Test No. 2 ~ Study Guide ~ Early Presidents, War of 1812, & Westward Expansion

You should know the following information for the test:

1. What were the first Presidential Cabinet departments created, and who headed up each department? What were some of the traditions (or precedents) that George Washington started as POTUS? Where was Washington sworn into office? Which political party did he belong to? What was his annual salary for serving as President?
Secretary of State--Thomas Jefferson
Secretary of the Treasury--Alexander Hamilton
Secretary of War--Henry Knox
Some precedents set by Washington:
--Started the tradition of only serving 2 terms
--Started the tradition of POTUS being called simply, "Mr. President"
--Started the tradition of creating a Presidential Cabinet
–Refused to wear a military uniform instead GW wore civilian clothing
Washington did NOT belong to a political party.
Washington's annual salary was $25,000.

2. How did the presidential elections of 1796 and 1800 show flaws in the US Constitution? How did the 12th Amendment try to resolve these issues?
Election of 1796: President Adams was a Federalist, and V.P. Jefferson was a Democratic-Republican because the original Constitution stated that whoever finished in 1st place was president & whoever finished in 2nd place would be VP.
Election of 1800: Each elector in the electoral college was told to vote twice, but they did not distinguish between votes for president and vice president. Jefferson & Burr ended up with the same amount of electoral votes; and thus, the election was thrown to the US House of Representatives. The House of Representatives chose Jefferson (after Hamilton threw his support to him).
The 12th Amendment was passed to fix this mess. It requires a separate ballot for President and Vice President.

3. What were the first two political parties in America? How were their philosophies about government different? Who were the leaders of the two parties?
Federalists led by Hamilton wanted a strong central government that was active and supported the growth of industry. They also supported a "loose" interpretation of the Constitution.
The Democratic-Republicans supported a very limited government and were pro-agriculture. They believed in a "strict" interpretation of the Constitution.

4. Compare and contrast Jefferson's vision for America with Hamilton's. (Think about the role of government)
Jefferson's vision for America was a nation of small farmers with individuals working their own land. He wanted a small-scale government to go along with it.
Hamilton's vision for America was a nation that was a strong manufacturing country. He was very pro-industry and believed that the government should work with big businesses to further strengthen the economy.

5. Describe some of the key components of Hamilton's economic plan for America.
--Protective tariff
--Assume states' debts & payback our debts from the Revolutionary War

--Creation of a National Bank
--Excise tax on whiskey

6. How does Alexander Hamilton die?
He is killed in a duel with Aaron Burr.

7. Who was the first American president to live in the White House? (The 2nd American president)

John Adams

8. Which two European powers were at war during the years leading up to the War of 1812?

Britain and France (Remember they were harassing American trading ships.)

9. What were the Alien & Sedition Acts? What was the XYZ Affair?
The Alien & Sedition Acts made it much harder for immigrants to become citizens, and gave the American president the power to imprison anyone who criticized the government. (Clearly unconstitutional)
The XYZ Affair occurred when American diplomats went to France in an effort to curb the harassment of American ships. The French diplomats refused to allow them to meet with the Fr. Foreign Minister (Talleyrand) unless they paid a bribe, which they refused to do. This created an anti-French sentiment for a while in the US.

10. Why was the Louisiana Purchase such a great deal for America? How did it fit with Jefferson's vision for America? Why were the French so eager to sell it to us?
France sold us the Louisiana Territory for $15 million, which was roughly 2-3 pennies per acre. Jefferson wanted the land, so that he could create his nation of small farmers. France, led by Napoleon, needed the money for the perpetual wars that they were fighting.

11. Why was the Lewis & Clark Expedition so important to future American expansion? Who was Sacagawea?
They explored the land in the West that had NOT been explored by white American settlers.
Sacagawea was a Shoshone Indian and traveled with the Lewis & Clark expedition. She assisted them as a guide and as an ambassador to the tribes along the way. Additionally, she was a key interpreter for the Lewis & Clark expedition. She was married to Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian explorer.

12. What was the Embargo Act of 1807? Why did Congress repeal it two years later? Who was the American president during this time period?
The Embargo Act of 1807 was a response to the harassment of American ships by the British and French. President Jefferson believed that the best way to stop the harassment of American ships was to ban trade with Europe. Congress repealed this law because it ended up hurting American businesses more than Europe.

