

High School History Quiz

Twenty questions covering US and world history at the high school level. From the Renaissance to ...

Name / Team:

Score:

1 What event is considered the start of World War I?

- A. Germany's invasion of Poland
- B. The sinking of the Lusitania
- C. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- D. The Russian Revolution

2 What was the Renaissance?

- A. A military campaign
- B. A cultural and intellectual rebirth in Europe (14th-1...
- C. A religious reform movement
- D. An agricultural revolution

3 What was the Cold War?

- A. A war fought in winter
- B. A geopolitical rivalry between the US and Soviet U...
- C. A war between NATO countries
- D. A brief conflict in Korea

4 What was the Reformation?

- A. The fall of the Roman Empire
- B. A religious movement that split Western Christian...
- C. The French Revolution
- D. The creation of the United Nations

5 What economic system is based on private ownership and free markets?

- A. Communism
- B. Socialism
- C. Capitalism
- D. Feudalism

6 What was the Marshall Plan?

- A. A plan to invade Normandy
- B. An American program to rebuild Western Europe ...
- C. A Soviet plan to expand communism
- D. A plan to create the United Nations

7 What was the main cause of the French Revolution?

- A. A foreign invasion
- B. A natural disaster
- C. Social inequality, economic crisis, and resentmen...
- D. Religious persecution

8 Who wrote 'The Communist Manifesto'?

- A. Vladimir Lenin
- B. Joseph Stalin
- C. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
- D. Mao Zedong

9 What policy during the Cold War aimed to prevent the spread of communism?

- A. Isolationism
- B. Appeasement
- C. Containment
- D. Detente

10 What event ended the Cold War?

- A. The Korean War
- B. The Cuban Missile Crisis
- C. The fall of the Berlin Wall and dissolution of the So...
- D. The Vietnam War

11 What was the Industrial Revolution?

- A. A political revolution in industry
- B. The transition from hand production to machine ...
- C. The invention of the computer
- D. The rise of labor unions

12 What was apartheid?

- A. A French political party
- B. A system of racial segregation in South Africa
- C. A type of government
- D. A colonial trade agreement

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(continued)

13 What international organization was created after WWII to promote peace and cooperation?

- A. NATO
- B. The League of Nations
- C. The United Nations
- D. The European Union

14 What was the significance of D-Day (June 6, 1944)?

- A. Germany surrendered
- B. Japan bombed Pearl Harbor
- C. Allied forces invaded Normandy, France, opening ...
- D. The atomic bomb was dropped

15 What was the Enlightenment?

- A. A religious awakening
- B. An intellectual movement emphasizing reason, s...
- C. A military strategy
- D. An art movement

16 What was the Magna Carta (1215)?

- A. A declaration of war
- B. An English document limiting the king's power an...
- C. A map of the New World
- D. A peace treaty

17 What genocide killed approximately six million Jews during World War II?

- A. The Gulag
- B. The Rwandan Genocide
- C. The Holocaust
- D. The Armenian Genocide

18 What policy did the US follow between the World Wars, avoiding involvement in foreign conflicts?

- A. Imperialism
- B. Containment
- C. Isolationism
- D. Interventionism

19 What was the significance of the Gutenberg printing press (1440)?

- A. It made newspapers possible
- B. It made books affordable and spread literacy an...
- C. It printed the first Bible
- D. It was the first machine

20 What was the Berlin Wall?

- A. A wall protecting Berlin from invasion
- B. A barrier dividing communist East Berlin from de...
- C. A medieval city wall
- D. A wall around the German parliament

High School History Quiz — Answer Key

1. C The assassination of Archduke Franz F...

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. A chain of alliances drew most of Europe into war within weeks.

2. B A cultural and intellectual rebirth i...

The Renaissance began in Italy and spread across Europe, reviving interest in classical Greek and Roman art, philosophy, and science. It produced Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and

3. B A geopolitical rivalry between the US...

The Cold War (1947-1991) was a period of political tension between the US-led Western bloc and the Soviet-led Eastern bloc. It included proxy wars, the space race, and nuclear arms

4. B A religious movement that split Weste...

Martin Luther's 95 Theses in 1517 challenged Catholic Church practices and sparked the Protestant Reformation, which permanently divided Western Christianity.

5. C Capitalism

Capitalism is an economic system where private individuals own the means of production and goods are traded in free markets. Adam Smith's 'The Wealth of Nations' (1776) is its

6. B An American program to rebuild Wester...

The Marshall Plan (1948-1952) provided over \$13 billion in economic aid to rebuild Western European economies after World War II. It also aimed to prevent the spread of communism.

7. C Social inequality, economic crisis, a...

The French Revolution (1789) was driven by extreme inequality between the aristocracy and common people, financial crisis, and Enlightenment ideas about liberty and equality.

8. C Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published The Communist Manifesto in 1848. It argued that class struggle between workers and capitalists would lead to a communist revolution.

9. C Containment

Containment was the cornerstone of US foreign policy during the Cold War, first articulated by diplomat George Kennan. It led to interventions in Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere.

10. C The fall of the Berlin Wall and disso...

The Berlin Wall fell in November 1989, and the Soviet Union dissolved in December 1991, ending over four decades of Cold War rivalry.

11. B The transition from hand production t...

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the late 1700s and transformed economies from agricultural to industrial. It introduced factories, steam power, and mass production.

12. B A system of racial segregation in Sou...

Apartheid (1948-1994) was a system of institutionalized racial segregation in South Africa. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison fighting it and became president when it ended.

13. C The United Nations

The United Nations was founded in 1945 with 51 member states. It now has 193 members. The League of Nations was its predecessor after WWI but failed to prevent WWII.

14. C Allied forces invaded Normandy, Franc...

D-Day was the largest amphibious invasion in history. Over 150,000 Allied troops landed on five beaches in Normandy, beginning the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control.

15. B An intellectual movement emphasizing ...

The Enlightenment produced thinkers like Locke, Voltaire, and Montesquieu whose ideas about natural rights, democracy, and separation of powers influenced the American and French

16. B An English document limiting the king...

The Magna Carta was signed by King John of England under pressure from his barons. It established that even the king was subject to the law and influenced democratic development

17. C The Holocaust

The Holocaust was the systematic murder of six million Jews by Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler. Millions of others, including Roma, disabled people, and political prisoners, were also killed.

18. C Isolationism

After WWI, the US adopted an isolationist stance, refusing to join the League of Nations and avoiding European alliances. This policy ended after Pearl Harbor in 1941.

19. B It made books affordable and spread l...

Johannes Gutenberg's movable-type printing press made books far cheaper to produce. It spread literacy, enabled the Reformation, and accelerated the spread of scientific

20. B A barrier dividing communist East Ber...

The Berlin Wall (1961-1989) physically divided Berlin during the Cold War. Its fall on November 9, 1989, symbolized the end of communist rule in Eastern Europe.