**AP US History Commonly Tested Books/Authors**

Book questions are asked one of two ways: 1) what the main premise of the book was; or 2) impact of the book. Students should also know the author. That is as far as you need to go when teaching such works for either the multiple choice or essays. Literary analysis will not be on this exam. The highlighted books/authors are tested more frequently than the others.

**The Scarlet Letter – Hawthorne**

**Common Sense – Thomas Paine – convinces Congress to declare Independence**

**Thoreau** and Emerson – MC question is less likely to focus on a particular work, but rather on what criticisms of the larger society that these authors had. Thoreau (people must not obey unjust laws) is more tested than Emerson (champions individualism instead of conformity).

James Fenimore Cooper – The Last of the Mohicans – heroism in the framework of the

French and Indian War

**Uncle Tom’s Cabin – Harriet Beecher Stowe – evils of slavery**

**A Century of Dishonor – Helen Hunt Jackson – plight of Native Americans in 1800s**

Progress and Poverty – Henry George – rich should be taxed heavily on land once a certain value has been met.

**How the Other Half Lives – Jacob Riis – poverty in the cities of the gilded age/progressive era. Especially the ethnic neighborhoods of immigrants**

Looking Backward – Edward Bellamy – 1887 novel about the U.S. becoming socialist utopia. Advances belief that all private property should be nationalized. Marxist ideas.

**Horatio Alger** – similar to Thoreau in that question is likely to touch on the theme of his overall writing (“rags to riches”) rather than a specific work

**The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783 – Alfred Thayer Mahan – increase size of Navy to increase our worldwide standing. Led to government creation of the Great White Fleet (japan, Admiral Perry, etc)**

**The Jungle – Upton Sinclair – exposed unsanitary conditions in meat packing industry. Catalyst for Pure Food and Drug Act in progressive era. Sinclair one of leading “muckrakers.”**

**The Lost Generation –** more likely to ask about why this 1920s era generation felt “lost” rather than specific work (s)

Langston Hughes – theme question rather than specific works (Harlem Renaissance, what it means to “realize” you are black and not be ashamed)

**The Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck – Depression era struggle**

**On the Road – Jack Kerouac – beginning of “Beat” movement, which spawned counterculture of 60s. tale of young penniless people crossing the country, avoiding conformity.**

Allan Ginsberg – what he wrote about

(both Kerouac and Ginsberg fit with a 1950s social critics question)

**Feminine Mystique – Betty Friedan – feminist movement of the 60s. women who seemingly have everything and are housewives/mothers aren’t necessarily “happy”. Exposes unfulfilment of many women in that situation**

**The Silent Spring – Rachel Carson – 1962 book that helped launch the environmental movement.**

**Important Supreme Court Cases**

*John Braithwaite/Modified by David Bilka*

I. **Marshall Court Cases** – all expand power of Federal Government and/or support business enterprise

1)**Marbury vs Madison (1803)**established *judicial review* establishing the Supreme Court as the determiner of the constitutionality of federal laws, thereby expanding the power of the Supreme Court and therefore, the federal government.

2*)* **Fletcher vs Peck (1810)** – declared a state law unconstitutional, thus strengthening the national government as superior over the states

3) **McCulloch vs Maryland** (1819) – issue at hand was whether a state could tax a federal establishment. S.C. ruled no through an “implied powers” interpretation of the Constitution, thereby strengthening national government over the states and paving the way for future expansion of federal power through “implied powers.”

4) **Dartmouth College vs Woodward** (1819) -The decision upheld the *sanctity of contracts* and of private property. This decision was important in assuring economic development and encouraging investment in new corporations. In addition, it set a precedent for the Supreme Court o overturn acts of state legislatures

5) **Gibbons vs Ogden** (1824)

The key issue was can a state grant commercial rights that conflict with *federal law?* The larger significance is that the power to regulate interstate commerce rests with the Federal government. The Court’s decision in *Gibbons vs Ogden* secures the concept of a national common market and prevents states from impeding commerce within that market and further supported the Supremacy doctrine of the federal government.

**II. Cases that dealt with slavery, and segregation**

1) **Dred Scott vs Sanford (1857**) -Scott [and all black slaves or their descendants was NOT a citizen of the U.S. nor Missouri and thus was not entitled to sue in federal courts Secondly, Scotts temporary time in free territory had not made him free. Thirdly, the Missouri Compromise was declared unconstitutional, depriving persons of their property with due process of law. The case clearly hurled the nation, already in a blundering state of affairs, into a full head on collision between the North and the South in a violent Civil War.

1. **Plessy v. Ferguson – (1896)** “separate, but equal” case – legally sanctioned segregation in the South
2. **Brown v. Board of Education (1954**) – integrated public schools. Overturned Plessy v. Ferguson for public schools only.

**III. Warren Court Decisions –** all cases expand individual rights (Brown. V. Board of Ed is also a Warren Court decision)

1) **Gideon V. Wainwright** (1963) - all criminal defendants have a right to legal counsel (public defendant provided to poor).

2) **Griswold v. Connecticut** (1965) – a couple in Connecticut had been convicted of using contraceptives violating a Connecticut law. The Supreme Court overturned it ruling their privacy had been violated. This case established an important Supreme Court precedent that the Constitution implied a *right to privacy* in the 1st and 14th Amendments (due process clause).

1. **Miranda v. Arizona** (1966) – Miranda rights “right to an attorney, remain silent etc.” - S.C. trying to protect defendants against police interrogations without legal representation.

4) **Roe v. Wade** (1973) The court found the right of privacy to be "broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy."

**IV**. **Korematsu vs. United States** [1942] – upheld the constitutionality of the internment of Japanese Americans as a wartime necessity