

Veritas Academy's History & Heritage Test

Summer 2013

The questions are based on class readings, some of which include The Christian Almanac (Grant) & The Founding Fathers' Guide to the Constitution (McClanahan).

The tests (season-by-season and year-by-year) form part of a modest effort to recover our civilizational inheritance: ancient and modern, sacred and secular, cultural and political. All are welcome to join us as we try to remember, and, where it's due, honor those who have gone before us.



**“History is a certain kind of memory,
organized and supported by evidence.”**

-- John Lukacs --

1.

1. **This defense-related U.S. power** was indeed granted to Congress, as Alexander Hamilton advocated, despite the serious misgivings of others among the Founders? Hamilton conceded the power was contrary to the “principles and habits” of Americans, many of whom believed it would embolden centralized government and threaten local liberties. That concession left Hamilton’s critics wondering why he pushed for it in the first place, why he insisted the U.S. own what his countrymen seemed to disown.

2. **This amendment to the U.S. Constitution**, the first of three additions in the so-called Reconstruction era after the Civil War, emancipated the slaves? Congressional passage of the amendment in early 1865 was the focus of Steven Spielberg’s recent film *Lincoln*, though of itself Congress’s vote changed the status of no bondsman. Three-fourths of the States must ratify amendments and two-fifths of them were either fighting the Union or loyal only under the shadow of its army when Congress acted.

3. **This New Hampshire lawyer (1804—1869)**, a true gentleman, became the 14th U.S. president, though the office, he once said, would be “utterly repugnant” to him? A divided Democratic Party made him their compromise candidate in 1852, given his reputation for integrity in his State legislature as well as in the U.S. Congress. His tenure as chief executive (1853-1857), however, was haunted by the specter of slavery, especially his insistence on faithfully executing federal law dealing with fugitive slaves.

4. **This proposed constitutional amendment**, passed by Congress in March 1861, was aimed at keeping as many Southern States as possible in the Union? It was never ratified and added to the Constitution, but if it had been, the U.S. would have been prevented, expressly and permanently, from interfering with slavery in any of the States. Most Southerners at the time, however, refused to take the bait, preferring to declare and establish their political and economic independence.

5. **This proposed defense-related power**, a subject of some debate in the Philadelphia Convention, was rejected by the Framers and thus not granted to the U.S.? If given and exercised, said Madison, the power “would look more like a declaration of war, than an infliction of punishment,” surely sowing the malignant seeds of disunion. Be that as it may, it could be argued that what the Fathers repudiated the nation embraced and carried into effect some seventy years later (1861—1865).

6. **This Southern scholar (1806—1870)**, master of Woodlands Plantation near Columbia, SC, stood as the quintessence of the mind of the Old South? Poet, essayist, biographer, and historian, he made the case, publicly and fearlessly, for State secession and even for race-based slavery as beneficent institution and civilizing influence. Like the South itself, he personally suffered great loss in the war, including family members, his Woodlands mansion, and the loyalty of several of his trusted slaves.

7. **This national economic program**, in the antebellum 1800s, used tariffs (taxes) on British imports to fund “internal improvements” like roads, railroads, canals, & harbors? The funds, underwritten disproportionately by Southern purchases, were disbursed to private firms which built a mass system of transportation and commerce. A bonanza to Northern industries and banks and an occasion for fraud and bribery, the program bred resentment below the Mason-Dixon Line and, eventually, secession and war.

8. **This frontier war in Minnesota**, about six weeks long beginning in August 1862, resulted in the slaughter of 800 Americans, women and children among the victims? The Union Army intervened to put down an uprising of Indians aggrieved by U.S. treaty violations, issuing in due course by military tribunal capital convictions of 303 braves. President Lincoln, given no means to distinguish those of greater or lesser guilt, finally reduced the condemned to 38, who were hanged on December 26, 1862.

9. **This 19th-century political movement**, seeking a solution to a vexing problem, included partisans of three distinct types: abolitionists, exclusionists, & deportationists? Abolitionists, a tiny fraction in the North, demanded that bonded African-Americans be freed unconditionally and allowed to settle as equals anywhere in the United States. Exclusionists, as an expedient for the time being, wanted them kept out of the western territories, while deportationists supported their resettlement abroad after emancipation.

10. **This anti-slavery activist (1805—1879)** founded *The Liberator*, an abolitionist newspaper published in Boston, MA, and dismissed as too radical by most Americans? “I am aware that many object to the severity of my language,” he wrote, “but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as the truth and as uncompromising as injustice.” The agitator called the Constitution “a covenant with death and an agreement with hell” because it allowed for slavery, leaving it to the discretion and regulation of the States.

11. **This 4th-century Christian monk (d. 373 AD)** set up a renowned school for scholars in the ancient city of Edessa (today's SE Turkey near the border with Syria)? He wrote commentaries on many biblical books, in addition to composing popular hymns by which he sought to reinforce gospel truth and refute heresy. Known to Syrian Christians to this day as the "Harp of the Holy Ghost," he was the only Edessan trusted without question or qualification to distribute grain to the poor in a time of famine.

