

World War II Test Study Guide

Format

- 15 multiple choice – 3 pts each
- 5 short answer questions – 6 points each
- 1 essay – 25 points
 - To fight and win a war, many difficult decisions must be made by leaders both military and political. Chose the one decision made by an American leader that you believe changed the course of the war the most. Explain the situation that was going on that caused the decision to be made, what the leader had to consider, and if the decision was the correct one (the outcome of the decision.)

Review Questions

1. Explain how blacks were treated in military defense industries, how were they treated by the government after their protests/race riots of 1943?(From Homefront ppt.)
 - **Treatment in defense industries** – African Americans were discriminated and segregated
 - FDR worried about African & Latino American workers demanding equal pay for equal work and walking out (Zoot Suit Riot in 1943– Attack on affluent, well dressed Latino Americans)
 - **Government treatment**- Created Executive Order 8802- Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) Supposed to protect equal pay for all.
 - Essentially legal fiction– if Ford decided not to give equal pay for equal work in the Willow Run plant building B24 bombers what is FDR going to do? End the contract? – not on your life!!!!!!!
 - No other company was big enough to do the job!
 - So it sounded nice but really did nothing at all for the American workers!
2. What court cases upheld Japanese Internment and what were the justifications for it?
 - **Korematsu v. US** (1944) - They said that the US government's internment policy was justified in wartime.
 - **Hirabayashi v. US** – wanted to continue attending college but supreme court said that the US can remove people because of a **clear and present danger**.
3. Explain why “Europe First” was chosen?
 - **It was a greater threat to American survival.** Britain was the last democracy left that was not yet taken over. Germany was Britain's greatest threat and needed to be helped.

4. **Operation Torch** – North African campaign led by **Dwight D. Eisenhower** (and Brit **Bernard Montgomery**) The Germans were occupying North Africa in the Mediterranean and the Allies wanted to drive them out. In May 1943, the **Allied forces successfully drove the Germans out of North Africa.**

5. **Operation Husky** – Allied invasion of Sicily, Italy led by **George S. Patton** (actually Eisenhower.) Germans eventually surrendered.

6. **Operation Overlord** – D-Day invasion of Normandy beaches led by **Eisenhower** took over beaches and pushed the Germans back. Biggest naval invasion ever.

7. Where were the decisions for Operation Overlord made (Conference) and be familiar with the demand Russia made at the conference.

- **Tehran Conference** – decisions for Overlord made **Also Russia demanded a 2nd front.**

8. Describe Hitler's Atlantic wall.

- Describe it-- the hedge hg, the Belgian gates, the pill boxes with machine guns, artillery emplacements, barbed wire and mines it was what we were facing when we invaded in June 1944. It took 250,000 French slaves 4 years to build.

9. Why did Hitler think the attack was going to happen some place else?

- All the diversionary tactics- operation mincemeat where they used a dead guy off the coast of Spain carrying false documents, the fake army talking all day long, the dummy drop over the Netherlands of rubber paratroopers...**we intentionally tried to fake out Hitler.**

10. Describe the D-Day attack, include the role that each of the three branches of the armed services played.

- Attack – (similar to #6) On June 6, 1944, in the biggest naval invasion ever, the Allies began their campaign to liberate France. In the invasion, which was known as D-Day, the British, Canadian and American troops led by General Eisenhower successfully took over beaches and pushed back German troops.
- 3 branches of armed forces roles
 - **Air force** dropped paratroopers and bombed targets
 - **Navy** landed troops and provided bombardment support.
 - **Army** fought for the beaches

11. Explain why the D-Day attack was so important, so risky and what the major objectives were for the attack.

- D-day important because it pushed the Germans back, liberated France, and then the Allies went to Germany. It was risky because of the possibility of it failing and the large number of casualties and deaths. The major objectives are why it was important.

12. Explain why Americans were rationing on the home front, what was rationed and why.

- They thought the war would last for 20 years and they needed supplies for the Allies fighting the war.
- Sugar, Coffee, Rubber and gas were rationed because they were not made/grown in the US

What were two reasons why FDR sold liberty bonds, and how much were sold?

- Pay for the war
- Stop inflation
 - Total of \$100 billion in war bonds sold

13. Explain the role of **women**

- on the **home front**
 - Most went into war time industries such as defense and were paid less than men as they filled in for them
- and in the **military**.
 - WAACs – Women's Army Auxiliary Corps
 - Drove ambulances, did clerical work, nursing-- some were trained pilots
 - WAVEs- Naval reserve for women–
 - WASPs- Air Force service

14. Explain the purpose of Executive Order 8802.

- FDR worried about African & Latino American workers demanding equal pay for equal work and walking out (Zoot Suit Riot in 1943- Attack on affluent, well dressed Latino Americans) Created Executive Order 8802- Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) Supposed to protect equal pay for all. (Essentially legal fiction- if Ford decided not to give equal pay for equal work in the Willow Run plant building B24 bombers what is FDR going to do?)

15. Explain the effect the war had on our economy and why no post-war depression would happen.

- **Effect on economy** -
 - ****Unemployment= 0% :O**
 - By 1944 (in two years) the United States produced more than Germany, Italy and Japan produced in 8 years combined!
 - The sleeping giant of American industrial capability was awake and in full gear
 - Every aspect of US production in gear
 - resulted in rationing of everything and saving resources
 - The War Production never exceeded 40% of our total Gross National Product (GNP) Meaning that even though we were working for the war it never completely took over our entire economy like in Japan, Germany or Great Britain
- **No post-war depression** - By asking women to leave, by giving the GI bill of rights, send men to college instead of right back into the workforce, also sooo many people saved \$ because of rationing

and there was nothing to spend it on that once the rationing was over people wanted new stuff!

