

HI 297

**The History of the American Military Experience
Spring 2021**

FINAL EXAM - STUDY GUIDE

The Final Exam (150 points) will cover topics in American Military History v. 2. It will include multiple-choice and other objective questions, and several short essays. It is expected that you will be able to give a short definition of each of the nine Principles of War.

Part 1 Multiple-choice - 66 points (33 questions @ 2 points each)

These questions will be taken from the on-line quizzes

Part 2. List and Identify – 34 points

These questions will be taken from lectures. It is recommended that students download and review presentations, especially those on: *Principles of War* and the four major wars which combine to form WWII

Part 3. Essay (5 questions @ 10 points each) Discuss in a well-organized paragraphs - 50 points
You will chose from 10 of the following 16 questions..

1. In what ways was America prepared or unprepared for war 1917? How successfully did the U. S. Army overcome its initial problems>
2. Why did Pershing disagree with the concept of amalgamation? Was he correct? Discuss the viewpoints of the French and the British.
3. Interwar military policy emphasized maintaining force levels over procuring state-of-the-art equipment. Why did the War Department make that decision, and how ready was the Army for war in this period?
4. Why was the United States caught so unprepared by the Japanese attacks against Hawaii and the Philippines? What were the similarities and differences between the two garrisons and the defense each put up?
5. Why did the United States see Germany as the greatest threat in late 1941? Was this policy correct? Why or why not?
6. Why was it so important to obtain the Soviet Union's involvement in the war against Japan? What was the strategic situation in the war against Japan at the time of the Yalta Conference in February 1945? At Potsdam in July 1945?
7. Why did the Allies invade in Normandy rather than another part of France or Europe?
8. Why did Japan go to war with the United States? How did she plan to win?

9. Should the United States have resorted to using the atomic bomb to force Japan's surrender? What about the second atomic bomb? Justify your answers.
10. What were the major components of the U. S. policy of containment in Europe? How successful was the effort? Could the new United Nations have filled this role?
11. To what degree was the Korean War a civil war? How did the United States and Russia view it?
12. How much defense spending do you think was justified during the Cold War? Which programs were cost-effective?
13. In Vietnam, the helicopter provided allied forces with unprecedented mobility. Describe the helicopter's role in ground combat. What were its drawbacks?
14. President Johnson declined to mobilize the reserves when he committed ground troops to Vietnam in 1965. What was the impact of this decision on the U. S. Army for the duration of the war?
15. The Tet offensive was a desperate gamble on the part of the North Vietnamese leadership and a sign of military weakness: True or False? Why?
16. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of an all-volunteer Army. In what ways was Selective Service beneficial and/or harmful to the nation?