

Dr. Singer's Social Studies Regents Tips

The Social Studies Regents is the easiest test you will take this cycle. If you could handle Singer's ridiculous tests, you can ace the Regents.

You have plenty of time. They give you three hours to do a two hour test. Use all the time that you have. Don't rush, don't panic.

Don't get stuck on a question that you don't know. The short answers are marked on a curve. The essays are worth 45 points. You can get more than half of the short answer questions wrong and still pass if you do well on the essays. Answer the questions that you know, come back to the others later.

The Regents is at 8:30 on Thursday June 17. You must get up early so don't go to sleep late. Stop studying by 10 PM. Relax a bit and go to sleep early. Don't cram late at night, it will only make you tired and tense and you will not do your best

Bring candy, gum or cookies for a snack. Tell the proctor that Singer said it was okay.

The night before the exam, have your pens and pencils spend the night in a social studies review book or text so they can absorb last minute information. **This is not as effective as studying, but it may help.**

In the morning, listen to your favorite music before you leave the house. It must be loud to get you in the proper mood, so tell your parents that this is a required pre-Regents ritual.

Remember -- Just do it.

Dr. Singer's Essay Tips:

Use dark blue or black ink. Write neatly. When teachers have difficulty understanding your writing, they tend to mark harder.

Read all the choices before you start the essays. See which you know best. You must answer one essay from section B and two essays from section C.

Usually there are three parts to a Regents essay and each part is worth five points. You must answer all three parts to get full credit. If you answer four parts, the fourth part will not even be read.

Usually a Regents essay is five (5) paragraphs long.

Paragraph 1- Introduction with a topic sentence that restates the question and lists the choices you will answer.

Paragraph 2/3/4- One paragraph answering each part.

Paragraph 5- A concluding paragraph that restates your introduction.

It is helpful to outline your answers before you begin. **Make certain that you answer the question.**

Never say "never" or "always". It is better to say "usually" or "generally" or "seldom".

Use specific examples to support your point of view. Include evidence whenever possible but **don't** make up numbers for emphasis (ten times greater/ costs billions of dollars). **It is better to make a general statement than to be "specific" and make a factual error.**

Dr. Singer's Short Answer Tips:

Nobody (at least hardly anybody) gets them all right. Get right the ones you know. Don't worry about the others.

Read the questions. Don't look at the answers. Ask yourself, do I know the answer.

- If you do, find your answer among the choices.
- If you don't know the answer, look at the choices. Do you see the right answer now?
- If you still don't know the answer, try to eliminate choices that obviously are wrong.
- When you have eliminated some of the choices, guess from amongst those that are left.
- If you are still stuck, skip the question and come back at the end of the test.

If they have a map, chart, quote or cartoon, figure out the main idea before you look at the question and answers.