

Міністерство освіти і науки, молоді та спорту України  
Черкаський національний університет  
імені Богдана Хмельницького

**Кравченко Т. М., Кошмай С .М.**

## **КРАЇНОЗНАВСТВО США**

Навчально-методичний посібник  
для студентів II курсу інституту іноземних мов

Черкаси – 2012

Рецензенти: **Дегтярєва Л. П.**, кандидат філологічних наук, доцент кафедри романо-германської філології та перекладу Черкаського державного технологічного університету;

**Швидка Л. В.**, кандидат філологічних наук, доцент кафедри німецької філології Черкаського національного університету імені Богдана Хмельницького

Підручник складається з двох частин: у першій розкриваються теоретичні засади країнознавства, у другій містяться тестові завдання, що сприятимуть закріпленню навчального матеріалу. Особлива увага приділяється комплексному аналізу країни; систематизації відомостей про її природу, населення, господарство, соціальну організацію, політичну систему, освіту, свята та традиції. Низка розроблених тестів сприяє ефективному засвоєнню теоретичного матеріалу. Посібник також містить практичний розділ в якому пропонуються презентації виконані учнями загальноосвітньої школи №7 м. Черкаси. Наведені презентації дозволяють наочно проілюструвати лекційний матеріал, викладений у посібнику.

Підручник відповідає програмі навчальної дисципліни "Країнознавство".

Пропонований посібник має своїм завданням допомогти студентам ближче познайомитися з країною, мова якої вивчається.

Навчально-методичний посібник пройшов апробацію в ННІ іноземних мов Черкаського національного університету імені Богдана Хмельницького в 2011-2012 навчальному році.

Рекомендовано до друку кафедрою англійської філології  
Черкаського національного університету імені Богдана Хмельницького

(протокол № 4 від 25.10.2012 р.).

# CONTENTS

<b>Part 1.</b>	Introduction.....	4
1.1.	Lecture 1. A Survey of American Geography.....	5
1.2.	Lecture2. American History.....	7
1.2.1.	Discovery.....	7
1.2.2.	The Colonies. ....	9
1.2.3.	The American Revolution.....	9
1.3.	Lecture 3. The Political System of the United States.....	12
1.3.1.	The Constitution and the Bill of Rights.....	12
1.3.2.	Legislative Branch.....	13
1.3.3.	Executive Branch ....	14
1.3.4.	Judicial Branch.....	15
1.3.5.	Administrative System of the States. ....	16
1.4.	Lecture 4. The Educational System of the USA.....	17
1.4.1.	History.....	17
1.4.2.	Control of Education.....	17
1.4.3.	Elementary and Secondary Education.....	18
1.4.4.	Higher Education.....	19
1.5.	Lecture 5. Holidays in the United States.....	21
1.5.1.	Typical American ?.....	23
<b>Part 2.</b>	Tests.....	25
2.1.	Introduction. Test 1.....	25
2.2.	Geography. Test 1 – 10.....	25-41
2.3.	History. Test 1 – 6.....	42-51
2.4.	Political System. Test 1-5.....	51-55
2.5.	Education. Test 1-2.....	55-59
2.6.	Holidays. Test 1- 4 ....	59-67
<b>Literature</b>	.....	67
<b>Keys</b>	.....	69

## Part 1

### Introduction

In setting out to describe America and the Americans, it would be tempting to assume that the United States is just another country, and try to approach it as such. It is a superpower, to be sure; at the same time, it has its population centres, high and low temperatures, economic statistics, educational systems, arts and crafts, politics and problems, battles and bruises just like any other countries. In approaching America, therefore, we first need to take a closer look at these problems if we hope to get closer to the central question of what America is and what it means.

“This land is your land” states a popular song. It is such a well-known refrain because it is one of the first tunes which many people learn to play on the guitar. Yet, this land, America, is not our land (unless, of course, we are American citizens).

Anyone, who was born in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and has lived in a land that displays all the modern media – newspapers and magazines, paperback books, radio and TV, videos and advertisements of every type – has grown up with hundreds, even thousands of images of America and American life. Because of this, most Europeans have already been to America, even if they have never placed one foot on American soil.

And why not? Think for a moment about how many old and new American movies you’ve seen. And there are all those songs you’ve heard, that music of every type which is sung in American accents.

What is hard to remember is that all of these images and views of America are heard, seen, read, or observed outside the US. We don’t need to listen to an American radio stations to hear American music. American television programs are normally seen on European television stations, and magazines and newspapers and novels and stores or advertisements. In short, America doesn’t stop at her borders. In other words, America seems to be everywhere, but everywhere is not America.

Of course, American images and products are not always welcome. Whether jeans or jazz, rock-and-roll, violent movies, or even those “damn dangerous” skateboards, more than one nation in both East and West has tried to discourage, or has simply forbidden the inflow of unwanted Americana.

## 1.1. LECTURE 1

### A Survey of American Geography

The United States of America is one of the largest countries in the world. It is a very powerful and highly developed country. The USA is situated in central North America, with Canada to the north and Mexico to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The two newest states, Alaska and Hawaii, are separated from the continental United States. Alaska borders on north-western Canada, and Hawaii lies in the central Pacific Ocean.

The country is very large and has many kinds of land, climate and people. It stretches 2,575 kilometres from north to south and 4,500 kilometres from east to west. The USA is a varied land of forest deserts, mountains, high flat lands and fertile plains. Almost every kind of climate may be found but the country lies mostly in the temperate zone. In mountain forests of the north-west coast are watered with more than 250 centimetres of rain each year. But the deserts of the south-west receive less than 13 centimetres annually. A traveller can find parts of the United States that remind him of home. There are pine forests and mountain peaks, meadows and sea cliffs, wide grassy plains and sandy beaches.

The total area of the USA is 9,372,614 square kilometres. Alaska is the largest of America's 50 states, with a land mass of 1,477,887 square kilometres. It is nearly 400 times the size of Rhode Island, which is the smallest size.

The population of the USA is over 260 million people. Despite its size, only approximately 525,000 people live in Alaska.

A flight from New York to San Francisco takes five and a half hours. Airlines serve 834 cities throughout the country. A coast-to-coast trip by train takes five to six days.

The USA is also a land of beautiful rivers and lakes. The state Minnesota, for example, is known as the land of 10,000 lakes.

The Mississippi is one of the world's greatest rivers, like the Amazon in the South America, the Congo in Africa, the Volga in Europe. Together with the Missouri (its chief western branch), the Mississippi flows some 6,400 kilometres from its northern sources in the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi has been called the "father of waters".

All the rivers east of the Rockies finally reach the Atlantic; all the waters to the west of the Rockies finally arrive the Pacific. The two great rivers of the Pacific side are the Colorado in the south and the Columbia, which rises in Canada and drains the north. Both rivers, very different in character, are vital sources of life. The Colorado is a river of enormous fury; it is wild, restless and angry. It races, cutting deeply into the desert rocks. The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River is cut 1.6 kilometres in depth. All the farms and cities of the south-western corners of the country depend on its waters. The Rio Grand, about 3,200 kilometres long, is the foremost river of the South-west. It forms a natural boundary between Mexico and the United States, which together have built irrigation and flood-control projects.

The largest lakes of the USA ( Lake Superior, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario ) lie on the border with Canada. One of the world's wonders, the Niagara Falls, is on the Niagara River, which empties the water of Erie into Ontario.

The Appalachians are old mountains which are covered by forest from their base to the rounded tops. The Rocky Mountains, which run from New Mexico to Alaska, are called the "backbone" of America. The Series of western ranges, paralleling the Pacific coast, the Sierra Nevada (California), the Cascade Range, the Coast Range. Between the Rockies and the Sierra, Nevada-Cascade Mountains lies the Great Basin, a group of vast plateaus with deserts and deep canyons in the south.

The Cascade Mountains and the Sierra Nevada Mountains catch most of the rain off the Pacific Ocean. As a result, there is too little rain in the western part of the country. Farmers must depend on water from irrigation.

The 50-centimeter rainfall line runs north and south almost through the middle of the country. East of the line farming is easy, and the population is relatively large. West of the line, one finds dry farming, grazing and fewer people.

The greatest wonder in the state of California is the forests of sequoia, they are over 3,000 years old and the oldest living things ever known.

The capital of the USA is Washington, D.C. Among other big cities are New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Many non-Americans may be aware of the geographical size of the USA. But it is harder to imagine the enormous amount of variety that exists within the nation. Often students assume a cultural and political homogeneity that simply does not exist in the USA. That is why simple questions about the United States cannot be answered shortly and simply. It is not possible to explain in a few words how old Americans have to be to drive a car or how much income tax they have to pay. New York City residents, for example, must pay federal state and city income taxes, while those lucky inhabitants of Colorado, New Hampshire, only pay federal income tax.

While European tourists are so often surprised by how big America really is, most Americans take the size and variety of their country for granted. They don't find it exceptional to be able to speak the same, common language along the way. They don't have stickers on their cars which say USA: which else would it be?

## 1.2. LECTURE 2

### **American History**

*1.2.1. Discovery.* “In 1492 Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue”. This is a little rhyme many American children learn to remember the date that Christopher Columbus “discovered” America. This is a famous joke about Columbus. It has

been told over and over again, by this professional historian, or by that recent visitor who, hearing it for the first time, thinks it's new. However, it's an old story to the first Americans, the Indians:

Christopher Columbus didn't really know where he was going  
(but he was sure it wouldn't be America)

Christopher didn't really know where he was when he got there  
(but he was sure that it wasn't America)

Chris didn't really know where he'd been when he got home again  
(but he took back some Indians back with him, to prove that he  
sure hadn't been to America).

Was Ch. Columbus truly the first person to discover the continent and return home to tell about it. Probably not, but he was the first to return to Europe and tell all about what he believed to be a new route to Asia.

America wasn't discovered by Ch. Columbus. In fact, Columbus and his men were not even the second explorers to reach America. They were the third. By 1000 A.D. the Viking explorers from Scandinavian had bravely explored the dangerous North Atlantic. They travelled from Iceland to Greenland, and finally to Labrador and Newfoundland. But at that time European countries did not yet have enough wealth or knowledge to follow the Viking. Soon the Viking returned to Scandinavia, and America waited until 1492 for the ships of Columbus.

Columbus arrived in America by accident. When he sailed west from Spain, he was hoping to discover water route to the Orient. He never dreamed that two huge continents stood in this way. In fact, even when he reached America, he mistakenly thought that he was in India. So he called people who greeted him Indians. The name has been frequently used since that time.

These Native Americans, of course, were not Indians. They were descendants (later family generations) of the first people who discovered America. Their ancestors (previous family generations) had been on the American continents for thousands of years. Their story is the story of the America's first explorers.



**1.2.2. *The Colonies.*** European people came to the New World for many reasons. Some, like Columbus, came looking for new trade routes, others were seeking fortune, many were missionaries who wanted to convert the Native Americans, however many of them were even convicts.

The most well-known first settlers were the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims came, seeking religious freedom. They founded the Plymouth colony in Massachusetts in 1620. The Pilgrim originated in England, but they were persecuted for their religious beliefs and moved to Holland. After living in Holland for ten years, they set sail on the Mayflower for the New World, hoping for a new life.

The trip across the ocean was tough and terribly unpleasant. There was sickness and death. They had little food and fresh water, and many never lived to see this new land. They arrived in the winter of 1620, in the north-east of America, a harsh time to arrive to unsettled land. Nevertheless, they worked hard and in spring they hunted, fished and planted crops. That first harvest in summer and autumn was good to the Pilgrims, and they wanted to give thanks to God for seeing them safely through their journey.

