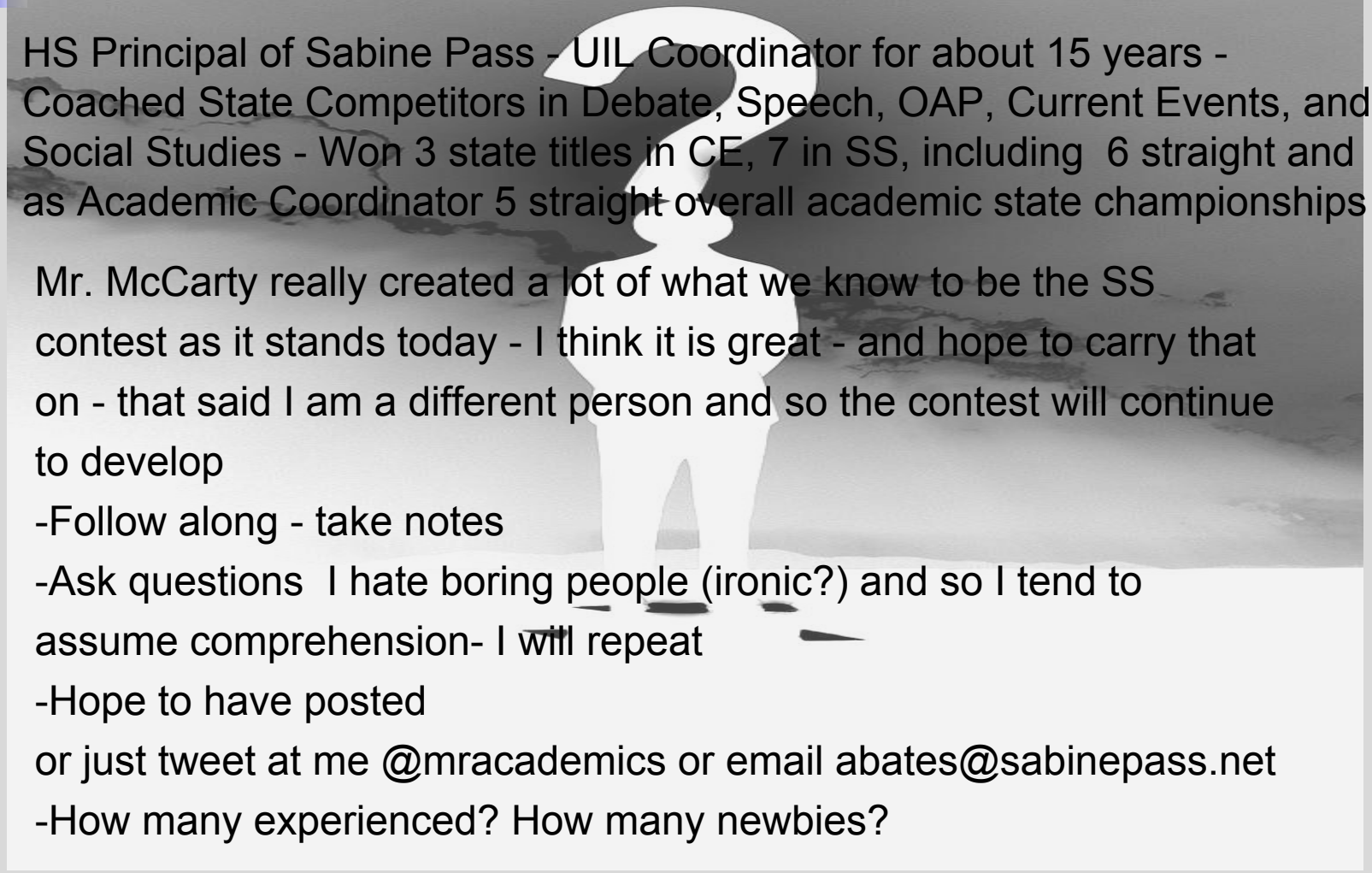
Andrew Bates

Social Studies Director

@mracademics

University Interscholastic League

WHO AM I?



