

STAAR Spring 2025 US History Answer Key

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
1	Multiple Choice	3.C	1	A	1	Readiness
2	Multiple Choice	12.A	1	B	2	Readiness
3	Multiple Choice	10.A	1	C	1	Supporting
4	Multipart	24.B	2	A, C See Appendix 1.1	2	Readiness
5	Multiple Choice	27.B	1	D	4	Supporting
6	Multiple Choice	26.B	1	A	4	Supporting
7	Hot Spot	16.E	2	"Provides economic development to the region", "Protects against natural disasters" See Appendix 1.2	4	Supporting
8	Multiple Choice	14.A	1	B	2	Readiness
9	Multiple Choice	9.F	1	A	1	Supporting
10	Multiselect	10.D	2	B, E See Appendix 1.3	1	Supporting
11	Multiple Choice	2.A	1	B	1	Readiness
12	Drag and Drop	23.A	1	"The first woman to serve as a justice on the Supreme Court" See Appendix 1.4	3	Supporting
13	Multiple Choice	12.A	1	B	2	Readiness
14	Match Table Grid	16.B	2	"Stock market speculation increased.", "Financial institutions lacked cash reserves because they had invested deposits.": Option: "Cause of Bank Failures", "Many people lost their life savings.", "Financial institutions were closed to determine their stability.", "Businesses were unable to take out loans.": Option: "Effect of Bank Failures" See Appendix 1.5	4	Readiness

15	Multiple Choice	13.A	1	A	2	Readiness
16	Multiple Choice	17.E	1	C	4	Readiness
17	Multiple Choice	11.A	1	D	1	Readiness
18	Inline Choice	10.C	2	"travel to the United States for medical care", "interference in their affairs" See Appendix 1.6	1	Readiness
19	Multiple Choice	4.A	1	C	1	Readiness
20	Multiple Choice	25.A	1	D	2	Readiness
21	Short Constructed Response	20.A	2	See Appendix 1.7	3	Readiness
22	Multiple Choice	3.C	1	B	1	Readiness
23	Multiple Choice	15.D	1	C	4	Readiness
24	Multiple Choice	10.B	1	D	1	Supporting
25	Multiple Choice	27.A	1	C	4	Readiness
26	Multiple Choice	9.D	1	C	1	Supporting
27	Inline Choice	14.B	2	"civil disobedience", "commercial development" See Appendix 1.8	2	Supporting
28	Multiple Choice	15.C	1	C	4	Supporting
29	Multiple Choice	22.B	1	A	3	Supporting
30	Multiple Choice	4.F	1	B	1	Readiness
31	Multiselect	24.C	2	A, D See Appendix 1.9	2	Supporting
32	Multiple Choice	7.D	1	D	1	Readiness
33	Hot Text	9.I	2	"In Dallas County the percentage of African Americans signed up to vote zoomed from 2.1 in 1965 to 70.4 in 1968.", "Since 1990, the number of Latino students enrolled in higher education increased by 47 percent." See Appendix 1.10	1	Readiness
34	Multiple Choice	9.H	1	B	1	Supporting
35	Multiselect	26.C	2	B, C See Appendix 1.11	4	Supporting

36	Multiple Choice	4.D	1	D	1	Supporting
37	Multiple Choice	8.A	1	C	1	Readiness
38	Inline Choice	19.B	1	"checks and balances" See Appendix 1.12	3	Readiness
39	Multiple Choice	11.C	1	A	1	Supporting
40	Multiple Choice	9.E	1	B	1	Supporting
41	Multiple Choice	5.A	1	C	1	Readiness
42	Multiple Choice	4.B	1	B	1	Supporting
43	Multiple Choice	15.A	1	A	4	Supporting
44	Multiple Choice	17.A	1	B	4	Readiness
45	Drag and Drop	8.C	2	"Communist takeover of mainland China" and "Invasion of South Korea by the North Korean military": Factors Leading to U.S. Involvement; "Long-term presence of the U.S. military in South Korea" and "Military stalemate along North Korean–South Korean border": Outcomes of the War See Appendix 1.13	1	Readiness
46	Multiple Choice	13.B	1	B	2	Readiness
47	Multiple Choice	4.C	1	D	1	Readiness
48	Multiple Choice	4.A	1	B	1	Readiness
49	Multiple Choice	22.A	1	C	3	Readiness
50	Multipart	26.A	2	C, A See Appendix 1.14	4	Readiness
51	Multiple Choice	16.B	1	D	4	Readiness
52	Multiple Choice	8.F	1	C	1	Readiness
53	Multiple Choice	1.C	1	D	1	Supporting
54	Inline Choice	18.C	2	"lied under oath", "lose trust in the political system" See Appendix 1.15	3	Supporting
55	Multiple Choice	18.A	1	B	3	Readiness
56	Short Constructed Response	6.A	2	See Appendix 1.16	1	Readiness

