

Viking Quest: Government Assignments

April 2015

Week: 7th-10th

- *Read and complete chapter 21 section (3 & 4) assessments pages 590-602, Government textbook*
- *Complete Chapter 21 Assessment and Activities pages 604-605, Government textbook*

STUDY GUIDE Chapter 21, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 590–595.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

KEY TERMS

- social insurance** Government programs designed to help elderly, ill, and unemployed citizens (page 590)
- public assistance** Government programs that distribute money to poor people (page 590)
- unemployment insurance** Programs in which federal and state governments cooperate to provide help for people who are out of work (page 592)

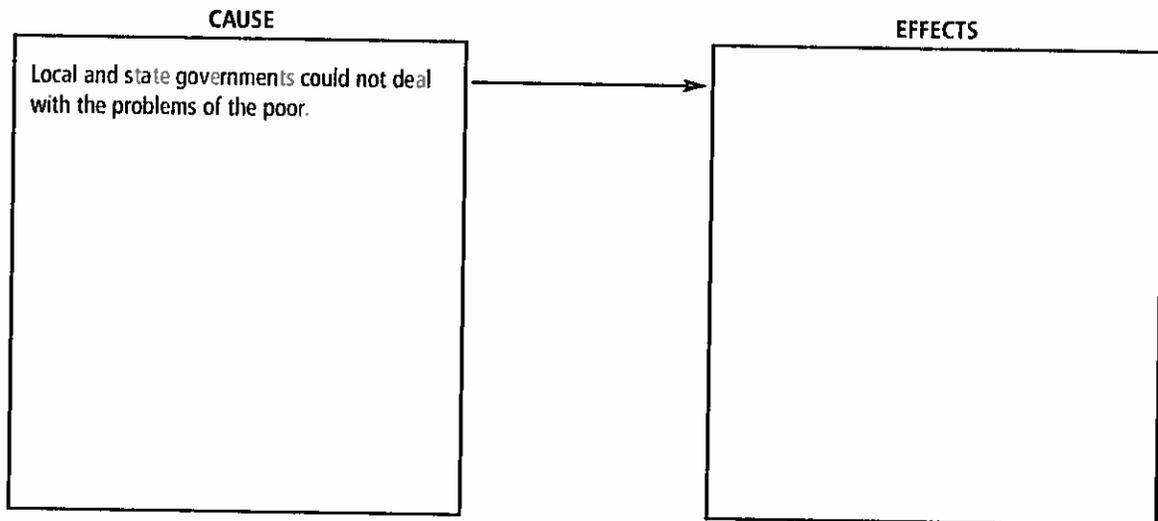
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you ever worry about whether the medicine you take is safe? Government regulation is partly responsible for the confidence Americans feel when taking drugs.

This section focuses on how the government promotes health and helps the aged, disabled, and poor.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the graphic organizer below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the result when local governments and charities were low on money during the Great Depression.



STUDY GUIDE (continued) **Chapter 21, Section 3**

READ TO LEARN

Introduction (page 590)

Until the 1930s, ill health, old age, poverty, and disability were private matters. The Great Depression changed public attitudes, and the government began programs to care for the sick and the poor.

The Impact of the Depression (page 590)

As the Depression worsened, private charities and local and state governments could not take care of the problems of the increasing number of poor people. So Congress passed the Social Security Act in 1935. This act included government-supported social insurance, public assistance, and health-care programs. Today the United States still has social insurance and public assistance programs. *Social insurance* helps the elderly, ill, and unemployed. *Public assistance* programs distribute public money to the poor.

- 1. How does social insurance differ from public assistance?

Social Insurance Programs (page 591)

The government's social insurance system has three main parts:

- A. Social Security, or Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI)
- B. Medicare, or health-insurance programs
- C. Unemployment insurance.

More than 90 percent of American workers take part in Social Security. Employers and employees contribute equally, while self-employed persons pay their own Social Security tax. Retirees, survivors, disabled persons, and Medicare recipients are eligible for benefits.

In 1965 Congress added Medicare to the Social Security program. More than 30 million senior citizens take part in Medicare. The basic Medicare plan pays much of an eligible person's total hospital bills.

The 1935 Social Security Act set up *unemployment insurance* for people who are out of work. Federal and state governments work together. Employers pay a tax to the federal government to fund the program. When workers are laid off, they may apply for benefits from a state employment office.

- 2. What are the main parts of the government's social insurance system?

Public Assistance Programs (page 592)

The major public assistance programs are:

- A. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- B. Food stamps
- C. Medicaid
- D. The Job Opportunity and Basic Skills program (JOBS)

STUDY GUIDE (continued) **Chapter 21, Section 3**

In 1974 Congress brought all state programs for the aged, blind, and the disabled under Supplemental Security Income. The federal government makes a monthly payment to anyone who is 65 or older, who is blind or disabled, or who has little or no regular income.

Congress passed a food stamp system in 1964. The purposes of the food stamp program is to increase the food-buying power of low-income families and help dispose of America's surplus agricultural production.

Congress established the Medicaid program in 1965 as part of the Social Security system. Medicaid helps pay hospital, doctor, and other medical bills for persons with low incomes.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children was designed during the Depression. It helped families in which the main wage earner died, was disabled, or left the family. The public eventually became frustrated over the welfare system because of reports of welfare fraud and the cycle of dependence that developed among many welfare recipients. Congress responded to demands for reform in the Family Support Act of 1988. It required states, by 1990, to have welfare-to-work programs to help people get off welfare. In 1996 a major national bill ended Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), a cash welfare program. The goal of the new program was to make welfare aid a temporary solution for needy families, rather than a long-term one.

