

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ, МОЛОДІ ТА СПОРТУ  
УКРАЇНИ  
ПРИКАРПАТСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ  
ІМЕНІ ВАСИЛЯ СТЕФАНІКА  
ФАКУЛЬТЕТ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ  
КАФЕДРА АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ**

**ДЕРЕВ'ЯНКО О.А.**

**КРАЇНОЗНАВСТВО США:  
плани семінарських занять**

**Івано-Франківськ  
2013**

**Seminar 1**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE USA.**  
**GEOGRAPHY AND COMPOSITION OF THE USA**

**A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Location.
2. Regions.
3. Population.
4. The Capital.
5. The Biggest Cities.
6. Languages and Religion.
7. Climate.
8. Rivers and Lakes.
9. Mountains.
10. Mineral Resources.

**B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. How do you find the geographical position of the United States in the world?
2. What are the geographical and economic advantages of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans for the United States?
3. What countries does the USA border on in the North and in the South?
4. Say what you know about the South-East economic region.
5. What do you know about the Great Plains economic region?
6. Which of the economic regions is famous for fruit growing and why?
7. What economic region does New England belong to? Enumerate the states New England is composed of.
8. Which of the US economic regions is termed the “Melting Pot” and why?
9. Which of the economic regions loses a part of its natural population?
10. Which of the states is called the “Mormon State”?
11. Why is the climate of the United States colder than of other countries in the same latitudes?
12. What do you understand by the statement: “The United States has many kinds of climate”?
13. What conditions determine the climate of the country?

14. What are the two greatest rivers of the Pacific? Describe them.
15. What are the main rivers of the Atlantic? Describe them.
16. Why is the population of the USA a unique phenomenon?
17. When did mass emigration to the USA prevail and when did it end? Why?
18. What are the six most populated states in the USA? Name the top six cities by population.
19. What are the largest ethnic groups in the population of the country?
20. What do you know about the position of black people and other minority ethnic groups in America today?
21. Did many people emigrate from your country to the USA? If so, do you know if there was a particular period when they went and particular region where they settled?
22. What are the three resources upon which America's heavy industry depends?
23. What minerals is the United States self-sufficient in?
24. What influences the climate of Hawaii?
25. Explain the statement: "The greatest barriers are not canyons or mountains, but fences and borders".
26. Which American state is situated in islands?
27. Where are the nation's largest oil-fields?
28. What agricultural product is grown on most US farms?

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 221-227; 252-253; 257-259), 4 (p. 130), 7 (pp. 98-111; 114; 120-129).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

MESAS Unusual and striking desert rock formations, often extremely large.

"KING COTTON" Term expressing importance of cotton to the South.

## **Seminar 2**

### **COLONIZATION OF NORTH AMERICA**

#### **A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Discovery of America.
2. Colonization of North America.

#### **B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. What aims did Spain, England and France pursue colonizing North America?
2. Whose was the ship that brought first slaves from Africa to North America?
3. Say what you know about early settlers in North America.
4. Outline the leading motives of English colonization in America. How do you account for the success of the English?
5. What do you know about “The Lost Colony”? What is your guess about its tragedy?
6. Describe the first British colony in North America.
7. Enumerate the names of North America explorers.
8. What do you know about “New Albion”?
9. Why are some of the islands in the Atlantic Ocean termed as “West Indies”?
10. Comment on the origin of the names: “Maryland”, “Pennsylvania”, “New Plymouth”, “Virginia”, “Jamestown”.
11. What was the difference between the Northern and the Southern colonies in terms of economy?
12. What was the reason for slavery in the South of North America?
13. Did the Europeans know about the New World long before Columbus made his first voyage in 1492?
14. Was tobacco known to Europeans before Columbus’ discovery of America?
15. Why were the Puritans persecuted in England?
16. Did the Pilgrim Fathers choose a good place for settlement? Why did the Pilgrims invite the Indians to share the Thanksgiving feast?
17. Where did the Quakers establish their colony?
18. When were the first Negroes brought to America?
19. When was slavery introduced in the USA?
20. What factors conspired to promote self-government in colonial times?

21. Which of the American authors wrote novels about colonization of America and American Indians?

22. What does mercantilism mean? How did England attempt to execute the philosophy of mercantilism in America?

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 236-238), 4 (pp. 8-23), 6 (pp. 10-38), 7 (pp. 151-155).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

ALBANY CONGRESS (1754) A meeting of delegates from seven colonies that drew up the Albany Plan providing a grant of important powers to a colonial Congress. The plan was not adopted by the colonies but it set a precedent for united action in the Continental Congresses.

