

June 2021

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 exam was postponed, preventing 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

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](mailto:emscgradreq@nysed.gov). Any questions about the administration of January 2022 Regents Examinations should be directed to [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto: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:

- x 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

- x Substituted for the January 2022 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) by 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.

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

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?