The United States in World War II

Part 1: Main Ideas

If a statement is true, write T on the line. If it is false, write F. (4 points each)

_____ 1. The purpose of the Office of Price Administration was to make sure that war industries received needed resources.

_____ 2. African Americans who worked in noncombat positions during the war were called WACs.

_____ 3. George Patton led the U.S. Third Army to free Paris from German occupation.

_____ 4. The Battle of Stalingrad marked a turning point in the war.

_____ 5. On May 8, 1945, or V-E Day, Americans celebrated the liberation of the death camps.

_____ 6. The final decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan was made by J. Robert Oppenheimer.

_____ 7. Atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Tokyo.

_____ 8. At the Yalta Conference, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met to begin planning for the postwar world.

_____ 9. The Selective Service System provided free education and loan guarantees to veterans.

_____ 10. Nisei are Japanese Americans who were born during World War II.
**Part 2: Map Skills**

Use the map to complete this section. Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

11. Which country was one of the Allied powers?
   - a. Italy
   - b. Poland
   - c. Soviet Union
   - d. Spain

12. Which country remained neutral during the war?
   - a. Bulgaria
   - b. Latvia
   - c. Denmark
   - d. Sweden

13. Which Axis-controlled country did the Allies invade first?
   - a. France
   - b. Morocco
   - c. Italy
   - d. Germany

14. Which city marked the farthest advance of Axis powers into the Soviet Union?
   - a. Leningrad
   - b. Moscow
   - c. Stalingrad
   - d. Warsaw

15. In which direction did Allied troops move after liberating Paris?
   - a. north
   - b. east
   - c. south
   - d. west
Part 3: Document-Based Questions

Historical Context: On D-Day, Allied troops landed at five different beaches on the coast of Normandy, in northern France. The German defense of Normandy was ferocious, especially at Omaha Beach.

Study each document carefully and answer the question about it. (4 points each)

Document 1

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940–41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

—Order of the day for June 5, 1944

16. According to Eisenhower, what will the men who are about to fight in Normandy help to accomplish?
17. What is taking place in this photograph?

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Omaha Beach, D-Day morning, June 6, 1944
Document 3

Our men simply could not get past the beach. They were pinned down right on the water's edge by an inhuman wall of fire from the bluff. Our first waves were on that beach for hours, instead of a few minutes, before they could begin working inland.

The first crack in the beach defenses was finally accomplished by terrific and wonderful naval gunfire, which knocked out the big emplacements [long-range artillery built into the bluffs].

When the heavy fire stopped, our men were organized by their officers and pushed on inland, circling machine-gun nests and taking them from the rear. As one officer said, the only way to take a beach is to face it and keep going. It is costly at first, but it's the only way. If the men are pinned down on the beach, dug in and out of action, they might as well not be there at all. They hold up the waves behind them, and nothing is being gained.

Our men were pinned down for a while, but finally they stood up and went through, and so we took that beach and accomplished our landing. We did it with every advantage on the enemy's side and every disadvantage on ours.

. . . These units that were so battered and went through such hell are still, right at this moment, pushing on inland without rest, their spirits high, their egotism in victory almost reaching the smart-alecky stage.

. . . Which proves that, while their judgment in this regard is bad, they certainly have the spirit that wins battles and eventually wars.

—from a war dispatch by reporter Ernie Pyle at Omaha Beach

18. According to this report, why was it hard for the first soldiers who landed in Normandy to get past the beach?

19. Study the photograph of Omaha Beach. Do you think an enlisted man fighting on D-Day would be thinking about the things General Eisenhower talked about in his order? Write a brief essay in response to this question, citing examples and evidence from the three documents. You may use the back of this paper or a separate sheet for your essay. (8 points)
Part 4: Extended Response

Answer each of the following questions in a paragraph on the back of this paper or on a separate sheet. (10 points each)

20. What effect did World War II have on the lives of women and African Americans? **Think About:**
   - job opportunities created by the war
   - military service

21. Evaluate the importance to the Allied cause of the Battle of the Atlantic, the Battle of Midway, and the invasion of Normandy. Which do you think contributed most to Allied victory and why? **Think About:**
   - the threat of the German U-boats
   - the strategic importance of Pacific islands
   - the liberation of Western Europe