ARMADA A Spanish fleet of about 800 ships gathered for the conquest of England in 1588; its defeat in the Battle of Armada marks the beginning of English naval supremacy in the Atlantic.

BACON'S REBELLION (1676) Frontier rebellion led by Nathaniel Bacon against the Governor of Virginia, Sir William Berkeley, in protest of grievances against the ruling clique at Jamestown.

"BLUE LAWS" Legislation to regulate individual conduct and morals, such as compulsory observation of the Sabbath and prohibition of certain kinds of recreation; enacted by colonial Puritans.

DEISM A religion or philosophy of free thinkers; flourished during the period of the American Revolution; denied the minute intervention of God in the lives of individuals. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine accepted the Deism of the European free thinkers.

FREEMEN In colonial times those possessing the right to vote.

"GRANDFATHER CLAUSES" Laws passed in Southern states to prevent African Americans from voting. So-called because they qualified persons to vote whose ancestors had voted before 1867 or other dates that excluded African Americans.

GREAT AWAKENING This movement, an evangelical religious crusade active around 1750, originated from the influence of Jonathan Edwards, an able Congregationalist theologian in Massachusetts. From New England the religious enthusiasm spread over the American colonies and exerted a particularly strong influence in the frontier regions.

GREAT MIGRATION This term is applied primarily to the large-scale migration of Puritans from England to America from 1620 to

1640; it is also used in reference to the great westward movement following the War of 1812.

HEADRIGHT A land grant in colonial Virginia given originally to those who paid the passage of an immigrant; usually 50 acres.

HISPANIOLA Spanish name for the West Indian island often referred to as Haiti today and the site of the first Spanish colony in America.

“HOLY EXPERIMENT” Name given by William Penn to his colony of Pennsylvania; refers to idealistic religious, social, and political innovations he sought to realize there.

INDENTURED SERVANTS Immigrants in colonial times who voluntarily or involuntarily entered into contracts to sell their labour for a period of years in return for payment of their ship passage to America.

INDIGO A plant grown in the colonial South from which was extracted a blue dye used in clothing.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANY Trading companies, forerunners of present-day corporations, organized for single trading ventures by selling stock to members; used in founding the early colonies in America.

MAYFLOWER COMPACT An agreement signed aboard the ship Mayflower in 1620 by the Pilgrim settlers at Plymouth; it pledged colonists to abide by the democratic principle of majority rule.

MERCANTILISM The prevailing economic theory applied in Europe during colonial times; called for the exercise of numerous economic powers and controls by the state; contrasts with later economic philosophy of laissez-faire or free enterprise.

NAVIGATION ACTS These Acts of Trade and Navigation controlled overseas commerce and shipping in the interests of the whole empire.

PATROON Dutch colonizers awarded large land grants in New Netherland in return for bringing settlers to America; settlers became tenants of the patroons.

PILGRIM FATHERS An early group of dissident settlers from England. They were so called as they were from a particular Protestant Sect that saw themselves as pilgrims travelling to escape religious persecution.

PROPRIETORS English individuals or groups awarded land for settling colonists on it; the proprietor became the landlord and the settlers his tenants.

“SALUTARY NEGLECT” Describes the economic freedom the English colonies were allowed by the failure to enforce mercantilist controls.

“SEA DOGS” English sea captains under Queen Elizabeth acting as legalized pirates in conducting trade and raiding Spanish towns and treasure ships and ports in America and Europe.

SEPARATISTS A group of Puritans who favored complete separation from the Church of England and the independence of each congregation. The colony of Plymouth was founded by the Separatist Pilgrims in 1620.

**Seminar 3**  
**THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.**  
**THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

**A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Background to the American Revolution:
  - a) The French and Indian War.
  - b) British Policy Changes.
  - c) The Intolerable Acts.
  - d) The First Continental Congress.
2. The Declaration of Independence.
3. Victory over a Great Empire.
4. US National Symbols.