12. **This Biblical image**, in its original context in Christ's teachings, refers to the gospel witness and "good works" of the Savior's followers made visible to all the world? In American political lore, the trope was first recalled by Puritan lawyer John Winthrop in a lay sermon aboard a ship (the Arbella) headed for Massachusetts in 1630. Winthrop's use, exalting godly obedience, was similar to the Bible's, but later on a secular twist was employed turning American democracy into a beacon and model for the nations.

13. **This European era**, roughly speaking 1300—1500, sparked a mindset which eventually resulted in a historic turn away from Christianity in Western culture? Many of the shining lights of the era reverted consciously to the pagan patterns & works of ancient Greece and Rome, judging them far superior to those of the medieval saints. Thus, having preferred sub-Christian thought to Christian, the era's elite set the stage for the anti-Christian Enlightenment (1600—1800) and today's post-Christian culture.

14. **This 1787 congressional statute** prepared for the formation of new States on the frontier west of the Appalachians, land ceded to the new U.S. by the original States? The statute's Article III offers a framework for teaching children as follows: "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." Other articles mandate freedom of religion and prohibit slavery in the aforesaid territory.

15. **This 6th-century Irish monk (521--597)**, from his youth a worshiper in a church planted by St. Patrick, founded a famous monastery on Iona, an isle west of Scotland? He planted churches himself in his native land before sailing east across the Irish Sea with twelve companions on a missionary quest in 563. Because of his monastic ministry, Iona was celebrated for centuries as a center for scholarship, a base for the evangelization of pagans, and a sacred plot for the burial of Christian kings.

16. **This English novelist and sociologist (1866—1946)** is best known for fantasies of scientific speculation like his *The War of the Worlds* (1898)? In *New Worlds for Old* (1908) and other works, he put forth a modernist social creed in which science eclipsed religion and tradition as the true source of knowledge, the cure for all our ills. By the time he died, however—what with the world having witnessed war, genocide, and tyranny on a frightening scale—his utopian creed seemed fantastical indeed.

17. **This medieval monastery**, destined to be the most celebrated in Europe, was founded by St. Bernard in 1115 in a little hamlet in northeast France? Bernard (1090—1153) sought a recovery of the rigorous monastic disciplines (prayer, study, labor) pioneered by St. Benedict, and his plan worked, stimulating spirituality and the spread of monasteries all over Europe. In his career, Bernard was directly responsible for seventy of these sanctified societies, which in turn generated 183 more.

18. **This Christian doctrine** comes from Latin roots meaning “to see beforehand” and calls attention to the Creator’s comprehensive governance of His creation? It teaches that God, seeing the end of history from its beginning, sovereignly sustains and superintends all men and things, directing their courses to their eternally decreed ends. Thus, without nullifying man’s free will, God certifies that His rule will establish what is fitting, redound to the good of the redeemed, and illumine His glorious character.

19. **This Gothic cathedral**, originally a Romanesque basilica consecrated in 1147 but destroyed by fire in 1258, stands today as the majestic center of Old Vienna, Austria? Where Mozart was married in 1782, the church, called Stephansdom in German, was a labor of love of townsfolk aided by master craftsmen hired by the House of Hapsburg. As such, it shows us one of history’s greatest lessons: excellence in culture is usually the work of small, cohesive, persevering societies under the rule of their own fathers.

20. **This Russian novelist (1918—2008)**, gravely ill after years in Soviet prisons, stumbled about “covered with ice, out of the dark and the cold” when freed in 1953? He penned many acclaimed works, the *Gulag Archipelago* among them, exposing the lies and horrors driving Communism’s conquest of his beloved Russia. In later speeches and essays, he described the 20th-century as a time when men, having “forgotten God,” were “sucked into the vortex of atheism and self-destruction.”

21. **This U.S. judicial power**, generally conceded by the Founders, allows judges in the course of settling disputes to decide whether certain federal laws are constitutional? The power itself was affirmed in the early days by the Supreme Court's John Marshall in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), now a legendary case. Jefferson, however, was skeptical, observing in an 1815 letter that "there is not a word in the Constitution which has given that power to them [judges] more than to the Executive or Legislative branches."

22. **This Planned Parenthood program**, begun in 1939, was another in a long line of Northern liberal efforts to remove some supposed offense in the American South? The goal was to promote contraception among blacks through the influence of their own pastors, thereby reducing the numbers of a race held in contempt by cultural elites. Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger's longstanding dream of discouraging the "reckless" reproduction of the "least intelligent and fit" was thus given a boost.

