



Andrew Bates

Social Studies Director

@mracademics



University Interscholastic League

BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Remember to register your attendance and
complete session evaluations.

Session numbers are in your program.



Attendance



Online Handouts



Session Evaluations



Where am I...?

**120. Preparing for the Social Studies Contest-
The Social Studies Contest - The History of
Everything...eventually**

**Later - 121. Preparing to Write an Essay
(Essays for SS/CE - Process/Discuss/Improvements)**

**Online SAC info and handouts/presentations
<https://www.uiltexas.org/academics/student-activity-conferences>
es**

Who are you...?

HS Principal of Sabine Pass - UIL Coordinator for nearly 20 years - Coached State Competitors in Debate, Speech, OAP, Spelling, Current Events, and Social Studies - Won over 20 state titles, including 9 of the last 10 overall academic state championships.

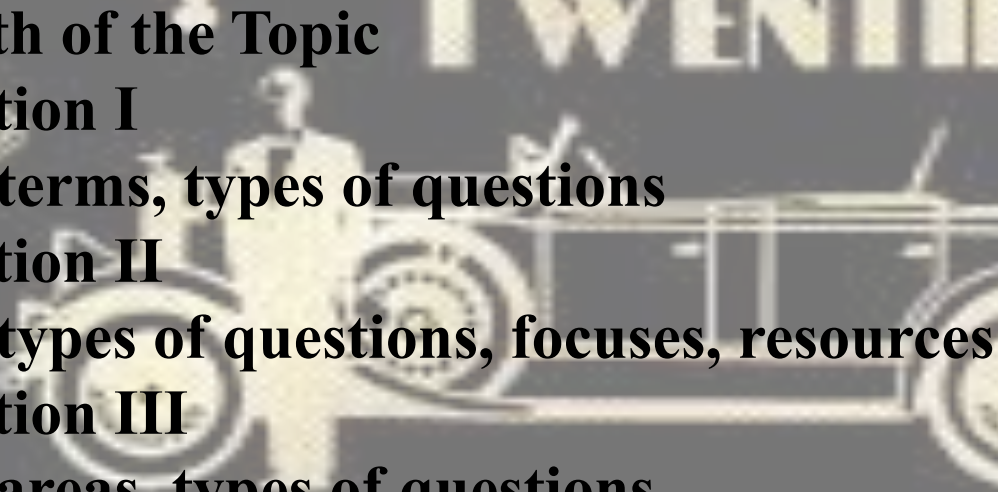
- **Mr. McCarty really created a lot of what we know to be the SS contest as it stands today. I think it is great, but the contest will continue to develop**
- **20th Anniversary!!!**
- **Follow along - take notes**
- **Ask questions - I will assume you understand what I'm talking about until you correct me**
- **Hope to have posted or tweet at me @mracademics or email abates@sabinepass.net**
- **How many experienced? How many newbies?**

Here We Go



What is in the session?

Dive into the Topic & My Brain (You've Been Warned...)

- **Birth of the Topic**
 - **Section I**
 - terms, types of questions
 - **Section II**
 - types of questions, focuses, resources
 - **Section III**
 - areas, types of questions
 - **Essay areas**
 - **Strategies and Resources**
- 

Purpose

The Social Studies Contest challenges students to *read widely and deeply* in the areas of social studies in order to: expand and apply their understanding of the nature of geography and the physical setting of the earth to physical and cultural environments; expand and apply their understanding of the governmental systems; and expand and apply their understanding of historical trends, movements and eras, the impact and significance of time and place, cause and effect, and change over time.

History of Contest

Pattern of CX like foreign/domestic variety of geographic heavy-to straight
history-to culture -to government and combos



2003 - 2004 Gilded Age - Devil in the White City

2005 Fifties - The 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

**2018 Former Soviet Union - Lenin's
Tomb**

**2019 U.S. Civil Rights Movements - Race
Beat**

2020 East Asia - Everlasting Flower

**2021 American Empire - Honor in the
Dust**

2022 Olympics - Rome 1960

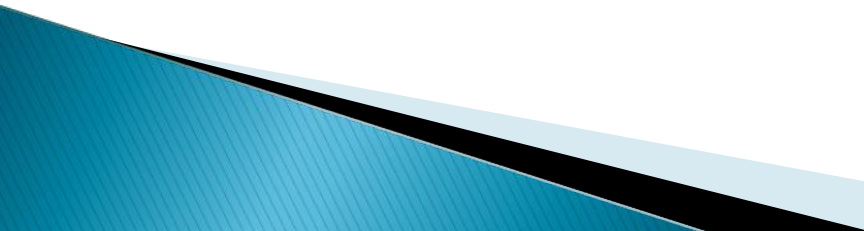
2023 TWENTY YEARS!!!



