

STAAR Spring 2026 U.S. History Answer Key

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answers(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
1	Multiple Choice	5.B	1	C	1	Supporting
2	Multiple Choice	27.A	1	A	4	Readiness
3	Multipart	8.A	2	A, D See Appendix 1.1	1	Readiness
4	Multiple Choice	5.A	1	B	1	Readiness
5	Multiple Choice	2.A	1	C	1	Readiness
6	Multiple Choice	8.F	1	B	1	Readiness
7	Multiple Choice	20.A	1	C	3	Readiness
8	Hot Spot	12.A	2	Option "Mining Activity along the El Dorado, 1898", Option "Timber Waiting to Be Loaded on Steamship" See Appendix 1.2	2	Readiness
9	Multiple Choice	8.A	1	B	1	Readiness
10	Multiple Choice	4.A	1	C	1	Readiness
11	Multiple Choice	24.B	1	B	2	Readiness
12	Multiple Choice	19.A	1	C	3	Supporting
13	Hot Text	26.C	1	Option "design developed by Taylor's electronics team to enhance acoustic guitar amplification" See Appendix 1.3	4	Supporting
14	Multiple Choice	15.D	1	A	4	Readiness
15	Multiple Choice	1.B	1	B	1	Supporting
16	Multiple Choice	9.J	1	B	1	Supporting
17	Multiple Choice	17.A	1	C	4	Readiness
18	Hot Text	26.B	2	Option "Receivers have been developed for use in spacecraft, aircraft, ships, land vehicles, and precision-guided munitions, as well as for hand carrying", Option	4	Supporting

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answers(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
				"guiding countless service members and equipment to ensure they are on time and on target" See Appendix 1.4		
19	Multiple Choice	21.A	1	D	3	Supporting
20	Multiple Choice	14.B	1	A	2	Supporting
21	Drag and Drop	4.F	2	"Ideas Used to Support the Treaty of Versailles": Option "Prevention of future wars", "Ideas Used to Oppose the Treaty of Versailles": Option "Increased involvement in foreign affairs" See Appendix 1.5	1	Readiness
22	Multiple Choice	4.B	1	C	1	Supporting
23	Multiple Choice	8.D	1	D	1	Readiness
24	Multiple Choice	3.B	1	A	1	Readiness
25	Multiple Choice	26.A	1	C	4	Readiness
26	Multiple Choice	25.D	1	A	2	Supporting
27	Multiple Choice	19.B	1	A	3	Readiness
28	Multiple Choice	18.A	1	B	3	Readiness
29	Short Constructed Response	13.A	2	See Appendix 1.6	2	Readiness
30	Multiple Choice	12.A	1	D	2	Readiness
31	Multiple Choice	9.G	1	C	1	Readiness
32	Multiple Choice	16.A	1	A	4	Supporting
33	Multiple Choice	7.C	1	C	1	Readiness
34	Hot Spot	8.C	1	Option "South Korea" See Appendix 1.7	1	Readiness
35	Multipart	23.B	2	B, C See Appendix 1.8	3	Supporting
36	Multiple Choice	13.B	1	D	2	Readiness

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answers(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
37	Multiple Choice	9.A	1	B	1	Readiness
38	Inline Choice	10.C	2	Drop-Down 1: Option "Iran", Drop-Down 2: Option "anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua" See Appendix 1.9	1	Readiness
39	Multiple Choice	17.E	1	C	4	Readiness
40	Multiple Choice	9.B	1	D	1	Readiness
41	Multiple Choice	16.E	1	C	4	Supporting
42	Inline Choice	27.B	2	Drop-Down 1: Option "free enterprise", Drop-Down 2: Option "develop new technologies to gain an economic advantage" See Appendix 1.10	4	Supporting
43	Multiple Choice	16.C	1	B	4	Readiness
44	Hot Text	18.D	1	Option "States and localities received [funding] through federal grant programs for health care, transportation, energy, housing, and education." See Appendix 1.11	3	Supporting
45	Hot Text	24.A	2	Option "Any man who is not reactionary in his views is open to the charge of alliance with the Red [evil]", Option "There is certain proof that spies of each side are at work undermining the other" See Appendix 1.12	2	Supporting
46	Multiple Choice	8.E	1	C	1	Supporting
47	Hot Text	9.I	1	Option "a greater number of African-American elected officials" See Appendix 1.13	1	Readiness
48	Multiple Choice	16.B	1	D	4	Readiness
49	Multiple Choice	10.D	1	C	1	Supporting
50	Inline Choice	11.A	2	Drop-Down 1: Option "September 11th attacks",	1	Readiness

