

# Top 30 Topic and Answers for the U.S Regents

1. If you see: House of Burgesses, Mayflower Compact ...

Answer: "early forms of democracy" or early "republics."

2. If you see: John Marshall ...

Answer: Either he expanded the power of the federal government, or Judicial Review. Marbury v. Madison = Judicial Review.

3. Why did Immigrants and African Americans move to cities? That's where the jobs were!

4. If you see: Nativism = fear of foreigners. The installment of quota systems regarding immigration is important to know. These acts favored western Europeans who spoke English, NOT Eastern Europeans. A question on the Chinese Exclusion Act or the Sacco-Vanzetti case could also have nativism as an answer.

5. Federalism = Division of Powers between the Federal Government and the States!!! See Chart Below.

6. Don't confuse federalism with Checks and Balances!!! C and B is checking the three Branches (Legislative, Executive, Judicial) of Government! Ex. Veto, judicial review, impeachment. National Gov, checks itself -- has nothing to do with states in terms of the Regents Exam. See Chart Below.

7. If you see: George Washington ...

Answer: is most likely "neutrality/isolationism/noninvolvement"

8. Why did we have a weak Articles of Confederation?

Answer: fear of a strong government, or power to the states was preferred.

9. If you see: Domino Theory (for Asia), Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Korean War, NATO ...

Answer: CONTAINMENT DURING COLD WAR!

10. WWII = Know the Lend-Lease Act, Cash and Carry. Answer: a move away from isolationism -- becoming less neutral. Pearl Harbor and D-Day occasionally come up.

11. If you see: Why didn't we ratify the Treaty of Versailles? = Neutrality. We did not want to join the international League of Nations.

12. If you see: Unwritten Constitution = These are things we do that's not printed in the Constitution such as political parties, cabinet, judicial review, nominating conventions.

13. We got involved in WWI because of "the Boat, and the Note." (*Lusitania*, and Zimmerman Telegram)

14. Trust or Monopoly ... makes the rich get richer. If you see Unions (AFL), Sherman Anti-Trust, or Arbitration...

Answer: is something like "to help the small guy and consumer out."

15. To repeal an amendment ... must ratify (approve) another amendment (like the 18th and 21st for prohibition.) Speaking of ratifying ... think *Federalist Papers* for ratification of the Constitution ... Hamilton vs. Jefferson.

16. Manifest Destiny = led to the question -- should these states be slave or free??? Manifest Destiny also settles the Frontier ... Transcontinental Railroad = answer is usually increased trade, and settlement.

16a. Also, know Presidential (lenient) vs. Radical (harsh on South/for Black rights) Reconstruction.

17. *If you see:* John Hay -- think "Hay look ... it's China!" The answer is always about trade in Asia for Open Door Policy

Note: Questions 1-3 usually have something to do with geography. Most notably -- Mississippi River = Navigation, New England had trade, the South was agricultural. New Orleans was a port for trade.

18. *If you see:* How did the US respond to massive immigration ... QUOTA SYSTEM is usually the answer. Specifically, know the National-Origins Act.

19. Did you know that the Supreme Court did not support FDR? That's usually a cartoon question.

20. *If you see:* Jacob Riis, Upton Sinclair, Ida Tarbell = They are writers known as Muckrakers...the answer should be about cleaning up and regulating big business to protect the people.

21. *If you see:* The Great Society...The answer should be about the government helping the poor. Similarly, The New Deal of FDR looked to find people jobs and help people socially and economically.

22. Ronald Reagan cut taxes for the rich with "Reaganomics."

23. Lobbying is when special interest groups try to get Congress to vote a certain way. *They hang out in the lobby* and try to convince them.

24. *If you see:* Initiative, Referendum, or Recall...The answer will be about expanding democracy during the Progressive Era.

25. *If you see:* The Great Compromise or 3/5 Compromise ...the answer should be about representation, or population determining representation in the House.

26. *If you see:* Cesar Chavez...Think Caesar Salad -- he fought for the rights of farmers.

27. *If you see:* Seneca Falls = It's a women's conference. Women love to go to the *Falls*, it's romantic.

28. Langston Hughes starts with an H. So does Harlem Renaissance. If there's an African American culture movement question, Hughes can be the answer.

29. *If you see:* Miranda v. Arizona, Gideon v. Wainwright - These cases expanded the rights to the accused!

30. Not in your textbook if it's old. In 2001 the US created the Department of Homeland Security to protect American citizens.