**B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Read the text of the Declaration of Independence and comment on it.
2. What were the basic principles of the Declaration of Independence?
3. Who prepared the text of the Declaration of Independence?
4. What were the initial anti-slavery provisions of the Declaration of Independence?
5. Write an essay on the Declaration of Independence as a reflection of the causes and philosophy of the American Revolution.
6. Specifically what aid did France give America in the Revolution?
7. Discuss the growth of democracy in colonial times. What influences promoted democracy?
8. Discuss the political, economic, and social causes of the American Revolution.
9. Compare the advantages of the British and Americans in the Revolutionary War.
10. What were the advantages that helped the Americans win?
11. Name the city that served as a temporal national capital. What important events took place there?
12. Did the Bill of Rights give any rights to blacks?
13. How can we characterize the American Revolution?
14. How long did the American Revolution last?
15. What was one of the achievements of the American Revolution?



16. Discuss political and social changes in America arising from the Revolution.

17. Why were the American colonists angered by the actions of the British government?

18. When did the Congress of representatives of the colonies first meet and what did they do?

19. What was the first document adopted by Congress?

20. At what town in Virginia was the final battle of the British army surrendered to George Washington?

21. What do you know about the famous Boston tea-party?

22. When was it that the English recognized the independence of their American colonies?

23. Who was appointed commander of the American army?

24. When did Washington become the capital of the USA?

25. What is the colloquial name for the US national flag?

26. What do the colours of the American flag symbolize?

27. What does the American seal show?

28. What are the events under which Francis Scott Key wrote the verses of the Star-Spangled Banner?

29. What main ideas are expressed in the official Creed of the United States?

30. What patriotic American songs do you know?

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 220-221; 237-241), 4 (pp. 24-31; 44-49), 6 (pp. 60-79), 7 (pp. 156-159).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

ALBANY CONGRESS (1754) When the British encouraged the colonists to cooperate with them against the Native Americans, representatives from seven colonies met at Albany. Benjamin Franklin proposed a plan of union, creating a colonial council to supervise defence, western expansion, and Native American affairs. It could levy taxes to finance military efforts. Neither the British government nor the various colonial assemblies were ready for this, however, and the plan failed on both sides of the Atlantic, although it did prefigure later, more successful efforts.

BOYCOTT A concerted movement, as of labour or consumers, to refuse to buy, sell, or use certain goods.

COERCIVE ACTS (INTOLERABLE ACTS) (1774) Lord North and George III decided upon a policy of coercion against Massachusetts. The policy was to be carried out by four Acts passed by Parliament: 1) The port of Boston was closed pending payment of damages for the destroyed tea. 2) The Massachusetts Government Act revoked the provincial charter and subjected the colony to severely restricted self-government there. 3) A third Act provided that accused royal officials might be tried outside Massachusetts. 4) A quartering Act required the Massachusetts legislature to provide lodging and food for British troops.

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, FIRST AND SECOND The First Continental Congress met in September, 1774, and united the colonies in certain measures of defence against the British; the Second met in May, 1775, and later declared independence and constituted the central American government during the Revolution.

CURRENCY ACT (1764) Law enacted by Parliament that prohibited issues of legal-tender paper money by colonial assemblies; the law was much resented by the colonists who were suffering from a money shortage following the French and Indian War.

DECLARATORY ACT (1766) After repeal of the Stamp Act, Parliament passed this Act to assert the right to legislate for the colonies “in all cases whatsoever”.

MOLASSES ACT (1733) Levied prohibitive duties on molasses imported from the French and Spanish West Indies, but the law was not enforced.

NAVIGATION ACTS Laws enacted by the British Parliament to implement the mercantilist theory of government control over economic relations between mother country and colonies.

NEW ENGLAND CONFEDERATION A union of Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven organized in 1643 by its members. This league was the first formed among the American colonies. The members organized for defence against the Native Americans and Dutch and for cooperation in other common problems.

OLD GLORY An affectionate nick-name for the US flag.

QUARTERING ACT (1765) Required colonial assemblies to provide barracks and provisions for British troops.

QUEBEC ACT (1774) This law 1) extended the boundaries of Quebec to include the territory north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi River; 2) recognized the legality of the Roman Catholic Church in all of Quebec; and 3) gave political rights to Catholics.

SONS OF LIBERTY Secret groups organized in colonial towns to prevent enforcement of the Stamp Act; they forced all stamp agents in the colonies to resign.

STAMP ACT (1765) Parliamentary Act passed to collect direct taxes from the American colonists for the support of an army in the colonies, resented as a direct tax and for other reasons.

STARS AND STRIPES The popular name for the American flag.