The Pilgrims learned from the Native Americans how to live in this New World.

The Native Americans had a ceremony thanking nature for the food they received from the harvest. The Pilgrims decided to hold their own feast, Thanksgiving, which lasted for three days. Today Americans continue to celebrate this holiday with their family and friends, thanking God for all they are given.

There were also other religious groups who sought the New World, such as the Quakers, who founded the colony Pennsylvania. Other groups consisted of the Shakers, known for their beautiful wood work, and the Irish Catholics who settled in the colony of Maryland.

**1.2.3. *The American Revolution.*** In 1693 Great Britain defeated France in the French and Indian War but was left nearly bankrupt. Their only way to fill the treasury was to raise money by taxes.

The British placed taxes on such goods as molasses, tea, glass and paint. They also passed a Stamp Act. This was a special tax in the form of a stamp which had to be placed on newspapers and legal papers. The colonists protested so strongly against this tax that Britain finally dropped it. The issue of taxation for the colonists was that they felt that, since they had no representatives in British Parliament, it was unfair to tax them. This began to be known as “taxation without representation”.

Then many disputes led to bad feelings on both sides. Colonists formed an organisation called the Sons of Liberty. It led protests against the British. The British government then sent soldiers to enforce its laws.

In 1770 some colonists clashed with British troops in Boston Street. In the excitement, the soldiers fired into the crowd. Five people were killed. The Shooting came to be known by the colonists as the Boston Massacre.

Colonial leaders such as Samuel Adams, his cousin John Adams, who would later become the second president of the United States, George Washington, who would later become the first president of the US, and Benjamin Franklin organised a stronger protest against British rule. Britain dropped most of the taxes but kept the one on tea. Some merchants smuggled in tea to avoid paying the tax.

When, in 1773, Parliament granted the powerful East India Tea Company a monopoly on selling tea at a lower price, some merchants feared that they would lose the profits they made by smuggling tea. Late in December 1773, a number of the colonists took action. Disguised as Native Americans and led by Samuel Adams, they boarded a British ship and dumped the cargo of tea into the harbour. The colonists were afraid that people would buy the cheaper tea, which would symbolise the power the British government had on the colonies. The incident was called “the Boston Tea Party” and its story spread to all the colonies. Britain was angry and decided to punish the entire city of Boston by closing the port to ships. The Boston Tea Party proved to be one of the events that started the Revolution in 1775. The British troops marched out of Boston hoping to surprise the colonies, who had stored weapons near the city. Fighting broke out at Lexington and

Concord, two villages near Boston. These battles on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1775 marked the start of the American Revolution. A month later American colonists occupied the hills around Boston. The British sent more than two thousand soldiers, who held the hills. The result was the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775. The British troops seized the hills but suffered terrible losses. George Washington took command of the colonial army for the rest of the Revolution. At the start it numbered 15,000 troops.

Many people in Britain and in the colonies did not want war. Colonial leaders sent a petition to King George III of Britain. The King was asked to unite Great Britain and the colonies in a peaceful way. But the King refused to read the petition. He declared that the colonial protests were rebels. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. Its most important part says:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that are endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuits of happiness”.*

So, in 1776 the thirteen weak British colonies in America came together, stood up and told what was then the world’s greatest power that from now on they would be free and independent states. The British were neither impressed nor amused, and a bitter six-year war followed, the Revolutionary War (1776 – 1783). It’s hard to appreciate today, over two centuries later, what a revolutionary act this was. A new republic was founded, turning into reality the dreams and ideals of a new political philosophers. Americans broke with an age-old tradition, and so sent shock waves back across the ocean. They decided that it was their right to choose their own form of government. At that time the statement that governments should receive their powers only “from the consent of the governed” was radical indeed.

Something new was under the sun: the system of government, in Lincoln’s words, “of the people, by the people, for the people”.

## 1.3. LECTURE 3

### The Political System of the United States

*1.3.1. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights.* The first government of the US was established under the Articles of Confederation. These were created in 1781 to be a set of laws governing the different states, but it was soon understood that the federal, or national, government was too weak in this system, and the states too strong. Therefore, in 1787, delegates from the states met in Philadelphia to revise the articles and draft a new document, the Constitution. Officially adopted by the states in 1790, it created the three branches of government that can be seen in the US today. These three branches of government: executive ( the President ), legislative ( the Congress ), and judicial ( the Supreme Court ), have a system of “checks and balances”, meaning that no one branch is more powerful than the others. The Constitution is called “the supreme law of the land”, which means that all parts of the government, government agencies, state and local governments and citizens of the US must follow its laws. As a result, the president, the Congress, or an individual state are not the most powerful entity in the United States; power rests with all “the people”. It belongs to “We the People” in fact and in spirit.

In this way, Americans first took for themselves the liberties and rights that elsewhere were the privileges of an elite few. Americans would manage their own affairs in their own interests. They would elect their own representatives and make their own laws. And, of course, they would make their own mistakes.

They started in the first ten Constitutional Amendments, known together as the Bill of Rights, they considered to be the fundamental rights of any American. Among these rights are the freedom of religion, speech and press, the right of peaceful assembly, and the right to petition the government to correct wrongs. It also protects them against abuses of power and invasions of privacy, so that the government cannot take property or imprison any American without cause to do so. These rights are seen as “inalienable”, the natural rights of any American that cannot be taken away from them for any reason.

The Constitution can be looked upon as a “living” document, because it may be amended ( as it was the addition of the Bill of Rights ) as the world changes. This is one of the main reasons that the Constitution is the oldest still in force, just recently celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**1.3.2. Legislative Branch.** The legislative branch is made of elected representatives from all the states and is the only branch that can make federal laws, levy federal taxes, declare war, or put foreign treaties into effect. It consists of a Congress that is divided into two groups, called houses. The House of Representatives and the Senate.

The House of Representatives made up of 435 members, who each two-year terms. Each House member represents a district of his or her state. The number of districts in a state is determined by a count of the population taken every ten years. The states with larger populations therefore have more house members representing it. California, having the largest population, has 45 representatives, while Delaware has only one.

The Senate is made up of 100 members who each serve six-year terms. Each state, regardless of its population, has two senators. Therefore, each state has an equal voice in one house of Congress.

The main duty of Congress is to make laws. A law begins as a proposal called a “bill”. The bill is read, discussed, and amended in the Senate or House Chamber in which it was introduced. It is then voted upon. If the bill passes in one side of Congress, it is sent to the other side of Congress, where a similar procedure occurs. Members of both houses work together on the same bill. When both houses of Congress pass a bill on which they agree it is sent to the president for his signature. Only after it is signed does a bill become a law.

Congress also regulates commerce among the states and with foreign countries and decided how money is spent.

**1.3.3. The Executive Branch.** The executive branch is headed by the President of the US, who is elected, together with a vice president, for a four-year term.

Since 1951, after a constitutional amendment, a president can only be elected for two terms ( eight years total ). The president is elected directly by the voters, through state electors.

The powers of the president are great, but not without limitations. Most of the acts of the president are balanced by the power of Congress. For example, since one of the president's duties is to form public, domestic and foreign policy, he must often propose legislation to Congress. All policies must be approved by both houses before they can become a law. This means he must convince congressmen of his point of view. In return, the president may veto (forbid) any bill passed by Congress. The bill may still become law, but after being vetoed by the president the bill is returned to Congress. Congress must vote on the bill again and agree by a two-thirds vote, the bill becomes the law whether the president signs it or not.

The president also has the authority to appoint federal judges as vacancies occur, including members of the Supreme Court. All such court appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The president also appoints the heads and senior officials of the executive branch agencies. Currently, there are the departments of State, Treasury, Defence, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labour, Health and Human Resources, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy and Education. These appointments must also be approved by the Senate. None of these heads (often called secretaries) can be serving in Congress or in another part of the government. Each is directly responsible to the president and only serves as the president wants him or her to. They can best be seen, therefore, as presidential assistants and advisors. When they meet together, they are termed the president's "cabinet". Some presidents have relied quite a bit on their cabinets for advice, and some very little.

Under the Constitution the president is primarily responsible for foreign relations with other nations. The president appoints ambassadors and other officials, subject to Senate approval and with the secretary of state, formulates and manages the nation's foreign policy. The president often represents the US in consultations with other heads of states and through his officials he negotiates treaties with other countries. Such treaties must be approved by a two-third vote of the Senate.

**1.3.4. The Judicial Branch.** The head of the judicial branch is the Supreme Court. It is the only court that was created by the Constitution; in fact, often it's job is to determine if laws and acts are "unconstitutional" or not. In addition to the Supreme Court there are 11 federal courts of appeal and, below them, 91 district courts.

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and eight associate justices. They are nominated by the President but must be approved by the Senate. Federal judges are appointed for life or until voluntary retirement and they can only be removed from office through the process of impeachment and trial in the Congress. With minor exceptions all the cases reach the Court on appeal from lower federal or state courts. An appeal is when, after a decision has been made by a court, the plaintiff appeals to a higher court for a new trial. If there is just cause, a case may be taken from one court to a higher one then on to a higher one.

The highest, of course, is the Supreme Court. It is uncommon for cases to reach this level, and they generally involve disputes over the interpretation of laws and legislation. In this capacity, the Court's most important function consists of determining whether congressional legislation or executive action violates the Constitution.

A decision of the Supreme Court is final: neither the president nor Congress can change it.

Other cases heard by federal courts involve foreign citizens or governments and cases in which the federal government itself is a party.

**1.3.5. Administrative System of the States.** Government in the US can be divided into levels and branches. The different levels of the government consist of the federal government, 50 state governments, and countless local and regional governments. In the Constitution, different responsibilities are given to each of government.

The federal government is responsible for foreign policy, foreign trade, the infrastructure ( the system of railroads, and interstate highways that criss-cross the US ) and federal government spending on social programs. In contrast, the states have their own state government and control their state educational systems, their police forces, and state taxes. The federal government and other states cannot interfere in state concerns, like education and taxation, but the state must follow all federal laws. Local governments are given power over spending in local schools ( with the help of the state government ) and provide public services for their communities ( cleaning streets, garbage collection, etc. ).

As with the federal level of government, the state level of government is divided into the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The executive branch is headed by the governor of each state. Therefore, there are 50 state governors in the USA. The responsibility of the officials is to execute the laws. The laws, themselves, though, are made by the legislative , branch, which consists of 50 state congresses. In all, but the state of Nebraska, these congresses are broken up into the House of Representatives and the Senate ( Nebraska only has one “Congress” ). Each state has a state Supreme Court that can decide legal matters within the state. There are also lower courts both federal and state which decide if the defendant ( the person accused of a crime ) is guilty or innocent. So, the different parts of the governments are able to do the different job of governing the US.

## **1.4. LECTURE 4**



## **The Educational System of the USA**

**1.4.1. History.** The US has a strong tradition of education. Many of its original settlers were educated men. The first American college was Harvard, which was founded in 1636 by the graduates of Cambridge University. Later, in 1693, the college of William and Mary was founded in Williamsburg, Virginia, with Yale soon following in 1701. By 1776 there were nine colleges in the colonies, including Princeton ( New Jersey ), Pennsylvania, Columbia ( New York), Brown ( Rhode Island ), Rutgers (New Jersey) and Dartmouth ( New Hampshire ). These universities are among the most respected in the country today.

Education was not only valued at a higher level, but for school children as well. From the 1640s Massachusetts requires all towns to provide a school master in towns with fifty or more families. Many other colonies also provided free education.

As more and more people moved out to the west, it was ruled by 1785 that one square mile in each township be reserved for a public school. By 1850 every state had provided a system of free public schools open to all and paid for public taxes.

