



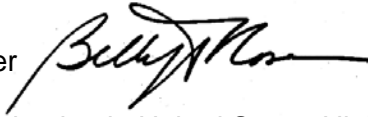
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Commissioner of Education
President of the University of the State of New York
89 Washington Avenue, Room 111
Albany, New York 12234

E-mail: commissioner@nysed.gov
Twitter: @NYSEDNews
Tel: (518) 474-5844
Fax: (518) 473-4909

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TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

FROM: Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner 

SUBJECT: January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) Diploma Requirement Exemption

In September 2019, New York State high schools began aligning instruction in United States History and Government courses to the [New York State K-12 Social Studies Framework](#). The first administration of the new Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) was scheduled for June 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, administration of the Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) was postponed, initially until June 2021, and more recently to June 2022.

Postponements were necessary because the first Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) must be administered during a June testing period, with a full census of student participation. This provides the opportunity for score collection at a volume that will enable standard setting.

As all United States History and Government coursework is now aligned to the Framework, there will be no Regents Examination in US History and Government for students completing courses in January 2022. Therefore, the Board of Regents approved a change to regulations at its June meeting so that January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) is not required for certain students to meet diploma requirements.

This exemption from the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government applies only to those students who meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- Are enrolled in a course of study that would ordinarily culminate in the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) and earn credit for such course of study by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year; or
- Successfully complete a make-up program for the purpose of earning course credit in a course that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) between September 1, 2021, and the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year; or
- Are preparing to take the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Attached to this memo is a question-and-answer document clarifying the exemption. Additional information about diploma requirements may be referenced in the NYSED's [General Education and Diploma Requirements](#) webpage. Any questions about the exemption from examination requirements or the effect of such exemptions on student qualification for a diploma should be directed to emscgradreq@nysed.gov. Any questions about the administration of January 2022 Regents Examinations should be directed to emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.

The Department is grateful to the dedicated educators, school staff, community members, and parents who are working so diligently to ensure that students are safe and well. Please continue to monitor NYSED's [COVID-19 Information site](#) for additional guidance as it becomes available.

Frequently Asked Questions Related to Exemption from the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework)

1. Are all students intending to take a Regents Examination in January 2022 exempted from the associated diploma requirement?

No. Exemptions only apply to the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework). Students may be exempted from the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) only if they meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- Are enrolled in a course of study that would ordinarily culminate in the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) and earn credit for such course of study by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year; or
- Successfully complete a make-up program for the purpose of earning course credit in a course that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) between September 1, 2021, and the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year; or
- Are preparing to take the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Students granted an exemption from any examination are not required to pass the specific Regents Examination to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents diploma with advanced designation).

2. Why does the exemption in January 2022 only apply to the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework)?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Regents Examinations in United States History and Government (Framework) was cancelled for five consecutive administration periods (June 2020, August 2020, January 2021, June 2021, August 2021). Since all coursework is now aligned to the Framework and the first Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) must first be administered during a June testing period to provide the opportunity for score collection and standard setting, there is no Regents Examination available for students finishing courses in United States History and Government in January 2022.

3. Could the NYS Education Department use questions from previous Regents Examinations in United States History and Government (Core Curriculum) to create a January 2022 exam for students?

No. Since instruction is no longer aligned to the Core Curriculum, it would not be fair or appropriate for the NYS Education Department to reuse questions from previous Regents Examinations in United States History and Government (Core Curriculum) to create a January 2022 exam.

- 4. Typically, students enrolled in our United States History and Government course take the Regents Exam in January. If this is our standard practice, would our students qualify for an exemption from the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework)?**

Students are only eligible to take a Regents Examination when they have completed the corresponding course of study. To qualify for an exemption from the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework), the student must earn credit for the entire course of study by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year. If the course of study, typically one year (one credit in NYS) or two semesters (2 credits in NYC), continues through the end of the second semester of the 2021-22 school year, students would not qualify for an exemption from the Regents Examination.

- 5. If a student did not qualify for an exemption from the Regents Examination in United States History and Government in June or August 2021 because they were unable to earn credit in the course, are they now eligible for an exemption from the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government?**

If the student completes a make-up program to earn course credit in a United States History and Government course by the end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year, the student will qualify for an exemption for the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework).

- 6. Is a transfer student, who intended to take the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework), eligible for this exemption?**

If, during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year, a high school granted transfer credit for a secondary level course of study in United States History and Government in the school granting credit, and the student was preparing to take the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) in January 2022, the student is eligible for the exemption.

- 7. Is a student, who passed a Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Core Curriculum) with a score of 65 or higher prior to January 2022 and intended to take the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) in January 2022 to earn a higher score to qualify for an endorsement, eligible for this exemption?**

No. Any student who passed a Regents Examination in United States History and Government with a score of 65 or higher prior to January 2022 is not eligible for this exemption.

- 8. Can a student earn credit by examination if the student intended to take the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) in January 2022 and the student successfully completes an oral examination or special project?**

No. Students cannot earn credit by examination when Regents Examinations are cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. If a student has access to safety nets or appeals leading to a local diploma, should schools consider exempted exams to represent a score of 55 or 65?

All exempted exams for all students should be considered scores of 65 for the purposes of making diploma type determinations, except for purposes of the compensatory safety net. No numeric score shall be reported on the student's transcript.

10. Students with a disability have access to the compensatory safety net option where a score of 65 or above on one Regents Examination can compensate for a score of 45-54 on another Regents Examination (science, social studies, or pathway only). Can an exempted Regents Examination be used to compensate for a Regents Examination score of 45-54?

No, students with a disability eligible for the compensatory safety net may not use Regents Examination exemptions to compensate for scores of 45-54 on other Regents Examinations.

11. Can a student earn the honors endorsement if the student is granted an exemption from the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework)?

Yes. The calculation for the honors endorsement will be dependent upon the number of scored Regents Examinations the student has taken.

Students with three or more scores on Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma

In instances where students have taken at least three Regents Examinations to be included in the assessments required for the diploma type, exemptions due to COVID-19 would be removed from the calculation. If the computed average of the Regents Examination scores required for the diploma (not including exemptions) equals 90 or above, the student has earned the honors endorsement.

Students with fewer than three scores on Regents Examinations applicable to the diploma

The student's final course grade for each exempted Regents Examination will be substituted in the calculation for honors. If the computed average of the scored Regents Examinations and the final course grades for courses for which exemptions were granted equals 90 or above, the student has earned the honors endorsement.

Additional information can be referenced on the NYSED's [Endorsements and Seals webpage](#).