

EOCEP United States History and the Constitution 2018 Data Review Report

In October 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education convened a panel of experts to review item data on the Spring 2018 End-of-Course Program in United States History and the Constitution. The panel looked at items with a high percentage of students answering correctly and items with a low percentage of students answering correctly. The discussions of that panel yielded the following recommendations.

The panel recognizes the hard work of SC educators and offers the following as suggestions for ways to improve student success. Teachers on this year's panel felt that last year's suggestions were still extremely relevant and that teachers should be reminded to look at last year's Data Review Report (2017). The panel offers these suggestions as an addendum to those from last year.

USHC Recommendations

General Recommendations:

- Continue to use charts, graphs, and cartoons in classroom instruction.
- Use **all** of the historical thinking skills in instruction (Comparison, Causation, Periodization, Context, Continuities and Changes, and Evidence).
- Guide students to read carefully to understand the test questions.
- Encourage students to read all of the answer choices.
- Emphasize to students to think about the context of the questions.

Content Concerns:

- Students need to be able to distinguish between the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. (Standard 1)
- Students need to be able to explain the difference between the power of government and the power of people. (Standard 1)
- Students need to understand the complexities of the motivations for settlement of the colonies including religious, social, political and economic. (Standard 1)
- Students need to understand the 'elastic clause' of the Constitution. (Standard 1)
- Students need to understand the economic concepts of capitalism and supply and demand. (Standards 4 and 5)

Instructional Strategies:

- Use timelines and make flowcharts.
- Focus on the author, date, and context of quotes.
- Teach the entire story of events to give context.
- Teach the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence throughout the course.
- Compare positive effects and negative effects of events.
- Compare long term and. short effects of events.