HS Principal of Sabine Pass - UIL Coordinator for about 15 years - Coached State Competitors in Debate, Speech, OAP, Current Events, and Social Studies - Won 3 state titles in CE, 7 in SS, including 6 straight and as Academic Coordinator 5 straight overall academic state championships

Mr. McCarty really created a lot of what we know to be the SS contest as it stands today - I think it is great - and hope to carry that on - that said I am a different person and so the contest will continue to develop

-Follow along - take notes

-Ask questions I hate boring people (ironic?) and so I tend to assume comprehension- I will repeat

-Hope to have posted

or just tweet at me @mracademics or email abates@sabinepass.net

-How many experienced? How many newbies?

The Social Studies Contest

Preparing

For

Competition

(what is it about?)

The Social Studies Contest

-CX pattern (foreign/domestic)

-Variety of geographic heavy-to straight history-to culture-to government in various iterations

2003 - 2004 Gilded Age - Devil in the White City

2005 Fifties

2006 WWII - Citizen Soldiers

2007 Am. Revolution - 1776

2008 Supreme Court

2009 African Colonization - King Leopold's Ghost

2010 Civil War

2011 Space Race - The Right Stuff

2012 Latin America

2013 American Indians -Comanche -Empire of the Summer Moon

2014 Australia & Oceania - Commonwealth of Thieves

2015 Presidents - 1920 Year of the Six Presidents

2016 WWI - Guns of August

2017 US Constitution - Madison's Gift

The Contest

Individual Competition
Up to 4 students per school

The Contest

Team Competition
At least 3
students per team

Who Advances?

Top three individuals

All members (up to 4) of the top team

The wild card team - VERY important

(We won State 3 times before winning at Region!)

The Test

Objective Questions

45 total questions = 80 total points

Essay Questions

1 question = 20 total points

Important Reminder

Failure to submit an essay shall result in disqualification.

The Test

Top 8 objective scores
(or more if ties on eighth)
Essay scores

The Test

Ranking

Individuals = Objective + Essay

Tiebreaker = judging of essays (scores then side-by-side)

Team = top 3 objective scores

Tiebreaker = score of 4th member (not at State)

Objective Questions

Categories and points

Part One

- **20 Questions - General Knowledge and Terms**
- **1 Point each**

Part Two

- **15 Questions - Book**

- ***Lenin's Tomb* - David Remnick**

- **2 Points each**

Part Three

- **10 Questions - Supplemental Reading/Documents**
- **Country Profiles**

- **3 Points each**

Tips on Writing an Analytical Essay for the UIL Social Studies Contest

-This is the KEY to the individual component and very much acts as the determinate factor in deciding the best of the best

- Shows true extensive knowledge
Subjective/Objective Balance
(Objective has some random/luck aspects)

First, read the prompt carefully. Examine the question in a variety of contexts: social, political, scientific, cultural and economic, for example. We recommend that you outline your essay before writing.

Make sure to have a *THESIS* and *ANSWER THE QUESTION* (no matter how much you wish it was about something else)

ESSAY RUBRIC

http://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/social-studies-rubric.pdf

Contestants who do not write an essay will be disqualified. Any essay that does not demonstrate a sincere effort to discuss the assigned topic will be disqualified. The rankings of essays will be based primarily on how well the topic has been addressed. A focused, concise and specific essay beats a vague and rambling essay. Proper grammar and organization should be used to aid clarity, but should not be considered a major factor in scoring. Cover as many corners of the issue as practical. Avoid including personal editorialized opinions, as more than enough information on the subject has been published.

-Consensus vs. Average

-Not an English Paper...seriously though

Open with a clear, precise statement that assimilates all the information you've gathered regarding the question.

Important: Do not repeat the essay prompt in your opening paragraph.

Take it to a new level of understanding.

Defend your statement.

You have 90 minutes for the objective portion of the test and the essay.
That's more time than you'll probably need, so think first before writing.
Outline your essay.
Prioritize your points. Then, be specific.