To Boldly Go Where No Topic Has Gone Before?

- Domestic/Foreign
- Think outside the box, but the box is good too
- Need Primary Reading Selections (multiple options)
- *Be heard and whatnot - discuss, develop, start a movement! (@mracademics)*
- *Twitter poll suggestions - Check back / Sites*

Test Schematics

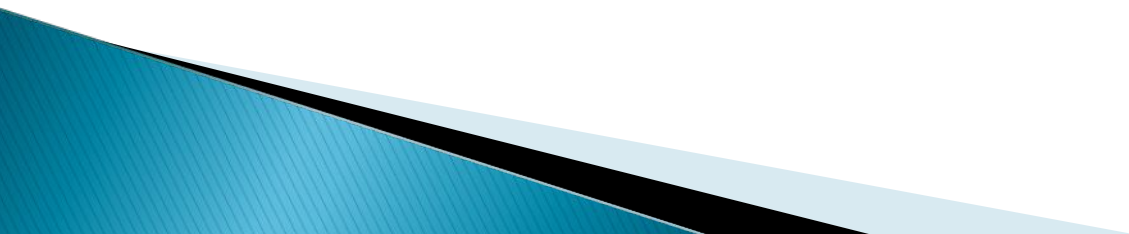
- ❖ Balance of difficulty is...difficult
 - ❖ All tests will be similar rigor in objective for practice and honing
 - ❖ Essays will become progressively more challenging (narrow or comprehensive)
 - ❖ Terms are 99.999% set (8/1)
- 

The Contest

Individual Competition

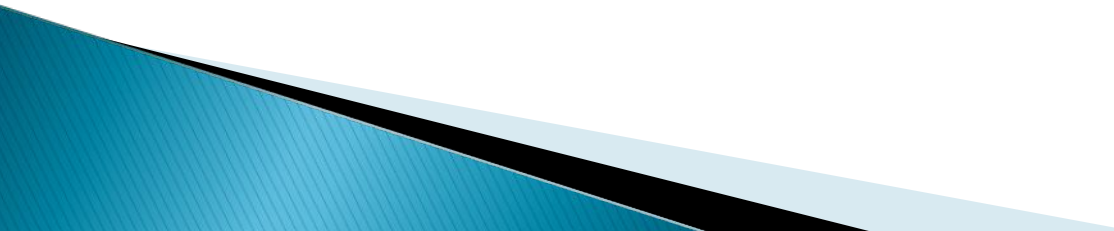
Up to 6 students per school

?



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

(3x State before Region)

The Test

Objective Questions

45 total questions = 80 total points

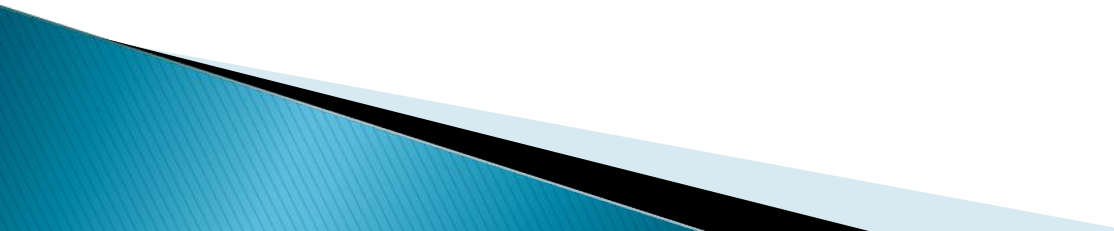
Essay Questions

1 questions = 20 total points



Important Reminder

**Failure to submit an essay
shall result in
disqualifications.**



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

(All the way to state!)