23. **This contralto (1902--1993)**, a Philadelphian and a victim of race prejudice, excelled in singing lieder, classical arias, and spirituals in both Europe and America? The moment of truth in her career came on April 9, 1939, when she gave an open-air concert before 75,000 at the Lincoln Memorial, a substitute venue Eleanor Roosevelt helped to arrange when the artist was denied access to Constitution Hall. Harold Ickes, U.S. interior secretary, introduced her with the words, "Genius draws no color line."

24. **This speech**, delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr. on Aug. 28, 1963, before 250,000 at the Lincoln Memorial, served as the main event of the March on Washington? Quoting biblical prophets, and sounding like one too, Dr. King made an impassioned appeal for the full realization of American ideals like equal dignity and equal rights. Memorably, he foresaw a day when his fellow African-Americans would be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

25. **This method for electing a U.S. president** (Art. II, Sec. I of the Constitution) has an aristocratic flavor and leaves things largely with the States? Originally, the method called upon State legislatures to choose electors, equal in number to their States' congressional delegations, who in turn voted for the man they deemed most fit to serve. The Founders, generally dismissive of mere democracies as the rule of mobs, were wary of allowing the people at large to elect the general government's chief executive.

Repetitio est Mater Studiorum

Summer 2013 Test – Take Two

Veritas students are expected to take the seasonal History & Heritage tests without the benefit of any sort of multiple-choice format. They should know the answers simply on the basis of the content of the questions—no promptings needed or offered.

Nonetheless, for the convenience of family members & friends, an either/or framework for answers appears below:

1. Power to Command Forces in Wartime / Power to Raise Standing Armies
2. 15th Amendment / 13th Amendment
3. James Garfield / Franklin Pierce
4. Original 13th Amendment / Original 15th Amendment
5. Power to Use Force on a Delinquent State / Power to Suppress Insurrection

6. William Gilmore Simms / John C. Calhoun
7. Continental System / American System
8. Great Sioux Uprising / Creek Conspiracy
9. Anti-Slavery Movement / Anti-Agrarian Movement
10. Henry David Thoreau / William Lloyd Garrison

11. Athanasius / Ephrem
12. City on a Hill / Salt of the Earth
13. Renaissance / Reformation
14. Northwest Ordinance / Southwest Ordinance
15. Columba / Brendan

16. Ray Bradbury / H.G. Wells
17. Monastery at Cluny / Monastery at Clairvaux
18. Divine Miracle / Divine Providence
19. St. Paul's Cathedral / St. Stephen's Cathedral
20. Fyodor Dostoyevsky / Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

21. Judicial Nullification / Judicial Review
22. "Negro Project" / "Survival of the Fit Project"
23. Marian Anderson / Ella Fitzgerald
24. "The American Dream for All" / "I Have A Dream"
25. Electoral Commission / Electoral College

Veritas Academy

6200 Linworth Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
(614) 885-2810

Check our weekly **History & Heritage Blog** on the Veritas website (www.veritasacademy.org) for lessons in preparation for the next test. We offer 4 tests a year—spring, summer, fall, winter—with some questions repeated from the prior test.

Correct Answers to Summer 2013 History & Heritage Test

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Power to Raise Standing Armies | 14. Northwest Ordinance |
| 2. 13th Amendment | 15. Columba |
| 3. Franklin Pierce | 16. H.G. Wells |
| 4. Original 13th Amendment | 17. Monastery at Clairvaux |
| 5. Power to Use Force on a Delinquent State | 18. Divine Providence |
| 6. William Gilmore Simms | 19. St. Stephen's Cathedral |
| 7. American System | 20. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn |
| 8. Great Sioux Uprising | 21. Judicial Review |
| 9. Anti-Slavery Movement | 22. "Negro Project" |
| 10. William Lloyd Garrison | 23. Marian Anderson |
| 11. Ephrem | 24. "I Have A Dream" |
| 12. City on a Hill | 25. Electoral College |
| 13. Renaissance | |

Prose & Poetry Recitation

For each season of the year, we endeavor to commit some verse or a short prose selection to memory. There's no better way to relish the beauty and power of our native tongue or reflect deeply on the truth that makes us free.

Past selections include David Middleton's "Of Magnanimity," Christiana Rossetti's "In the Bleak Midwinter," William Cowper's "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" & "To A Young Lady," Thomas Jefferson's "Advice to a Lad," Robert Louis Stevenson's "To the Reverend Sister Marianne," and John Donne's "Holy Sonnet XIV."

For the fall we will take up "The Poet" by William Gilmore Simms of South Carolina (1806—1870). Simms is the answer to #6 on the summer test.

Families & friends are encouraged to join us in making poetry, song, and eloquent expression an enjoyable aspect of life in American homes once again.

Prose & Poetry Recitation

In the space below, students are required (time permitting) to write from memory any one of our seasonal class recitations. **It is preferred that you try the summer selection which was John Donne's "Holy Sonnet XIV."** A Renaissance courtier and finally an Anglican clergyman, Donne lived from 1572 to 1631.