Chapter 28
The Confident Years, 1953-1964

Practice Test

1. Ronald Reagan, like many Americans, believed that the country would thrive if
   A) the president extended New Deal reforms.
   B) the government would more actively regulate the economy.
   C) nuclear weapons were used against Eastern Europe.
   D) free enterprise was encouraged and supported.

2. A key to Dwight Eisenhower’s political success was his
   A) close ties with Harry Truman.
   B) promise to undo New Deal reforms.
   C) positive image with both liberals and conservatives.
   D) belief that free trade was harming the economy.

3. Between 1950 and 1964, the American economy
   A) experienced sluggish growth and decline.
   B) grew at a consistent pace.
   C) experienced a depression.
   D) solved the problems of poverty.

4. The Congressional policy of termination provided one-time payments, but little else to help
   A) blacks.
   B) women.
   C) Latinos.
   D) Indians.

5. In 1954, Congress focused its housing policy on
   A) family farms.
   B) urban renewal.
   C) better housing for blacks.
   D) building shopping malls.

6. Which statement about urban renewal from 1954-1964 is true?
   A) Rundown housing was often destroyed and replaced by upper-class businesses.
   B) Housing problems for the poor were solved in the North.
   C) Small farmers also benefited from federal urban renewal funds.
   D) Conservatives used urban renewal to attack the awful level of poverty.
7. The Eisenhower administration used “New Deal-style” government spending in modernizing
   A) the American medical system.
   B) the national highway system.
   C) the Civilian Conservation Corps.
   D) environmental protection methods.

8. Changes in the domestic economy during the 1950s included
   A) a decrease in the number of franchise businesses.
   B) consumers were more reluctant to buy on credit.
   C) consumers bought more commodities on credit.
   D) a shrinking of the middle class.

9. All of the following were new to consumers in the 1950’s EXCEPT
   A) large-scale suburban shopping centers, such as Northgate in Seattle.
   B) franchised hotels and fast-food restaurants, such as Holiday Inn and McDonald’s.
   C) new environments for high-intensity consumption, such as Disneyland.
   D) mass production of bottled soda pop, such as Coca Cola and 7-Up.

10. Patterns in family living of the 1950s included
    A) children spending more time on the streets than with their families.
    B) pressure on women to pursue husbands rather than professional aspirations.
    C) promotion of the belief that strong families defended the U.S. against communism.
    D) an increase in the percentage of adults who chose to remain single.

11. Situation-comedy television shows of the 1950s portrayed American families as
    A) unimportant in American culture.
    B) troubled and full of conflict.
    C) including two parents who worked in the professions.
    D) white, polite, and satisfied.

12. All of the following factors laid the groundwork for dramatic social changes in the 1960s and 1970s EXCEPT
    A) pressure of young marriages
    B) ease of living
    C) large families
    D) economic needs

13. The 1955 movie *Blackboard Jungle* portrayed a combination of
    A) the middle class and a college education.
    B) advertising and commodities bought by young people.
    C) juvenile delinquency and rock-and-roll.
    D) World War II and the Great Depression.
14. Who did NOT first rise to great popularity in the 1950s?
   A) The Beatles
   B) Elvis Presley
   C) Marilyn Monroe
   D) Buddy Holly

15. The success of films such as The Robe and Ben Hur
   A) indicated a new tendency to like films that were less than an hour in length.
   B) illustrated that moviegoers preferred comedies with light themes.
   C) reflected a renewed public interest in organized religion.
   D) revealed that the American film industry was in decline.

16. The phrase “under God” was added to the Pledge of Allegiance in
   A) 1953.
   B) 1954.
   C) 1955.
   D) 1956.

17. The writings of Norman Vincent Peale
   A) criticized the dominance of Protestantism in American culture.
   B) supported passage of further social reform programs.
   C) were judged to be communistic during the McCarthy hearings.
   D) urged positive thinking by combining psychology and religion.

18. All of the following authors wrote books that analyzed America’s growing prosperity EXCEPT
   A) John Kenneth Galbraith.
   B) John Foster Dulles.
   C) William H. Whyte Jr.
   D) David Potter.