3. What are the major public assistance programs today?

Promoting Public Health (page 595)

Congress established the United States Public Health Service in 1798. Ever since, the federal government has been interested in public health. Today the largest percentage of federal spending on health goes for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Other programs designed to promote health include the following:

The Department of Defense provides hospital and other medical care for active and retired American military personnel and their families.

The Veterans' Administration operates medical, dental, and hospital care programs for needy veterans.

The Public Health Service operates research, grant, and action programs designed to promote the health of all citizens.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) work to control diseases such as AIDS, diphtheria, measles, and many different strains of flu.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) tests samples of food and drug products in its laboratories. The agency has the power to ban or withdraw from distribution drugs it finds unsafe or ineffective.

4. How does the Food and Drug Administration promote public health?

STUDY GUIDE Chapter 21, Section 4

For use with textbook pages 597–602.

E DUCATION, HOUSING, AND TRANSPORTATION

KEY TERMS

urban renewal Programs under which cities apply for federal aid to clear slum areas and rebuild (page 599)
public housing Government-subsidized housing for low-income families (page 600)
mass transit Systems such as subways and light rail that are used to transport a large number of people (page 602)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Who pays for your textbooks? In many public schools, the federal government foots the bill for books. Funds to school districts are just one way the government supports education.

This section focuses on the federal government’s role in education, housing, and transportation.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the graphic organizer below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the different federal programs that promote education, housing, and transportation.

EDUCATION	HOUSING	TRANSPORTATION

STUDY GUIDE (continued) **Chapter 21, Section 4**

READ TO LEARN

Introduction (page 597)

One of the main powers the Constitution reserved for the states was providing for public education.

Public Education Programs (page 597)

In most states, elementary and high school education remains a local responsibility under state guidelines. However, the federal government plays an ever-increasing role. It contributes direct aid to local public schools and distributes additional funds through the states.

In 1965 Congress passed the first general aid-to-education law—the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This act and later amendments provided federal aid to most of the nation’s school districts. The federal government provides even more support to higher educational institutions, such as colleges and technical schools.

In 1862 Congress passed the Morrill Act. The law granted states more than 13 million acres of public land to help pay for colleges that taught “agriculture and the mechanical arts.” More recently, Congress has passed various G.I. Bills of Rights that provide funds for college education for veterans.

In the 1980s opponents of federal aid to education argued that it was a state and local concern. However, declines in students’ scores made education a top concern during both the Bush and Clinton administrations. In 2002 President George W. Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act. This legislation provides federal money to state educational programs, but only if the state demonstrates steady improvement.

- 1. How has the federal government provided support for higher education?

Housing and Urban Programs (page 599)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers federal housing projects for cities. HUD’s best-known program is The Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The FHA guarantees banks and other private lenders against losses on loans they make to people who wish to buy or build homes. HUD also offers rent assistance to low-income families.

The federal government supports *urban renewal* projects to stop the decline of neighborhoods and to help the rebuilding of central cities. The goal of urban renewal is to restore slum areas and make cities more attractive places to live. Critics charge that urban renewal neglects new low-income housing. It forces lower-income people from their homes to make way for commercial centers and houses for the wealthy. Supporters point to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. This law requires cities to demonstrate that they are actually serving the needy when using urban renewal money to redevelop areas.

Since 1937 the federal government has given aid to local governments to build and run *public housing* projects for low-income families. Public housing is largely concentrated in major cities. Local authorities have mismanaged some public housing projects. Many have turned into high-rise slums and centers of crime. In 1973 President Nixon stopped federal aid for public housing. However, in 1976 Congress resumed aid for public housing projects on a limited scale. In 1994 the federal government gave local and

STUDY GUIDE (continued) **Chapter 21, Section 4**

state officials more control over housing policies. HUD aims to close the gap between minority and white homeownership by placing over 5 million more minority families in homes by 2010.

2. Why do critics disapprove of urban renewal?

Transportation Programs (page 600)

In 1966 Congress created the Department of Transportation (DOT) to coordinate national transportation policies and programs. Important services are provided by these DOT agencies:

- A. The Federal Aviation Administration works to ensure safety in aviation, or flying.
- B. The Federal Highway Administration oversees federal roads.
- C. The Federal Railroad Administration promotes and regulates the nation's railroad transportation.
- D. The National Highway Traffic Administration enforces laws to protect drivers and to promote highway safety.
- E. The Federal Transit Administration, formerly the Urban Mass Transit Administration, administers federal grants to support alternatives to the car, such as subways, commuter railroads, and bus systems.

The Federal Road Act of 1916 provided annual grants to the states for road building. It required each state to match this aid dollar-for-dollar. These grants are the basis of today's federal highway programs. States also receive billions of dollars to build and improve the Interstate Highway System under the Federal Highway Act of 1956. The system includes more than 45,000 miles of superhighways connecting the nation's major cities. The money for federal highway grants comes from the Highway Trust Fund. This is a special account that receives federal excise taxes on gasoline, tires, truck parts, and related items.

3. How is the Interstate Highway System paid for?
