

Questions Galore!

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STUDY GUIDE: PRESIDENTIAL FACTS PART II

Chester Alan Arthur: 21st President

One Term from 1881 – 1885

Born: October 5, 1830

Died: November 18, 1886 at age 56

Wife: Ellen Arthur, died before he was elected, and he never remarried. They had three children, one that died at age three.

Occupation: Lawyer in New York

Political Party: Republican

He became president when James Garfield was assassinated in September, 1881. Before moving into the White House, he removed 24 wagonloads of old things, and remodeled it to suit his tastes. His sister, Mary McElroy, acted as hostess during dinners and other events at the White House because his wife had died prior to his election.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. The Brooklyn Bridge was opened, linking Manhattan and Brooklyn, NY.
2. The Civil Service Commission was organized. A "bi-partisan" civil service law was passed where applicants for many government jobs had to pass tests before getting the job. Once in office, they could not be removed for political reasons.
3. Modernization of the U.S. Navy.

Grover Cleveland: 22nd and 24th President

2 Terms: (1885-1889) and (1893-1897)

Born: March 18, 1837

Died: June 24, 1908 at age 71

Wife: Frances Folsom Cleveland

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Democratic

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GROVER CLEVELAND WAS THE ONLY PRESIDENT TO SERVE TWO TERMS THAT WERE NOT CONSECUTIVE. He was also the first and only president to get married in the White House. When elected, he was a bachelor, but on June 2, 1886, he married Frances Folsom in the blue room. She became one of the most popular first ladies.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. The Statue of Liberty was given to the U.S. by France, and it was dedicated in New York City.
2. Chicago's World Fair opened in 1893.
3. He vetoed many Civil War pension and veteran bills because he felt they were fraudulent and would drain the U.S. treasury. This caused much displeasure with both parties.

He ran for a second term at this time, but he was defeated by Republican, Benjamin Harrison.

Benjamin Harrison: 23rd President

One Term from 1889-1893

Born: August 20, 1833

Died: March 13, 1901 at age 68

Wife: Caroline Scott Harrison

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

HE WAS THE GRANDSON OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the ninth president. He was the first president to sign papers by electric lights, and he was the last president to wear a beard. He ordered the American flag to be flown above the White House, and all other governmental buildings, and he encouraged all schools to do the same.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. Passage of the SHERMAN ANTITRUST ACT. This outlawed any trusts or other monopolies that hindered trade, thus curbing monopolies.
2. The first Pan American Conference was held.
3. James Naismith invented the game of basketball.
4. The International Copyright Act was passed.

He ran for reelection in 1892, but he was defeated by Grover Cleveland, whom he had replaced for the presidency four years earlier.

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Grover Cleveland: 24th President

His second term was no happier or more successful than his first. There was economic depression, widespread unemployment, and much suffering. Cleveland gave no governmental relief to the people.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. He ordered federal troops to Illinois to break the American Railway Union-Pullman strike. He lost much popularity.
 2. Henry Ford's first car appeared.
 3. Guglielmo Marconi of Italy invented the first practical, wireless telegraph.
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William McKinley: 25th President

Two Terms 1897-1901

Born: January 29, 1843
Died: September 14, 1901 at age 58
Wife: Ida Saxton McKinley
Occupation: Lawyer
Political Party: Republican

Prior Political Experience: He was a lawyer, Civil War soldier, congressman, and governor of Ohio for two years.

His wife, Ida, was unable to deal with the death of her two daughters, and she became an invalid who experienced periodic seizures.

Important Events and Actions during his Term:

1. SPANISH AMERICAN WAR: The battleship Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor, and the U.S. declared war on Spain in 1898.
2. The Treaty of Paris was signed to end the war.
3. Guam, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and American Samoa were obtained from the war.
4. Hawaii was acquired in 1898.

He ran for a second term in 1901 and won the presidency, but his term came to an end that same year when he was ASSASINATED BY LEON CZOLGOSZ. He died eight days later.

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Theodore Roosevelt: 26th President

Two Terms: (1901-1905) (1905-1909)

Born: October 27, 1858

Died: January 6, 1919 at age 61

Wife: Alice Lee Roosevelt, who died during childbirth before his election.
(Ironically on the same day his mother died of typhoid fever.)

Occupation: Author and rancher in North Dakota

Political Party: Republican

As a child, "Teddy" suffered from asthma, and he was too sick to attend school.