19. In literature, a group of writers who challenged mainstream culture were known as
   A) impressionists.
   B) neoclassicists.
   C) the Beats.
   D) the Yippies.

20. In which state was school integration met with a major crisis?
   A) Maryland
   B) Oklahoma
   C) Arkansas
   D) Kentucky
21. Dwight Eisenhower did all of the following during his two-term presidency EXCEPT
   A) refuse to dismantle successful New Deal programs.
   B) extend American military while avoiding war.
   C) place more emphasis on domestic reforms than foreign affairs.
   D) delegate authority through a “hidden-hand” presidential style.

22. One trend in governmental spending during the 1950s was
   A) a significant increase in defense spending.
   B) cutting all social reform programs.
   C) providing no new educational programs.
   D) a lack of funding for containment efforts.

23. One of the pitfalls of the U.S.’s policy of containment was that it
   A) weakened relations with Great Britain.
   B) often caused America to support undemocratic regimes.
   C) caused a debilitating recession in the mid-1960s.
   D) closed American markets in Western Europe.

24. The leader of the Vietnamese nationalist movement that toppled French rule was
   A) Ho Chi Minh.
   B) Ngo Dinh Diem.
   C) Syngman Rhee.
   D) Dien Bien Phu.

25. After French rule in Vietnam ended, the U.S.
   A) urged democratic reforms in Vietnam.
   B) signed a non-aggression pact with Vietnamese communists.
   C) backed an authoritarian regime led by pro-western Vietnamese.
   D) attacked communist positions near the Suez Canal.

When?
1. Which event did NOT happen in the 1960s?
   A) the assassination of President Kennedy
   B) the spread of lunch counter sit-ins
   C) the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
   D) the Montgomery bus strike

2. Which event happened first?
   A) The Civil Rights Act was passed.
   B) A decision was issued in the Brown v. Board of Education case.
   C) A U.S. astronaut orbited the earth for the first time.
   D) Medicare and Medicaid were established.
3. Which headline would have appeared in 1963?
   A) “JFK Edges Nixon in One of Nation’s Closest Elections.”
   B) “Soviets Successfully Launch Sputnik.”
   C) “Quarter-Million Americans Gather to Hear King at Lincoln Memorial.”
   D) “Ike Orders Federal Troops to Protect Black Students in Little Rock.”

4. Which event happened last?
   A) The Soviets launched Sputnik.
   B) President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.
   C) Martin Luther King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech.
   D) Montgomery bus strike.

5. In which election did televised debates play a vital role?
   A) 1948
   B) 1952
   C) 1956
   D) 1960

Where?
Match the following figures with the appropriate home state.

   Adlai Stevenson   Kansas
   Bugsy Siegel     Illinois
   Lyndon Johnson   Nevada
   John Kennedy     Texas
   Linda Brown      Massachusetts

How and Why?
1. How did television portray the American middle-class in the 1950s and early 1960s?

2. What examples reveal that United States foreign policy sometimes involved backing
   undemocratic regimes in the effort to contain communism?

3. Who was Betty Friedan and why was her book *The Feminine Mystique* viewed as such
   a groundbreaking piece of writing? What effect did her work have on the art world?

4. What factors contributed to John Kennedy’s victory in the election of 1960?

5. What Civil Rights Acts were supported and passed under the leadership of Lyndon
   Johnson?

6. How did the economic prosperity of the 1950s and early 1960s shape social and
   political life in the United States?
7. What characteristics and organizations defined the non-violent movement to achieve civil rights in the period 1954-1965? What successes were achieved in this period? Describe who you believe were the most successful leaders of these efforts.

8. In what ways did John Kennedy’s mystique shape the national mood of the early 1960s? What successes and failures did JFK experience as president? How did his combination of idealism and shrewdness affect the rest of the 1960s?

9. Describe the ways in which both Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson furthered the legacy and reforms of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal.

10. In 1965, civil-rights leaders consistently expressed that Lyndon Johnson was “the best president that American blacks ever had.” What factors caused the leaders to voice this opinion?