**1.4.2. Control of Education.** The problem with explaining the USA school system is that each school varies from town to town, city to city and state to state. This is because education is controlled at a local level.

The USA does not have a national system of education. To understand the USA school system better, keep in mind the saying “education is a national concern, a state responsibility and a local function”. Since the nation is concerned with education, the USA has a Federal Department of Education, but its purpose is to gather information and to advise and not to control. Each state decides its own system of education, setting basic minimal requirements for teaching and teachers. The administrative control, such as what books will be used is decided on a local level. The communities of America cities and towns have school boards which decide what will be taught.

**1.4.3. Elementary and Secondary Education.** As it was previously mentioned , every school in the US is different, since every community has different requirements, but we can still find some basic similarities.

Basically there are five different parts of the American school system: nursery school, kindergarten and elementary (often in the same building), and secondary (junior high school and high school).

Most students start by the age of five, in kindergarten, although some start as early as three or four in nursery schools. Some students attend elementary school from kindergarten to sixth grade, secondary school (junior high school) from seventh to ninth grade and then high school from ninth to twelfth. Others go to elementary school from kindergarten to eighth grade and then go straight to high school from ninth to twelfth. It depends entirely on the individual student and what the school system in his town offers.

Generally speaking, students graduate from school at the age of eighteen after they have completed the twelfth grade. However, for most states it is only compulsory to attend school until the age of 16, no matter what grade you have completed.

A student with his or her family can decide at any time to attend a public or private school. Most students attend public schools, but there are a variety of private schools available. Some private schools are religious organisations such as a church. Other private schools have no religious ties and are simply private. There are also boarding schools where students go away to school.

Nearly every state has the same basic requirements of Math, History, English, Science, foreign languages, social studies, Music, Art, Computers and physical education. Students have the most choice in their electives. Most students have an elective every year where students may choose either to advance in science and Math or in Art or Music, whatever interests them.

Of course, not all students are equal. Students, who have done poorly in school and have failed a class must retake the class during the school year, or in

summer school. They are not dismissed. “Summer school” is available for industrious students who want to advance in their classes.

Many schools, especially those in big cities with large immigrant populations, have bilingual programs for students who are learning English as a second language.

**1.4.4. Higher Education.** Nearly one million high school seniors go on to pursue “higher education” every year. It is complicated to explain exactly what higher education consists of in the US. Basically it consists of four parts.

The first category is the one with which most European students are familiar, the **university**. A university consists of several colleges for undergraduate students pursuing a four-year bachelor degree. It also has graduate schools for students who have already received a Bachelor’s degree and who want to continue their education to earn a Master’s or Doctoral degree.

The second institution is a **college**, a term which many people use interchangeably with “university”. This is because every student who receives a degree at a university received it from one of the colleges of which their university is comprised. For example, a student can earn a degree from St. Vincent’s College at St. John’s University. However, there are many colleges which are independent and are not a part of a larger university.

The third choice is a **community**, or a junior college. This is a two-year degree program whereby students can earn an Associate’s degree. After completing their degree, graduates may either go on to a four-year college or enter any professions.

Finally, there is what is called a **“technical school”**. This category is very diverse. High school graduates may enter a wide variety of technical schools which range from six months to four years in many fields such as bookkeeping, data processing or beauty school. All these institutions may be either public or private.

Even though there are over 3,300 accredited colleges and universities in the USA to which any high school graduate may apply, being accepted to the college

of your choice is a high competitive process. Students are generally accepted on the basis of their high school marks, SAT scores (Standard Admissions Test), recommendations from their high school teachers, their application essay, and how well they present themselves at their college interview.

There are traditionally three four-year degrees a student may earn:

- a Bachelor of Arts (BA);
- a Bachelor of Science (BC);
- a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA).

A Bachelor of Arts is a degree in subjects such as history, languages, and philosophy. A Bachelor of Science is a degree in science such as chemistry and physics. A Bachelor of Fine Arts is in the creative fields such as sculpture and painting.

To earn a degree, colleges and universities require that a student receives a certain amount of **credits**, generally **130**. Credits represent each hour a student is in class for the course. Most courses are **three credits**, so they meet for **three hours** a week. Students take between 12 and 18 credits a semester. Students are required to declare a major and one minor as well.

A major is the field of study in which a student earns his degree, and minor is a secondary field of study a student pursues. Every major has different requirements; for example, a degree in English literature at one school may require 36 semester hours (credits) in total. Most minors are half that (18 credits). Schools also have basic requirements in history, English, speech, foreign languages and a variety of other subjects. There are also many electives in higher education. This may enable a student to earn a second minor by using their elective credits in another field. Some science and Math fields have different requirements of credits and electives; every degree is different. After students have completed all their required credits, they have earned their degree and they graduate.

After graduation students can either enter the work force or continue their education and pursue graduate degrees.

## 1.5. LECTURE 5

### Holidays in the United States

People in each culture celebrate Holidays. Although the word “holiday” literally means “holy day”, most American holidays are not religious, but commemorative in nature and origin.

In the strict sense, there are no national holidays in the US. Each of the 50 states establishes its own legal holidays. The federal government, through the president and Congress, can legally set holidays only for federal employees and for the District of Columbia. Most states, however, accept the federal legal government offices, and many (but not all) businesses are:

New Year’s Day (January 1);

Martin Luther King’s Birthday (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January);

Washington’s Birthday, sometimes called “Presidents’ Day” (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May);

Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>);

Labour Day (1<sup>st</sup> Monday in September);

Columbus Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in October);

Veteran’s Day (November 11<sup>th</sup>);

Thanksgiving Day (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November);

Christmas Day (December 25<sup>th</sup>).

When New Year’s Day, Independence Day, or Christmas falls on a Sunday, the next day is also a holiday. When one of these holidays falls on a Saturday, the previous day is also a holiday. Federal government offices, including the post office are always closed on all federal legal holidays, whereas schools and businesses close on major holidays like Independence Day and Christmas but may not always be closed for example, on George Washington’s Birthday or Veteran’s Day.

Most state have holidays which are “observed” but are not necessary “legal”. The name of the holiday (e.g. Confederate Memorial Day) goes on the calendar (last Monday in April) for a state (Alabama, Mississippi), yet does not mean that businesses are always closed or children let out of school. There are also special

days in most states (e.g. Volunteer Fireman Day, second Sunday in January in New Jersey) which are proclaimed, but have no effect otherwise. This is also true at the National Level. The President or Congress might proclaim a special day or week (e.g. National Employ and Handicapped Week, first week in October) in order to bring attention to a certain concern, interest group, or problem.

The many religious holidays such as Good Friday, Hanukkah or Ramadan are observed, of course, by legal status. Rather, each state states its own laws, and whether or not an employee is given time off also depends on labour agreement.

There are many traditional holidays, observed by a large number of Americans, which are also neither legal nor official. Among these are Grounding Day/ Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day (not just people with Irish ancestry will "wear the green" on March 17), mother's Day and Halloween (the last day of October).

The three holidays which were first observed in the USA but have now spread elsewhere are Labour Day (usually observed on March 1 elsewhere), Thanksgiving (in Canada), and Mother's Day (wherever there are florists, greeting-card companies, candy manufacturers, and others).

Perhaps the two "most American" of the holidays are the Fourth of July – Independence Day – and Thanksgiving. The Fourth of July is like a big nation-wide birthday party. Yet, it's a party that takes place in neighbourhoods, on beaches in parks, or on suburban lawns throughout the country. Some towns and cities have parades with bands and flags, and most politicians will try to give a patriotic speech or two, should anyone be willing to listen. But what makes the fourth of July is the atmosphere and enjoyment of, for instance, the family beach party, with hot dogs and hamburgers, volleyball, the fireworks and rockets at night (and, often, a sunburn and a headache the next morning). The nation's birthday is also the nation's greatest annual summer party.

Like Christmas, Thanksgiving is a day for families to come together. Traditional foods are prepared for the feast – turkey or ham, cranberry sauce and corn dishes, breads and rolls, and pumpkin pie. At the same time, Thanksgiving is

a solemn occasion, a day to remember the many who are less well off, in America and throughout the world.

**1.5.1. Typical American** ?Few of us like to be told that we are average, and Americans are no exceptions. Far worse, however, is to be told that we, or the things we do, are typical of our nation. “Oh, that’s so typically (or British, or French ... etc)” is the kind of a statement most of us object to. Generalisations about nationalities (Americans are incurable optimists, Germans are professional pessimists, and Italians are amused by both) are usually not welcome, even when they’re basically accurate.

With Americans this reaction may even go deeper. One generalisation often made about Americans is that they value their individualism quite highly. They place great emphasis on their individual differences, on having a great number of choices and on doing things their own way. This is perhaps why general statements about American lifestyles are frequently resented by Americans. Part of being an American is not being and not wanting to be, typical.

The other difficulties with summarising American ways of life and attitudes. Whereas, for example, Italians or Germans form a largely homogeneous society, white, Christian, and speaking one language, Americans do not. And whereas a country like Britain exhibits considerable variation in climate and landscape, the differences across the continental US are extreme.

Largely since the Second World War, more and more American social and cultural habits have taken hold in Europe, from cornflakes and televised news for breakfast to the evening barbecue or grill party.

In the early 60s, for instance, it was still possible for an American to quip that “in the US, we take a shower every day and go food shopping once a week – in Europe, they do it the other way around”. Today, of course, this is no longer the case. American habits have not changed that much, but European ones have, along with the increase of supermarkets and shoppingcenters, the number of cars, and the modernisation of housing. Such concerns are now as familiar to most Europeans as are, well, traffic jams and beer cans, pollution control or “walkman” radios.

For their part Americans are now buying smaller cars, and waking more. More and more of them are cooking “from scratch” instead of using prepared foods. Yet overall, trends in lifestyles have moved and still move across the Atlantic from west to east. Another generalisation, this one European, says it well “What they are doing in California today, we’ll probably be doing in Europe tomorrow”.

As a result, there are at least two generalisations that can be safely made. First, Americans tend to be trend-setters in lifestyles. And secondly, what is thought to be typically American today probably won’t be so far long. Most interesting, therefore, are those habits and attitudes, customs and conventions which have been consistently observed among Americans over time.

## **Part 2**

### **Tests**

#### **2.1. INTRODUCTION**

**Test 1.**      *Do You Know the USA? Answer the following questions.*

1.      Where does the President of the United States live and work?



- a. in the Capitol
  - b. in the White House
  - c. in the Pentagon
2. Which is the biggest state of the USA?
- a. Texas
  - b. California
  - c. Alaska
3. How many states are there in the USA?
- a. 48
  - b. 52
  - c. 50
4. When did the American Civil War end?
- a. in 1855
  - b. in 1865
  - c. in 1776
5. Who was the first President of the USA?
- a. George Washington
  - b. Abraham Lincoln
  - c. Ulysses Grant
6. What do the Americans celebrate on the 4th of July?
- a. the first Moon landing
  - b. the adoption of the Declaration of Independence
  - c. the end of the American Civil War
7. In which city is Hollywood situated?
- a. in New York
  - b. in San Francisco
  - c. in Los Angeles
8. What was the name of the ship that brought the first immigrants to America?
- a. "Santa Maria"
  - b. "Mayflower."