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answers(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
				Drop-Down 2: Option "homeland security" See Appendix 1.14		
51	Multiple Choice	18.B	1	B	3	Readiness
52	Multiple Choice	3.A	1	D	1	Readiness
53	Short Constructed Response	26.A	2	See Appendix 1.15	4	Readiness
54	Multiple Choice	24.C	1	A	2	Supporting
55	Multiple Choice	9.C	1	C	1	Supporting
56	Hot Spot	11.C	1	Option "None of the Above sign" See Appendix 1.16	1	Supporting
57	Multiple Choice	20.B	1	D	3	Supporting
58	Match Table Grid	2.B	2	"Cuban independence": Option "Spanish-American War", "The acquisition of U.S. territories in the Pacific": Option "Spanish-American War", "The establishment of the United Nations": Option "World War II", A period of economic prosperity and increased U.S. consumerism": Option "World War II" See Appendix 1.17	1	Supporting
59	Multiple Choice	11.D	1	B	1	Supporting
60	Inline Choice	22.A	2	Drop Down 1: Option "racial oppression", Drop Down 2: Option "civil rights" See Appendix 1.18	3	Readiness
61	Multiple Choice	25.C	1	A	2	Readiness
62	Drag and Drop	7.A	2	Option "militarism", Option "regain lost territory", Option "control much-needed resources", Option "imperialism" See Appendix 1.19	1	Readiness
63	Multiple Choice	3.C	1	D	1	Readiness

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answers(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
64	Multiple Choice	17.B	1	A	4	Readiness

1.1

This question has two parts.

This excerpt describes events during the 1960s.

In July 1962 Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev reached a secret agreement with Cuban premier Fidel Castro to place Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba to deter any future invasion attempt. Construction of several missile sites began . . . , but U.S. intelligence discovered evidence of a general Soviet arms build-up on Cuba, . . . and President Kennedy issued a public warning against [these actions]. Despite the warning, . . . a U.S. U-2 aircraft took several pictures clearly showing sites for . . . ballistic nuclear missiles . . . under construction in Cuba. These images were . . . presented to the White House . . . , [leading to] the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Kennedy summoned his closest advisers to . . . resolve the crisis. Some advisers . . . argued for an air strike to destroy the missiles, followed by a U.S. invasion of Cuba; others favored stern warnings to Cuba and the Soviet Union. The President decided upon a middle course [and] ordered a naval "quarantine" of Cuba.

—"The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962," U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian

Part A

Which statement describes an effect of these events?

- ☒ Ⓐ The United States prevented the transport of resources to Cuba.
- ☐ Ⓑ Cuba received economic aid from the United States.
- ☐ Ⓒ Cuba engaged in ground attacks against the United States.
- ☐ Ⓓ The United States imposed tariffs on goods from Cuba.

Part B

Which quotation from the excerpt supports the answer to Part A?

Select the correct answer.

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—"The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962," U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian

1.2

Which photographs show how human actions affected the environment during the Klondike Gold Rush?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

Mining Activity along
the El Dorado, 1898



National Park Service

Palm Sunday
Avalanche, 1898



UtCon Collection/Alamy
Stock Photo

Traditional Hide Drying
by American Indians



Library and Archives Canada

Timber Waiting to Be
Loaded on Steamship



National Park Service

Buffalo Hide Yard, 1878



National Archives

1.3

This excerpt describes innovations in the music industry. Which selection supports the argument that innovations improve products?

