

Common Terms used in Social Studies Regents Questions- US History

Word	Definition (in relation to social studies)
Acquisition	A thing gained or acquired
Adherence	To follow a set of plans or rules faithfully. Holding fast or sticking.
Advocate	Someone who takes action to help someone else; Also, to take action on someone's behalf (<i>as in "educational advocate"</i>).
Agrarian	Composed of or pertaining to farmers; of or relating to land or its cultivation or to systems of dividing landed property
Allied	Joined or united in a close relationship: <i>allied tribes</i>
Allocate	To distribute according to a plan or set apart for a special purpose; <i>"I am allocating a loaf of bread to everyone on a daily basis"</i>
Allot	To give or apportion (something) to someone as a share or task. <i>"equal time was allotted to each"</i>
Ally	To place in a friendly association, as by treaty: <i>Italy allied itself with Germany during World War II.</i>
Annex	To add (territory) to one's own territory by appropriation
Arbitration	The process of resolving a dispute (as between labor and management) or a grievance outside of the court system by presenting it to an impartial third party or panel for a decision that may or may not be binding
Arid	Lacking moisture, especially having insufficient rainfall to support trees or woody plants: <i>an arid climate</i>
Assimilate/ Assimilated	To bring into conformity with the customs, attitudes, etc., of a group, nation, or the like; adapt or adjust: <i>to assimilate the new immigrants.</i>
Authority	The power to determine, adjudicate, or otherwise settle issues or disputes; jurisdiction; the right to control, command, or determine.
Bicameral	A legislature consisting of two houses, such as the House of Representatives and the Senate
Blockade	To seal off (a place) to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving.
Boycott	To refuse to buy or handle (goods) as a punishment or protest.
Civil Defense	The organized non-military effort to prepare Americans for military attack. Over the last twenty years, the term and practice of civil defense have fallen into disuse and have been replaced by emergency management and homeland security.
Coalition	A combination or alliance, especially a temporary one between persons, factions, states, etc.
Commerce	Trade or exchange of goods and money
Congressional	Of or relating to congress; <i>"congressional hearing"</i>
Conquest	Something, such as territory, acquired by conquering
Consent	Agreement as to action or opinion
Consent of the Governed	Voluntary agreement by a people to organize a civil society and give authority to a government
Corruption	Dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.
Decentralized	An organizational structure in which decision-making authority is located in the individual units, not at the center
Delegate	A person authorized to act as representative for another; a deputy or an agent. A representative to a conference or convention
Democratic	Based upon the principles of democracy or social equality; <i>"democratic government"</i>

Demographics	Statistical data relating to the population and particular groups within it.
Deprive(d)	Lacking adequate food, shelter, education, etc: <i>deprived inner-city areas</i>
Deregulation	The process of removing or reducing state regulations. It is therefore opposite of regulation, which refers to the process of the government regulating certain activities.
Derive	To obtain or receive from a source.
Despotism	Rule by or as if by a despot; absolute power or authority.
Disclosure	A fact, especially a secret that is made known.
Diversify	To change (something) so that it has more different kinds of people or things
Excise Tax	An indirect tax charged on the sale of a particular good.
Expenditure	An amount of money that is spent on something
Export	A good or service that is produced in one country and then sold to and consumed in another country
Faction	Members of a group or organization who hold views not representative of the group and usually more extreme the radical fringe of a political party
Fertile	(of soil or land) producing or capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops
Frequently	Many times at short intervals
Frontier	The extreme limit of settled land beyond which lies wilderness, especially referring to the western US before Pacific settlement
Humanitarian	Pertaining to the saving of human lives or to the alleviation of suffering: <i>a humanitarian crisis.</i>
Ideology	A set of doctrines or beliefs that form the basis of a political, economic, or other system.
Inconsistent	Not regular or predictable; erratic
Infiltrate	To gain entrance gradually or surreptitiously, pass through an enemy-line; in a military conflict
Influx	An arrival or entry of large numbers of people or things
Institute/ Instituted	To establish, organize, and set in operation
Internationalism	The belief that it is good for different countries to work together
Intolerance	Unwillingness to recognize and respect differences in opinions or beliefs
Justification	Something (such as a fact or circumstance) that shows an action to be reasonable or necessary
Labor Strike	A work stoppage; the concerted refusal of employees to perform work that their employer has assigned to them in order to force the employer to grant certain demanded concessions, such as increased wages or improved employment conditions.
Levy (levying)	To impose or collect (a tax, for example).
Localities	A surrounding or nearby region
Mobilize	To assemble (as resources) and make ready for use
Popular Election	Voting for representation by the general population
Population Density	The number of people living per unit of an area (e.g. per square mile)

Primarily	Chiefly; mainly
Prominent	Important and well-known; easily noticed or seen; sticking out in a way that is easily seen or noticed
Protective Tariff	A tax intended to increase prices of imports and protect a country's industries from foreign competition:
Provision(s)	A stipulation or qualification, especially a clause in a document or agreement
Quota	A specific amount that serves as a minimum or maximum
Ratify	To sign or give formal consent to (a treaty, contract, or agreement), making it officially valid.
Reapportion	To allocate (seats in a house of representatives) in accordance with new population distribution
Regulation	A principle, rule, or law designed to control or govern conduct
Reinstate	To restore to a previous condition or position
Restrictive	Tending or serving to restrict; limiting.
Reunification	The act of coming together again
Rural	Sparsely settled or agricultural country
Secede/ Secession	To withdraw formally from an alliance, federation, or association, as from a political union, a religious organization, etc.
Subsidies	Monetary assistance granted by a government to a person or group in support of an enterprise regarded as being in the public interest
Sunbelt	The southern US from California to Florida, noted for resort areas and for the movement of businesses and population into these states from the colder northern states.
Surplus	An amount of something left over when requirements have been met; an excess of production or supply over demand.
Tyranny	A government in which a single ruler is vested with absolute power
Undermined	To weaken, injure, or impair
Unified	To make or become a single unit; unite: <i>to unify conflicting theories; to unify a country.</i>
Urban	Relating to or concerned with a city or densely populated area
Vast Majority	Very great in number, the greater number or part <i>ex. The vast majority of teachers look forward to snow days.</i>