years of the Cold War (1963-1991), which event or development proved to be the most decisive in reducing tensions between the US and USSR? Identify a few possible answers to this question in addition to explaining the rationale for your ultimate choice.

Section 2: Role of the Federal Government

Option A: During the post-1945 period, conservatives and liberals argued fiercely over how to define the proper role of the federal government in the national economy. What was the greatest liberal policy success between 1945 and 2000? What was the greatest conservative triumph of economic policy during that same period? How did each side view the other's victories?

Option B: How and why did President Lyndon Johnson attempt to increase the role of the federal government in the American economy during the mid-1960s? Did he succeed?

Section 3: Role of Minorities

Option A: In the stories of the various civil rights movements that have transformed American society in the years since 1945, what are three or four of the most universal lessons for effective grassroots leadership? Explain your insights using specific historical examples.

Option B: What were some of the key obstacles and challenges facing civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr as they attempted to mobilize national support for racial equality during the period between 1954 and 1968?

GENERAL ADVICE

Good essay exam answers begin by providing a clear thesis or interpretation and by defining any key terms in the question. You don't need to restate the question, but you should address its terms directly in the opening paragraph. The best answers then proceed to support their interpretation by providing specific historical examples arranged in a logical, compelling and CHRONOLOGICAL fashion. Essays should offer a high level of detail, including the use of brief quotations or striking examples and should also take care to anticipate potential objections or alternatives to their interpretations.

REMINDERS

- Students may study together but must produce their own answers
- Each essay should occupy several blue book pages and take about 45-60 minutes
- Missing an exam is only an option in an emergency or for documented sickness