

# TASC Preparation - Social Studies Part 1

## Course Overview

The TASC Preparation Courses were developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the strands and topics that are assessed on the 2014 TASC Test. Each unit aligns to one or more strands within the 2014 TASC Test and the modules within each unit target the essential concepts on the 2014 TASC Test for Social Studies. This course focuses on the important events in US history and world history. In this course, you will find a variety of lessons and activities to improve your knowledge and skills in these areas.

## Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will:

- Analyze the Enlightenment, the Great Awakening and the role of religion in the founding of the United States.
- Explore the course of the American Revolution.
- Analyze the period of the Civil War, Reconstruction and Westward Expansion.
- Analyze the impact of the Industrial Revolution and immigration in the late 1800s on US society.
- Explore the principles and impact of the Populist Movement and Progressive era.
- Analyze the imperialist inclinations of the United States.
- Analyze World War I and World War II including impact on US homefront.
- Analyze the period of the Great Depression and New Deal.
- Analyze anticommunism, and the causes, major events and end of the Cold War.
- Explore the economic and social transformation in the United States post World War II through the 1950s.
- Evaluate the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and the Vietnam War.
- Evaluate the presidencies of Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Regan.
- Evaluate the foreign policies of George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.
- Examine domestic and international terrorism events of the early 21st century.
- Examine the contemporary domestic issues of the United States.
- Explore the rise, politics, culture and society of the early Middle Eastern, Indian and Chinese civilizations.
- Evaluate the major political revolutions since the 17th century, including the American and French Revolutions and their impact.
- Analyze the development and impact of nationalism, and the advances in democracy throughout the world during the 19th and 20th centuries.

- Evaluate the impact of European imperialism in Africa and Asia.
- Examine effects of globalization, and developments in science and technology on the relationships between and among nations.

## General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email.

*For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.*

## Course Materials

- notebook
- pencils or ink pens
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

## Course Structure

### Unit 1: U.S. History: Revolution and the New Nation

#### Summary

Unit 1 focuses on founding events and principles of the United States as a nation. In this unit students will compare the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening. Students will also analyze the role of religion and other events that led to the demand for independence from Great Britain. The unit then moves on to explore the events of the American Revolution including the protests and battles, the Declaration of Independence, and the contributions of significant individuals.

### Unit 2: U.S. History: The Civil War and Reconstruction

#### Summary

Unit 2 focuses on the development of the United States before, during, and after the Civil War. Students will analyze the causes, course and consequences of the Civil War. This unit explores

in detail the post war Reconstruction and its impact on the South. Students will conclude this unit by exploring the Westward Expansion and its effects on specific communities and the United States as a whole.

### Unit 3: U.S. History: Development of the Industrial U.S.

#### Summary

Unit 3 focuses on the rapid transformation of the United States in the decades after the Civil War. This unit explores how US society transformed due to industrialization. Students will also study the impact of the great immigration wave of the late 1800s on US society. This unit also traces the challenges faced by ordinary Americans and the reactions to inequities within the economy and society in terms of the Populist Movement and the impact of the progressives. This unit also covers the changing roles of women and African Americans during the Progressive Era. Towards the end of the unit, students will analyze the rise of US imperialism.

### Unit 4: U.S. History: The Great Depression and World War II

#### Summary

Unit 4 begins by examining the role of the United States in World War I. Students will analyze the role of the United States in World War I including the Treaty of Versailles. This unit also covers the causes and impact of the Great Depression. Students will analyze government-led efforts in terms of New Deal policies as a way to reverse the Great Depression. The latter part of the unit focuses on World War II. Students will examine the events leading to the war in terms of its impact on the home front.

### Unit 5: U.S. History: Post-War United States

#### Summary

In Unit 5, students will explore the economic prosperity and social transformation in the United States post World War II including the rise of the middle class in the 1950s. Unit 5 also examines anticommunism and the causes and major events of the Cold War. The unit then moves on to examine the events, organizations and significant individuals of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Students will also evaluate US involvement in the Vietnam War. At the end of the unit, students will evaluate the presidencies of Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter including the Great Society and economic and foreign policy changes of the 1970s.

### Unit 6: U.S. History: Contemporary United States

#### Summary

Unit 6 begins by examining the economic and foreign policies of Ronald Reagan and the events leading to the end of the Cold War. The unit then moves on to evaluate the foreign policies of

US presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. This unit also covers the advent of the war on terrorism by examining the terrorist events within and outside the United States, and US responses to these events. The unit ends with students exploring contemporary domestic issues, US role in the global economy, and the significance of the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections.

## Unit 7: World History: Early Civilizations

### Summary

Unit 7 focuses on the rise of major early civilizations, with a focus on Middle Eastern, Indian and Chinese civilizations in terms of geography, politics, economics, society and culture. This unit explores the Sumerian and Egyptian kingdoms. The unit then moves on to explore ancient India covering the Indus Valley civilization, Aryan migration, and Maurya and Gupta. The unit ends with students exploring the Chinese culture and history covering prehistoric China, early dynasties, Silk Road, and cultural developments including the Chinese language. This unit also covers the major religious and philosophical traditions of these early civilizations such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism and the religious and cultural developments in the Levant. Students will also identify the new ideas in mathematics, science, and technology that developed during early civilizations.

## Unit 8: World History: Age of Revolutions

### Summary

In Unit 8 students will evaluate the American and French Revolutions, compare these revolutions to the Russian Revolution and analyze their impact on the political developments in the world. Students will analyze the historical ideas, documents and significant individuals associated with the American and French Revolutions, the Enlightenment and the rise of democracy. In this unit, students will also analyze the causes and impact of the Industrial Revolution including scientific and technological innovations, and scientists and inventors. The unit then moves on to examine the impact of nationalism including the impact of the Congress on Vienna, and the unification of Germany and Italy. This unit also covers the advances in human rights, and democratic ideals and practices throughout the world during the 19th and 20th centuries. The unit ends with students evaluating the impact of European imperialism in Africa and Asia.

## Unit 9: World History: Crisis and Achievement

### Summary

Unit 9 focuses on the two World Wars. Students will examine the causes, major events and battles, war strategies and consequences of World War I including the impact of the Treaty of Versailles. Students also analyze causes of World War II, including the rise of Nazism in Germany and totalitarianism in Japan. The unit also evaluates the major battles and impact of

World War II including the Holocaust, other examples of genocide, and politically motivated mass murders. Students will also examine the technological developments and significant individuals associated with World War I and World War II.

## Unit 10: World History: The 20th Century Since 1945

### **Summary**

Unit 10 begins by tracing the significant events related to the spread of communism and causes of the Cold War. This unit also examines the Cold War after Stalin, United Nations and International Law. The unit then moves on to evaluate the effects of the Cold War and the significant events related to the fall of communism. Students will also examine the nature of totalitarian regimes in the Soviet Union. At the end of the unit students will examine the effects of globalization, scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and new patterns of social and cultural life in the 20th and 21st centuries.