Select the correct answer.

Assembling an acoustic guitar of world-class caliber requires more technology than you might realize. . . . Technology now plays a more integral role in . . . the guitar maker's groundbreaking designs and the pioneering manufacturing process to produce them.

. . . Renowned for blending innovative manufacturing techniques with an artisan's attention to detail, Taylor [Guitars] pioneered the use of . . . laser cutting and robotics in guitar construction. . . .

High-precision . . . robots . . . help assemble Taylor's acoustic pickups. A guitar pickup acts like a microphone. When you hit the guitar strings, it creates vibrations. . . .

. . . The Taylor Expression System 2 (ES2) is [a] . . . design developed by Taylor's electronics team to enhance acoustic guitar amplification.

—Phil Baratti, "Robots Strike Right Tone with Guitar Maker," *Assembly Magazine*, November 9, 2018

1.4

This excerpt describes a scientific innovation. How has the innovation affected the U.S. military?

Select **TWO** choices that correctly answer the question.

GPS satellites orbit the earth every 12 hours. . . . Receivers have been developed for use in spacecraft, aircraft, ships, land vehicles, and precision-guided munitions, as well as for hand carrying.

The GPS constellation is [simply] designed and operated, consists of six orbital planes, with a minimum of four satellites per plane.

GPS satellites are launched from Cape Canaveral [Florida] into nearly circular 11,000-mile altitude orbits. . . .

GPS continues to fill a crucial role in air, ground and sea operations guiding countless service members and equipment to ensure they are on time and on target.

—"Factsheet: Global Positioning System," *United States Space Force*

1.5

Which idea was used to support the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles, and which idea was used to oppose its ratification?

Move the correct answer to each box in the chart. Not all answers will be used.

Ideas Used to Support or Oppose the Treaty of Versailles

Support	Oppose
Prevention of future wars	Increased involvement in foreign affairs

Prevention of future wars

Reduction in international trade

Increased involvement in foreign affairs

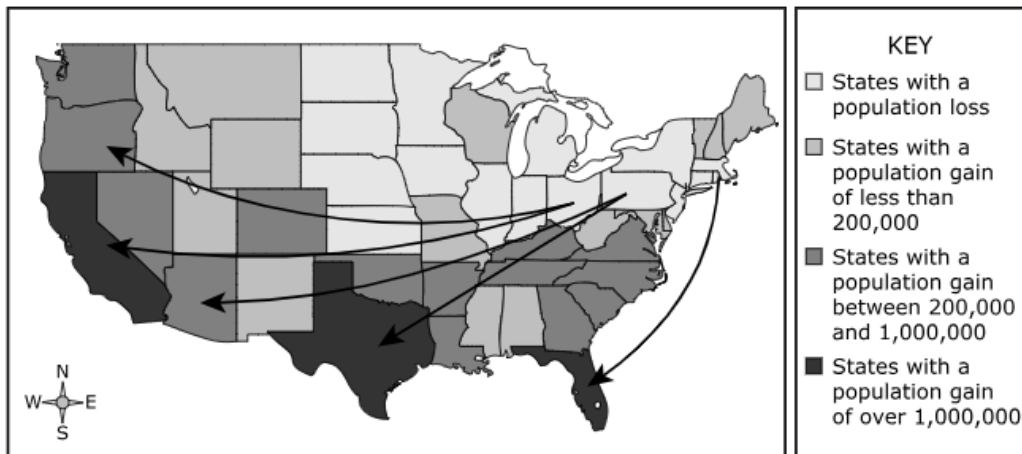
Increased prices of imports

Expansion of executive power

1.6

This map depicts a period of migration within the United States.

Rust Belt to Sun Belt Migration, 1970–1980



Explain **ONE** cause and **ONE** effect of migration from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt in the United States.

Think about the information carefully. Then enter your response in the box provided.