- c. "Santa Cruise"
9. What was the first name of New York?
- a. New York
  - b. New Virginia
  - c. New Amsterdam
10. Which is the most popular sport in the USA?
- a. baseball
  - b. American football
  - c. tennis

## **2.2. GEOGRAPHY**

### **Test 1.**

*Match the geographical places with their descriptions.*

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1) Mt. McKinley       | A) the largest state of the USA  |
| 2) the Colorado       | B) the mountains in the west of the American continent                 |
| 3) the Missouri       | C) the lowest place in the USA   |
| 4) the Superior       | D) the oldest mountain range in North America                          |
| 5) Juneau             | E) the largest lake in North America                                   |
| 6) St. Lawrence River | F) one of the Great Lakes which is entirely on the territory of the US |
| 7) the Cordillera     | G) the river which joins the Great Lakes with the Atlantic             |
| 8) the Appalachian    | H) one of the great tributaries of the Mississippi                     |
| 9) the Niagara        | I) the river flowing from Canada through Alaska                        |
| 10) the Yukon         | J) the river flowing to the Gulf of California                         |
| 11) the Rockies       | K) the river flowing to the Pacific Ocean                              |
| 12) the Columbia      | L) the river between Lake Ontario and Lake                             |

Erie

- 13) Alaska
- 14) the Michigan
- 15) the Death Valley
- M) the capital of the state Alaska
- N) the highest peak of North America
- O) within them there are many national parks

**Test 2.**

*Complete the sentences with appropriate words.*

**1. *The heart of the United States is \_\_\_\_\_.***

- A. a coastal plain
- B. a vast interior plain
- C. the Cotton Belt
- D. the Cordillera

**2. *The longest river in the USA is \_\_\_\_\_.***

- A. the Mississippi
- B. the Rio Grande
- C. the Tennessee
- D. the Missouri

**3. \_\_\_\_\_, *a high discontinuous chain of mountains stretching from Alaska down to Mexico, rise sharply from the Great Plains.***

- A. The Rocky Mountains
- B. The Sierra Nevada
- C. The Appalachian Mountains
- D. The Cascades

**4. *Most of the country has a \_\_\_\_\_ climate.***

- A. dry continental
- B. humid continental
- C. mild temperate
- D. humid subtropical

**5. *The most rapidly growing ethnic group is \_\_\_\_\_.***

- D. the WASP

- A. the Hispanics
- C. the Oriental Americans
- B. the Afro-Americans

**6. *The national anthem of the US is \_\_\_\_\_.***

- A. "America, the Beautiful"
- B. "E Pluribus Unum"
- C. "God Save the King"
- D. "The Star-Spangled Banner"

**7. *The term "separation of powers" refers to the \_\_\_\_\_.***

- A. state powers and duties not given to the central government
- B. division of a legislature into two houses
- C. division of authority among legislative, judicial and executive branches of government
- D. creation of a national capital that is not part of any state.

**8. *The number of United States senators each state has \_\_\_\_\_.***

- A. is 1
- B. is 2
- C. varies according to a state's population
- D. varies according to the area of a state

**9. *The first 10 amendments to the US Constitution are called the \_\_\_\_\_.***

- A. Preamble
- B. Articles of Confederation
- C. Bill of Rights
- D. Separation of Powers

### **Test 3.**

***Answer the following questions.***

**1. *What is the national symbol of America?***

- A. The rose.
- B. The bald eagle.

C The shamrock.

**2. *What is the United States capital?***

A New York City.

A Chicago.

B Washington.

**3. *Who was the first president of the USA?***

A Abraham Lincoln.

B George Washington.

C Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**4. *The American flag has...***

A thirteen stripes;

B thirty stripes;

C sixty stripes.

**5. *Where is the Statue of Liberty situated?***

A. In New York.

B. In California.

C. In Washington.

**6. *When do Americans celebrate Independence Day?***

A. June 14.

B. July 4.

C. January 15.

**7. *When was the Constitution of the USA adopted?***

A. 1920.

B. 1787.

C. 1564.

**8. *What river is Washington situated on?***

A. the Mississippi.

B. the Colorado.

C. the Potomac .

**9. *What is the largest city of the United States?***

A. Los Angeles.

B. Boston.

C. New York.

**10. *When was the national flag of the USA adopted?***

A. May 15, 1907.

B. June 14, 1777.

C. August 10, 1867.

**Test 4. *The USA. Match the geographical places with their descriptions.***

1 Hawaii is a leader in ...

**A** *California*

2 The world's busiest airport is ... .

**B** *Chicago's O'Hare*

3 Indiana is national leader in the  
production of ...

**C** *Dodge City*

4 The cowboy capital of the world is ... .

**D** *Louisiana*

5 Disneyland is located in...

**E** *Maine*

6 The birthplace of jazz and home of  
Louis Armstrong is ... .

**F** *Massachusetts*

- 7 The first atomic submarine was built in **G** *Musical instruments*
- 8 ... is the home to the world's most **H** *Orlando, Florida*  
popular gambling centre Las Vegas
- 9 The first printing press, college and **I** *Pineapple production*  
secondary school were established in
- 10 The world's largest landlocked harbor **J** *Nevada*  
is in...
- K** *Texas*

**Test 5. The USA. Complete the sentences with appropriate words.**

**1. The number of the stars on the American flag is....**

- 1) 49
- 2) 50
- 3) 48
- 4) 51

**2. The ocean on the west of the USA is...**

- 1) the Atlantic
- 2) the Arctic
- 3) Indian
- 4) the Pacific

**3. The capital of the USA is ...**

- 1) Washington
- 2) New York
- 3) New Jersey
- 4) Los Angeles

**4. The island in the centre of New York is...**

- 1) Queens
- 2) Brooklyn

3) Manhattan

4) Bronx

**5. *The only state on an island is ...***

1) Hawaii

2) Montana

3) Michigan

4) Indiana

**6. *The ocean in the east of the USA is...***

1) the Arctic

2) the Pacific

3) Indian

4) the Atlantic

**7. *American money is ...***

1) Shilling

2) Dollar

3) Pound

4) Euro

**8. *Two separated parts of the USA are ...***

1) Manhattan, Hawaii

2) Alaska, Manhattan

3) the Bahamas, Alaska

4) Alaska, Hawaii

**9. *America is called 'melting pot' and the ...***

1) nation of immigrants

2) nation of pop music

3) nation of money

4) nation of people

**10. *The building where the President works is ...***

1) The Capitol

2) the White House



- 3) Empire State building
- 4) Hollywood

### Test 6.

*Read the following text. The word in bold type in the text is the synonym to two words in A, B, C, below. Find an odd word in A, B, C.*

### ELLIS ISLAND

Ellis Island is an island in Upper New York Bay that **(1) formerly** was the United States' **(2) central** immigration reception centre. The island **(3) lies** about 1 mile southwest of Manhattan Island, New York City, and about 1,300 feet east of the New Jersey shore. It has an area of about 27 acres.

The island was named for Samuel Ellis, who **(4) owned** it in the 1770s. For a time, ships' ballast was dumped there, and much of the island's **(5) current** area consists of landfill. In 1808 the state of New York sold the island to the federal government, and it **(6) was used** as a fort and powder magazine. It served as the nation's **(7) major** immigration station from 1892 to 1943; and **(8) about** 17 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island, were processed there by immigration authorities, and **(9) obtained (10) permission** to enter the United States. After immigration reception was moved to New York City in 1943, Ellis Island continued to serve as a detention station for **(11) aliens** and deportees until 1954. It became part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument in 1965 and was reopened to sightseers in 1976 by the National Park Service. The Main Building and other structures on the island were **(12) restored** in the 1980s and opened in 1990 as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. The jurisdiction of the island, which lies in New Jersey waters but is **(13) considered** part of New York City, has been the **(14) source** of a **(15) fierce** dispute between New Jersey and New York State.

- |                 |               |             |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. A once       | B previously  | C sometimes |
| 2. A principle  | B principal   | C head      |
| 3. A is located | B is situated | C settles   |
| 4. A possessed  | B owed        | C kept      |

- |                  |                 |                  |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 5. A present     | B dated         | C present-day    |
| 6. A served      | B was employed  | C provided       |
| 7. A minor       | B key           | C foremost       |
| 8. A totally     | B approximately | C around         |
| 9. A was granted | B got           | C achieved       |
| 10. A permit     | B compliance    | C authorization  |
| 11. A citizens   | B foreigners    | C newcomers      |
| 12. A renewed    | B regenerated   | C re-established |
| 13. A believed   | B supposed      | C counted        |
| 14. A origin     | B spring        | C battle         |
| 15. A heating    | B violent       | C heated         |

### **Test 7.**

*Read the text and choose the best answer in A, B, C or D to each question. Answer all questions following the text on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.*

### **NEW YORK**

New York, America's largest city is the national leader in business, finance, manufacturing, the service industries, fashion and the arts. Its recorded history begins with Italian navigator, Giovanni da Verrazano, who around 1524 sailed into the present New York Bay. In 1609 Captain Henry Hudson explored the harbour and the river, later named after him. In 1624 Dutch colonists arrived and settled the permanent settlement, named New Amsterdam. The following year the Dutch West Indian Company bought the whole island of Manhattan from Indians for a few trinkets. Dutch was the official language of New Amsterdam, subjected but before its population reached 500 it was reported that 18 different languages were spoken there. In 1663 the colony was captured by the British fleet under Duke of York and renamed New York, but the Dutch and those who came with them stayed, so far from the very first years of its existence New York was truly an international city.

New York was active in the colonial opposition to Britain and several battles were fought in this area. In 1778 the British seized the city and controlled it for the rest of the war. When in November 1783 the Americans returned, they found New York in a very poor state. Out of its 4,000 buildings, about 1,000 had been burned and the rest were hardly inhabitable. An energetic program of general reconstruction was launched. Within the next four years the population doubled and in 1800 reached 60,000. By 1815 the value of imports arriving in New York harbour was double of that of Boston and three times that of Philadelphia, the major colonial ports before the revolutionary war. The construction of the Erie Canal, the bridge canal between Buffalo, on Lake Erie, and Albany, on the Hudson, was completed in 1825. It cut travel time one-third, shipping costs nine-tenth, opened the Great Lakes area and made New York City chief Atlantic port of the USA. The opening of the Erie Canal accelerated even more expansion of the city, already the nation's largest.

After the Civil War of 1861-1865, industrial development quickened and brought a massive wave of immigration from all over the world. During the 19th century the city expanded northwest from the tip of Manhattan and by 1784 included the whole island as well as the territory of the present Bronx. In 1898 New York assumed its present boundaries, annexing Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

**1. *According to the passage, the settlement on the Hudson River was started by\_\_\_\_\_.***

- A** Captain Henry Hudson
- B** Giovanni da Verrazano
- C** the Dutch West Indian Company
- D** immigrants from the Netherlands

**2. *Which of the following is not true?***

- A** The British fleet occupied New Amsterdam.
- B** The Dutch West Indian Company bought the settlement for a few trinkets.
- C** New Amsterdam was renamed New York in honour of Duke of York.

D New Amsterdam was an international city.

**3. *The plan for general reconstruction was adopted because \_\_\_\_\_.***

A the population of New York doubled

B New Yorkers took an active part in the Revolutionary War

C 5,000 houses were burned

D 3,000 houses were hardly inhabitable

**4. *Which of the following is true?***

A Before the Revolutionary War Boston was the largest colonial port.

B Before the Revolutionary War New York was the largest colonial port.

C After the Revolutionary War the port of Philadelphia was larger than the port of Boston.

D During the Revolutionary War the port of New York was larger than the port of Boston.

**5. *Why was the construction of Erie Canal so important?***

A Erie Canal made New York the major port of the US.

B Erie Canal decreased travel fare three times.

C Goods were transported at a lower price.

D Due to the construction of Erie Canal the Great Lakes were discovered.

