

**Test Blueprint**

# Virginia and United States History

**2015 History and Social Science Standards of Learning**

**This test blueprint will be effective with the administration of the spring 2020 History and Social Science Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.**

**Notice to Reader**

In accordance with the requirements of the Civil Rights Act and other federal and state laws and regulations, this document has been reviewed to ensure that it does not reflect stereotypes based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

The Virginia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities in employment or provisions of service.

Copyright ©2019 by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120. All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, this material may not be reproduced or used in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the copyright owner. Commonwealth of Virginia public school educators may reproduce any portion of this test blueprint for non-commercial educational purposes without requesting permission. All others should direct their written requests to the Virginia Department of Education at the above address or by email to [Student\_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov).

**Virginia and United States History**

**Standards of Learning**

**Test Blueprint**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

General Test Information 1

Defines common terms

Test Blueprint Summary Table 2

Organizes the SOL and the number of items assesse

Expanded Test Blueprint 3

Full text of each SOL as organized for the test

## General Test Information

### Test Blueprint

Much like the blueprint for a building, a test blueprint serves as a guide for test construction. The blueprint indicates the content areas that will be addressed by the test and the number of items that will be included by content area and for the test as a whole. There is a blueprint for each test (e.g., grade 3 reading, grade 5 mathematics, grade 8 science, Virginia and United States History).

### Reporting Category

Each test covers a number of Standards of Learning. In the test blueprint, the SOL are grouped into categories that address related content and skills. These categories are labeled as reporting categories. For example, a reporting category for the Virginia and United States History Standards of Learning test is *Geography*. Each of the SOL in this reporting category addresses the influence geography has had on the history of Virginia and the United States. When the results of the SOL tests are reported, the scores will be presented for each reporting category and as a total test score.

### Assignment of Standards of Learning to Reporting Categories

Different bullets of a Standard of Learning may be assigned to different reporting categories. For example, Virginia and United States History SOL VUS.6a, which covers territorial expansion, is assigned to the Reporting Category *Geography* in the Virginia and United States History SOL test. SOL VUS.6b, which involves describing the political results of territorial expansion, is assigned to the reporting category *Expansion, Civil War, and Reconstruction*.

### Coverage of Standards of Learning

Due to the large number of SOL in each grade level content area, *every* Standard of Learning will not be assessed on every version (form) of an SOL test. By necessity, to keep the length of a test reasonable, each version will sample from the SOL within a reporting category. Every SOL in the blueprint will be tested within a three year period, and *all of these* SOL are eligible for inclusion on each version of an SOL test.

### Use of the Curriculum Framework

The History and Social Science Standards of Learning, amplified by the Curriculum Framework, define the essential understandings, knowledge, and skills that are measured by the Standards of Learning tests. The Curriculum Framework identifies essential understandings, defines essential content knowledge, and describes essential skills students need to master.

**Virginia and United States History**

**Test Blueprint Summary Table**

| **Reporting Category** | **Virginia and United States History Standards of Learning** | **Number of Items** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessed with Other SOL** | **VUS.1a-g** | Blank |
| **Early America Through the Founding of the New Nation** | **VUS.2b**  **VUS.3b**  **VUS.4a, c-d**  **VUS.5b** | **6** |
| **Geography** | **VUS.2a**  **VUS.6a**  **VUS.8a**  **VUS.9a**  **VUS.11b-c**  **VUS.12a** | **6** |
| **Expansion, Civil War, and Reconstruction** | **VUS.6b, d-g**  **VUS.7a-d** | **7** |
| **Economics** | **VUS.3a, c**  **VUS.6c**  **VUS.10b-c**  **VUS.13a**  **VUS.14c** | **6** |
| **Industrialization, Emergence of Modern America, and World Conflicts** | **VUS.8b-e**  **VUS.9b-c**  **VUS.10a, d**  **VUS.11a d-f** | **9** |
| **Civics** | **VUS.4b, e**  **VUS.5a, c-d**  **VUS.7e**  **VUS.8f**  **VUS.13b-c**  **VUS.14a** | **6** |
| **The United States since World War II** | **VUS.12b-g**  **VUS.13d-g**  **VUS.14b, d** | **10** |
| **Number of Operational Items** | blank | **50** |
| **Number of Field-Test Items\*** | blank | **10** |
| **Total Number of Items on Test** | blank | **60** |

\* Field-test items are being tried out with students for potential use on subsequent tests and

will not be used to compute students’ scores on the test.

Virginia and United States History

## Expanded Test Blueprint

### Assessed with Other History and Social Science Standards of Learning

The following skill-based standards will be assessed through the reporting categories by applying them to other Standards of Learning content:

VUS.1 The student will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by

a) synthesizing evidence from artifacts and primary and secondary sources to obtain information about events in Virginia and United States history;

b) using geographic information to determine patterns and trends in Virginia and United States history;

c) interpreting charts, graphs, and pictures to determine characteristics of people, places, or events in Virginia and United States history;

d) constructing arguments, using evidence from multiple sources;

e) comparing and contrasting historical, cultural, economic, and political perspectives in Virginia and United States history;

f) explaining how indirect cause-and-effect relationships impact people, places, and events in Virginia and United States history; and

g) analyzing multiple connections across time and place.

