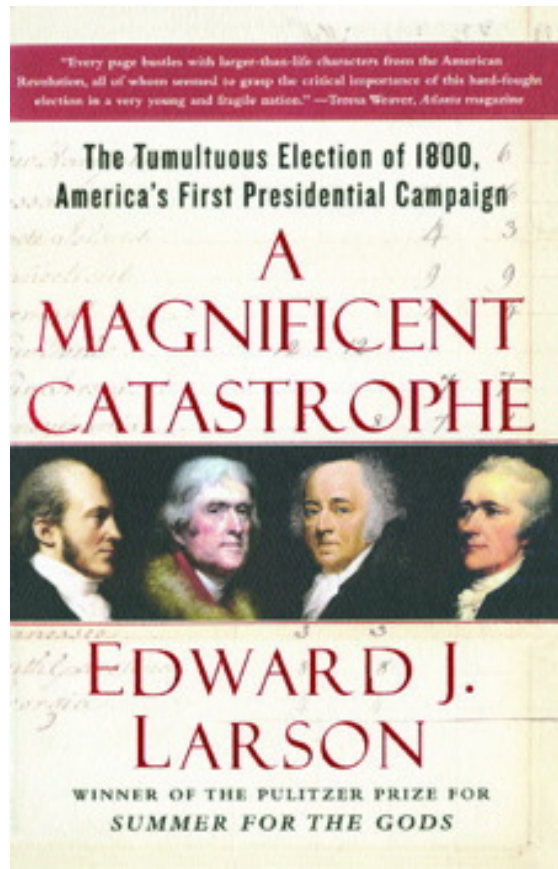




UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

Social Studies

State • 2025



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UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST

STATE • SPRING 2025

Part I: General Knowledge

The Rise of Factionalism, Partisanship, and the “Vices of Democracy” in the early United States (1 point each)

1. _____ was a political journalist and a member of Jackson’s “Kitchen Cabinet.” Although a slaveholder, he opposed the extension of slavery and in 1848 supported the Free-Soil candidate. Later, he was a founder of the Republican Party and today his former home in D.C. is known as the President’s Guest House.

A. Amos Kendall	C. John M. Berrien
B. Duff Green	D. Francis Preston Blair

2. Famously, _____ declined several appointments including the posts of U.S. Attorney General and Ambassador to England from President Washington. He also declined President Adams’ appointments to the Supreme Court and Secretary of War before finally accepting the role of Chief Justice.

A. John Jay	C. John Marshall
B. Oliver Ellsworth	D. John Rutledge

- | | |
|------|---|
| I. | Pakenham Letter was sent by John C. Calhoun |
| II. | Wilmot Proviso was first proposed in the House of Representatives |
| III. | Supreme Court issued decision in <i>U.S. v. Amistad</i> |
| IV. | Delegates met at the Nashville Convention |

3. Put the items listed above in correct chronological order.

A. I, III, IV, II	C. IV, I, II, III
B. III, I, II, IV	D. I, II, III, IV

4. The only individual to serve as both Speaker of the House of Representatives and as a member of the Supreme Court was the Jacksonian states’ rights supporter from Virginia, _____.

A. Nathaniel Macon	C. John W. Taylor
B. Roger B. Taney	D. Philip Barbour

5. After failing at the import business, _____ founded the *Gazette of the United States* in 1789 in New York. He was encouraged by Alexander Hamilton and when the federal government moved to Philadelphia in 1790, the *Gazette* followed. The paper never became national as hoped, and its founder died of yellow fever in 1798.
- A. Benjamin Franklin Bache
B. John Fenno
C. Phillip Freneau
D. George McDuffie
6. While studying law in Kentucky, _____ served as the personal teacher of Henry Clay's children. He later served as Postmaster General in the Jackson and Van Buren administrations. He was a principal contributor to many of Jackson's state papers, including the 1832 Bank Veto.
- A. Amos Kendall
B. Roger B. Taney
C. John Eaton
D. Lewis Cass
7. In 1815, President Madison appointed _____ Secretary of War and then Secretary of the Treasury. He was considered for the presidency in 1816, but deferred to Monroe, who retained him in the Treasury. He later refused an invitation from John Quincy Adams to stay on and instead returned to Georgia.
- A. William Crawford
B. Rufus King
C. John Bell
D. Albert Gallatin
8. _____ leadership in the House of Representatives, which caused Fisher Ames to call him "our first man," came to an end when he split with Hamilton over funding. The break led Ames to then call him a "desperate party leader" who enforced a discipline "as severe as the Prussians."
- A. Thomas Jefferson's
B. John Adams'
C. James Madison's
D. Theodore Sedgwick's
9. The 18th century intellectual, _____ created a series of almanacs in the 1790s. He also helped survey territory for the construction of Washington. He was an early civil rights advocate and exchanged letters with Thomas Jefferson, politely challenging him to help ensure racial equality.
- A. Lewis Tappan
B. Lyman Beecher
C. Benjamin Banneker
D. David Walker

- Signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776
- Sent to France for mission resulting in the XYZ Affair in 1797
- Elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1810
- Elected Vice President of the U.S. in 1812

10. All of the above statements refer to ____.
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. Fisher Ames | C. George Clinton |
| B. Elbridge Gerry | D. Levi Lincoln |
11. The “Tariff of Abominations” of 1828 distressed many Southern planters. Protests were voiced through Southern newspapers and town meetings, and finally, on December 19th, the ____ was issued, which declared the tariff unconstitutional. It was secretly drafted by Vice President John C. Calhoun.
- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| A. South Carolina Exposition and Protest | C. Kentucky Resolution |
| B. Ordinance of Nullification | D. Raleigh Letter |
12. On April 27, 1844, a letter from ____ appeared in the *Washington Daily Globe*. It was a reply to a letter from Mississippi representative William Hammett expressing the candidate’s view opposing Texas’ immediate annexation. “The Hammett letter” would cost him the Democratic presidential nomination.
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| A. James K. Polk | C. Henry Clay |
| B. Martin Van Buren | D. Andrew Jackson |
13. ____ career had been almost uniformly successful, but his term as president, during which the country prospered, was largely a political failure. He admitted in his inaugural address that he was “less possessed of your confidence...than any of my predecessors.” He unsuccessfully proposed a national university and a national astronomical observatory.
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| A. Martin Van Buren’s | C. James K. Polk’s |
| B. John Quincy Adams’ | D. James Madison’s |
14. In 1811, James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson, “I have always regarded [him], and still regard him, as a sincere friend of liberty, and ready to make every sacrifice to its cause but that of his passions.” As editor of the *Philadelphia Aurora*, ____ and was cited by Jefferson as a major factor in elevating Jefferson to the presidency.
- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| A. William Duane | C. William Smith |
| B. Thomas Cooper | D. James Callender |

15. _____ served as New York Governor from 1833 to 1838, Secretary of War from 1845 to 1849, and Secretary of State from 1853 to 1857, but is infamously remembered for his remark in 1832 defending a Jackson's appointment, "To the victor belong the spoils."
- A. DeWitt Clinton
B. Gouverneur Morris
C. Nathaniel Tallmadge
D. William Marcy
16. After the Mexican-American War, the debate over slavery in new territories came to a boil following _____'s election to the White House. He endorsed statehood for California, but opposed any plan that would address other pressing issues, preventing Henry Clay from pushing ahead with a compromise until after the president's death.
- A. William Henry Harrison
B. Zachary Taylor
C. James K. Polk
D. Millard Fillmore
17. By the election of 1828, the Jacksonians were called Democrats, though the name was formalized later. Opponents of Jackson joined the _____ coalition and nominated John Quincy Adams for a second term. In 1831, they nominated Henry Clay to run on a platform endorsing his American System.
- A. National Republican
B. Whig
C. Anti-Masonic
D. Free-Soiler
18. Raised a Quaker, _____ argued for abolition as a member of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Her stymied participation at the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London brought her into contact with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Their treatment led them to promise to hold a women's rights convention.
- A. Lucretia Mott
B. Susan B. Anthony
C. Angelina Grimké
D. Frances Wright

- | | |
|------|----------------------------|
| I. | Anti-Masonic Party founded |
| II. | Whig Party founded |
| III. | Liberty Party founded |
| IV. | Free Soil Party founded |

19. Put the items listed above in correct chronological order.
- A. II, III, IV, I
B. II, III, I, IV
C. III, I, IV, II
D. I, II, III, IV

20. On February 24, 1838, Jonathan Cilley was killed in a duel with William Graves. Graves carried a letter from James Webb, who was incensed about an accusation by Cilley. Cilley refused the letter and Graves, interpreting the refusal as an insult, challenged him. Cilley's death led Congress to _____.
- A. remove Graves from the House of Representatives
 - B. censure Graves and both of the duelers' seconds
 - C. ask for an investigation by the Attorney General
 - D. pass a ban on challenging or accepting duels in D.C.