**Test 8.**

***Read the following text and choose the correct alternatives.***

## **NEW YORK**

New York is a state in the Middle Atlantic region of the United States. It is (1) **frontier/bordered** by the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec in the north and by Lake Ontario and Lake Erie in the northwest and west. In the east the state is adjacent to Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Albany is the capital of New York. New York, (2) **plainly/commonly** known as New York City, is the largest city.

New York has long been a leader in the political, cultural, and economic life of the United States. It has been called the *Empire State* since before 1800, a reference to its (3) **rich/wealth** and variety of resources and probably derived from

a comment, **(4) written/attributed** to George Washington, that predicted that New York would become the **(5) seat/sit** of the new empire. Although California **(6) surplus/surpassed** it in population in 1963 and in manufacturing in 1972, choices made in New York **(7) influence/effect** much of the country's commerce, finance, and the creative arts. Although New York City is the largest city in the country, much of New York is still **(8) urban/rural**.

New York is also rich in history, extending to when Native Americans first occupied its shores and river valleys. The state was **(9) called/named** in the 1660s for the duke of York, later James II of England, though many place names are from the time when the region was a **(10) Holland/ Dutch** colony known as New Netherland. New York entered the Union on July 26, 1788, as the 11th of the original thirteen **(11) counties/states**. New York City was the first capital of the United States. The Erie Canal, now incorporated into the New York State Canal System, set the pattern of commerce early in U.S. history. The Statue of Liberty, in New York Harbour, was the first **(12) watch/ vision** of America seen by millions of immigrants arriving at New York City. The United Nations, whose headquarters are located on Manhattan Island, works toward a future more **(13) peaceful/peace-lover** than the past.

### **Test 9.**

*Read the text and fill in the blanks with the correct alternative from A, B, C or D.*

*Choose one word or phrase that best completes the sentence.*

### **THE STATUE OF LIBERTY**

The Statue of Liberty, formally Liberty Enlightening the World, is a colossal statue on Liberty Island in the Upper Bay of New York Harbour that **(1)\_\_\_\_\_** the friendship of the peoples of the United States and France. Standing 302 ft high **(2)\_\_\_\_\_** its pedestal, it represents a woman holding a **(3)\_\_\_\_\_** in her raised right hand and a tablet **(4)\_\_\_\_\_** the date July 4, 1776, in her left, proclaiming liberty. An elevator **(5)\_\_\_\_\_** to the balcony level, and a spiral **(6)\_\_\_\_\_** leads to an **(7)\_\_\_\_\_** platform in the figure's crown. A plaque at the pedestal's entrance is inscribed with a sonnet, "The New Colossus", by Emma Lazarus. It was written to

help (8)\_\_\_\_\_ money for the pedestal. The American Museum of Immigration is contained in the statue's base.

A French historian, Edouard de Laboulaye, made the (9)\_\_\_\_\_ for the statue after the American Civil War. (10)\_\_\_\_\_ were contributed by the French people, and work began in France in 1875 under sculptor Bartholdi. The statue was constructed of copper sheets, hammered into shape (11)\_\_\_\_\_ and assembled over a framework of four gigantic steel supports. In 1885 the completed statue, 151 (12)\_\_\_\_\_ 1 inch high and weighing 225 tons, was disassembled and shipped to New York City. The pedestal, designed by American architect Richard Morris Hunt and built within the walls of Fort Wood on Bedloe's Island, was completed later. The statue, mounted on its pedestal, was (13)\_\_\_\_\_ by President Cleveland on October 28, 1886. In the mid-1980s the statue was repaired and restored by both American and French workers for a centennial (14)\_\_\_\_\_ held in July 1986. The statue was at first (15)\_\_\_\_\_ by the Lighthouse Board, because the illuminated torch was considered a navigational (16)\_\_\_\_\_. Because Fort Wood was still an operational Army post, the statue was transferred in 1901 to the War Department. It was (17)\_\_\_\_\_ a national monument in 1924. Fort Wood was deactivated in 1937, and the (18)\_\_\_\_\_ of the island was incorporated into the monument. In 1956 Bedloe's Island was renamed Liberty Island, and in 1965 (19)\_\_\_\_\_ Ellis Island, (20)\_\_\_\_\_ the country's major immigration station, was added, bringing the monument's total area to about 58 acres.

- |    |                 |                |
|----|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | A celebrates    | C commemorates |
|    | B mentions      | D comments     |
| 2. | A including     | C holding      |
|    | B consisting of | D containing   |
| 3. | A constitution  | C flag         |
|    | B olive branch  | D torch        |
| 4. | A dating        | C making       |
|    | B bearing       | D doing        |
| 5. | A rises         | C arouses      |

6. **B** arises  
**A** line  
**B** descent
7. **A** notice  
**B** inspection
8. **A** withdraw  
**B** raise
9. **A** attempt  
**B** money
10. **A** Funds  
**B** Money
11. **A** at hand  
**B** by hand
12. **A** foot  
**B** foots
13. **A** erected  
**B** seen
14. **A** holiday  
**B** celebration
15. **A** submitted  
**B** considered
16. **A** aid  
**B** help
17. **A** said  
**B** advertised
18. **A** all  
**B** rest
19. **A** nearby  
**B** near
20. **A** one  
**D** heaves  
**C** path  
**D** staircase  
**C** observation  
**D** examination  
**C** launder  
**D** spend  
**C** proposal  
**D** success  
**C** Charity  
**D** Currencies  
**C** by arms  
**D** with arms  
**C** feets  
**D** feet  
**C** visited  
**D** climbed  
**C** celebrity  
**D** fun  
**C** obeyed  
**D** supervised  
**C** assistance  
**D** coordinate  
**C** declared  
**D** informed  
**C** whole  
**D** wholly  
**C** nearly  
**D** closely  
**C** since

B when

D once

**Test 10.**

*Can you find and circle in the grid the hidden state names listed below? They read vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and occasionally even overlapping and reversed. Note that five of the states are represented in abbreviated form.*

**HIDDEN STATES**

O	K	L	A	H	O	M	A	S	S	A	C	H	U	S	E	T	T	S	V
D	H	N	A	G	I	H	C	I	M	K	E	N	T	U	C	K	Y	E	I
A	M	I	Z	M	A	R	Y	L	A	N	D	E	L	A	W	A	R	E	R
R	E	I	O	T	R	E	U	P	E	S	V	R	A	I	C	M	N	S	G
O	T	O	S	H	S	H	O	V	E	D	I	T	A	W	O	I	E	S	I
L	O	A	K	S	A	L	A	K	S	A	R	B	E	N	N	N	D	E	N
O	N	N	R	L	O	D	I	E	I	K	G	E	T	A	N	N	R	N	I
C	W	E	O	E	A	U	I	G	T	O	I	A	I	M	E	E	A	N	S
N	E	W	Y	O	K	K	R	N	E	T	N	R	N	I	C	S	G	E	I
O	S	J	W	F	L	O	R	I	D	A	I	L	Y	S	T	O	N	T	E
C	T	E	E	Y	E	S	S	I	R	I	A	I	T	S	I	T	I	E	D
A	V	R	N	G	R	E	E	K	O	T	A	O	S	I	C	A	M	X	O
R	I	S	O	C	A	R	A	R	I	Z	O	N	A	S	U	U	O	A	H
O	R	E	G	O	N	N	A	M	A	B	A	L	A	S	T	T	Y	S	R
L	G	Y	A	M	S	O	S	I	O	N	I	L	L	I	I	A	W	A	H
I	I	G	U	A	M	A	T	N	E	W	H	A	M	P	S	H	I	R	E
N	N	I	S	C	O	C	S	I	W	O	C	I	R	P	L	I	E	S	C
A	I	N	A	V	L	Y	S	N	N	E	P	Q	U	I	T	S	U	N	D
C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	T	O	K	A	D	H	T	R	O	N
K	O	C	I	X	E	M	W	E	N	O	T	G	N	I	H	S	A	W	L



ALABAMA	ALASKA	ARIZONA	ARKANSAS
CALIFORNIA	COLORADO	CONNECTICUT	DELAWARE
FLORIDA	GEORGIA	HAWAII	IDAHO
ILLINOIS	INDIANA	IOWA	KANSAS
KENTUCKY	LOUISIANA	MAINE	MASSACHUSETTS
MARYLAND	MICHIGAN	MINNESOTA	MISSISSIPPI
MISSOURI	MONTANA	NEBRASKA	NEVADA
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NEW JERSEY	NEW MEXICO	NEW YORK
NORTH CAROLINA	NORTH DAKOTA	RHODE ISLAND	SOUTH CAROLINA
OREGON	PENNSYLVANIA	OHIO	OKLAHOMA
SOUTH DAKOTA	TENNESSEE	TEXAS	UTAH
VERMONT	VIRGINIA	WASHINGTON	WEST VIRGINIA
WISCONSIN	WYOMING		

### **2.3. HISTORY**

***Test 1. Civil War/ Abraham Lincoln. Complete the sentences with appropriate words.***

***1) Which argument did President Abraham Lincoln use against the secession of the Southern States?***

- a. Slavery was not profitable
- b. The government was a union of people and not of states.
- c. The Southern States did not permit their people to vote on secession.

- d. As the Commander in Chief, he had the duty to defend the United States against foreign invasion.

**2) *The abolitionist movement, the women's suffrage movement, and the 1960's civil rights movement are all examples of reform efforts that***

- a. succeeded without causing major controversy
- b. developed significant popular support
- c. achieved their goals without government action
- d. failed to affect the nation as a whole

**3) *Which statement best explains President Abraham Lincoln's justification for the Civil War?***

- a. As an abolitionist, President Lincoln wanted to end slavery in the United States.
- b. President Lincoln wanted to keep the South economically dependent on the industrial North.
- c. President Lincoln's oath of office required him to defend and preserve the Union.
- d. To keep the support of Great Britain and France, President Lincoln had to try to end slavery immediately.

**4) *A major result of the Civil War was that the***

- a. economic system of the South came to dominate the United States economy
- b. Federal Government's power over the States was strengthened
- c. members of Congress from Southern States gained control of the legislative branch
- d. nation's industrial development came to a standstill

**5) *Sectional differences developed in the United States largely because***

- a. economic conditions and interests in each region varied
- b. the Federal Government adopted a policy of neutrality
- c. only northerners were represented at the Constitutional Convention
- d. early Presidents favored urban areas over rural areas

**6) Before the Civil War, slavery expanded in the South rather than in the North because**

- a. the Constitution contained a clause that outlawed the importation of slaves into the Northern states
- b. Congress passed a law forbidding slavery in the North
- c. Northern states passed affirmative action legislation
- d. geographic conditions in the South encouraged the development of large plantations

**7) As the Civil War began, President Abraham Lincoln stated that his primary goal was to**

- a. end slavery
- b. set new national boundaries
- c. increase congressional powers
- d. preserve the Union

**8) The Civil War affected the northern economy by**

- a. causing a severe depression
- b. increasing unemployment rates
- c. decreasing demand for agricultural products
- d. stimulating industrialization

**9) The North's rapid economic growth during the Civil War was stimulated by**

- a. the elimination of taxes on defense industries
- b. a reduction in the number of immigrants
- c. increased government demand for many products
- d. enslaved persons filling industrial jobs

**10) In the 1850s, why did many runaway slaves go to Canada?**

- a. They feared being drafted into the Northern army.
- b. The Fugitive Slave Act kept them at risk in the United States.
- c. More factory jobs were available in Canada.
- d. Northern abolitionists refused to help fugitive slaves.

**Test 2. Civil Rights Movement. Complete the sentences with appropriate words.**

.