Objective Questions

Categories and points

[Best Answer](#)



Part One

20 questions

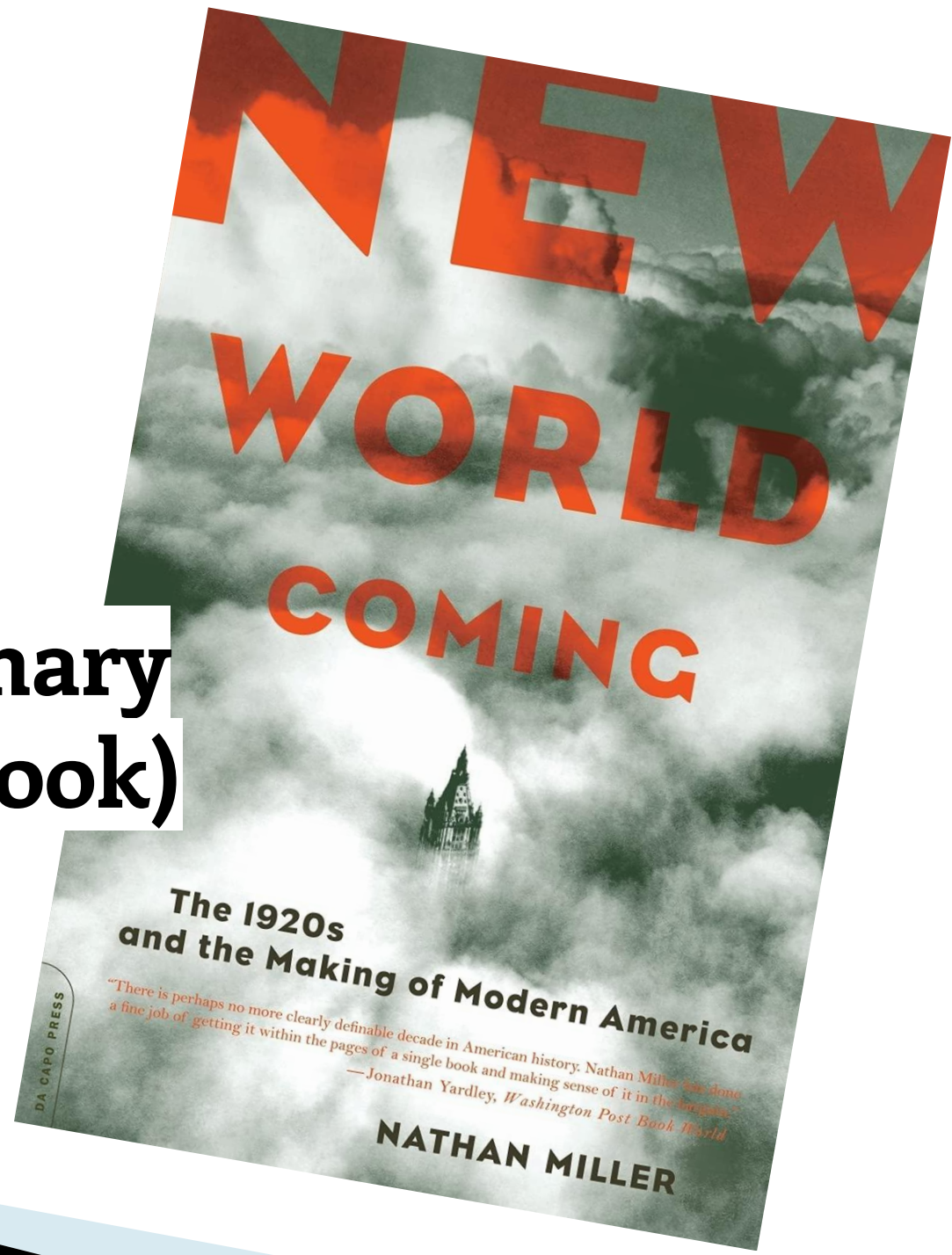
- General Knowledge and Terms**
 - 1 point each**
- 

Part Two

15 questions

❖ **(Mostly) Primary Document (Book)**

❖ **2 points each**




Part Three

10 questions

- ❖ **Supplemental readings and documents**
- ❖ **3 points each**
- ❖ **Can switch from topic to topic, but this is standard**

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 determining factor in deciding the best of the best
 - I didn't use to focus on this
 - Shows true extensive knowledge
 - Subjective/Objective Balance (Objective has random/luck aspect)
- 

First read the prompt carefully. Examine the question in a variety of contexts: social, political, scientific, cultural, and economic. 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)

PROMPTNESS COUNTS

ESSAY PROMPT:

NOTE: 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.