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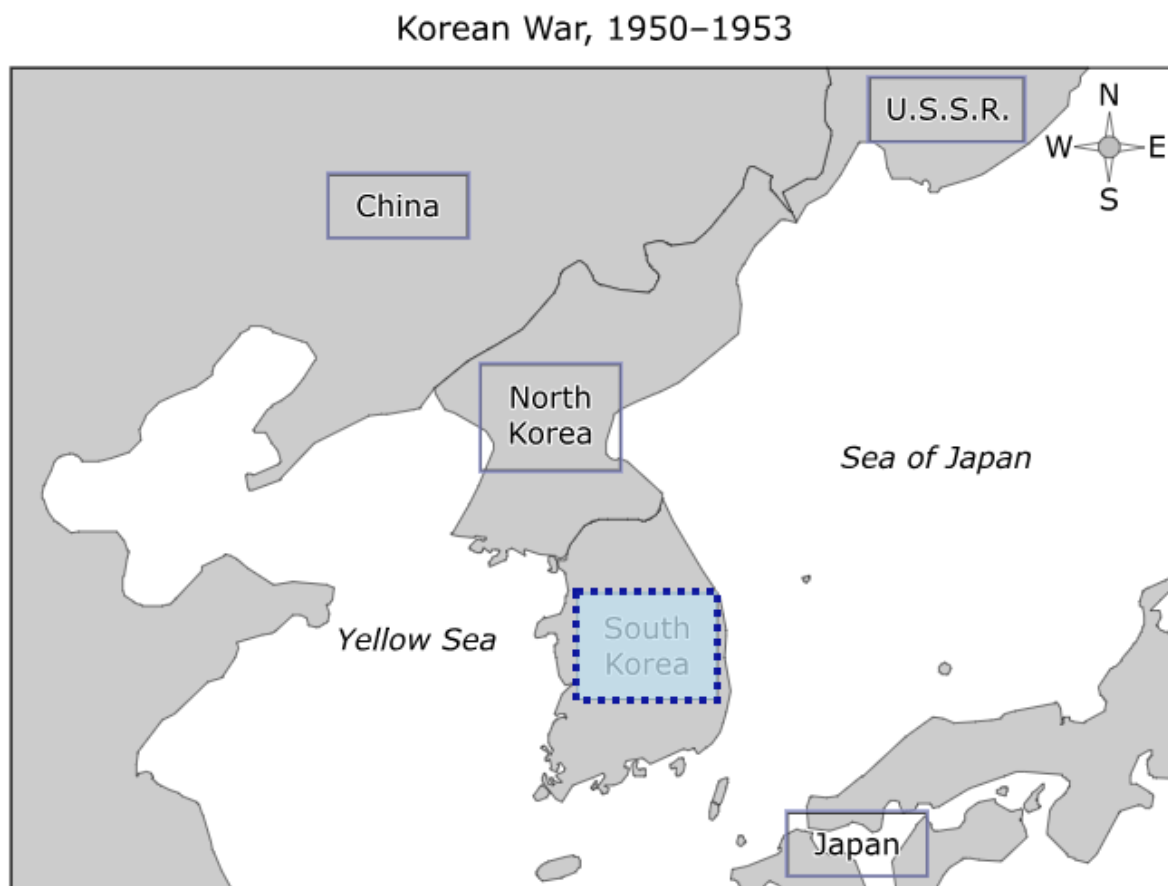
Rubric

For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

1.7

Which location was invaded, contributing to the United States' entry into the Korean War?

Select **ONE** correct answer.



1.8

This question has two parts.

This excerpt is from a magazine published by the U.S. Navy during the 2020s.

Army Master Sgt. Raul "Roy" Perez Benavidez . . . [served] during the Vietnam War. . . .

He began to ferry the troops to the aircraft and on his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed from behind by an enemy soldier. . . . He then continued to carry the wounded . . . while under enemy fire. . . . With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed and to bring back any remaining wounded. Only then did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft.

—Jaron Wills, "Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month," All Hands Magazine, September 2022

Part A

Based on your knowledge of U.S. history, how was Master Sergeant Benavidez recognized for the actions described in the excerpt?