**1) *The abolitionist movement, the women's suffrage movement, and the 1960's civil rights movement are all examples of reform efforts that***

- a. succeeded without causing major controversy
- b. developed significant popular support
- c. achieved their goals without government action
- d. failed to affect the nation as a whole

**2) *The major goal of the civil rights movement of the 1960's was to***

- a. establish a separate political state for African Americans
- b. gain passage of an equal rights amendment to the Constitution
- c. end segregation based on race
- d. permit unlimited immigration to the United States

**3) *An original purpose of affirmative action programs was to***

- a. increase educational and employment opportunities for women and minorities
- b. improve the American economy by guaranteeing that employees will be highly skilled
- c. decrease social welfare costs by requiring recipients of public assistance to work
- d. reduce the Federal deficit by increasing government efficiency

**4) *When necessary to achieve justice, which method did Martin Luther King, Jr., urge his followers to employ?***

- a. using violence to bring about political change
- b. engaging in civil disobedience
- c. leaving any community in which racism is practiced
- d. demanding that Congress pay reparations to African Americans

**5) *The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed in an effort to correct***

- a. racial and gender discrimination
- b. limitations on freedom of speech
- c. unfair immigration quotas

- d. segregation in the armed forces

**6) *The federal voting rights laws passed in the 1950s and 1960s were designed to***

- a. return control of voting regulations to the states
- b. remove racial barriers to voting
- c. extend suffrage to American women
- d. prevent recent immigrants from voting

**7) *Martin Luther King, Jr. first emerged as a leader of the civil rights movement when he***

- a. led the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama
- b. refused to give up his seat on a bus to a white man
- c. challenged the authority of the Supreme Court
- d. was elected as the first black congressman from the South

**8) *During the civil rights movement of the 1960s, activities of the Congress of Racial Equality, the National Urban League, and the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) illustrated that***

- a. all civil rights groups use the same tactics
- b. different approaches can be used to achieve a common goal
- c. organizational differences usually lead to failure
- d. violence is the best tool for achieving social change

**9) *In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to***

- a. protect civil rights marchers
- b. help African Americans register to vote
- c. enforce a Supreme Court decision to desegregate public schools
- d. end race riots resulting from a bus boycott

**10) *The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act were government efforts to***

- a. eliminate restrictions on immigration
- b. require equal treatment of men and woman
- c. provide federal aid for children

- d. end discrimination against various groups

### Test 3.

*Enjoy this text learning more about cowboys and practicing your grammar. Put in the verb in the correct form. Be careful. Sometimes you will need to use two verbs together, and sometimes you will need to use passive forms.*

## COWBOYS

All of us often 1\_\_\_\_ (*see*) cowboys on the screen. People who 2\_\_\_\_ (*enjoy/watch*) Westerns usually 3\_\_\_\_ (*think*) they 4\_\_\_\_ (*know*) exactly what cowboys in 19<sup>th</sup> century America 5\_\_\_\_ (*be*) like. But the picture of a cowboy's life that 6 \_\_\_\_ (*show*) in films 7 \_\_\_\_ (*be*) actually far from the truth.

Cowboys in Westerns 8\_\_\_\_ (*be*) always white, 9\_\_\_\_ (*be*) they? But in actual fact the 19<sup>th</sup> century cowboy 10\_\_\_\_ (*be*) often black - or brown (Mexican). There 11\_\_\_\_ (*be*) even a few Indian cowboys, especially in Oklahoma. The cowboys that 12\_\_\_\_ (*appear*) in films 13\_\_\_\_ not usually \_\_\_\_ (*show*) at work with their cattle; they 14\_\_\_\_ (*seem/spend*) their time quite differently. The Hollywood cowboy hero never 15\_\_\_\_ (*stop/chase*) bandits and 16\_\_\_\_ (*rescue*) pretty young ladies from dangerous situations; he 17 \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (*be able/use*) his gun at fantastic speed, and 18\_\_\_\_ (*keep on/fight*) bravely to the end.

Real cowboys in those days 19 \_\_\_\_ (*have*) little time 20 \_\_\_\_ (*chase*) bandits. They 21 \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (*have to/work*) hard; they usually 22 \_\_\_\_ (*work*) 10-14 hours a day, summer and winter. The cattle 23\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (*have to/round up*) and then the cowboys 24\_\_\_\_ (*drive*) them many long miles to the railroad stations, where they 25\_\_\_\_ (*take*) by train to slaughterhouses in Chicago and Kansas City. 26 \_\_\_\_ (*get*) the cattle from Texas to the nearest railroad stations 27\_\_\_\_ (*be*) the cowboys' most difficult job. It usually 28\_\_\_\_ (*take*) two or three months, and during that time the cowboys always 29\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (*have to/stay*) with the cattle; they 30\_\_\_\_ (*swim*) across rivers with them and 31 \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_

(*try/round up*) after stampedes. Millions of animals 32 \_\_\_\_\_ (*drive*) from Texas up to Kansas in this way.

#### **Test 4.**

***Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space (1 – 15).***

***Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).***

**Example:** 0 - *appeared*

#### **European Place Names in America**

European place names (0)\_\_\_\_\_ in America beginning with the 16th century, when Europeans came to inhabit the New World. The names were brought by the new (1) \_\_\_\_\_, who moved from the East Coast to the west, as more and more people arrived from Europe. Some of the names that appeared on the map at that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ were those of English and French kings and queens. Many place names were given to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ famous people, living and dead. Some names were taken from history and literature. There were names taken from geology, others were (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with important events in the life of the people. Here and (5) \_\_\_\_\_, we find a name that was given simply as a joke, but for some reason was never changed.

The first people to arrive in America from Holland built a town which they named New Amsterdam, in honour of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of their country in Europe. But forty years later, when Holland was at war with England, English fleet under the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Duke of York appeared before New Amsterdam. The town had no army; the English (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the town and renamed it New York. And this, as we know, is the name that has remained to this day.

The first people who came to America did not try to invent new names for the settlements and towns they built, but often gave the new place the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ name as the place they had come from. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the coast of the United States, we find such English names as Plymouth, Cambridge, London, and Boston. English names often appear with the word *new* as a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ : New England, New York, New Britain.

When the first English inhabitants, or their children left their homes on the East Coast and moved to the tremendous forests and rich lands in the west, they continued the tradition of giving the new places the same names as those they had left behind. As a (12) \_\_\_\_\_, there are twenty-two towns in the United States that are called London or New London, eighteen towns named Bristol, many named Chester, Windsor or New Windsor. It is (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to imagine the difficult conditions this created for the postal service. There are towns named Philadelphia in four states, besides the Philadelphia that is the largest city in the state of Pennsylvania. This explains the American tradition of writing the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of the state when addressing letters. If the sender does not write the name of the state, he can never be (15) \_\_\_\_\_ that his letter will go to the right address.

**Test 5. *How Do I Know American History? Complete the sentences with appropriate words.***

**1. *Christopher Columbus made his voyage to America in ...***

- 1) 1292;
- 2) 1492;
- 3) 1692;
- 4) 1792.

**2. *Settlers from England first came to America in the ...***

- 1) 1200s;
- 2) 1400s;
- 3) 1600s;
- 4) 1800s.

**3. *The people who were living in North America when the first explorers arrived from Europe were the...***

- 1) Spanish;
- 2) Native Americans;
- 3) French;



- 4) Dutch.

**4. *The first 13 states were called ...***

- 1) colonies;
- 2) dominions;
- 3) provinces;
- 4) counties.

**5. *In the United States, July 4 is celebrated as...***

- 1) Bastille Day;
- 2) Presidents' Day;
- 3) Thanksgiving Day;
- 4) Independence Day.

**6. *The original thirteen American colonies were mostly located along the...***

- 1) East Coast (Atlantic Ocean);
- 2) West Coast (Pacific Ocean);
- 3) shores of the Great Lakes;
- 4) banks of the Mississippi River.

**7. *People who are not yet naturalized citizens may...***

- 1) own property;
- 2) travel on a United States passport;
- 3) hold a public office;
- 4) vote in all elections.

**8. *The leader of the American army in the Revolutionary War was...***

- 1) Thomas Jefferson;
- 2) Benjamin Franklin;
- 3) George Washington;
- 4) James Madison

**9. *The independence was proclaimed on ...***

- 1) June 2, 1770;
- 2) July 4, 1776;

3) Octobers, 1778;

4) August 5, 1781.

**10. *On the American flag the stars stand for...***

1) all the States;

2) only the States that signed the Constitution in 1789;

3) Americans who have died in wars;

4) all the Presidents of the United States.

**Test 6**

***The USA. History. Answer the following questions.***

1. What was the first English settlement in North America?
2. What tea party is a historical event?
3. Who was the first President of the USA?
4. What was the group of Puritans called who came to America in 1620?
5. What name did the British give to the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam?
6. Who is believed to have sewn the first American flag?
7. What was the number of the first English colonies in America?
8. What was the price for Manhattan Dutch traders paid to the Indians?
9. How many lives were lost in the Civil War?
10. What President was caught in the Watergate political scandal?
11. How did Lincoln turn a political war into a moral one?
12. When was the Declaration of Independence issued?
13. Where was the Constitution of the USA worked out?
14. What ship brought a group of English Protestants to America in 1620?

**2.4. POLITICAL SYSTEM**

**Test 1. Political System. *Match the right column with the left one.***

- |   |          |         |
|---|----------|---------|
| 1. The name of the US flag is...              | <b>A</b> | Donkey  |
| 2. Americans celebrate Independence Day on... | <b>B</b> | Lincoln |

- |  |          |                   |
|--|----------|-------------------|
| 3. Americans celebrate Flag Day on ...             | <b>C</b> | Washington        |
| 4. The nickname of the US government is...         | <b>D</b> | 50                |
| 5. The first President of the USA was ...          | <b>E</b> | June, 14          |
| 6. There were ... states in the USA in 1776.       | <b>F</b> | Elephant          |
| 7. There are ... states in the USA now.            | <b>G</b> | Capitol           |
| 8. The symbol of the US Democrats is...            | <b>H</b> | July, 4           |
| 9. The symbol of the US Republicans is...          | <b>I</b> | 13                |
| 10. The President of the USA lives and works in... | <b>J</b> | Stars and Stripes |
|  | <b>K</b> | Uncle Sam         |
|  | <b>L</b> | White House       |

**Test 2. *The Political System of the USA. Complete the sentences with appropriate words.***

.

**1. *The Declaration of Independence was adopted in ... .***

- a) 1809
- b) 1776
- c) 1901

**2. *The oldest federal Constitution was framed by a convention of delegates from 13 states in ... .***

- a) 1787
- b) 1954
- c) 1834

**3. *Abraham Lincoln was the ... President of the USA.***

- a) 13th
- b) 16th
- c) 20th

**4. *The capital of the USA is ... .***

- a) New York
- b) Washington

c) Boston

**5. *The District Columbia was established by Congress in ... .***

a) 1684

b) 1791

c) 1800

**6. *Congress is made up of ... and ... .***

a) the House of Lords and the House of Commons

b) the Senate and the House of Lords

c) the Senate and the House of Representatives

**7. *There are ... Senators in the Congress.***

a) 50

b) 100

c) 200

**8. *The House of Representatives has ... members.***

a) 286

b) 320

c) 435

**9. *The two leading political parties are ... .***

a) the Liberal Party and the Labour Party

b) the Social Party and the Labour Party

c) the Democrats and the Republicans

**10. *The White House is ... .***

a) the home and office of US President

b) the home of Queen Elizabeth

c) the theatre

### **Test 3.**

***Write the correct answer to each statement in the space beside it.***

**(1) *The first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution are known also as this.***

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) *America officially withdrew from Vietnam in this year.*

(2)\_\_\_\_\_

(3) *Along with Mohammed Ali and Michael Jordan, he is one of the most popular American athletes of all time*

(3)\_\_\_\_\_.