57	Multiple Choice	15.B	1	D	4	Readiness
58	Multiple Choice	9.B	1	C	1	Readiness
59	Multiple Choice	3.B	1	D	1	Readiness
60	Multiple Choice	17.B	1	C	4	Readiness
61	Hot Text	21.A	1	"boundless field to human activity, and inexhaustible materials for industry" See Appendix 1.17	3	Supporting
62	Multiple Choice	18.B	1	D	3	Readiness
63	Multiple Choice	25.C	1	C	2	Readiness
64	Multiple Choice	20.A	1	A	3	Readiness

STAAR Spring 2025 US History Appendix

1.1

This question has two parts.

This excerpt is from a play co-written by Zora Neale Hurston, a prominent contributor to the Harlem Renaissance.

Spanish moss drapes the trees. . . .

The woods surround everything. Bull alligators can be heard booming like huge bass drums from the lake at night. . . .

The houses are of raw, second grade lumber, unpainted, each with a porch and two or three rooms. Each man with a "family" is allotted a house for which he is docked about fifty cents a week. . . . No fenced in yards, few flowers, and those poorly tended. Few attempts at any kind of decoration or relief of ugliness. Everyone lives temporary. . . .

. . . The woman of today may be forgotten tomorrow.

—Zora Neale Hurston and Dorothy Waring, *Polk County*, 1944

Part A

Based on the excerpt and your knowledge of U.S. history, how did the Harlem Renaissance influence U.S. society?

- ☒ A It used various art forms to accurately depict the African American experience in America.
- ☐ B It limited the production of art that failed to portray American history and culture in a positive manner.
- ☐ C It discouraged African American artists from exploring inequality and discrimination in America.
- ☐ D It provided an opportunity for wealthy patrons to control the work of African American artists.

Part B

Which statement from the excerpt provides evidence for the answer to Part A?

- ☐ A "Spanish moss drapes the trees."
- ☐ B "Bull alligators can be heard booming like huge bass drums from the lake at night."
- ☒ C "Each man with a 'family' is allotted a house for which he is docked about fifty cents a week."
- ☐ D "The woman of today may be forgotten tomorrow."

1.2

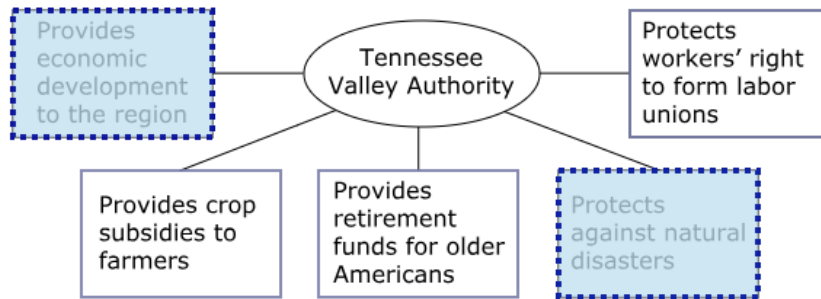
This excerpt describes a government agency established under the New Deal.

President Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act on May 18, 1933, creating the TVA as a Federal corporation. The new agency was asked to tackle important problems facing the valley, such as flooding, providing electricity to homes and businesses, and replanting forests.

—“Tennessee Valley Authority Act (1933),” *National Archives*

Based on the excerpt, how does the Tennessee Valley Authority continue to affect the lives of U.S. citizens?

Select **TWO** correct answers.



1.3

This excerpt describes the creation of The Heritage Foundation.

Since our founding in 1973, The Heritage Foundation has been working to advance the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense. Our hard work has paid off time and again.

—*The Heritage Foundation, "About Heritage," April 23, 2020*

Which actions **MOST** reflect the influence of the organization described in the excerpt?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

☐ Passage of strong environmental protection regulations

☒ Resurgence of the conservative political agenda

☐ Decline in popularity of evangelical Christianity

☐ Rise of communists in federal positions

☒ Policies of President Ronald Reagan

1.4

This table lists select important historical figures.

