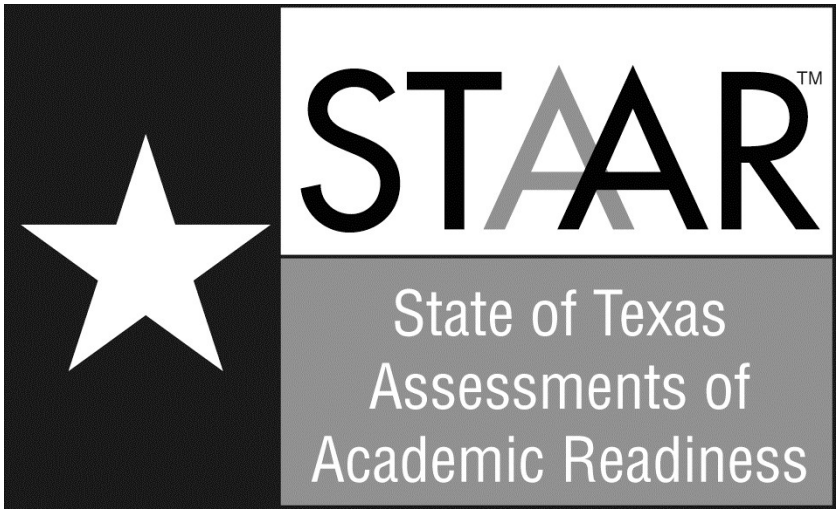

U.S. History Assessment

Eligible Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

Texas Education Agency
Revised October 2023

STAAR U.S. History Assessment

Reporting Category 1: History

The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.

(1) **History.** The student understands the principles included in the Celebrate Freedom Week program. The student is expected to

(A) analyze and evaluate the text, intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights; ***Supporting Standard***

(B) analyze and evaluate the application of these founding principles to historical events in U.S. history; and ***Supporting Standard***

(C) explain the meaning and historical significance of the mottos "E Pluribus Unum" and "In God We Trust." ***Supporting Standard***

(2) **History.** The student understands traditional historical points of reference in U.S. history from 1877 to the present. The student is expected to

(A) identify the major eras in U.S. history from 1877 to the present and describe their defining characteristics; and ***Readiness Standard***

(B) explain the significance of the following years as turning points: 1898 (Spanish–American War), 1914–1918 (World War I), 1929 (the Great Depression begins), 1939–1945 (World War II), 1957 (Sputnik launch ignites U.S.–Soviet space race), 1968 (Martin Luther King Jr. assassination), 1969 (U.S. lands on the moon), 1991 (Cold War ends), 2001 (terrorist attacks on World Trade Center and the Pentagon), and 2008 (election of first black president, Barack Obama). ***Supporting Standard***

(3) **History.** The student understands the political, economic, and social changes in the United States from 1877 to 1898. The student is expected to

(A) analyze political issues such as Indian policies, the growth of political machines, and civil service reform; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) analyze economic issues such as industrialization, the growth of railroads, the growth of labor unions, farm issues, the cattle industry boom, the growth of entrepreneurship, and the pros and cons of big business; and ***Readiness Standard***

(C) analyze social issues affecting women, minorities, children, immigrants, and urbanization. ***Readiness Standard***

(4) **History.** The student understands the emergence of the United States as a world power between 1898 and 1920. The student is expected to

(A) explain why significant events, policies, and individuals, including the Spanish–American War, U.S. expansionism, Alfred Thayer Mahan, Theodore Roosevelt, and Sanford B. Dole moved the United States into the position of a world power; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) evaluate American expansionism, including acquisitions such as Guam, Hawaii, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico; ***Supporting Standard***

(C) identify the causes of World War I and reasons for U.S. entry; ***Readiness Standard***

(D) understand the contributions of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) led by General John J. Pershing, including the Battle of Argonne Forest; ***Supporting Standard***