### Reporting Category: Early America Through the Founding of the New Nation

**Number of Items: 6**

**Standards of Learning:**

VUS.2 The student will apply social science skills to understand the impact of the Age of Exploration by

b) analyzing the cultural interactions among American Indians, Europeans, and Africans.

VUS.3 The student will apply social science skills to understand early European colonization by

b) analyzing how social and political factors impacted the culture of the colonies.

VUS.4 The student will apply social science skills to understand the issues and events leading to and during the Revolutionary Period by

a) describing the results of the French and Indian War;

c) explaining how conflicting loyalties created political differences among the colonists concerning separation from Great Britain; and

d) analyzing the competing factors that led to colonial victory in the Revolutionary War.

VUS.5 The student will apply social science skills to understand the development of the American political system by

b) describing the major compromises necessary to produce the Constitution of the United States, with emphasis on the roles of James Madison and George Washington.

### Reporting Category: Geography

**Number of Items: 6**

**Standards of Learning:**

VUS.2 The student will apply social science skills to understand the impact of the Age of Exploration by

a) describing the characteristics of early exploration and evaluating the impact of European settlement in the Americas.

VUS.6 The student will apply social science skills to understand major events in Virginia and United States history during the first half of the nineteenth century by

a) explaining territorial expansion and its impact on the American Indians

VUS.8 The student will apply social science skills to understand how the nation grew and changed from the end of Reconstruction through the early twentieth century by

a) explaining the westward movement of the population in the United States, with emphasis on the role of the railroads, communication systems, admission of new states to the Union, and the impact on American Indians.

VUS.9 The student will apply social science skills to understand the emerging role of the United States in world affairs during the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by

a) explaining changes in foreign policy of the United States toward Latin America and Asia and the growing influence of the United States, with emphasis on the impact of the Spanish-American War.

VUS.11 The student will apply social science skills to understand World War II by

b) describing and locating the major battles and key leaders of the European theater; and

c) describing and locating the major battles and key leaders of the Pacific theater.

VUS.12 The student will apply social science skills to understand the United States’ foreign policy during the Cold War era by

a) locating and explaining the political boundary changes, and the formation of the United Nations and the Marshall Plan.

### Reporting Category: Expansion, Civil War, and Reconstruction

**Number of Items: 7**

**Standards of Learning:**

VUS.6 The student will apply social science skills to understand major events in Virginia and United States history during the first half of the nineteenth century by

b) describing the political results of territorial expansion;

d) analyzing the social and cultural changes during the period, with emphasis on “the age of the common man” (Jacksonian Era);

e) evaluating the cultural, economic, and political issues that divided the nation, including tariffs, slavery, the abolitionist and women’s suffrage movements, and the role of the states in the Union;

f) explaining how Manifest Destiny and President James K. Polk’s policies impacted the nation; and

g) evaluating and explaining the multiple causes and compromises leading to the Civil War, including the role of the institution of slavery.

VUS.7 The student will apply social science skills to understand the Civil War and Reconstruction eras and their significance as major turning points in American history by

a) describing major events and the roles of key leaders of the Civil War era, with emphasis on Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass;

b) evaluating and explaining the significance and development of Abraham Lincoln’s leadership and political statements, including the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation and the principles outlined in the Gettysburg Address;

c) evaluating and explaining the impact of the war on Americans, with emphasis on Virginians, African Americans, the common soldier, and the home front; and

d) evaluating postwar Reconstruction plans presented by key leaders of the Civil War.

### Reporting Category: Economics

**Number of Items: 6**

**Standards of Learning**

VUS.3 The student will apply social science skills to understand early European colonization by

a) evaluating the economic characteristics of the colonies; and

c) explaining the impact of the development of indentured servitude and slavery in the colonies.

VUS.6 The student will apply social science skills to understand major events in Virginia and United States history during the first half of the nineteenth century by

c) assessing the political and economic changes that occurred during this period, with emphasis on James Madison and the War of 1812.

VUS.10 The student will apply social science skills to understand key events during the 1920s and 1930s by

b) assessing and explaining the economic causes and consequences of the stock market crash of 1929; and

c) explaining the causes of the Great Depression and its impact on the American people.

VUS.13 The student will apply social science skills to understand the social, political, and cultural movements and changes in the United States during the second half of the twentieth century by

a) explaining the factors that led to United States expansion.

VUS.14 The student will apply social science skills to understand political and social conditions in the United States during the early twenty-first century by

c) evaluating the evolving and changing role of government, including its role in the American economy.

