

TAKS–Alt Operational Test Spring 2009

Grade 8 Social Studies

Essence Statements

NOTE: The yellow highlight indicates the four state-required essence statements that comprise the TAKS–Alt assessment for Grade 8 Social Studies.

TAKS Objective	TEKS Knowledge and Skills Statement	Essence Statement
Objective 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.	(8.1) History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in U.S. history through 1877.	Understands important dates and time periods in U.S. history through 1877.
Objective 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.	(8.2) History. The student understands the causes of exploration and colonization eras.	Understands the reasons for exploration and colonization.
Objective 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.	(8.4) History. The student understands significant political and economic issues of the revolutionary era.	Understands important events, issues, and people relating to the revolutionary era.
Objective 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.	(8.5) History. The student understands the challenges confronted by the government and its leaders in the early years of the Republic.	Understands important challenges faced by the country during its early years.
Objective 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.	(8.6) History. The student understands westward expansion and its effects on the political, economic, and social development of the nation.	Understands the westward expansion of the United States.
Objective 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.	(8.7) History. The student understands how political, economic, and social factors led to the growth of sectionalism and the Civil War.	Understands the causes of U.S. sectional conflict that led to the Civil War.
Objective 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.	(8.8) History. The student understands individuals, issues, and events of the Civil War.	Understands important events, issues, and people relating to the Civil War.
Objective 2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of geographic influences on historical issues and events.	(8.6) History. The student understands westward expansion and its effects on the political, economic, and social development of the nation.	Understands the territorial expansion of the United States.
Objective 2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of geographic influences on historical issues and events.	(8.10) Geography. The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data.	Uses geographic tools.
Objective 2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of geographic influences on historical issues and events.	(8.11) Geography. The student understands the location and characteristics of places and regions of the United States, past and present.	Understands the characteristics of different places within regions of the United States.
Objective 2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of geographic influences on historical issues and events.	(8.12) Geography. The student understands the physical characteristics of the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries and how humans adapted to and modified the environment.	Understands the U.S. physical environment.

Objective 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and social influences on historical issues and events.	(8.5) History. The student understands the challenges confronted by the government and its leaders in the early years of the Republic.	Understands economic challenges faced by the country during its early years.
Objective 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and social influences on historical issues and events.	(8.13) Economics. The student understands why various sections of the United States developed different patterns of economic activity.	Understands the economic characteristics of different U.S. regions.
Objective 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and social influences on historical issues and events.	(8.14) Economics. The student understands how various economic forces resulted in the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century.	Understands the causes of industrialization in the United States.
Objective 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and social influences on historical issues and events.	(8.15) Economics. The student understands the origins and development of the free enterprise system in the United States.	Understands the development of the U.S. free enterprise system.
Objective 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and social influences on historical issues and events.	(8.24) Culture. The student understands the relationships between and among people from various groups, including racial, ethnic, and religious groups, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.	Understands the contributions of women and racial, ethnic, and religious groups to U.S. society.
Objective 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and social influences on historical issues and events.	(8.25) Culture. The student understands the major reform movements of the 19th century.	Understands U.S. reform movements.
Objective 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and social influences on historical issues and events.	(8.28) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of science and technology on the economic development of the United States.	Understands the economic effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations.
Objective 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and social influences on historical issues and events.	(8.29) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on daily life in the United States.	Understands the social and cultural effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations.
Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of political influences on historical issues and events.	(8.3) History. The student understands the foundations of representative government in the United States.	Understands the development of representative government in the United States.
Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of political influences on historical issues and events.	(8.16) Government. The student understands the American beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other important historic documents.	Understands the principles embedded in selected documents important to U.S. history.
Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of political influences on historical issues and events.	(8.17) Government. The student understands the process of changing the U.S. Constitution and the impact of amendments on American society.	Understands how the U.S. Constitution may be amended and the impact of selected constitutional amendments.
Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of political influences on historical issues and events.	(8.18) Government. The student understands the dynamic nature of the powers of the national government and state governments in a federal system.	Understands the powers of the national and state governments under the U.S. federal system.
Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of political influences on historical issues and events.	(8.19) Government. The student understands the impact of landmark Supreme Court cases.	Understands the impact of important U.S. Supreme Court decisions.
Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of political influences on historical issues and events.	(8.20) Citizenship. The student understands the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States.	Understands the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.

Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of political influences on historical issues and events.	(8.22) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of the expression of different points of view in a democratic society.	Understands the importance of freedom of expression.
Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of political influences on historical issues and events.	(8.23) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society.	Understands the importance of significant leaders.
Objective 5: The student will use critical thinking skills to analyze social studies information.	(8.30) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology.	Interprets and uses information from various sources.