(4) *This group of people immigrated primarily to America's west coast in the mid-nineteenth century.*

(4)\_\_\_\_\_

(5) *This civil rights leader preached violence as a solution to the problem of inequality.*

(5)\_\_\_\_\_

(6) *This act – saying that the colonists were obligated to provide food and housing for any royal soldier – was one of the causes of tension before the Revolutionary War.*

(6)\_\_\_\_\_

(7) *These people were the second-biggest group in the colonies in 1760.*

(7)\_\_\_\_\_

(8) *This was the first state to secede from the Union causing the Civil War.*

(8)\_\_\_\_\_

(9) *The largest percentage of American employment is in this sector.*

(9)\_\_\_\_\_

(10) *Each team in major league baseball plays this many games per season.*

(10)\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Test 4.**

***Fill in the gaps, using the words given below.***

*Resident, override, to vest, indigenous, revenue, arid, twig, coterminous, precipitation, checks and balances*

1. The United States of America is a federal republic of 50 states, of which 48 are \_\_\_\_ ones.

2. The US physical environment ranges from the Arctic to the subtropical, from the moist rain forest to the \_\_\_\_\_ desert, from the rugged mountain peak to the flat prairie.
3. The climate is not generally temperate, despite the latitude, as the tremendous size of the North American landmass heightens the extreme variations in temperature and \_\_\_\_\_, especially in the central regions.
4. The United States contains a highly diverse population; but unlike a country such as China that largely incorporated \_\_\_\_\_ peoples, its diversity has to a great degree come from an immense and sustained global immigration.
5. The coat of arms of the US represents an eagle with wings out-spread, holding a bundle of rods - the symbol of administering - in the left claw and an olive \_\_\_\_\_ - the emblem of love - in the right claw.
6. Article II of the US Constitution \_\_\_\_\_ executive power in the President.
7. The Presidency, Congress and the Courts were given limited and specific powers; and a series of \_\_\_\_\_, whereby each branch of government has certain authority over the others, were also included to make sure these powers were not abused.
8. The executive branch of the government is headed by the President, who must be a natural-born citizen of the United States, at least 35 years old, and a \_\_\_\_\_ of the country for at least 14 years.
9. With the exception of \_\_\_\_\_ bills, which must originate in the House of Representatives, legislative bills may be introduced in and amended by either house.
10. The President may veto a bill, but a veto can be \_\_\_\_\_ by a two-thirds vote of both Houses.

#### **Test 5.**

*Short essay. Of all of the topics that we discussed, what has been and what will be America's biggest problems? Answer this question in two paragraphs (one about a problem of the past, and another about a problem that you think will occur in the future). Underline the topic sentence of each paragraph.*

## 2.5. EDUCATION

**Test 1. Read the following text and choose the correct alternatives.**

### **Education**

Elementary education is the earliest program of education for children, beginning generally at the age of five or six and lasting from six to eight years. In most countries elementary education is **(1) optional/compulsory** for all children. In much of the United States a year of kindergarten often **(2) precedes/proceeds** the first grade of the 8-year elementary course. In the larger **(3) communes/communities** special classes or schools are usually provided for children who are physically or mentally handicapped. The purpose of the elementary school is to **(4) introduce/induce** children to the skills, information, and attitudes necessary for proper adjustment to their community and to society. **(5) On the main/Basically**, the subjects taught are reading, writing, spelling, mathematics, social studies, science, art, music, physical education, and handicrafts. These are often supplemented with other subjects, **(6) suchlike/such as** foreign languages. Over the years new subject matter has made the elementary school curriculum more **(7) advanced/conventional** than heretofore.

Secondary education begins generally at the age of 12 to 14 and continues from four to six years. Some types of secondary education, such as vocational schooling, are terminal and **(8) prepare/get ready** the student for employment upon graduation. Others **(9) conduct/ lead** to advanced training in colleges, universities, or technical schools. In the U.S., secondary education includes the junior and senior **(10) higher/high** schools. In many foreign countries, this level of education often embraces the junior or community college **(11) together/as well as** the first two years of university training. The purpose of secondary education is to **(12) extend/ expand** knowledge of subjects already studied, including the systematic study of literature, foreign languages, sciences,

mathematics, social studies, and other subjects essential for physical and intellectual **(13) knowledge/development** and to prepare students **(14) as/for** future citizens.

## **Test 2.**

***Read the text and choose the best answer in A, B, C or D to each question. answer all questions following the text on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.***

### **HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE USA**

Higher education in the US began when in 1636, a short time after the first colonists came to the territory now called Massachusetts, they founded a college, later to become the famous Harvard University. It is the oldest university in the country, named in honour of John Harvard who left it his library and half property. The College of William and Mary founded in 1693 was the second institution of higher learning established in the colonies. These colonial colleges which later became universities were founded to train men for services in the church and civil state. Special emphasis was laid on classical education and only those who knew Latin and Greek were considered educated. By 1776 four more institutions had been opened: Yale University founded in Connecticut in 1701, Princeton University (1746), Washington and Lee University (1749), University of Pennsylvania (1740).

In practically every respect American colleges in those days tried to duplicate the colleges of ancient universities of England. They were residential colleges in the English fashion, but unlike Oxford and Cambridge they were not self-governing.

The American Revolution brought a lot of changes. The independence of the states followed by the creation of the federal government raised new questions about what American higher education should be. The first state universities were founded, though their flowering did not come until after the Civil War, a century later. The technological needs of agriculture and business stimulated the improvement of the early nineteenth-century universities. Apart from these,



agricultural and engineering colleges came into existence to meet the practical needs of industry and agriculture.

Gradually universities, private or public, became the dominant and most influential structure of higher education, a position they still hold. Many of the oldest and best known liberal arts colleges, such as Yale, Columbia and Harvard, became universities during this period.

Eventually a peculiarly American structure unlike any other existing university system was produced. In the 1870s graduate school was introduced in the American university. It was placed structurally on the top of what came to be known as undergraduate school devoted to general education. Along with this, the practice of majoring in a specific subject became common. By the end of the century, however, it was beginning to become clear that "open curriculum" allowing the undergraduate to choose most of the courses had its problems. Efforts were made to reconstitute in some parts a systematic curriculum in which the courses were strictly prescribed. By 1938 roughly one third of the college courses at Columbia was prescribed. Thus balance is now typical of many undergraduate programs.

Between 1825 and 1875 the idea of college education for women developed in the country. At first it was provided in separate colleges for women (such as Wells, Vassar, etc.), but the general trend was coeducational.

**1. Which of the following is not true?**

- A The first colonists founded Harvard University in Massachusetts.
- B The College of William and Mary was founded in 1693
- C The history of US higher education 17th century.
- D Harvard University was named after John

**2. The first institutions of higher education \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A were universities
- B were coeducational
- C trained students for service in the church
- D modelled Oxford and Cambridge to some

**3. *The US colleges of the 17th century and British colleges were alike except the fact that\_\_\_\_\_.***

- A US colleges provided their students accommodation
- B US students learnt Latin and Greek
- C US colleges were not autonomous
- D US colleges gave classical education

**4. *The first state universities\_\_\_\_\_.***

- A were founded to meet the practical needs of industry and agriculture
- B began prospering after the American Revolution
- C began thriving in the second half of the 19th century
- D raised the level of education with the her federal government

**5. *The US system of higher education lacks for\_\_\_\_\_.***

- A systematic curriculum
- B graduate school
- C open curriculum
- D undergraduate school

## **2.6. HOLIDAYS**

**Test 1. *Holidays. Answer the following questions.***

**1. *What do Americans celebrate on December 25th of every year?***

- A Chanukah
- B Christmas
- C Kwanzaa
- D Thanksgiving

**2. *What is the name of the Jewish Festival of Lights holiday?***

- A Yom Kippur
- B Rosh Hashanah

- C Chanukah
  - D Passover
3. *What do Americans young and old celebrate on October 31st?*
- A Miss America Pageant
  - B Martin Luther King's Day
  - C Thanksgiving
  - D Halloween
4. *Which holiday is celebrated ALWAYS in the summer?*
- A Columbus' Day
  - B Easter
  - C Independence Day
  - D Valentine's Day
5. *Mother's Day is celebrated around the world. When is celebrated is the United States?*
- A The last Sunday in April
  - B May 1st
  - C The second Sunday in May
  - D The third Sunday in June
6. *What is the American Holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November?*
- A Thanksgiving
  - B Independence Day
  - C Halloween
  - D Love and Family Day
7. *When does Kwanzaa starts and how long it lasts?*
- A Starts on December 20th and lasts 9 days
  - B Starts on December 24th and lasts 5 days
  - C Starts on December 26th and lasts 7 days

D Starts on December 28th and lasts 3 days

8. *For which National Holiday many cities and states forbid the use of fireworks by individual unauthorized people?*

A New Year's Day

B Independence Day

C Memorial Day

D Thanksgiving Day

9. *In many countries in the world, this holiday is celebrated on May 1st.*

A Labour Day

B Mother's Day

C Memorial Day

D The day of the Dead

10. *When do Americans and Canadians celebrate Groundhog Day?*

A On January 2nd

B On January 20th

C On February 2nd

D On February 20th

11. *If you are wearing a special hat on this Sunday, you are going to the ...*

A Valentine's Parade

B Halloweens Parade

C Thanksgiving Day Parade

D Easter Parade

12. *In the movies, which Holiday is more often referred to or celebrated?*

A Independence Day

B Christmas

C Rosh Hashanah

D Labour Day

**Test 2 . Holidays (2). Answer the following questions.**

**1. *What holiday is called “Turkey Day”?***

**A** Independence Day

**B** Thanksgiving

**C** Christmas

**D** Labour Day

**2. *What month is known as Black History Month?***

**A** January

**B** February

**C** June

**D** September

**3. *In what month is Memorial Day?***

**A** February

**B** March

**C** May

**D** October

**4. *In what month is Labour Day?***

**A** April

**B** June

**C** August

**D** September

**5. *On which holiday is US mail delivered?***

**A** Christmas

**B** Independence Day

**C** Thanksgiving

**D** St. Patrick’s Day

**6. *What holiday do people decorate their homes/offices/etc. with the colour red and hearts?***

- A Halloween
- B St. Patrick's Day
- C St. Valentine's Day
- D Thanksgiving

**7. *What is the day that most people in the USA associate with fireworks?***

- A Christmas
- B Independence Day
- C Memorial Day
- D Labour Day

**8. *What day is Boxing Day?***

- A December, 25th
- B December, 26th
- C October, 31st
- D July, 4th

**9. *Which holiday's date always changes?***

- A Easter
- B Halloween
- C Christmas
- D Thanksgiving Day

**10. *What is celebrated on December 25?***

- A Christmas Eve
- B Boxing Day
- C Christmas
- D Epiphany

**Test 3.     *Holidays. Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase that best completes the sentence.***

1. The first day of the year (January 1st) is known \_\_\_ New Year's Day.
2. Martin Luther King Day is observed on the 3rd Monday in January \_\_\_ commemoration of the birthday of the civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr.
3. Presidents' Day is observed on the 3rd Monday in February \_\_\_ an unofficial holiday.
4. Presidents' Day is celebrated in honor of George Washington, the first president of the US, and Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, \_\_\_ birthdays fall in February.
5. Valentine's Day (February 14th) is the day on \_\_\_ sweethearts exchange gifts or go out to dinner.
6. April Fools' Day (April 1st) is recognized \_\_\_ a day marked by the playing of practical jokes.
7. All mothers are honoured on Mother's Day, \_\_\_ is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May.
8. Memorial Day (the last Monday in May) honours the US soldiers \_\_\_ died in war.
9. Flag Day is celebrated \_\_\_ June 14th.
10. On the 3rd Sunday in June homage is paid \_\_\_ all fathers.
11. Independence Day (July 4th) celebrates \_\_\_ signing of the Declaration of Independence.
12. Labour Day \_\_\_ celebrated on the 1st Monday in September in honour of the working class.
13. Columbus Day (the 2nd Monday in October) celebrates the discovery in 1492 of the New World \_\_\_ Christopher Columbus.