Use specific examples.

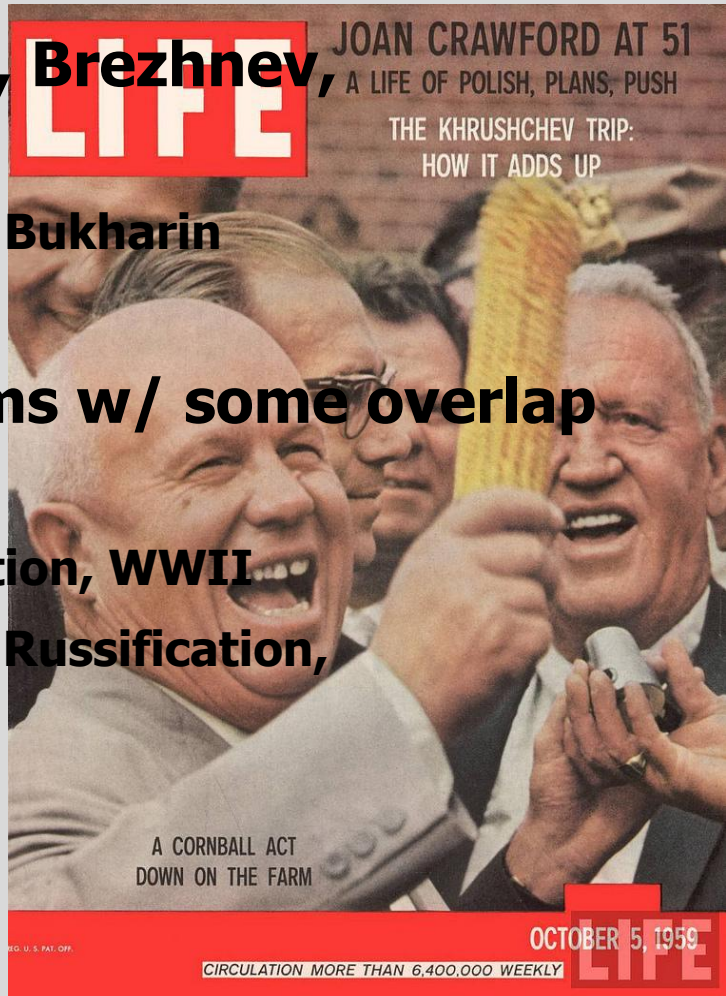
The Butler did it!!!

(Flip to the end to start thinking about your answer)

Possible Essay Areas

- People (Book or Terms) -Sooooo many to choose from
- Big 5: Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Gorbachev
  - But also Yeltsin, Putin, Yakolev, Trotsky, Bukharin

- Major Events or Processes (Terms w/ some overlap in 2-3)
  - NEP (New Economic Policy), Collectivization, WWII
    Red Terror, Secret Speech, Stalinization, Russification, Glasnost/Perestroika, Great Purge



Book Topics

THEMES

Return of History - specific events and how they exemplified this, Memorial

Totalitarianism - Youth, Education structures, Press/Publishing control and process/impact of openness

EVENTS

Chernobyl, August Coup

More Essay, please

Countries

Movements (Independence(e.g. Solidarity), Wars), People, Religion

Cause and Effect, Compare & contrast

Look for Section Overlap

- **If it's in on the List and in the Book and in Supplemental Readings…all the more reason to focus**

General Guidelines for Essay Questions

Objective is to encourage thinking and analysis

Specific focus in most questions

Abundant information available for response

Details Review

Understand the Math?