“Even when progress was made, plans for reform were usually prepared only after the occurrence of some “focusing event” that frightened policymakers into action. [WADA board member] Paul Henderson...observed, “No good lesson was ever learnt except through the eyes of disaster.” People knew that athletes were using performance-enhancing drugs prior to...1960, ...but serious dialogue did not begin until after.”

-Excerpt from Drug Games by Thomas M. Hunt

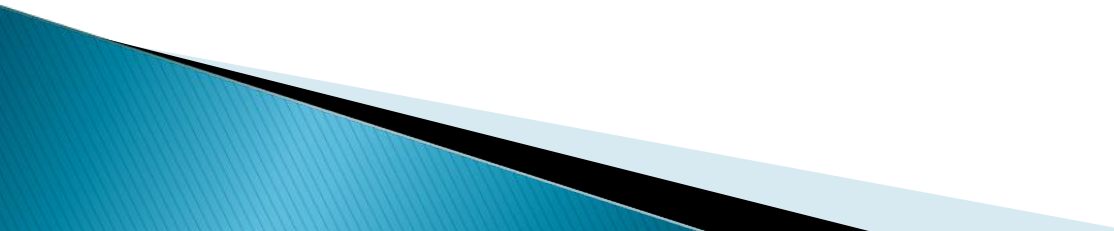
The story of doping or the use of questionable substances to enhance a competitor’s performance is as long and complex as the history of the Olympic Movement itself. Discuss the key “focusing events” involving PEDs and the Olympics, and describe the policy developments they generated from 1960 onward.

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The PERFECT ESSAY

- Sample Answer Guides
- [Rubric](#)
- Consensus vs. Average (both if done correctly)
- Not an English Paper...seriously though

ESSAY Continued

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!!!

(skip to the end)

- Let it percolate
 - Test questions might spark something
 - Dulls the impact
- 

Details Review

Understand the Math?

- 80 is Perfect Objective
- 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)
- All the way to state

Individual Tie-Break = Essay

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



What is the Topic...Really?

“Puritanism: The haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.”

“The notion that a radical is one who hates his country is naïve and usually idiotic. He is, more likely, one who likes his country more than the rest of us, and is thus more disturbed than the rest of us when he sees it debauched. He is not a bad citizen turning to crime; he is a good citizen driven to despair.”

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929

“Moral certainty is always a sign of cultural inferiority. The more uncivilized the man, the surer he is that he knows precisely what is right and what is wrong.

“As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron.”

What is the Topic...Really?