(E) analyze the impact of machine guns, airplanes, tanks, poison gas, and trench warfare as significant technological innovations in World War I on the Western Front; and ***Supporting Standard***

(F) analyze major issues raised by U.S. involvement in World War I, including isolationism, neutrality, Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, and the Treaty of Versailles. ***Readiness Standard***

(5) **History.** The student understands the effects of reform and third–party movements in the early 20th century. The student is expected to

(A) analyze the impact of Progressive Era reforms, including initiative, referendum, recall, and the passage of the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th amendments; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) evaluate the impact of muckrakers and reform leaders such as Upton Sinclair, Susan B. Anthony, Jane Addams, Ida B. Wells, and W. E. B. DuBois on American society; and ***Supporting Standard***

(C) analyze the impact of third parties, including the Populist and Progressive parties. ***Supporting Standard***

(6) **History.** The student understands significant events, social issues, and individuals of the 1920s. The student is expected to

(A) analyze causes and effects of events and social issues such as immigration, Social Darwinism, the Scopes Trial, eugenics, race relations, nativism, the Red Scare, Prohibition, and the changing role of women; and ***Readiness Standard***

(B) analyze the impact of significant individuals such as Henry Ford, Marcus Garvey, and Charles A. Lindbergh. ***Supporting Standard***

(7) **History.** The student understands the domestic and international impact of U.S. participation in World War II. The student is expected to

(A) identify reasons for U.S. involvement in World War II, including the aggression of Italian, German, and Japanese dictatorships, especially the attack on Pearl Harbor; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) evaluate the domestic and international leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman during World War II, including the U.S. relationship with its allies; ***Supporting Standard***

(C) analyze major issues of World War II, including the Holocaust, the internment of Japanese Americans as a result of Executive Order 9066, and the development of atomic weapons; ***Readiness Standard***

(D) analyze major military events of World War II, including fighting the war on multiple fronts, the Bataan Death March, the U.S. military advancement through the Pacific Islands, the Battle of Midway, the invasion of Normandy, and the liberation of concentration camps; ***Readiness Standard***

(E) describe the military contributions of leaders during World War II, including Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, and Chester W. Nimitz; ***Supporting Standard***

(F) explain issues affecting the home front, including volunteerism, the purchase of war bonds, and Victory Gardens and opportunities and obstacles for women and ethnic minorities; and ***Supporting Standard***

(G) explain how American patriotism inspired high levels of military enlistment and the bravery and contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Flying Tigers, and the Navajo Code Talkers. ***Supporting Standard***

(8) **History.** The student understands the impact of significant national and international decisions and conflicts in the Cold War on the United States. The student is expected to

(A) describe U.S. responses to Soviet aggression after World War II, including the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin airlift, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and John F. Kennedy's role in the Cuban Missile Crisis; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) describe how Cold War tensions were intensified by the House Un–American Activities Committee (HUAC), McCarthyism, the arms race, and the space race; ***Supporting Standard***

(C) explain reasons and outcomes for U.S. involvement in the Korean War and its relationship to the containment policy; ***Readiness Standard***

(D) explain reasons and outcomes for U.S. involvement in foreign countries and their relationship to the Domino Theory, including the Vietnam War; ***Readiness Standard***

(E) analyze the major events of the Vietnam War, including the escalation of forces, the Tet Offensive, Vietnamization, and the fall of Saigon; and ***Supporting Standard***

(F) describe the responses to the Vietnam War such as the draft, the 26th Amendment, the role of the media, the credibility gap, the silent majority, and the anti–war movement. ***Readiness Standard***

(9) **History.** The student understands the impact of the American civil rights movement. The student is expected to

(A) trace the historical development of the civil rights movement from the late 1800s through the 21st century, including the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th amendments; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) explain how Jim Crow laws and the Ku Klux Klan created obstacles to civil rights for minorities such as the suppression of voting; ***Readiness Standard***