Part II: Primary Source Material

A Magnificent Catastrophe: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, America's First Presidential Campaign
by Edward J. Larson
(2 points each)

21. Alarmists in the U.S. saw parallels where none existed. They equated _____ against Massachusetts tax and foreclosure laws in 1786, the _____ against national excise taxes in 1794, and _____ against national war taxes in 1799, with the uprisings that plunged France into chaos.
- A. Fries' Rebellion; Shays' Rebellion; Whiskey Rebellion
 - B. Fries' Rebellion; Whiskey Rebellion; Shays' Rebellion
 - C. Shays' Rebellion; Fries' Rebellion; Whiskey Rebellion
 - D. Shays' Rebellion; Whiskey Rebellion; Fries' Rebellion
22. New Hampshire and Massachusetts made a switch from popular elections to legislative appointment for electors. Republicans substituted statewide for district elections in Virginia. Only in _____ did anyone give voters a choice and their reaction caught Federalists off guard.
- A. South Carolina
 - B. Connecticut
 - C. Maryland
 - D. New Jersey
23. The most radical act of the House Federalists, as they were about to lose power in 1801, was their move to extend the _____ beyond its scheduled expiration.
- A. Sedition Act
 - B. session of Congress
 - C. Alien Act
 - D. Additional Army
24. _____ possessed vast slave plantations and, as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, led the successful effort to protect the right of states to maintain slavery. He stated that if it did not, he "would be bound by his duty to his state to vote against [it]." He signed the final document.
- A. James Monroe
 - B. George Mason
 - C. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
 - D. James Madison

25. As the _____ approached, James Monroe sent word to Richmond-area Republican leaders to keep their partisans calm. Virginia Republicans did not want to act like French Jacobins or give any justification for the Federalists' domestic security measures.
- A. Callender trial
B. statewide election
C. Congressional vote
D. Gabriel sentencing
26. The bad blood between George Washington and _____ went back to 1794 and the negotiation of Jay's Treaty. Once the treaty took effect, Washington promptly recalled the diplomat from Paris and replaced him with Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.
- A. James Monroe
B. Thomas Jefferson
C. George Clinton
D. Aaron Burr
27. Jefferson stated that, "The consolidation of our fellow citizens in general is the great object we ought to keep in view" by reaching out to those he called "the federal sect of republicans." At the same time, he added, "We must strip of all the means of influence, the _____...in every part of the Union."
- A. Hamiltonian Congress
B. Federalist judiciary
C. British sympathizers
D. Essex Junto
28. In 1796, Hamilton's election scheme backfired when electors in New England decided not to vote for Pinckney and instead dropped votes from him in favor of either U.S. Chief Justice _____ or Governor John Jay.
- A. Oliver Ellsworth
B. John Rutledge
C. John Marshall
D. Samuel Chase
29. Thomas Jefferson wrote a foreign confidant in 1796, "It would give you a fever were I to name to you the apostates who have gone over to these heresies, men who were Samsons in the field and Solomons in the council, but who have had their heads shorn by the harlot England." After the letter became public, _____ grew to distrust Jefferson.
- A. John Adams
B. Alexander Hamilton
C. George Washington
D. John Jay

30. _____ was one of the three commissioners named to negotiate outstanding differences with France in 1797. He famously defended America's honor by refusing to pay the bribe sought by French officials and purportedly replied, "No, no, not one sixpence."
- A. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
B. John Marshall
C. Oliver Ellsworth
D. John Quincy Adams
31. _____ reportedly said that he could travel from Boston to Philadelphia solely by the light of his burning effigies after securing a controversial agreement with the British.
- A. John Jay
B. Thomas Pinckney
C. John Adams
D. Robert Livingston
32. The first time that a party's representatives and senators in the U.S. Congress had ever caucused to discuss presidential candidates was in the lead up to the election of _____.
- A. 1800
B. 1792
C. 1804
D. 1796
33. In 1765, _____ imposed by Britain solely on American colonists gave John Adams his first chance to attach himself to a larger cause.
- A. stamp taxes
B. quartering acts
C. trade restrictions
D. tea taxes
34. After moving to the U.S. in 1793 to escape an indictment for sedition in Britain, _____ made a career of exposing the public and private misdeeds of Federalists, as he did with his *History of the United States of 1796*.
- A. Charles Holt
B. Thomas Cooper
C. John Beckley
D. James Callender
35. Before the end of May 1800, President Adams named _____ to replace Timothy Pickering as Secretary of State.
- A. John Jay
B. John Marshall
C. Charles Lee
D. Samuel Dexter