- ☐ Ⓐ He was honorably discharged after he was injured in combat.
- ☒ Ⓑ He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for putting the lives of others before his own.
- ☐ Ⓒ He was granted the rank of general after successfully landing a helicopter.
- ☐ Ⓓ He was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for securing important information.

Part B

Which quotation provides evidence for the answer to Part A?

- ☐ Ⓐ "Benavidez . . . [served] during the Vietnam War."
- ☐ Ⓑ "[H]e was clubbed from behind by an enemy soldier."
- ☒ Ⓒ "He then continued to carry the wounded . . . while under enemy fire."
- ☐ Ⓓ "Only then did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft."

1.9

Choose the correct answer from each drop-down menu to complete the sentence.

In the 1980s, the National Security Council became involved in a transaction where the United States secretly sold weapons to and used the money to provide support for .

1.10

Choose the correct answer from each drop-down menu to complete the sentences.

In the United States, has led to competition between businesses.

Competition has allowed businesses to .

1.11

These excerpts from different sources describe various effects.

Which excerpt describes an effect of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009?

Select the correct answer.

The corporation's purpose was . . . to provide for reforestation and the proper use of marginal lands in the Tennessee Valley.

—Tennessee Valley Authority

It expands the government's ability to search private property without notice to the owner.

—American Civil Liberties Union

The law offered farmers subsidies in exchange for limiting their production of certain crops.

—New Georgia Encyclopedia

States and localities received [funding] through federal grant programs for health care, transportation, energy, housing, and education.

—U.S. Government Accountability Office

It calls for quantitative increases in forces, weapons, and equipment, and for more effective procedures and plans for multinational coordination and mutual support.

—Comptroller General's Report to the Congress

1.12

This excerpt is from a play written and performed in the 1950s. Which selections represent the influence of McCarthyism?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

The American continent stretched endlessly west, and it was full of mystery for them. . . .

But the people of Salem in 1692 were not quite the dedicated folk that arrived on the *Mayflower*. A vast [difference] had taken place, and in their own time a revolution had unseated the royal government. . . .

. . . Any man who is not reactionary in his views is open to the charge of alliance with the Red [evil]. . . .

. . . Normally the actions and deeds of a man were all that society felt comfortable in judging. . . .

There is certain proof that spies of each side are at work undermining the other.

—Arthur Miller, *The Crucible*, 1953

1.13

This excerpt describes an important period of change. Which selection represents a long-term achievement of the movement described in the excerpt?

Select the correct answer.

A . . . march from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery was . . . broken up by police before federal marshals and additional volunteers arrived to complete the initially [ended] march. This provided greater momentum for the passage of a federal voting rights act, . . . transforming the politics of the South. . . .

. . . Important victories continued to be won over the coming decade, including . . . a greater number of African-American elected officials, and advances in economic opportunities. . . .

. . . There was an enormous array of tactics utilized. . . . Marches and civil disobedience were signature actions. . . . Poetry, the visual arts and particularly music played an important role in the struggle.

—Stephen Zunes and Jesse Laird, *"The US Civil Rights Movement (1942–1968)," International Center on Nonviolent Conflict*

1.14

This excerpt provides a perspective on the global balance of power after the Cold War.

The disintegration of post-Cold War states, and the Cold War legacy of a world awash in advanced conventional weapons and know-how, has assisted the [growth] of terrorism worldwide. Vacuums of stability created by conflict and absence of governance . . . offer ready made areas for terrorist training and recruitment activity. . . . With the increasing ease of transnational transportation and communication, the continued willingness of states such as Iran and Iraq to provide support, and dehumanizing ideologies that enable mass casualty attacks, the lethal potential of terrorist violence has reached new heights.

—John Moore, *PBS*

Choose the correct answer from each drop-down menu to complete the sentence.

The situation described in the excerpt led to events such as the and contributed to efforts to improve .