(C) describe the roles of political organizations that promoted African American, Chicano, American Indian, and women's civil rights; ***Supporting Standard***

(D) identify the roles of significant leaders who supported various rights movements, including Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Rosa Parks, and Betty Friedan; ***Supporting Standard***

(E) compare and contrast the approach taken by the Black Panthers with the nonviolent approach of Martin Luther King Jr.; ***Supporting Standard***

(F) discuss the impact of the writings of Martin Luther King Jr. such as his "I Have a Dream" speech and "Letter from Birmingham Jail" on the civil rights movement; ***Supporting Standard***

(G) describe presidential actions and congressional votes to address minority rights in the United States, including desegregation of the armed forces, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; ***Readiness Standard***

(H) explain how George Wallace, Orval Faubus, and the Congressional bloc of southern Democrats sought to maintain the status quo; ***Supporting Standard***

(I) evaluate changes in the United States that have resulted from the civil rights movement, including increased participation of minorities in the political process; and ***Readiness Standard***

(J) describe how *Sweatt v. Painter* and *Brown v. Board of Education* played a role in protecting the rights of the minority during the civil rights movement. ***Supporting Standard***

(10) **History.** The student understands the impact of political, economic, and social factors in the U.S. from the 1970s through 1990. The student is expected to

(A) describe Richard M. Nixon's leadership in the normalization of relations with China and the policy of détente; ***Supporting Standard***

(B) describe Ronald Reagan's leadership in domestic and international policies, including Reagan's economic policies and Peace Through Strength; ***Supporting Standard***

(C) describe U.S. involvement in the Middle East such as support for Israel, the Camp David Accords, the Iran Hostage Crisis, Marines in Lebanon, and the Iran–Contra Affair; ***Readiness Standard***

(D) describe the causes and key organizations of the conservative resurgence of the 1980s such as the Heritage Foundation and the Moral Majority; and ***Supporting Standard***

(E) describe significant societal issues of this time period such as the War on Drugs and the AIDS epidemic. ***Supporting Standard***

(11) **History.** The student understands the emerging political, economic, and social issues of the United States from the 1990s into the 21st century. The student is expected to

(A) describe U.S. involvement in world affairs, including the end of the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War, the events surrounding September 11, 2001, and the global War on Terror; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) identify significant social and political issues such as health care, immigration, and education from different viewpoints across the political spectrum; ***Supporting Standard***

(C) analyze the impact of third parties on the 1992 and 2000 presidential elections; and ***Supporting Standard***

(D) identify the impact of international events, multinational corporations, government policies, and individuals on the 21st century economy. ***Supporting Standard***

Reporting Category 2:
Geography and Culture

The student will demonstrate an understanding of geographic and cultural influences on U.S. History.

(12) **Geography.** The student understands the impact of geographic factors on major events. The student is expected to

(A) analyze the impact of physical and human geographic factors on the Klondike Gold Rush, the Panama Canal, the Dust Bowl, and the levee failure in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. ***Readiness Standard***

(13) **Geography.** The student understands the causes and effects of migration and immigration on American society. The student is expected to

(A) analyze the causes and effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from migration within the United States, including western expansion, rural to urban, the Great Migration, and the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt; and ***Readiness Standard***

(B) analyze the causes and effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from immigration to the United States. ***Readiness Standard***

(14) **Geography.** The student understands the relationship between population growth and the physical environment. The student is expected to

(A) identify the effects of population growth and distribution on the physical environment; and ***Readiness Standard***

(B) identify the roles of governmental entities and private citizens in managing the environment such as the establishment of the National Park System, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Endangered Species Act. ***Supporting Standard***

(24) **Culture.** The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created. The student is expected to

(A) describe how the characteristics and issues in U.S. history have been reflected in various genres of art, music, film, and literature; ***Supporting Standard***

(B) describe the impacts of cultural movements in art, music, and literature such as Tin Pan Alley, the Harlem Renaissance, the Beat Generation, rock and roll, the Chicano Mural Movement, and country and western music on American society; and ***Readiness Standard***