Part III: Supplemental Readings
(3 points each)

“Strange as it is, the State...so far famed for Religious liberty, seems to have become insensible to claims of Political liberty. It is the only State in this great Republican Confederacy in which the People have not limited the power of their Legislature by a written Constitution; the only State in the Union in which the People suffer a fair and equal representation of their interests to be defeated by a rotten borough system.”

36. The statement above written in 1834 as part of a document that eventually led to an attempted takeover of the state government of _____ in 1841.
- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| A. Massachusetts | C. Pennsylvania |
| B. South Carolina | D. Rhode Island |
37. In 1833, Daniel Webster contended that “if the friends of _____ should be able to propagate their opinions,” it would lead to the failure of the “last great experiment of representative government.”
- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| A. secession | C. nullification |
| B. slavery | D. states’ rights |
38. The Hartford Convention advocated for seven new amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Most of these amendments would _____ through specific means.
- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| A. limit foreign influence | C. end the War of 1812 |
| B. increase Atlantic trade opportunities | D. limit federal power |
39. Three critical factors contributed to the creation of the Second Party System. One factor was the _____, which resulted in demands for the elimination of property qualifications for voting, new state constitutions, and created political divisions over trade, banking, and debt policy.
- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. financial panic of 1819 | C. incorporation of new states |
| B. expansion of slavery | D. rise of the partisan press |

"But every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We have called by different names brethren of the same principle. We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists. If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."

40. In his inaugural address, _____ outlined the goals for his administration, but also reached out to the opposition with the quote above.

A. George Washington	C. Thomas Jefferson
B. John Adams	D. James Monroe

"The regulation of duty by the mere circumstance of sex...has led to all...train of evils flowing out of the anti-christian doctrine of masculine and feminine virtues. This principle has given to man a charter for...tyranny and selfishness, pride and arrogance, lust and brutal violence...Instead of being...a companion, a co-worker, an equal; she has been a mere appendage of his being...the pretty toy with which he whiled away his leisure moments."

41. In the 1837 letter to Catherine Beecher quoted above, _____ explained how the struggle against slavery sensitized female abolitionists to other forms of bondage.

A. Frances Wright	C. Lucretia Mott
B. Angelina Grimké	D. Elizabeth Cady Stanton

42. John Harris, a free Black man who lived in the city of Salem, Massachusetts in 1824, faced the danger of being imprisoned if his ship landed in South Carolina, where, following the exposure of the _____ conspiracy, all free Blacks were seen as a threat to public security.

A. Nat Turner	C. Stono
B. Denmark Vesey	D. Gabriel

43. According to George Washington in 1799, "No well informed and unprejudiced man, who has viewed...the conduct of the _____ Government...can mistake its objects...Yet, strange as it may seem, a party...among us, affect to believe that the measures of it are dictated by...self preservation; that the outrages...proceed from dire necessity."

A. American	C. British
B. French	D. Spanish

“That the power to tax involves the power to destroy; that the power to destroy may defeat and render useless the power to create; that there is a plain repugnance in conferring on one Government a power to control the constitutional measures of another, which other...is declared to be supreme over that which exerts the control, are...not to be denied.”

44. John Marshall wrote the opinion quoted above for the Supreme Court in the 1819 case of ____.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. <i>Gibbons v. Ogden</i> | C. <i>Martin v. Hunter’s Lessee</i> |
| B. <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> | D. <i>Worcester v. Georgia</i> |
45. In President Washington’s *Farewell Address*, he stated the spirit of ____ “is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but, in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy.”
- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| A. party | C. religious zeal |
| B. rebellion | D. speculation |

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.