80 is perfect

20 on Essay

Top 8 objective (or more if ties at the bottom)

Both are important

-Perfect score and not place (b/c bad essay)

-Amazing Essay that no one ever reads (b/c not top 8 objective)

Team Score is top 3

-Tie break is 4th place score (if there is a 4th)

-Don't break ties at State

Individual Tie-Break = Essay

-2nd tie-break = compare side by side (cannot be an Individual Tie)

Section One Questions

- Watch to learn names/terms, but don't sweat
- Spelling is tricky
- In the past I have hit this last
- Especially when Section III and Book Section overlap
- Cards early, but practice late

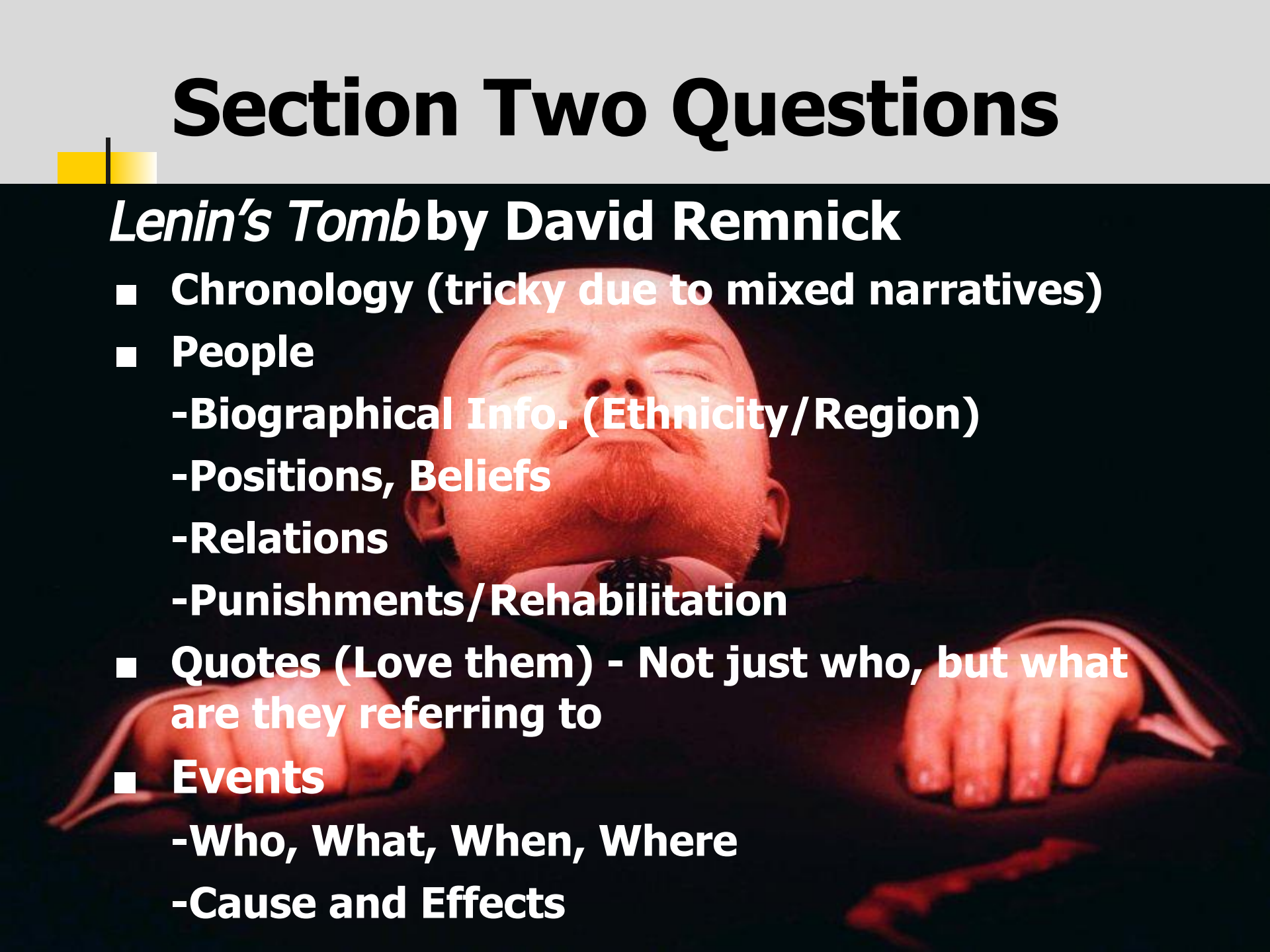
Section One Questions

- Terms: 60+ people/150-200 Terms
- Several may be used in combination
- People, Events, are best chances for repeats
- Randomizer with weight for people with a few tweaks