Which accomplishment correctly completes the table?

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

The first woman to argue a case in front of a federal judge

The first woman to serve as a justice on the Supreme Court

The first woman to be considered for the vice presidency

The first woman to lead the Office of the Attorney General

The first woman to issue a legal ruling as an appellate judge

Historical Figure	Accomplishment
Sandra Day O'Connor	The first woman to serve as a justice on the Supreme Court
Sally Ride	The first American woman to fly in space
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	The first Hispanic woman elected to the U.S. Congress

1.5

Determine whether each action was a cause or an effect of bank failures during the Great Depression.

Select the correct answer in each row.

Action	Cause of Bank Failures	Effect of Bank Failures
Stock market speculation increased.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Many people lost their life savings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial institutions were closed to determine their stability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial institutions lacked cash reserves because they had invested deposits.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Businesses were unable to take out loans.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.6

This excerpt describes an event in U.S. history that occurred in the 1970s and 1980s.

On November 4, 1979, Iranian students seized the [U.S. embassy] and detained more than 50 Americans . . . as hostages. The Iranians held the American diplomats hostage for 444 days. While the courage of the American hostages in Tehran and of their families at home reflected the best tradition of the Department of State, the Iran hostage crisis undermined [President] Carter’s conduct of foreign policy.

—“*The Iranian Hostage Crisis*,” *Department of State*












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

The Iranian Hostage Crisis resulted from the U.S. president’s decision to allow Iran’s exiled shah to travel to the United States for medical care. The Iranians held U.S. diplomats hostage to declare their opposition to the U.S. interference in their affairs.

1.7

How did the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* affect the United States after 1896? Describe **TWO** effects of the decision.

Think about the question carefully. Then enter your answer in the box provided.

B **I** **U** **I_x**           

Chars 0/475

Rubric

For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

1.8

This excerpt is from a newspaper article published in the 2000s.

Speaking Sunday at the D.C. Green Festival, Julia Butterfly Hill takes only a few minutes to get around to the redwood tree. . . .

A chance road trip to California . . . put her in the right place at the right time. A group of “front-liners” had been rotating tree sitters in and out of giant redwoods . . . every couple of days to [hold] off . . . clear-cutting. Organizers wanted someone to stay in the tree a week. “Nobody else would volunteer so they had to pick me,” says Hill.

Once up the tree, Hill vowed not to come down until she had made a difference. Clinging to her mattress through violent storms, supported with food and necessities by a ground crew, she stayed two years and eight days.

—Don Oldenburg, “Julia Butterfly Hill, from Treetop to Grass Roots,” *Washington Post*, September 22, 2004

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

Julia Butterfly Hill used to draw attention to environmental issues caused by increased .

1.9

This excerpt provides some information about a U.S. author.

J.D. Salinger, who has died aged 91, was the reclusive author of *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951), one of the most beloved novels in the English language since the second world war. . . .

. . . [A]lthough [the main character] Holden is an American, his appeal transcended national borders. *The Catcher in the Rye* has been translated into 30 languages, and sold more than 65 [million] copies worldwide. In his biography of Salinger, the British poet and critic Ian Hamilton wrote of his shock of recognition when, at the age of 17, he read Holden's story. Other non-American male critics have expressed a similar sense of wonder about how Salinger could have so perfectly captured their sense of their own adolescent selves.

—The Guardian, "J.D. Salinger Obituary," January 28, 2010

Based on the excerpt, which effects are highlighted by this author's work?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

☒ U.S. novels helped the global community relate to the experiences of U.S. citizens.

☐ U.S. literature had a minimal impact on the Eastern hemisphere.

☐ U.S. literature blended customs from various areas of the world.

☒ U.S. literature contributed to the global diffusion of U.S. culture.

☐ U.S. novels outlined the structures of global political systems.

1.10

Which excerpts describe changes to society that resulted from the Civil Rights Movement?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

The service-producing sector of the economy is projected to grow by 19.1 million wage-and-salary jobs between 1998 and 2008.

—U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 3, 1999

The top tax rate has been cut six times since 1980.

—Washington Post, February 27, 2019

In Dallas County the percentage of African Americans signed up to vote zoomed from 2.1 in 1965 to 70.4 in 1968.

—National Park Service, 2009

Since 1990, the number of Latino students enrolled in higher education increased by 47 percent.

—U.S. Department of Education, 1999

Supreme Court Rules [Redistricting to Favor a Political Party] Is Beyond the Reach of Federal Courts.