14. Election Day (the 1st Tuesday in November) is a day set by law \_\_\_ the election of public officials.

15. Veterans Day (November 11th) is observed in honor of the US veterans \_\_\_ the armed services.

16. Thanksgiving (the 4th Thursday in November) is observed in the US as the day to thank God \_\_\_ all one owns.

Christmas (December 25th) is a Christian holiday that commemorates the birth \_\_\_ Jesus Christ.

**Test 4. *Independence Day. Answer the following questions.***

**1. *"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof. "***

***These words are written on which of the following?***

**A Liberty Bell**

**B Statue of Liberty**

**C Lincoln Memorial**

**D Washington Memorial**

**2. *How many colonies made up the British Empire in the New World?***

**A 10**

**B 11**

**C 12**

**D 13**

**3. *What happened at the Boston Tea Party?***

**A Americans had a quiet meeting with the British.**

**B A new flavour of tea was invented.**

**C Bostonians dumped tea into the Massachusetts Bay.**

**D Tea became the national beverage of America.**

**4. *Who was in command of the Continental Army?***



- A King George III
- B Samuel Adams
- C George Washington
- D John Hancock

5. *How many men signed the Declaration of Independence?*

- A 12
- B 24
- C 56
- D 84

6. *Which day is Independence Day celebrated on?*

- A July 2
- B July 4
- C July 6
- D July 8

7. *In what year did Congress declare Independence Day a federal holiday?*

- A 1767
- B 1776
- C 1783
- D 1941

8. *Who was the second president of the United States?*

- A George Washington
- B John Hancock
- C Samuel Adams
- D John Adams

9. *Where was the Declaration of Independence first read?*

- A New York, New York
- B Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- C Boston, Massachusetts

**D** San Francisco, California

**10. What is an important tradition in America on Independence Day?**

**A** eating crumpets

**B** drinking tea

**C** meeting with the British

**D** fireworks

**Literature**

1. *Birdsall S., Florin J. An Outline of American Geography.* – US Informational Agency, 1992. –234p.
2. *Cincotta, H.: An Outline of American History.* – US. Information Agency, 2000. – 404p.
3. *Short D.J., Celebrate Holidays in the USA.* – US Inf. Agency, 1993. –166p.
4. *Declaration of Independence & The Constitution.* – Washington, D.C.: United States Information Agency, 1990. – 44 p.
5. *Melvin I. Urofsky. Basic Readings in U.S. Democracy.* – Washington, D.C.: United States Information Agency, 1994. – 430 p.
6. *Outline of the American Economy/ Ed. Ch. Conte.* – US Inf. Agency, 2000. –152p.
7. *Outline of American Government / Ed. R. Targonski.* – Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dpt. of State. Office of International Information Programs, 2000. – 126 p.

8. *Polupan V.L., Polupan A.P., Makhova V.V., English-Speaking Countries. Cultural Reader.* – Х.: Академия, 2000. – 208 с.
9. *Portrait of the U.S. (People, Geography, History, Government, Business, Education, etc)* Washington, D.C.: United States Information Agency, 1997. – 96 p.
10. *Rogal S. J. A Chronological Outline of American Literature.* – New York: Greenwood Press, 1987. – 468p.
11. *Steiberg I. America and Americans.*– New York Viking Press, 1966. –276p.
12. *This is America.* – United States Information Agency, 1998. – 176p.
13. *U.S. Department of State. Bureau of International Information Programs,* 2004. – 225 p.
14. *Van Spanckeren K. Outline of American Literature.* – US Inf. Agency, 1994. – 125p.
15. *Бех П.О. Англійська мова: Навч. посіб.* – К., Либідь, 1993. –272с.
16. *Мідор Д.Д. Суди в сполучених штатах.* – Сент-Пол Міннесота, Вест Паблішинс Ко, 1991. –154с.
17. *Ощепкова В.В. The USA: geography, history, education, painting (a reader).* –М., Новая школа, 1997. – 208с.
18. *Тимановская Н.А. Взгляд на англоговорящие страны.* – Тула, Автограф, 1999. – 384с.

## **Keys**

### **2.1. INTRODUCTION.**

#### ***Test 1. “Do You Know the USA?”***

1 – a; 2 – c; 3 – c; 4 – b, 5 – a; 6 – b; 7 – c; 8 – a; 9 – b; 10 – c

### **2.2. GEOGRAPHY**

#### ***Test 1. “Geographical Places”***

1 – N ; 2 – J ; 3 – H ; 4 – E; 5 – M; 6 – G ; 7 – B ; 8 – D ; 9 – L; 10 – I ; 11 – O ;  
12 – K ; 13 – A; 14 – F; 15 – C

#### ***Test 2. “The US Geography”***

1 – B; 2 – D; 3 – A; 4 – B; 5 – A; 6 – D; 7 – C; 8 – B; 9 – C

#### ***Test 3. “The USA” (1)***

1 – B; 2 – C; 3 – B; 4 – A; 5 – A; 6 – B; 7 – B; 8 – C; 9 – C; 10 – A.

#### ***Test 4. “The USA” (2)***

1 – I; 2 – B; 3 – G; 4 – C; 5 – H; 6 – D; 7 – E; 8 – J; 9 – F; 10 – A

**Test 5. “The USA” (3)**

1 – b; 2 – d; 3 – a; 4 – c; 5 – a; 6 – d; 7 – c; 8 – d; 9 – a; 10 – b

**Test 6. “Ellis Island”**

1 – C; 2 – A; 3 – C; 4 – B; 5 – B; 6 – C; 7 – A; 8 – A; 9 – C; 10 – B; 11 – A;  
12 – B; 13 – C; 14 – C; 15 – A.

**Test 7. “New York”**

1 – D; 2 – B; 3 – D; 4 – A; 5 – C.

**Test 8. “New York”(2)**

1 – bordered; 2 – commonly; 3 – wealth; 4 – attributed; 5 – seat; 6 – surpassed;  
7 – influence; 8 – rural; 9 – named; 10 – Dutch; 11 – states; 12 – vision; 13 –  
peaceful

**Test 9. “The Statue of Liberty”**

1 – C; 2 – A; 3 – D; 4 – B; 5 – A; 6 – D; 7 – C; 8 – B; 9 – C; 10 – A; 11 – D;  
12 – D; 13 – C; 14 – B; 15 – D; 16 – A; 17 – C; 18 – B; 19 – A; 20 – D.

**Test 10.**

→ Oklahoma; Massachusetts; Kentucky; Maryland; Delaware; Florida; Arizona;  
Oregon; New Hampshire; California;

← Michigan; Iowa; Nebraska; Alaska; SC; Alabama; Hawaii; Illinois;  
Wisconsin; Pennsylvania; North Dakota; Washington; New Mexico;

↓ ME; West Virginia; New Jersey; SD; Virginia; Mississippi; Connecticut;  
Minnesota; Utah; Texas;

↑ Colorado; NC; New York; Wyoming; Tennessee; RI;

↘ Ohio; Indiana; Missouri;

↘ Louisiana; Idaho;

↘ Georgia;

↘

Montana; Arkansas; Kansas; Nevada; Vermont.

### **2.3. HISTORY**

#### ***Test 1. Civil War/ Abraham Lincoln***

1 – b; 2 – b; 3 – c; 4 – b; 5 – a; 6 – d; 7 – d; 8 – d; 9 – c ; 10 – b

#### ***Test 2. Civil Rights Movement***

1 – b, 2 – c; 3 – a; 4 – b; 5 – a; 6 – b; 7 – a; 8 – b; 9 – c; 10 – d

#### ***Test 3. “Cowboys”***

1) see; 2) enjoy watching; 3) think ; 4) know ; 5) were; 6) is shown ; 7) is; 8) are; 9) aren't; 10) were; 11) were; 12) appear; 13) are; 14) seem to spend; 15) stops chasing; 16) rescuing; 17) is able to use; 18) keeps on fighting; 19) had; 20) to chase; 21) had to work; 22) worked; 23) had to be rounded up; 24) were driving; 25) were taken; 26) getting; 27) was; 28) took; 29) had to stay; 30) swam; 31) tried to round them up; 32) were driven

#### ***Test 4. “European Place Names in America”***

#### ***Test 5. How Do I Know American History?***

1 – b; 2 – c; 3 – b; 4 – a; 5 – d; 6 – a, 7 – a; 8 – c; 9 – b; 10 – a

#### ***Test 6. The USA. History.***

1) Jamestown; 2) Boston Tea Party; 3) George Washington; 4) The Pilgrim Fathers; 5) New York; 6) Betsy Ross; 7) thirteen; 8) about twenty-four dollars; 9) over 600,000; 10) Richard Nixon; 11) he issued the Emancipation Proclamation; 12) on July 4, 1776; 13) in Philadelphia; 14) the "Mayflower"

### **2.4. POLITICAL SYSTEM**

#### ***Test 1. “Political System”***

1 – J; 2 – H; 3 – E; 4 – K; 5 – C; 6 – I; 7 – D; 8 – A; 9 – F; 10 – L

**Test 2. "The Political System of the USA"**

1 – b; 2 – a; 3 – b; 4 – b; 5 – b; 6 – c; 7 – b; 8 – c; 9 – c; 10 – a

**Test 4.**

1 – conterminous; 2 – arid; 3 – precipitation; 4 – indigenous; 5 – twig; 6 – vests;  
7 – checks and balances; 8 – resident; 9 – revenue; 10 – overridden.

**2.5. EDUCATION**

**Test 1. "Education"**

1 – compulsory; 2 – precedes; 3 – communities; 4 – introduce; 5 – Basically;  
6 – such as; 7 – advanced; 8 – prepare; 9 – lead; 10 – high; 11 – as well as;  
12 – expand; 13 – development; 14 – as.

**Test 2. "Higher Education in the USA"**

1 – A; 2 – D; 3 – C; 4 – C; 5 – A.

**2.6. HOLIDAYS**

**Test 1. "Holidays"**

1 – B; 2 – C; 3 – D; 4 – C; 5 – C; 6 – A ; 7 – C; 8 – B; 9 – A; 10 – C; 11 – D;  
12 – B.

**Test 2. "Holidays (2)"**

1 – B; 2 – B; 3 – C; 4 – D; 5 – D; 6 – C; 7 – B; 8 – B; 9 – A; 10 – C.

**Test 3. "Holidays"**

1) as ; 2) in; 3) as; 4) whose ; 5) which ; 6) as; 7) which; 8) who/ that ; 9) on;  
10) to; 11) the ; 12) is ; 13) by; 14) for ; 15) of ; 16) for ; 17) of .

**Test 4. "Independence Day"**

1 – A; 2 – D; 3 – C; 4 – C; 5 – C; 6 – B; 7 – D; 8 – D; 9 – B; 10 – D.