Section One Questions

- Term related questions
- People (Nationality, Background, Positions, Unique qualities, Controversies, Accomplishments, DEATHS
- Chronology Questions (got away from them)
- Events (Where, When, Who)
- Firsts, Lasts, Unique

Section Two Questions



Lenin's Tomb by David Remnick

- Chronology (tricky due to mixed narratives)
- People

  -Biographical Info. (Ethnicity/Region)

  -Positions, Beliefs

  -Relations

  -Punishments/Rehabilitation
- Quotes (Love them) - Not just who, but what are they referring to
- Events

  -Who, What, When, Where

  -Cause and Effects

Section Three Questions

Questions related to Country Profiles

15 Former Republics

Armenia • Azerbaijan • Belarus • Estonia • Georgia • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Latvia • Lithuania • Moldova • Russia • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Ukraine • Uzbekistan

Section Three Questions

Questions related Country Profiles

- BBC- full (media least important) (http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm)
- CIA World Factbook (Intro/Geo/People/Gov/Eco) (https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/xx.html)
- Infoplease (Country Profiles -History) (https://www.infoplease.com/country/russia)

Additional Websites

-**Not the be all end all - Research - Send me more**

-Not just memorizing

-https://www.britannica.com

https://www.infoplease.com

-https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/profileguide.html

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

-http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17858981

-http://soviethistory.msu.edu/

-http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/fall-of-soviet-union

-THE DREADED WIKIPEDIA:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-Soviet_states

QUESTION TYPES & STYLES

What you're really interested...

Sample Question
(2016-2017 Topic)

1. **In the case of Proprietors of Charles River Bridge v. Proprietors of Warren Bridge the parties involved were of what state?**

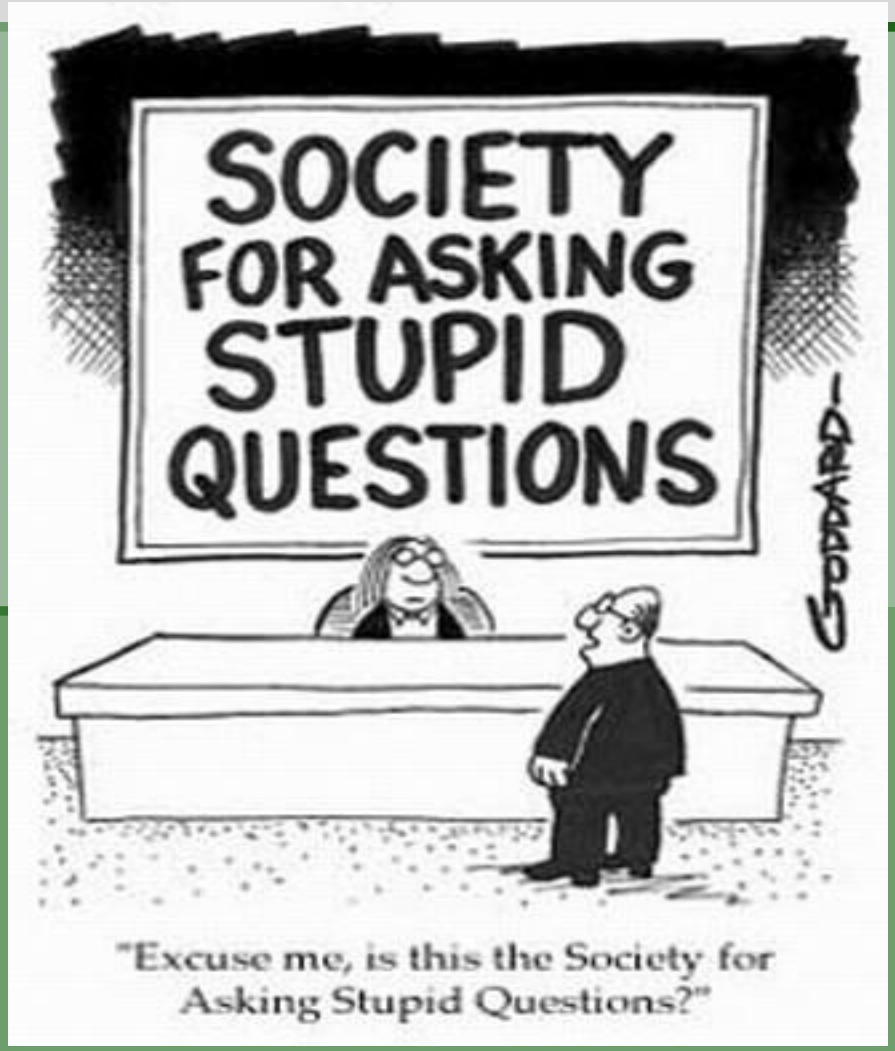
A. Michigan
B. Virginia
C. Kentucky
D. Massachusetts

