

U.S. Regents tip sheet

(check my webpage www.cccsd.org/webpages/szenkert)

1. Review U.S. Regents essay topics - an analysis of U.S. Regents essay exams over the past 10 years.
2. View the Regents hit list - PowerPoint of 135 things to know for the exam (people, vocabulary, events)
3. Review activity #4 - a graphic organizer of important Supreme Court cases
4. Study the 10 units on a page - a summary of what you need to know for each unit on one page.
5. Complete the review packet - a summary of information for each unit, sample multiple choice questions, vocabulary matching questions, blank graphic organizers.
6. Complete the guided note sheet for review book (Prentice Hall 2010)
7. Old exams and the answer keys can be found at <http://www.nysedregents.org/USHistoryGov/home.html>
8. There is a Regents Review program (on line video) at <http://www.regentsreviewlive.net/>
9. Hints for the exam.
 - 1) The multiple choice questions generally appear in chronological order.
 - 2) Information stated as part of the question is always true (could help with other parts of the test).
 - 3) You can write on the test booklet. Cross off multiple choice options you know are wrong and select the best remaining choice.
 - 4) Don't leave any questions blank (you have no chance of getting a question right if you leave it blank).
 - 5) As you complete each question put an 'X' through the number of any question in the test booklet that you are 100% sure is correct (you don't have to look at this question again)
 - 6) Read the question fully and carefully. Underline or circle important words, dates or people.

- 7) Read all the choices - Sometimes a good answer is present but a better answer is further down the list. You have to select the best choice not a good choice.
- 8) Your brain has the capacity to make mental corrections to what you are reading without your active participation. It is the reason you can understand the shorthand of text messaging and why it can be hard to spot spelling errors. If you go too fast you see what you think the test says and not what is actually printed (that is why underlining and circling helps you to notice key information).
- 9) If you get stuck on a question think about the time period - sometimes you can eliminate choices because the event has not yet occurred or is outside the time period in question. For example you have a question about US domestic conflict in the early 19th Century (19th c is 1800-1899 so early 19th c would be 1800-1850.) A choice that mentions civil rights can't be correct because that does not happen until 1950's and 60's. A choice about the issue of slavery is possible since early 19th c is before the Civil War.
- 10) If you get stuck part 2 - some questions can be answered by playing "which answer does not belong". Three of the choices are similar one choice is very different. This different one may be the correct answer. It does not always work but if you are stuck it may help.
- 11) Some questions give a list of items and you need to find similarities. For example Palmer Raids after WWI and McCarthy Hearings during Korean War causes similar fear of...
 - a. military weapons, b. foreign invasion, c. communism, d. economic depression

If you only know one item on the list cross off answers that don't fit the one you do know. In the above example if you don't know Palmer work with McCarthy hearings which were about finding communists in American society and government. Communism is the only one that fits McCarthy hearings. It does not matter that if you don't know the Palmer raids (if you don't know either take your best guess and move on).

- 12) After you complete the essays you can recheck the multiple choice questions. Sometimes answers will come to you later after you see more of the test and your brain gets in a U.S. zone.
- 13) On the multiple choice section your first selection is usually correct. Remember all those left brain, right brain activities we did? Part of your brain knows the correct answer even though the other half does not know why. Don't change a multiple choice answer unless you have a reason to do so (such as the correct answer came to you, you realized you misread the question or misread an answer choice).