EXPERIENCES PRIOR TO PRESIDENCY:

1. Civil Service Commissioner
2. New York City Police Commissioner
3. Leader of the Rough Riders in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

HE BECAME PRESIDENT WHEN MCKINLEY WAS ASSASSINATED. At the age of 42, he was THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO EVER HOLD THE PRESIDENCY.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. The Departments of Commerce and Labor were started.
2. Panama Canal Zone was acquired, and work on the canal was started in 1901.
3. Added 125 acres to the National Forest System, and stressed the importance of conservation.
4. Wright Brothers made their first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
5. San Francisco Earthquake occurred.
6. HE WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE for his mediation efforts, which helped end the Russo-Japanese War.
7. The Federal Food and Drug Act was established to protect the country from impure foods.
8. He was noted for his ANTI-TRUST LAWS, and he fought against the power of big businesses to control the large industries.

His ranches in North Dakota are part of the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, and his bust is carved in MOUNT RUSHMORE in South Dakota.

William Howard Taft: 27th President

One Term from 1909-1913

Born: September 15, 1857

Died: March 8, 1930 at age 73

Wife: Helen Herron Taft

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

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He was the first president to open a baseball season (1910) by tossing out the first ball. He was also the LARGEST president, standing 6'2" and weighing over 300 pounds.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. Parcel Post services were started.
2. 16th Amendment was added to the Constitution, which gave Congress the power to levy and collect an income tax.

After his Presidency in 1921, President William Harding appointed Taft as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. HE WAS THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL TO HOLD BOTH THE HIGHEST EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND HIGHEST JUDICIAL OFFICE DURING HIS LIFETIME.

Woodrow Wilson: 28th President

Two Terms (1913-1917) and (1917-1921)

Born: December 28, 1856

Died: February 3, 1924 at age 68

Wife: Ellen Axson Wilson

Occupation: Educator

Political Party: Democratic

He was the last president to ride to his inauguration in a horse-drawn carriage, and the first president to give a presidential press conference.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. The 17th Amendment to the Constitution was added.
2. The Federal Reserve System (a central banking system) was established.
3. The Germans sank the Lusitania.
4. The U.S. entered WORLD WAR I.
5. The League of Nations was established, which eventually became known as the United Nations.
6. The 18th Amendment was passed, banning alcoholic beverages. (PROHIBITION)
7. The 19th Amendment was passed, giving women the right to vote. (WOMEN SUFFRAGE)
8. The Allies and Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles, which officially ended World War I.

Warren G. Harding: 29th President

One Term from 1921-1923

Born: November 2, 1865

Died: August 2, 1923

Wife: Florence Harding, known as the "Duchess"

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Occupation: Publisher
Political Party: Republican

His campaign slogan was "return to normalcy"

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. Peace treaties with Germany and Austria were signed.
2. The Washington Conference agreed to limit naval arms.
3. The TEAPOT DOME SCANDAL involved cabinet members.

HIS ELECTION IS BEST REMEMBERED FOR THE SCANDALS involving bribery, kickbacks, and theft. In the Teapot Dome Scandal, Albert Fall went to prison for leasing government oil reserves to private companies.

HARDING DIED OF PNEUMONIA WHILE IN OFFICE.

Calvin Coolidge: 30th President

**Completed Harding's Term
(1923-1925) and one More
Term (1925-1929)**

Born: July 4, 1872
Died: January 5, 1933 at age 61
Wife: Grace Goodhue Coolidge
Occupation: Lawyer
Political Party: Republican

He was nicknamed "Silent Cal," and his campaign slogan was "Keep cool with Coolidge." He became president when Harding died in 1923.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. He cleaned up the scandals of the Harding Administration and reduced the National Debt.
 2. Charles Lindbergh made his first transatlantic solo flight from the U.S. to Paris in his "Spirit of St. Louis."
 3. Richard E. Byrd and Floyd Bennett made the first flight over the North Pole.
 4. He gave the first inaugural address over the radio.
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Herbert Clark Hoover: 31st President

One Term (1929-1933)

Born: August 10, 1874
Died: October 20, 1964 at age 90.
Wife: Lou Henry Hoover

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Occupation: Engineer
Political Party: Republican

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. STOCK MARKET CRASH (October, 1929)
2. GREAT DEPRESSION (1930)
3. The 20th Amendment made Hoover the last “lame duck” president, by changing the last day of the president’s term from March 4 to January 20th.
4. Richard Byrd made a South Pole flight.
5. Amelia Earhart completed the first solo, transatlantic flight by a woman.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt: 32nd President

Three Terms (1933-1937), (1937-1941), (1941-1945)

Born: January 30, 1882
Died: April 12, 1945 at age 63
Wife: Eleanor Roosevelt
Occupation: Lawyer
Political Party: Democratic

He was afflicted with POLIO before his election, and he walked with braces, crutches, or canes. He is known for his FIRESIDE CHATS, where he talked to the people by radio.