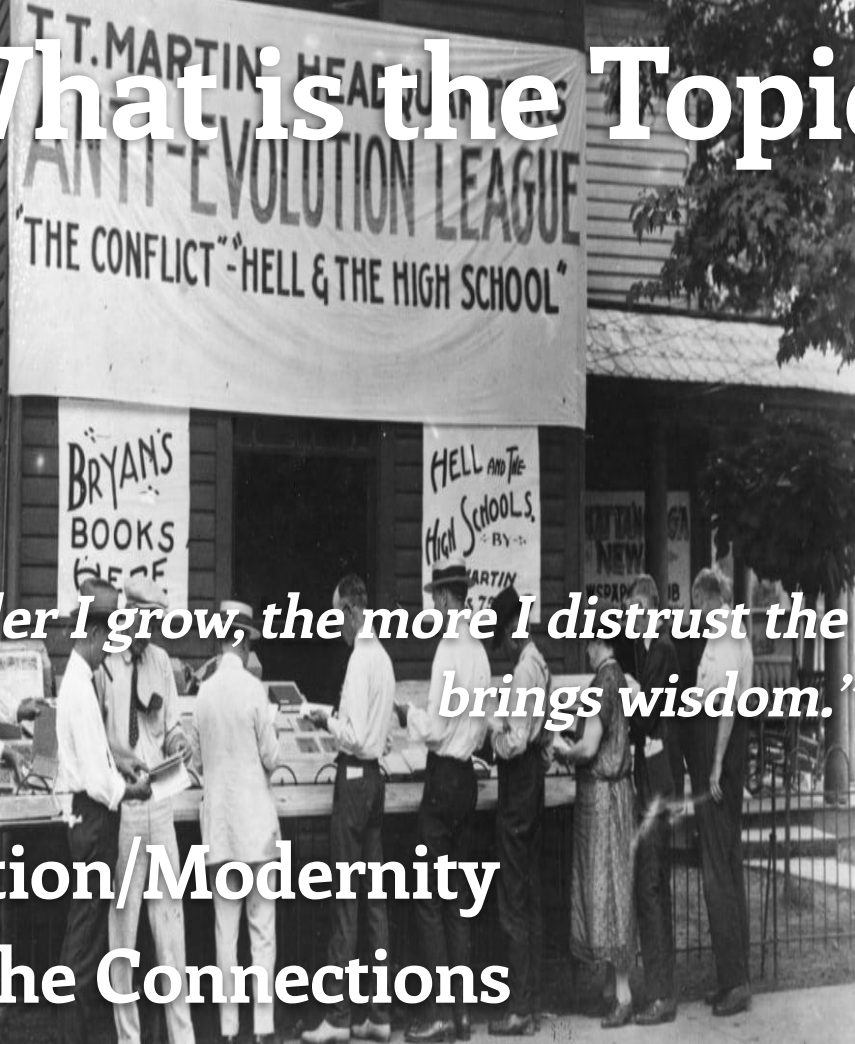
“I know some who are constantly drunk on books as other men are drunk on whiskey.”

- How we got to this topic aka “Why I Love/Hate Decades”
- Birth of the “Modern”...decade
- Is not what it appears, but it is, but it isn't (Don't just go for the low hanging fruit)

What is the Topic...Really?

“The older I grow, the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.”


- Tradition/Modernity
- Find the Connections
- Culture
- Roots and Legacy



**DON'T FOOL
YOURSELF**

In Depth

(Be Careful What You Wish For...)



Halitosis makes
It is unexcusable... can be
instantly remedied. *you unpopular*

- Not just 1920-1929 (but obviously it's the decade)
- Minimal breadth so gotta have depth
- Sooo much overlap, but still true to the format



3-2-1 Approach

- Finite (kind of) to Infinite (Seemingly)
- Section 2 is by no means simple, but is more limited than the rest and needs time to simmer
- Knowing Section 2 makes the Book much easier to understand and retain
- Studying the Book covers a large portion of Section 1
- Section 1 will be easier and more effectively studied after the others
- The Math Don't Lie

	Section I	Section II	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



Section One Questions

- In the past, I have hit this last
- Especially when Section II and Section III overlap
- Cards early, but practice late

People/Terms

- Term related questions
Approx. 250-300 (little less this year, but more than last)

Explore List

- Lots of People and Groups
- Events
- Section II and III Overlap
- Terms
- Terms
- More terms