### Reporting Category: Industrialization, Emergence of Modern America, and World Conflicts

**Number of Items: 9**

**Standards of Learning:**

VUS.8 The student will apply social science skills to understand how the nation grew and changed from the end of Reconstruction through the early twentieth century by

b) analyzing the factors that transformed the American economy from agrarian to industrial and explaining how major inventions transformed life in the United States, including the emergence of leisure activities;

c) examining the contributions of new immigrants and evaluating the challenges they faced, including anti-immigration legislation;

d) analyzing the impact of prejudice and discrimination, including “Jim Crow” laws, the responses of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois, and the practice of eugenics in Virginia; and

e) evaluating and explaining the social and cultural impact of industrialization, including rapid urbanization.

VUS.9 The student will apply social science skills to understand the emerging role of the United States in world affairs during the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by

b) evaluating the United States’ involvement in World War I, including Wilson’s Fourteen Points; and

c) evaluating and explaining the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, with emphasis on the national debate in response to the League of Nations.

VUS.10 The student will apply social science skills to understand key events during the 1920s and 1930s by

a) analyzing how popular culture evolved and challenged traditional values; and

d) evaluating and explaining how Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal measures addressed the Great Depression and expanded the government’s role in the economy.

VUS.11 The student will apply social science skills to understand World War II by

a) analyzing the causes and events that led to American involvement in the war, including the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the American response;

d) evaluating and explaining how the United States mobilized its economic and military resources, including the role of all-minority military units (the Tuskegee Airmen and Nisei regiments) and the contributions of media, minorities, and women to the war effort;

e) analyzing the Holocaust (Hitler’s “final solution”), its impact on Jews and other groups, and the postwar trials of war criminals; and

f) evaluating and explaining the treatment of prisoners of war and civilians by the Allied and Axis powers.

### Reporting Category: Civics

**Number of Items: 6**

**Standards of Learning:**

VUS.4 The student will apply social science skills to understand the issues and events leading to and during the Revolutionary Period by

b) evaluating how political ideas of the Enlightenment helped shape American politics; and

e) evaluating how key principles in the Declaration of Independence grew in importance to become unifying ideas of American political philosophy.

VUS.5 The student will apply social science skills to understand the development of the American political system by

a) examining founding documents to explore the development of American constitutional government, with emphasis on the significance of the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom in the framing of the Bill of Rights;

c) assessing the arguments of Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the ratification debates in defense of the principles and issues that led to the development of political parties; and

d) evaluating the impact of John Marshall’s precedent-setting decisions that established the Supreme Court as an independent and equal branch of the national government.

.

VUS.7 The student will apply social science skills to understand the Civil War and Reconstruction eras and their significance as major turning points in American history by

e) evaluating and explaining the political and economic impact of the war and Reconstruction, including the adoption of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

VUS.8 The student will apply social science skills to understand how the nation grew and changed from the end of Reconstruction through the early twentieth century by

f) evaluating and explaining the economic outcomes and the political, cultural and social developments of the Progressive Movement and the impact of its legislation.

VUS.13 The student will apply social science skills to understand the social, political, and cultural movements and changes in the United States during the second half of the twentieth century by

b) evaluating and explaining the impact of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the roles of Thurgood Marshall and Oliver W. Hill, Sr., and how Virginia responded to the decision; and

c) explaining how the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the 1963 March on Washington, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) had an impact on all Americans.

VUS.14 The student will apply social science skills to understand political and social conditions in the United States during the early twenty-first century by

a) assessing the development of and changes in domestic policies, with emphasis on the impact of the role the United States Supreme Court played in defining a constitutional right to privacy, affirming equal rights, and upholding the rule of law.

### Reporting Category: The United States Since World War II

**Number of Items: 10**

**Standards of Learning:**

VUS.12 The student will apply social science skills to understand the United States’ foreign policy during the Cold War era by

b) explaining the origins and early development of the Cold War and how it changed American foreign policy, with emphasis on the Truman Doctrine and the policy of containment of communism;

c) analyzing the efforts of the United States to protect Western Europe, including the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

d) analyzing the changing role of the United States in Asia, including Korea, Vietnam, and China;

e) evaluating and explaining how policy changes impacted the United States’ relationships in Latin America;

f) analyzing the domestic impact of the Cold War; and

g) evaluating and explaining the factors that caused the collapse of communism in Europe and how it changed American foreign policy, including the role of Ronald Reagan.

VUS.13 The student will apply social science skills to understand the social, political, and cultural movements and changes in the United States during the second half of the twentieth century by

d) analyzing changes in immigration policy and the impact of increased immigration;

e) evaluating and explaining the foreign and domestic policies pursued by the American government after the Cold War;

f) explaining how scientific and technological advances altered American lives; and

g) evaluating and explaining the changes that occurred in American culture.

VUS.14 The student will apply social science skills to understand political and social conditions in the United States during the early twenty-first century by

b) evaluating and explaining the changes in foreign policies and the role of the United States in a world confronted by international terrorism, with emphasis on the American response to 9/11 (September 11, 2001); and

d) explaining scientific and technological changes and evaluating their impact on American culture.