Important Actions and Events during his Terms:

1. The “NEW DEAL” was enacted, which was a plan for recovery from the Depression.
2. Social Security Act was passed.
3. WORLD WAR II began when Germany invaded Poland.
4. Japan attacked PEARL HARBOR, and the U.S. entered the war against Japan.
5. The Selective Service (Military Draft) was started.
6. The Allies invaded Normandy, France.
7. The 21st Amendment to the Constitution ended Prohibition.

HE RAN FOR A FOURTH TERM AND WON, but he died in April after the election, with Harry S. Truman, his vice president, following him into the presidency.

Harry S. Truman: 33rd President

**Two Terms (1945-1949)
and (1949-1953)**

Born: May 8, 1884
Died: December 26, 1972
Wife: Bess Wallace Truman

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Occupation; Businessman
Political party: Democratic

He became president upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt. HE ORDERED THE ATOMIC BOMBS TO BE DROPPED ON THE JAPANESE CITIES OF HIROSHIMA ND NAGASAKI.

Important Events and Actions during his Terms:

1. Germany surrendered to end World War I.
2. The first atomic bomb was tested in Alamogordo, New Mexico.
3. The Cold War began.
4. The 22nd Amendment was passed, stating that no president could be elected for more than two terms.
5. The North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) was signed by 12 nations.
6. Puerto Rico became a U.S. commonwealth.
7. THE KOREAN WAR BEGAN.

Dwight D. Eisenhower: 34th President:

**Two Terms (1953-1957)
and (1957-1961)**

Born: October 14, 1890
Died: March 28, 1969
Wife: Mamie Dowd Eisenhower
Occupation: Soldier
Political Party: Republican

He was nicknamed "Ike" and was a popular president.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. Ike's "summit conference" with Russian Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, ended the Korean War.
 2. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.
 3. American launched its first satellite, Explorer I.
 4. NASA was established.
 5. The Eisenhower Doctrine was signed. This said that the U.S. would help any Middle Eastern nation who wanted military help if it was being threatened by Communist aggression.
 6. The last two states, Alaska and Hawaii, were admitted.
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John Fitzgerald Kennedy: 35th

One Term (1961-1963)

Born: May 29, 1917
Died: November 22, 1963 at age 46
Wife: Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy
Occupation: Author
Political Party: Democratic

As a senator, Kennedy wrote the book called Profiles in Courage, which tells about senators of the past who distinguished themselves. He won the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 1957 for this book.

Kennedy was the first Catholic to win the presidency. Only one other Catholic, Alfred Smith, had ever run for the presidency on a major ticket, but he lost the election.

He was the YOUNGEST president EVER ELECTED and also the YOUNGEST president to EVER DIE IN OFFICE, at the age of 46. His term was referred to as the NEW FRONTIER, which included the start of our space program.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. Yuri Gagarin, a Russian, became the first person in space.
2. First live television press conference.
3. U.S. launched the first Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba, which failed.
4. The Supreme Court ruled prayers and Bible reading in public schools unconstitutional.
5. Telstar I was launched.
6. John Glenn became the first U.S. astronaut to be put into orbit, and he orbited the Earth three times.
7. Civil Rights March in Washington, D.C.
8. TEST BAN TREATY: Signed by the U.S., Soviet Union, and Great Britain, this treaty banned nuclear testing in the Earth's atmosphere.

President Kennedy was ASSASSINATED while riding in an open motorcade in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the murder, but he was killed before he could be convicted.

President Kennedy was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Lyndon B. Johnson took the oath of office on an airplane enroute to Washington, D.C.

Lyndon Baines Johnson: 36th President

**Two Terms (1963-1965)
and (1965-1969)**

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Born: August 27, 1908

Died: January 22, 1973 at age 65

Wife: Claudia Taylor Johnson...called Lady Bird

Occupation: Teacher

Political Party: Democratic

He took over the presidency after the assassination of John Kennedy. He was nicknamed L.B.J. His administration aimed for the "Great Society."