Section One Breakdown

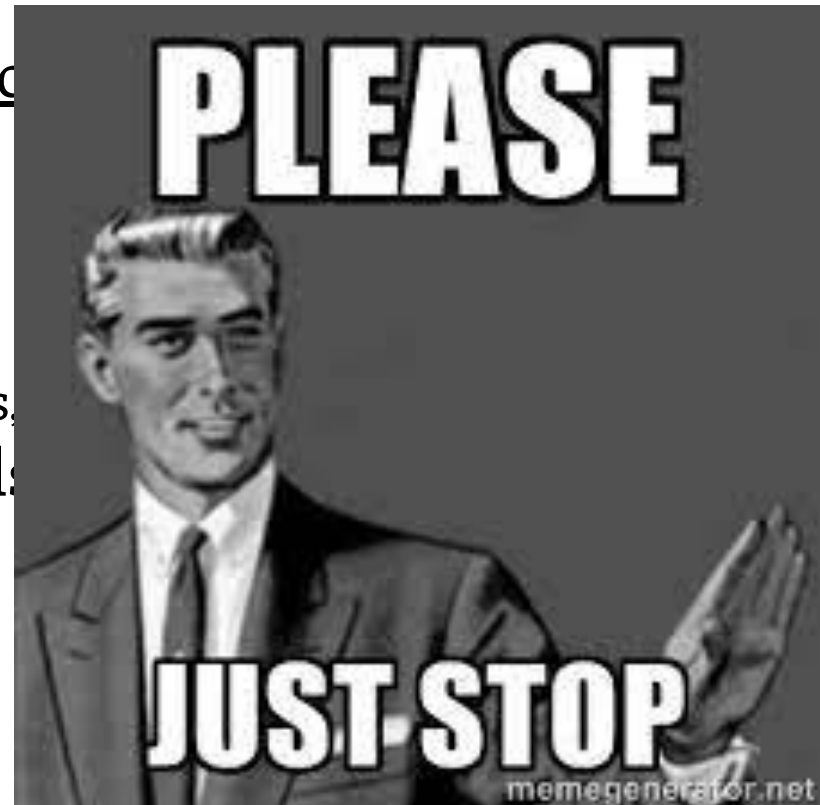
(Don't Waste Your Time)

Section One test questions will be distributed by category.

While there is no magic number here approximately 7 per test.

Which allows about 10-15 for other to

- 1-2 places and geography terms
- 3-7 terms
- most likely 5-10 people
 - Alternate Names/Nicknames, Firsts
- Old Man of Europe, Tanks/Barrels





Section One Questions

- Terms: ~90 People/~150 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** (Movements, Group(s), Background, Positions, Unique qualities, Controversies, Accomplishments, Deaths)
- **Chronology Questions** (emphasis)
- **Events** (Where, When, Who)
- **Firsts, Lasts, Unique**



Question Areas

- **Matching individuals and origin, office/position, beliefs, accomplishments**
- **Issues related to specific events**
- **Specific accomplishments (Firsts - could just do that)**
- **Evolution of involvement-key political events**
- **Exceptional situations**



Section Two Questions

New World Coming

by Nathan Miller

- Unique in that it covers most of the topic. Generally a spotlight/magnification of a specific key area.
- Chronological overall, but thematic
- Extremely readable versus other options
- Pulls in references to the past as well as nods to the future and how events tie in



Section Two Questions

- Chronology

- People

 - Biographical Info.

 - Positions, Beliefs

 - Relations

- Issues/Themes- Period/Person, Intro, Traits

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

- Events

 - Who, What, When, Where

 - Cause and Effects

Section Three Questions

The background features a repeating pattern of teal and gold geometric shapes, including triangles and rectangles, creating a textured, architectural feel. The teal is a muted, dusty blue-green, while the gold is a warm, metallic yellow.

- Court Cases (another era?)
- Legislation (context/ excerpts)
- Speeches
- Other Documents

Section Three Questions

PROHIBITION

A FILM BY KEN BURNS & LYNN NOVICK

Documentary -

- 3 episodes - about 5 hours
- So Unique & So American
- Major People and Events
- Quotes/Information would be in context
- Essay Fodder
- Cross-over from Section I and II



Question Areas

- Associate Ideas with People
 - Quotes
- Context
 - Use sites - but could be more
- Cause/Effect



Sample Question

- 1. Tom Stewart, Dudley Field Malone. Arthur Garfield Hays, and George Rappleyea are all individuals associated with the ____.**
 - A. 1924 Presidential Election**
 - B. Teapot Dome Scandal**
 - C. Temperance Movement**
 - D. Scopes Trial**



... and another

2. Female stars of the Twenties were known for a new sense of freedom and energy. Aspiring actresses had to have what Elinor Glyn termed “It.” The first actress with the distinction of “It” girl was _____.

A. Mary Pickford

B. Joan Crawford

C. Mae West

D. Clara Bow

No really easy questions





Do NOT Expect This One

- 1. _____ was a largely a self-made industrialist that revolutionized production and made the Ford Model T the most popular automobile in the country?**

A. c'mon...



... nor ones like this

2. Beginning with the debut of the Model T on October 1, 1908 until production ceased in 1927 _____ were produced.

A. 7,670,001

C. 3,998,872

B. 22,340,986

D. 15,007,034

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



4. A visit by renowned flagpole sitting champion, Alvin “Shipwreck” Kelly to Baltimore inspired _____ to set the “juvenile record” despite not knowing what it was or if one even existed.