—National Public Radio, June 27, 2019

1.11

This excerpt provides the definition of a workplace tool.

Industrial robot: A programmable, multi-function [worker] designed to move material, parts, tools, or specialized devices through variable programmed motions for the performance of a variety of tasks.

—*"A Glossary of Terms for Robotics," U.S. Department of Commerce*

How have industrial robots affected the American workplace?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

☐ By minimizing the difference in pay between employees

☒ By automating the assembly of a wide range of consumer products

☒ By reducing employer demand for certain types of workers

☐ By providing a way for employees to work shorter hours

☐ By eliminating the need for machines in manufacturing processes

1.12

This excerpt is from a presidential statement issued in the 1980s.

I deeply regret that Congress has seen fit to override my veto of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986. . . . My hope is that these punitive sanctions do not lead to more violence and more repression. Our administration will, nevertheless, implement the law. It must be recognized, however, that this will not solve the serious problems that plague that country. The United States must also move forward with positive measures to encourage peaceful change and advance the cause of democracy in South Africa.

—*President Ronald Reagan, "Statement on the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986," October 2, 1986*

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

This excerpt describes the principle of checks and balances.

1.13

Which factors led to U.S. involvement in the Korean War, and which situations were outcomes of the war?

Move the correct answer to each box in the table.

- Communist takeover of mainland China
- Long-term presence of the U.S. military in South Korea
- Invasion of South Korea by the North Korean military
- Military stalemate along North Korean–South Korean border

Factors Leading to U.S. Involvement	Outcomes of the War
Communist takeover of mainland China	Long-term presence of the U.S. military in South Korea
Invasion of South Korea by the North Korean military	Military stalemate along North Korean–South Korean border

1.14

This question has two parts.

This excerpt is about technological innovation in the steel industry.

Bessemer's famous one-step process for producing cheap, high-quality steel made it possible for engineers to envision transcontinental railroads, sky-scraping office towers, bay-spanning bridges, unsinkable ships, and mass-produced horseless carriages. . . .

Steel was the obvious choice of metal to replace cast iron. Yet it was only producible in small batches, and the extremely high temperatures required to burn off impurities . . . required large amounts of costly fuels. . . .

. . . As he refined the process, Bessemer found that his steel was lighter and easier to shape than traditionally made metals, and that he could produce far greater quantities of it at a rate 10 times faster.

—Michael MacRae, "Henry Bessemer," *The American Society of Mechanical Engineers*, 2012

Part A

How did the Bessemer process influence the U.S. economy?

- ☐ Ⓐ It expanded the use of automation instead of workers.
- ☐ Ⓑ It increased reliance on foreign imports of machinery.
- ☒ Ⓒ It created growth through infrastructure development.
- ☐ Ⓓ It encouraged better working conditions in factories.

Part B

Which statement provides evidence that supports the answer to Part A?

- ☒ Ⓐ . . . made it possible for engineers to envision transcontinental railroads, sky-scraping office towers . . .
- ☐ Ⓑ . . . the obvious choice of metal to replace cast iron. Yet it was only producible in small batches. . . .
- ☐ Ⓒ . . . the extremely high temperatures required to burn off impurities . . . required large amounts of costly fuels. . . .
- ☐ Ⓓ . . . he refined the process, Bessemer found that his steel was lighter and easier to shape. . . .

1.15

This photograph was taken at a rally in December 1998 protesting against the impeachment of President Bill Clinton.



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

Bill Clinton was impeached because he lied under oath. Clinton's impeachment led some citizens to lose trust in the political system.

1.16

How did Prohibition under the Eighteenth Amendment affect U.S. society in the 1920s? Explain **TWO** effects in your answer.

Think about the question carefully. Then enter your answer in the box provided.

B **I** **U** **I_x**

Chars 0/475

Rubric

For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

1.17

This excerpt is from a book published in the 1800s about democracy in the United States.

Which selection demonstrates Alexis de Tocqueville's belief that U.S. citizens are free to pursue economic opportunities without much interference?

Select the correct answer.

No sooner do you set foot upon the American soil than you are stunned by a kind of [commotion]; . . . a thousand simultaneous voices demand the immediate satisfaction of their social wants. Everything is in motion around you; . . . there, the election of a representative is going on. . . .

The American Union has no enemies to contend with; it stands in the wilds like an island in the ocean. . . .

The territory of the Union presents a boundless field to human activity, and inexhaustible materials for industry.

—Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 1835