“The vice-presidency in the nineteenth century seldom led to the White House, because vice presidents of the era were rarely men of presidential stature. Of the twenty-one individuals who held that office from 1805 to 1899, only Martin Van Buren managed to be elected president. Four others achieved the presidency only because the incumbent died, and none...won election in his own right.”

“Reviled as a “schemer” and a master “manipulator” by contemporaries who lacked (and probably envied) his uncanny political acumen...[he] left a solid record of accomplishment that few of his better known fellows could rival. More than any other individual of his time, Van Buren realized the importance of party organization, discipline, and political patronage.”

-Excerpts from Vice Presidents of the United States 1789-1993, by Mark O. Hatfield

Andrew Jackson claimed Martin Van Buren was “a true man with no guile,” countering popular contemporary and historical opinions. Despite his detractors, Van Buren was able to significantly influence and even direct major political currents and policies for much of the 1820s, 30s, and 40s. Discuss the impact Van Buren had on presidential campaigns and elections from 1824 to 1848.

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ANSWER KEY

Part I (1 point each)	Part II (2 points each)	Points contestants could mention in their essay:	
1. D	21. D (pg. 69)	Background	during the break w/ Calhoun with the VP spot.
2. C	22. C (pg. 203)	•MVB was born in the Dutch community of Kinderhook, NY in 1782.	•He helped write the Bank Veto and argue for the compromise tariff.
3. B	23. A (pg. 256)	•He was first involved in Republican politics in 1800.	•MVB helped further organize the Democrats as a full-fledged party.
4. D	24. C (pg. 199)	As an attorney, he fought the powerful Livingston faction gaining the Clinton's support.	Election of 1836
5. B	25. A (pg. 162)	•Elected to NY Senate in 1812, he broke with Clinton and led the Bucktail faction seeking to expand suffrage.	•MVB was Jackson's chosen successor despite divisions within the party, especially in the South.
6. A	26. A (pg. 46)	•Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1821, he formed the Albany Regency to control NY politics while in D.C.	•Former Jacksonians, such as Davy Crockett, attacked him as aristocratic, being third-rate, or lacking his own accomplishments outside of his connection to Jackson.
7. A	27. D (pg. 273)	•His control of electoral-rich NY would make him a formidable national force.	•His VP R.M. Johnson's personal controversies also lessened support.
8. C	28. A (pg. 42)	Election of 1824	Election of 1840
9. C	29. C (pg. 39)	•MVB backed Crawford & supported continuation of party loyalty & King Caucus.	•The Panic of 1837 led to attacks on "Martin Van Ruin" & his "hard money" policies.
10. B	30. A (pg. 120)	•Despite Crawford's illness MVB tried to orchestrate deal-making in the contingent election using NY's influence, but Rensselaer's vote ended his hopes of a protracted battle.	•The Harrison campaign made use of MVB's popular politics and tactics from 1828 to unseat him.
11. A	31. A (pg. 30)	•As the new "Radical" leader, he attacked the "corrupt bargain" and sought a new party alliance.	Election of 1844
12. B	32. D (pg. 114)	Election of 1828	•MVB toured southern and western states in '42 gaining support and becoming the leading Democratic candidate.
13. B	33. A (pg. 13)	•MVB helped convince Calhoun to support Jackson.	•The anti-annexation Hammett Letter weakened his support in the South & West.
14. A	34. D (pg. 133)	•He attempted to hang the defeat of a tariff on Adams, but ended up unintentionally creating the Tariff of 1828.	•He had a majority of votes at the DNC, but not 2/3. His initial 146 votes of the needed 177 vanished by the 9 th vote, leading to Polk's nomination.
15. D	35. B (pg. 128)	•He directed the national campaign focusing on "reform" and a return to Republican values.	Election of 1848
16. B	Part III (3 points each)	•He worked hard to keep Jackson silent and let his image work for him.	•Despite supporting states' rights to slavery in the past, MVB opposed its expansion through the Mexican Cession.
17. A	36. D	•He was rewarded as Secretary of State in the Jackson administration.	•The new Free Soil Party nominated him for president
18. A	37. C	Election of 1832	•He only received 10% of the popular vote, but made the Free Soil issues more nationally prominent helping factions coalesce and laying the foundation for a Northern party.
19. D	38. D	•MVB was rewarded for sacrificing his cabinet post	
20. D	39. A		
	40. C		
	41. B		
	42. B		
	43. B		
	44. B		
	45. A		