Important Events and Actions during his Term:

1. Civil Rights Act of 1968 was signed.
2. Creation of new Cabinet departments: Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation.
3. Medicare, a national health insurance for those over 65 was started.
4. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.
5. Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated.
6. VIETNAM WAR. The first U.S. troops were sent in, and bombing increased during this term.
7. Thurgood Marshall became the first African-American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Richard Millhouse Nixon: 37th President

2 Terms (1969-1973) and
(1973-1974)

RESIGNED due to WATERGATE

Born: January 9, 1913

Died: Summer, 1994 at age 81

Wife: Pat Ryan Nixon

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

HE WAS THE ONLY PRESIDENT TO RESIGN FROM THE OFFICE.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, Jr. became the first people to set foot on the moon.
 2. Congress approved the lottery system for military drafting.
 3. Vice President, Spiro Agnew, resigned and was replaced by Gerald Ford.
 4. The Supreme Court ruled that women must receive equal pay for equal work.
 5. Troops were withdrawn from Vietnam.
 6. THE WATERGATE SCANDAL: Nixon resigned from office during his second term.
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Gerald R. Ford: 38th President

One Term (1974-1977)

Born: July 14th, 1913

Died:

Wife: Elizabeth Bloomer Ford, called "Betty"

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

HE WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO NOT BE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE. He was appointed as vice president during Nixon's term when Agnew resigned. He was accepted by Congress but never chosen by popular vote.

HE GRANTED NIXON A "FULL, COMPLETE, AND ABSOLUTE PARDON," and he was criticized by many for this gesture.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. Nelson Rockefeller became the new vice president.
2. Richard Nixon was pardoned for his crimes.
3. The Alaskan pipeline was started.
4. The U.S. Bicentennial marked 200 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
5. The VIETNAM WAR WAS ENDED.

James Earl Carter: 39th President

One Term (1977-1981)

Born: October 1, 1924

Died:

Wife: Rosalynn Smith Carter

Occupation: Businessman; peanut farmer and businessman

Political Party: Democratic

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. Nuclear reaction accident at Three Mile Island, PA.
 2. The Panama Canal Zone was ceded back to the Republic of Panama.
 3. U.S. Embassy personnel were taken hostage in Iran.
 4. Iran returned the hostages to the U.S.
 5. Thousands of Cuban refugees entered the U.S.
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Ronald Reagan: 40th President

**Two Terms (1981-1985)
and (1985-1989)**

Born: February 6, 1911 in Tampico, Illinois

Died: June 5, 2004

Wife: Nancy Davis Reagan

Occupation: Actor

Political Party: Republican

HE WAS THE OLDEST PRESIDENT EVER TO BE ELECTED AT AGE 69. Nicknamed "Dutch," he attended school in Dixon, Illinois. He became a sports announcer and reported for the Chicago Cubs during spring training in southern California. He became a movie and television personality, and later the governor of California.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. U.S. Space Shuttle, Columbia, was launched and completed 36 orbits.
2. U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike.
3. His economic policies called "REAGONOMICS" were put into force, thus lowering taxes, and cutting spending for welfare and unemployment programs.
4. Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed as the first woman justice to the Supreme Court.
5. An assassination attempt was made on Reagan's life.
6. U.S. troops invaded Grenada.

George Herbert Walker Bush: 41st President

One Term (1989-1993)

Born: June 12, 1924

Died:

Wife: Barbara Pierce Bush

Occupation: Businessman: Off-shore drilling firm

Political Party: Republican

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. PERSIAN GULF WAR BEGAN...Beginning of Desert Storm.
2. Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty was enacted between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, with both sides agreeing to reduce their pile of nuclear weapons.
3. The Berlin Wall was destroyed.
4. Rodney King Incident.....An African-American traffic violator was beaten by four white Los Angeles police officers. When the officers were found innocent, four days of riots and looting resulted in L.A.

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Bush ran again in the 1993 election on the Republican ticket, but he was beaten by Bill Clinton.

William Jefferson Blythe Clinton: 42nd President

**Two Terms (1993-1997) and
(1997-2000)**

Born: August 19, 1946

Died:

Wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Occupation: Lawyer and Politician

Political Party: Democratic

Prior to his presidency, he served as governor of Arkansas. His main goal was to reduce the cost of health care and to guarantee coverage to everyone.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. He reinforced the U.S. troops in Somalia.
 2. He sent troops to Haiti to restore the government
 3. Monica Lewinski scandal.
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George W. Bush: 43rd President

**Two Terms (2000-2004)
and (2004-2008)**

Born: July 6, 1946

Died:

Wife: Laura Bush

Occupation: Co-owner of Texas Rangers and governor of Texas

Political Party: Republican

His main goals were to reform public schools, transform our national defense, provide tax relief, and modernize Social Security and Medicare.

Important Actions and Events during his Term:

1. The War on Terrorism
2. The capture of Saddam Hussein
3. The liberation of the people of Afghanistan from the Taliban regime.