(C) identify and analyze the global diffusion of American culture through various media. ***Supporting Standard***

(25) **Culture.** The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity. The student is expected to

(A) explain actions taken by people to expand economic opportunities and political rights for racial, ethnic, gender, and religious groups in American society; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) describe the Americanization movement to assimilate immigrants and American Indians into American culture; ***Supporting Standard***

(C) explain how the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, gender, and religious groups shape American culture; and ***Readiness Standard***

(D) identify the contributions of women such as Rosa Parks, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Sonia Sotomayor to American society. ***Supporting Standard***

Reporting Category 3:
Government and Citizenship

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role of government and the civic process in U.S. History.

(18) **Government.** The student understands changes over time in the role of government. The student is expected to

(A) evaluate the impact of New Deal legislation on the historical roles of state and federal government; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) explain constitutional issues raised by federal government policy changes during times of significant events, including World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the 1960s, and September 11, 2001; ***Readiness Standard***

(C) describe the effects of political scandals, including Teapot Dome, Watergate, and Bill Clinton's impeachment, on the views of U.S. citizens concerning trust in the federal government and its leaders; and ***Supporting Standard***

(D) describe the role of contemporary government legislation in the private and public sectors such as the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. ***Supporting Standard***

(19) **Government.** The student understands the changing relationships among the three branches of the federal government. The student is expected to

(A) describe the impact of events such as the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and the War Powers Act on the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government; and ***Supporting Standard***

(B) evaluate the impact of relationships among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, including Franklin D. Roosevelt's attempt to increase the number of U.S. Supreme Court justices and the presidential election of 2000. ***Readiness Standard***

(20) **Government.** The student understands the impact of constitutional issues on American society. The student is expected to

(A) analyze the effects of landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Hernandez v. Texas*, *Tinker v. Des Moines*, and *Wisconsin v. Yoder*; and ***Readiness Standard***

(B) explain why landmark constitutional amendments have been proposed and ratified from 1877 to the present. ***Supporting Standard***

(21) **Citizenship.** The student understands the concept of American exceptionalism as identified by Alexis de Tocqueville. The student is expected to

(A) discuss values crucial to America's success as a constitutional republic, including liberty, egalitarianism, individualism, populism, and laissez–faire. ***Supporting Standard***

(22) **Citizenship.** The student understands the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the protections of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The student is expected to

(A) identify and analyze methods of expanding the right to participate in the democratic process, including lobbying, non–violent protesting, litigation, and amendments to the U.S. Constitution; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) evaluate various means of achieving equality of political rights, including the 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments and congressional acts such as the American Indian Citizenship Act of 1924; ***Supporting Standard***

(C) explain how participation in the democratic process reflects our national identity, patriotism, and civic responsibility; and ***Supporting Standard***

(D) summarize the criteria and explain the process for becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States. ***Supporting Standard***

(23) **Citizenship.** The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. The student is expected to

(A) evaluate the contributions of significant political and social leaders in the United States such as Andrew Carnegie, Thurgood Marshall, Billy Graham, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Hillary Clinton; and ***Supporting Standard***

(B) explain the importance of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients such as Army First Lieutenant Vernon J. Baker, Army Corporal Alvin York, and Army Master Sergeant Raul "Roy" Perez Benavidez. ***Supporting Standard***

Reporting Category 4:
Economics, Science, Technology, and Society

The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and technological influences on U.S. history.

