PART I: IDENTIFICATIONS

The instructions for this part of the exam will read:

*Identify and explain the significance of five of the following six terms. Plan to spend approximately 35 minutes on this portion of the exam. Total possible points: 30 (6 per ID).*

You will be given six terms selected from this list:

- RFC
- AAA
- Sen. Robert Wagner
- lend-lease
- Executive Order 9066
- containment doctrine
- Berlin crisis
- Sputnik
- Levittown
- Beats
- Southern Manifesto
- SNCC
- War on Poverty
- Yippies
- Phyllis Schlafly
- stagflation
- Iran hostage crisis
- Laffer curve
- SDI

PART II: POST MIDTERM ESSAY

The instructions for this part of the exam will read:

*Write an essay in response to the following question. Your essay should have an introduction that clearly states your position on the question, and a body that develops a logical argument supported by historical evidence. Plan to spend approximately 35 minutes on this portion of the exam. Total possible points: 30.*

You will be given ONE of the following essay questions:
Many historians have argued that the Cold War had a conservative effect on American society. Do you agree with this assessment? Where appropriate, be sure to address change over time and include a discussion of politics, culture, race relations, and labor.

In what important ways did women’s lives change between the New Deal and the end of the Reagan-Bush (I) era? What factors facilitated their progress, and what factors hindered it? You may want to consider issues such as work, family, sexuality, race, class, and access to political power.

From the start of the Great Depression to the present, what key events and actors have strengthened the influence of organized labor, and what factors have contributed to the decline of organized labor? Be sure to consider changing economic conditions (both domestic and global), political power, and changes in social values.

Which political realignment has had greater influence on the development of American politics during the twentieth century: the growth of FDR’s Democratic coalition or the conservative movement in the Republican Party? In developing your answer, be sure to address what factors contributed to each political realignment, and examine the consequences of these changes for the American political system, economy, social relations, and development of the federal government.

In what ways have Americans’ beliefs about the importance of the environment changed in the last 80 years? How have these changing notions been reflected in Americans’ relationship with their environment through residential trends, social movements, and government programs at different times?

Write an essay that considers United States foreign policy during the Cold War (from the conclusion of World War II to the fall of the Soviet Union) from one of the three “schools” of historical thought – orthodox, revisionist, or realist. You should consider at least four specific historical incidents in your analysis, and you should demonstrate why you believe the school you chose provides a better understanding of the history than the other two.

PART III: COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY

The instructions for this part of the exam will read:

Write an essay in response to the following question. Your essay should have an introduction that clearly states your position on the question, and a body that develops a logical argument supported by historical evidence. Plan to spend approximately 50 minutes on this portion of the exam. Total possible points: 40.

You will be given ONE of the following essay questions:
Social movements are an enduring feature of post-1865 American history. Evaluate three social movements (at least one from the period before the New Deal) in terms of the problems they responded to, the solutions they proposed, the constituencies they included, and the degree of success they attained in establishing their vision for America. What generalizations can you make by comparing the three social movements?

The United States often is characterized as an immensely diverse nation rooted in a pluralistic tradition that incorporates individuals of many different races, ethnicities, classes, and religions. Given the diversity of peoples living in the United States, is there a single American identity? Use your knowledge of American history following the Civil War to answer this question. If yes, please provide your definition of “American identity” and describe how three groups of Americans fit into that identity. If not, explain why there is no single American identity by using specific historical examples. No matter how you choose to answer the question, be sure to identify the ways that different Americans during different historical moments have defined being American, and take their definitions into account in crafting your answer.

Discuss the evolving relationship between American citizens and the state in the period of the course. Identify at least three specific groups of Americans and analyze how their demands on the government change during this period and vice versa. To what extent were their expectations fulfilled? The essay should also demonstrate a sense of the general trends in the citizen/state relationship across the period.

Special note: In preparing for the exam, keep in mind that some of the essay questions have more than one part. Be sure to consider your responses for ALL PARTS of the essay questions.

revised May 1, 2008