13. What is the idea of "nullification"?
Nullification was the belief that a state could reject or veto a law passed by Congress that they felt was unjust or unconstitutional.

14. What were the main causes of the War of 1812? Who was the American president during this conflict? Did the United States really win anything? If so, what?

James Madison gave three main reasons when asking for a Declaration of War against Britain:
--Interfering with trade (and harassing American ships)
--Encouraging Indians to attack white settlements in the West
--The British Impressment of American sailors

15. Why does the Battle of New Orleans continue even though the Treaty of Ghent was signed ending the War of 1812? Who becomes a hero as a result?
--Communication was terrible and they did NOT know that the war had come to an end.
–General Andrew Jackson becomes a war hero & uses his popularity to later on be elected President of the United States.

16. Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner? When did it become our national anthem?
Francis Scott Key, 1931

17. What was the "Hartford Convention"? When the war is over, how does this impact the Federalist political party?
The Hartford Convention was a meeting of the New England states where a number of ideas were discussed related to their opposition to the War of 1812. The most alarming idea was the consideration of secession. After the War of 1812, the Federalist party ceased to exist.

18. 4 out of the first 5 American presidents were from which state?
Virginia

19. What was the Monroe Doctrine?
A warning to Europe NOT to interfere with the countries in the Western Hemisphere.

20. Investments in transportation by the government led to further expansion in the west. List some of the types of transportation systems that were built.
Canals, roads, railroads, steamboats, etc.

21. What did the Indian Removal Act do? Which American president was a strong supporter of it? Which Native tribe was forced to leave their homeland (Georgia) in the event that became known as the Trail of Tears? Where were they moved to? Why were they given this land?
Gave the government the authority to remove Native peoples living in the southeastern part of the United States. President Jackson supported this removal. The Cherokee were moved to what is today Oklahoma because the government believed that no white person would want to live there.

22. How did the US Supreme Court rule in the Cherokee case? Who was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
SCOTUS ruled in favor of the Cherokee. John Marshall was Chief Justice. Sadly, President Andrew Jackson ignored the court decision and pushed forward with Indian Removal.

23. Which tribes were considered the "Five Civilized" tribes? Why were they referred to as “civilized” by the federal government?

Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole Tribes.

They were considered civilized by white Americans because they had adopted many of the European ways of living.

24. Why did Andrew Jackson hate the National Bank so much? How did Andrew Jackson change the presidency?
–He felt that the National Bank had too much power. He was also fearful that the Bank would use the money to oppose his re-election campaign.
–Jackson was a common person, unlike his predecessors who were from the wealthy, educated elite. Additionally, he replaced many government officials with political appointees (people who had been loyal to him during his presidential campaign). This became known as the spoils system. Loyalty was more important than whether the person was competent to do the job.
–Jackson used the veto as a political weapon in a way that other presidents had not done.
–Jackson changed the Democratic-Republican party into the Jacksonian "Democrats."
–Jackson argued that he was the only elected official in the U.S. who was chosen nationwide; thus, he claimed an "electoral mandate."

25. How did the Whig political party come into being?
It was established as an Anti-Jackson political party. People who did not support Jackson

26. What was the "American System"? Which member of Congress was its biggest proponent?
Massive investment in infrastructure by the government. Henry Clay.

27. Which state was an independent country from 1836-1845?
Texas

28. From 1846 to 1848, the US went to war with Mexico. Why? Today, many historians believe that the US-Mexican War was unjust. Why do they feel this way?
President Polk ordered troops into a disputed region in Texas to provoke a war with Mexico. His primary reason for doing so was to force Mexico to sell us their northern territories (which included California). Up until that point, they had refused to sell the land. Many historians are critical of President Polk because they view him as an aggressor who bullied another country to get what he wanted. He was heavily criticized by many including Abraham Lincoln who was a young Congressman at the time.

29. Who coined the term "Manifest Destiny"? What was meant by this term?
John L. O'Sullivan was the first person to use this term. Manifest Destiny was the belief that many Americans held that it was the mission of the nation to expand from coast to coast.

30. From 1848 to 1853, California's population exploded. Why?
–The discovery of gold in California in 1848 led to a "Gold Rush." The population exploded as people believed that they would be the next person to strike it rich.
–Few of the people seeking "gold" actually found it. Many of the people who made wealth were the ones who sold all of the necessities to find gold and to live & eat in California.