(15) **Economics.** The student understands domestic and foreign issues related to U.S. economic growth from the 1870s to 1920. The student is expected to

(A) describe how the economic impact of the Transcontinental Railroad and the Homestead Act contributed to the close of the frontier in the late 19th century; ***Supporting Standard***

(B) describe the changing relationship between the federal government and private business, including the growth of free enterprise, costs and benefits of laissez–faire, Sherman Antitrust Act, Interstate Commerce Act, and Pure Food and Drug Act; ***Readiness Standard***

(C) explain how foreign policies affected economic issues such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Open Door Policy, Dollar Diplomacy, and immigration quotas; and ***Supporting Standard***

(D) describe the economic effects of international military conflicts, including the Spanish–American War and World War I, on the United States. ***Readiness Standard***

(16) **Economics.** The student understands significant economic developments between World War I and World War II. The student is expected to

(A) analyze causes of economic growth and prosperity in the 1920s, including Warren Harding's Return to Normalcy, reduced taxes, and increased production efficiencies; ***Supporting Standard***

(B) identify the causes of the Great Depression, including the impact of tariffs on world trade, stock market speculation, bank failures, and the monetary policy of the Federal Reserve System; ***Readiness Standard***

(C) analyze the effects of the Great Depression on the U.S. economy and society such as widespread unemployment and deportation and repatriation of people of Mexican heritage; ***Readiness Standard***

(D) compare the New Deal policies and its opponents' approaches to resolving the economic effects of the Great Depression; and ***Supporting Standard***

(E) describe how various New Deal agencies and programs, including the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Social Security Administration, continue to affect the lives of U.S. citizens. ***Supporting Standard***

(17) **Economics.** The student understands the economic effects of government policies from World War II through the present. The student is expected to

(A) describe the economic effects of World War II on the home front such as mobilization, the end of the Great Depression, rationing, and increased opportunity for women and minority employment; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) identify the causes of prosperity in the 1950s, including the Baby Boom and the impact of the GI Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944), and the effects of prosperity in the 1950s such as increased consumption and the growth of agriculture and business; ***Readiness Standard***

(C) describe the economic impact of defense spending on the business cycle and education priorities from 1945 to the 1990s; ***Supporting Standard***

(D) identify the actions and outcomes of government policies intended to create economic opportunities for citizens such as the Great Society, affirmative action, and Title IX; and ***Supporting Standard***

(E) describe the dynamic relationship between U.S. international trade policies and the U.S. free enterprise system such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil embargo, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). ***Readiness Standard***

(26) **Science, technology, and society.** The student understands the impact of science, technology, and the free enterprise system on the economic development of the United States. The student is expected to

(A) explain the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations such as electric power, telephone and satellite communications, petroleum–based products, steel production, and computers on the economic development of the United States; ***Readiness Standard***

(B) explain how specific needs result in scientific discoveries and technological innovations in agriculture, the military, and medicine; and ***Supporting Standard***

(C) describe the effect of technological innovations in the workplace such as assembly line manufacturing and robotics. ***Supporting Standard***

(27) **Science, technology, and society.** The student understands the influence of scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and the free enterprise system on the standard of living in the United States. The student is expected to

(A) analyze how scientific discoveries, technological innovations, space exploration, and the application of these by the free enterprise system improve the standard of living in the United States, including changes in transportation and communication; and ***Readiness Standard***

(B) describe how the free enterprise system drives technological innovation and its application in the marketplace such as cell phones, inexpensive personal computers, and global positioning products. ***Supporting Standard***

Social Studies Skills

(28) **Social studies skills.** The student understands how historians use historiography to interpret the past and applies critical–thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including technology. The student is expected to

(A) analyze primary and secondary sources such as maps, graphs, speeches, political cartoons, and artifacts to acquire information to answer historical questions;

(B) analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause–and–effect relationships, comparing and contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations, making predictions, drawing inferences, and drawing conclusions;

(D) evaluate the validity of a source based on corroboration with other sources and information about the author, including points of view, frames of reference, and historical context.

(29) **Social studies skills.** The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to

(B) use social studies terminology correctly.

(30) **Social studies skills.** The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data. The student is expected to

(B) pose and answer questions about geographic distributions and patterns shown on maps, graphs, charts, and available databases.