A. Someone who I’m sure meant a lot to their family.

	Section I	Section II	Section III
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State	20	15	10

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Possible Essay Question Areas!

People (From Sct I & II- Generally)

- Leaders: (Political) Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, Garvey (Business) Ford, Edison, (Social/Culture) Sanger, Garvey, Fitzgerald, Lindbergh, Capone
- But also: Wilson, FDR, Darrow, Bryan, Mencken, Ruth
- groupings/interactions (overlap)

Major Events or Processes or Beliefs

- Terms w/ overlap in II & III
- The Masses (Production, Consumerism, Culture), Modernism vs Fundamentalism, Automobile, Urban v. Rural, Jazz/Music, Movies/Stars, Harlem Renaissance
- Prohibition, Scandals, Scopes Trial, Red Scare, Klan, Immigration

NEW Book Topics

WORLD

COMING

**The 1920s
and the Making of Modern America**

"There is perhaps no more clearly definable decade in American history. Nathan Miller has done a fine job of getting it within the pages of a single book and making sense of it in the bargain."

—Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post Book World*

NATHAN MILLER

THEMES (Basically all others apply as well)

Conflict: Fundamentalism v. Modernism, Victorianism v. New Woman, Cities/Mixed Culture v. Rural/Xenophobia

EVENTS

The Biggies:

- Prohibition (roots to fallout)
- Harding 'Normalcy', and Scandals
- Automobile

More Essay, please

- Key Terms with Info from Section III
 - Immigration is everything
 - Cause and Effect, Compare and contrast (How one person/event/group had a unique influence on theme/issue)
 - Doubt you get it exactly, but...guesses are solid
- General Guidelines for Essay Questions
 - Objective is to encourage thinking and analysis
 - Specific focus in most questions
 - Abundant information available for response

Look for Section Overlap

-
- “A reading man and woman is a ready man and woman, but a writing man and woman is exact.”

- Essay is the difference maker

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



Websites

**Not the be all end all-Research-Not just memorizing
Purpose of the Contest**

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination."

- <https://www.britannica.com/>
- <https://www.oyez.org/>
<https://supreme.justia.com/>
- <https://www.history.com/>
- <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader.html>
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/all.html>
<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraid=13&smtid=1>
-



Websites

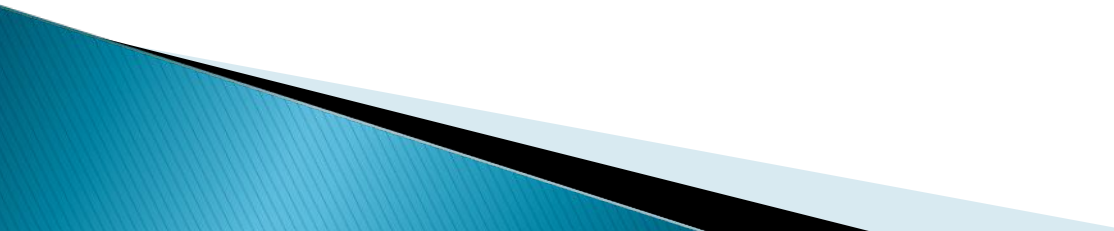
- <https://www.ushistory.org/us/46.asp>
- <http://americainclass.org/sources/becomingmodern/index.htm>
- **Our Friends at Wikipedia**
- **TBT (To Be Tweeted) - Send me more**



Resources

- **Smithsonian Channel**
- **Wondrium**
- **Youtube (Crashcourse, 2 minutes, etc., Docs)**
- **TBT (To Be Tweeted) - Send me more**

Competition

- Official UIL – District, Regional, State
 -
 - UIL Invitational tournaments
 -
 - Internet competition
 -
 - Informal competition
- 

More suggestions

- Review tests from previous competition
-
- Network with other coaches
-
- Ask questions

Preparation

- Select a team – yes there is individual competition but teamwork is helpful
- Begin as soon as possible – teams that compete in May begin work in August
- 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
- 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

Preparation

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