Sample Question
(2017-2018 Topic)

2. The term Mensheviks translates to _____ and refers to a branch of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party that opposed the Lenin-led wing.

A. Men of honor
B. Progress
C. minority
D. Followers of Martov

No really easy questions



Do Not Expect This One

1. Who is buried in Lenin's Tomb?

A. U.S. Grant
B. the ashes of the USSR
C. Vladimir Lenin
D. It's empty

Answer: C, But you knew that ...right?

…nor ones like this

2. How many counties is Estonia divided into?

A. 10
B. 4
C. 15
D. 28

(will not be questions based on specific numbers / statistics)

No minutiae

3. Which family members were held hostage with Gorbachev in his dacha during the August Coup?

A. I care so little I didn't even look this up

Social Studies Handbook

VIP Access

Check for Up-To-Date Lists

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dnxbqe43x3wR4Rhq80GyhvXSUkBMxjZDdsXbcZzK0sw/edit?usp=sharing

	Terms	Book	Section III
Set A	20	15	10
Set B	20	15	10
District	20	15	10
Region	20	15	10
State	20	15	10

TERMS- 100 BOOK - 75 DOCS -50
225 TOTAL

Competition

- **-Official UIL: District, Regional & State**
- **- Invitational tournaments**
- **-Informal competition**
- **-Internet competition**
- **http://virtualchallengemeets.com/**
- **http://bestoftexascontest.net/**

More suggestions

- **-Review tests from previous competition**
-
- **-Network with other coaches/competitors (social media)**
-
- **-Ask questions**

Question Areas

- **matching individuals and their region, country, position, philosophy**
- **Issues related to specific events**
- **Specific accomplishments (firsts)**

Question Areas

- **Event details (where/when/who) questions**
- **the order in which major events transpire**
- **Emergence of political principles**

Question Areas

- **Cause/Effects**
- **Evolution of involvement-key political events**
- **Exceptional situations**

Additional Helpful Material

Preparation...

- Select a team – yes there is individual competition but teamwork is helpful
- Begin as soon as possible – teams that compete in APRIL!!!(Not May Anymore!) begin work in August (or earlier - BOOT CAMP)
- Establish reading deadlines – do not try to read the whole book in a week; especially the week before your first contest
- Subscribe to a provider of practice material – multiple companies listed on the UIL website offer great material

Preparation...

- Practice regularly – the football team does it; so why not the Social Studies team
- Prepare team questions – a great way to gain new insight
- Question writing assignments – see above and add some focus

And MORE Preparation

- Flashcards – one of the best ways to prepare
- Practice test-taking skills – regardless of the test; skills remain the same

Preparation Review

- -Regular practice sessions
- -Develop and use flash cards
- -Student question writing assignments
- -Regular reading assignments
- -Practice tournaments
- -Stress team aspect of the contest
- -Student activity conferences
- -Subscribe to practice materials