1.15

By the early 1900s, the United States was a major producer of steel. Identify **TWO** ways this production affected the economic development of the United States.

Enter your response in the box provided.

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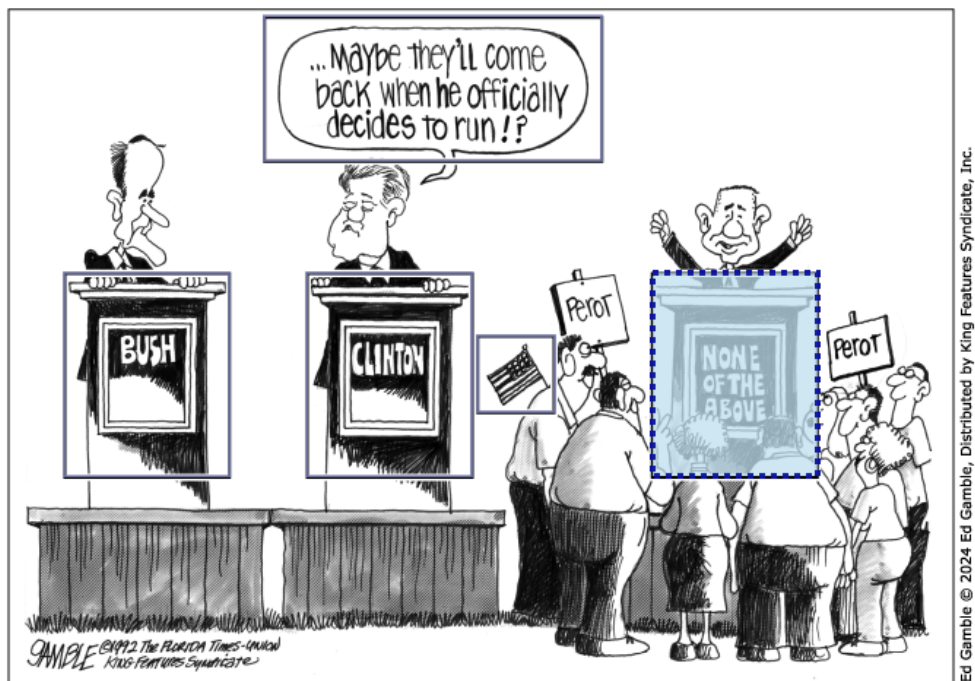
Rubric

For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

1.16

This political cartoon shows the 1992 presidential candidates. Which part of the cartoon explains why Americans voted for Ross Perot?

Select **ONE** correct answer.



1.17

Which significant events resulted from the Spanish-American War, and which resulted from World War II?

Select the correct answer in each row.

Event	Spanish-American War	World War II
Cuban independence	☒	☐
The acquisition of U.S. territories in the Pacific	☒	☐
The establishment of the United Nations	☐	☒
A period of economic prosperity and increased U.S. consumerism	☐	☒

1.18

This excerpt describes a workshop during the 1950s.

Rosa [Parks attended] the August 1955 desegregation workshop at the Highlander Folk School. . . . Septima Clark, a South Carolina activist-educator, led the two-week workshop and mentored Rosa. Clark founded Highlander's Citizenship Schools program, which taught thousands of southern blacks literacy and voting rights.

—"Highlander Folk School," Library of Congress

Choose the correct answer from each drop-down menu to complete the sentences.

The Highlander Folk School was founded to address problems of poverty in rural Tennessee before shifting its focus to in the 1950s.

The school's workshops ultimately influenced campaigns throughout the South.

1.19

Which words or phrases complete the paragraph about why the U.S. entered World War II?

Move the correct answer to each box. Not all answers will be used.

isolationism

militarism

imperialism

regain lost territory

control much-needed resources

prevent political extremism

The Japanese and German attacks that began World War II reflected the use of by both countries.

Germany attacked Poland to , while Japan invaded China to .

Both invasions demonstrated the ideals of taken to the extreme.

The actions by Japan and Germany caused concern in the United States and eventually led to U.S. involvement in the war.