16. What were the arguments for/against unconditional surrender?
 - For – Fascists are gone and they cannot argue anything in a treaty, losing b/c fighting continues until they give up
 - Against – Extends the war, war not over till Allies take over Germany.
17. German Generals.
 - Torch – Erwin Rommel “Desert Fox”
 - Overlord - Gerd von Rundstedt
18. Role and decision Dwight D. Eisenhower played/made.
 - **He helps plan D-Day. He says ports are needed for the Western Europe invasion for the huge army and he decides on Normandy.**
19. **Battle of the Bulge – Last major German offensive(counter-attack) attack** of war, in Belgium. Was a surprise to Americans with tricks like D-Day. Americans then resumed advance to Berlin.
20. Explain the rationale behind the fire bombing of Dresden.
 - **US & Great Britain were retaliating for the V2 rockets being launched at civilians into London**, it was done because they were a Railroad depot and munitions & troops moved through the city and we wanted to scare the Germans into giving up easier since we were about to enter Germany for the first time in two wars.
21. Explain the importance of the Siegfried line/Rhine River and the crossings of each.
 - Siegfried line – separated Germany from Switzerland it was very difficult to get through due things blocking the border. The Ams. got through
 - Rhine river – entered Germany proper. Germany tried to blow up bridges but Americans made it thru as Germans messed up.
22. Explain what Americans found with the liberation of the camps and what Eisenhower did, and American troops reactions.
 - Americans were shocked and horrified as they saw the poor conditions and thousands of dead bodies. At first they could not believe it. They made lots of the Germans help move the sick and weak to hospitals and look at what they did. Eisenhower was emotional seeing the camps. **This was the first time there were war tribunals- leaders were held responsible for their actions.**
23. Importance of the meeting at Torgau
 - **meeting of Russian and American forces with Americans coming from West and Russians from East.** This emotional joining of a few battle-weary soldiers at this historic river in a direct way symbolized the massive and mutual efforts of all the Allied Powers to achieve victory and secure a peaceful world.
24. Explain what happened at the **Bataan Death** March and why.

- MacArthur had no reinforcements and no supply lines and troops had to **surrender**. American and Filipino soldiers were taken as Prisoners of War (**POWs**) by the Japanese who made them march **65 miles** away in bare feet and no food or water. **Many died** from being executed or weak, around **10,000**.

25. Importance of each:

- Midway – Nimitz interception and decoding (Operation Magic, Purple) of messages enable US forces to destroy Japanese carriers and planes.
- Coral Sea – 1st battle where opposing ships never saw each other. **1st American victory in South Pacific.**
- Leyte Gulf – first time see *kamikaze* pilots, heavy American losses

26. Why were Iwo Jima and Okinawa important and tragic battles?

- Iwo Jima – America suffered 25,000 casualties. Took a month to secure island. Famous picture of flag being held up
- Okinawa - 50,000 Am. Casualties and 150,000 Japanese deaths as **Japanese navy destroyed.**
- Were before hit mainland Japan.

27. Manhattan Project, tested

- **The development of the atomic bomb** that was dropped on Japan at Nagasaki and Hiroshima was the responsibility of the Manhattan Project. The Manhattan Project was a secret project that started in 1942. It **was led by Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer (physicist)**. Its main objective was to create an atomic bomb, also known as an A-bomb. The project hired more than 100,000 people and spent \$2 billion to create a powerful bomb that drew its power from the splitting atoms. On July 16, 1945 at **Alamogordo, New Mexico**, the atomic bomb was **tested and worked effectively**. Less than a month later the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and a few days later on Nagasaki.

29. WWII finally ended completely on September 2, 1945 when Japan signed their surrender papers after the 2 bombings.

30.

- **Casablanca** – Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to invade Sicily and demand **“unconditional surrender”** from Axis powers
- **Tehran – D-day planned (2nd front)** - the Big Three, representing the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States, met in Tehran. They agreed on a plan to advance the war. In the spring of 1944, Britain and the United States would commence their attempt to liberate France in the spring of 1944. The Soviet Union would invade Germany and agreed to (eventually Japan) enter the war opposite Japan on the side of the Allies.

- **Yalta – agreed to divide Germany**, set up reparations, Soviets get Poland, Soviets enter war against Japan, UN would be created in SF.
31. What country suffered the most casualties from WWII - Russia
32. Allied – US, England, Russia(Soviet Union) France, Axis Power – Germany, Italy, Japan
33. Big 3 – FDR, Churchill, Stalin
34. Ad Hoc - **means it is done as needed-- quick quick we need troops here, here and here- no plan just or organization just responding to what ever the Japanese did.**
35. How did Nimitz win most of his battles in the Island Hopping Campaign
- Nimitz won because he had code purple, knew when Japanese were refueling their planes in 2nd battle of Midway-- got them with tons of fuel on the decks of the aircraft carriers when they were their most exposed, **Nimitz knew where the Japanese were going at all times!**
- 36/37 – already have
38. Effect propaganda had on home front and how effective it was.
- Propaganda was everywhere. It was used to maintain public morale, enounced people to sacrifice and conserve resources, and to increase war production. Movies, radio, pop music all supported and reflected a cheerful, patriotic view of the war.
39. See # 15 – produced more than other nations combined.
40. Changes on home front – women filling men’s jobs, no unemployment, everyone including kids involved in war effort, rationed all aspects of life, bonds used to raise half of money for war.