SUGAR ACT (1764) A revenue measure that took the place of the Molasses Act of 1733 and reduced duties on molasses by one half; attempts to enforce the Act led to serious friction between the colonies and England.

TEA ACT (1773) A Parliamentary Act that gave the British East India Company a virtual monopoly over the sale of tea in America; resented both because it was a precedent for British monopolies in America and because it retained an import duty on tea bought by the Americans.

TOWNSHEND ACTS (1767) 1) Townshend suspended the New York assembly for failure to vote supplies for British troops. Townshend singled out New York for punishment to avoid arousing all the colonies. 2) Duties were levied on colonial imports of glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea. 3) Another measure created a board of customs commissioners and gave them authority to issue the writs of assistance to prevent smuggling.

**Seminar 4**  
**THE US CONSTITUTION. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.**  
**THE CIVIL WAR**

**A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. The US Constitution.
2. Abraham Lincoln.
3. The Civil War.

**B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Read the US Constitution and comment on its clauses.
2. When was the US Constitution ratified as a document?
3. Describe the body which adopted the Constitution of the United States.
4. State the various compromises reached in the Constitution Convention.
5. Contrast the political views of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson in various issues.
6. Comment on the most important amendments to the US Constitution.
7. Say what you know about the authors of the US Constitution.
8. How many amendments does the American Constitution consist of? What are the most important amendments of the American Constitution?
9. Why did the Constitution divide power into three branches?
10. Why was there a wide-spread dissatisfaction of the American people when the Constitution was first proposed and adopted?
11. Why was the Bill of Rights written and what does it guarantee? Did it apply to all of the population of the United States originally?
12. What is the process of removing government officials and the President from office for misconduct?
13. Is it reasonable that the President or any other member of the government, cannot be a member of Congress?
14. Why was John Brown's revolt an important event?
15. What were the reasons for the Civil War and what did they have to do with the results of the Mexican War?
16. How did the Civil War actually start? Why did the northerners suffer a series of defeats during the initial stages of the War?

17. Was Lincoln a well-educated man? Did he get a good schooling or was he a self-made man?
18. Who won the American Civil War and how long did it last?
19. When were black Americans officially freed?
20. How did it happen that A. Lincoln was elected president of his country?
21. How did the Negro slaves in the South promote the collapse of the Confederacy?
22. What did Lincoln say in his famous speeches?
23. Why did 11 states form the Confederacy?
24. Who was elected president of “The Confederate States of America”?
25. In what years was the strength of the Confederacy almost exhausted?
26. What city was the capital of the Confederate States of America?
27. What was the name of the Confederate general who surrendered his army to General Sherman?
28. What document was called the “Articles of the Confederation”? Define its main principles and name their author. How many articles does this document contain?
29. What were the names of the two famous generals of the northern army in the Civil War?
30. Did the victory of the North contribute to the development of the USA?
31. What two most important issues did the Civil War settle?
32. Why was British policy such a crucial factor in the Civil War?
33. Sketch the political, social and economic changes the Civil War brought to the South.
34. Who assassinated President Lincoln?
35. Why was the American Civil War one of the bloodiest in the world history?
36. Why was the United States weak in foreign relations during the Confederation Period?
37. Name and explain the provisions of the three Civil War amendments to the Constitution.

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 236-243), 4 (pp. 32-35; 50-57), 6 (pp. 82-175), 7 (pp. 160-162; 174-175).

## **D. GLOSSARY**

AMNESTY ACT (1872) By this law Congress pardoned and restored the political rights of former Confederates.

BILL OF RIGHTS The name given to the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution.

“BLACK CODES” Laws passed by the Southern states immediately after the Civil War to regulate behaviour of the former slaves.

CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY (1850) A compromise between the United States and Great Britain by which it was agreed that neither power would take exclusive control over an isthmian canal.

CRITTENDEN COMPROMISE (1861) Proposals made by Senator Crittenden of Kentucky to bring the seceded states back into the Union by protecting their interests in slavery by “permanent amendments” to the Constitution.

“COPPERHEADS” Northern Democrats, also called Peace Democrats, who opposed the Lincoln administration in its war efforts against the seceded Southern states.

DRED SCOTT CASE (1857) A decision of the Supreme Court favorable to the South; it legalized slavery in the territories and declared the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional.

“FIRE-EATERS” Southern extremists who favored secession in the decade preceding the Civil War.

FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE UNITED STATES The Americans who established the form of the US government at the Federal Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia (1787) when they created and signed the American Constitution.

FREEPORT DOCTRINE The position taken by Douglas in his debate with Lincoln at Freeport, Illinois, that, if the people of a territory wish, they could exclude slavery by failing to enact local regulations for its protection. He said this could be done in spite of the Dred Scott decision which held that it was legal to take slaves into the territories.

FUNDAMENTAL ORDERS OF CONNECTICUT This first written constitution in America was drawn up to provide an instrument of government and to unite several towns in the Connecticut valley.

“GREAT COMPROMISE” The compromise made in the Constitutional Convention on the issue of representation in Congress between the large state plan of Virginia and the small state plan of New Jersey.

“GREENBACKS” Legal-tender paper money used to help finance the Civil War in the North.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT This act: 1) established two new territories, Kansas and Nebraska; 2) provided that the inhabitants of the territories should decide that status of slavery themselves (the principle of popular sovereignty). Such an act was obviously favorable to the South.

KNOW-NOTHINGS The Know-Nothing Party originated from the secret political orders organized to oppose the political influence of Irish and German immigrants and of the political machines that sought the immigrants’ votes. It got its name from the instructions to members, who, when questioned about plans of the Anti-foreign party, were told to answer that they “know nothing”.

“OHIO IDEA” An inflationary proposal of paper money advocates to pay the Union Civil War debt with greenbacks instead of in gold.

RECONSTRUCTION The name for the policies used to re-integrate the South after the American Civil War.

SHAYS’ REBELLION (1886) Insurrection of farmer-debtors in western Massachusetts led by the Revolutionary War veteran Daniel Shays against the hard money policies of the governing class; an important cause for calling the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

## **Seminar 5**

### **US STATE SYSTEM**

#### **A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Legislative branch.
2. Executive branch.
3. Judicial branch.
4. State and local government.

#### **B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. When was it possible for the United States to become a strong federal union?
2. List the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate.
3. How are the chairpersons of both houses called?
4. What amount of population is represented by a member of the House of Representatives?
5. What kinds of committees does the US Congress include?
6. What functions are performed by the Congressional committees?
7. Say how a Bill becomes a Law.
8. What powers are granted to Congress by the Constitution of the USA?
9. What do you know about the presidential election in the USA?
10. On what day and month of the year is a new President inaugurated?
11. What other powers, apart from executive, does the President have?
12. Examine the chief constitutional qualifications for the Presidency?
13. Who are in line of succession to the Presidency, if a President dies or is unable to carry on his duties?
14. For how many terms can President be elected and re-elected? What presidents of the USA were re-elected? Name at least two of them.
15. Describe the structure of the government and the Cabinet.
16. When was the Department of Homeland Security created? Why?
17. Examine the federal court system.
18. What are the powers of federal and state courts?
19. Speak on the Supreme Court as the highest court of the country.



20. What is “legging exercises”?
21. Explain the term “pocket veto”.
22. In what government bodies do they use the term “hearing”?
23. What is the hierarchy of the US judicial branch?
24. What is the role of the district courts?
25. Speak about special courts and their functions.
26. Describe the governmental system of the United States, created by the Constitution.
27. What rights were received by states after the Declaration of Independence and the adoption of the Constitution?
28. Examine the government structure of a state (the three branches of power).
29. Describe the main functions of the state legislatures.
30. What is the chief unit of local government in each state?
31. Describe the structure and chief functions of the Courts of Appeals.
32. Speak about the role of the sheriff in the county.
33. Describe other types of city government, the Commission and the City Manager.

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 253-254; 256-257), 7 (pp. 135-147).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

CAUCUS An informal political meeting; until 1824 caucuses of members of Congress nominated presidential candidates.

THE KU KLUX KLAN The Klan was a secret organization in the South that had many imitators. The motive of these societies was to maintain native white rule and frustrate the program of political and social equality for the African American.

THE PENTAGON is the headquarters of the US department of Defence in Washington DC.

THE WHITE HOUSE is the home and offices of the President of the USA in Washington DC.

## **Seminar 6**

### **US POLITICAL SYSTEM**

#### **A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Political parties in the USA.
2. The US Mass Media.
  - a) The Press.
  - b) Radio and Television.

#### **B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Why did the Constitution make no provision for political parties?
2. Name the peculiarities of the American two-party system.
3. Speak about the role of political parties in the life of the USA.
4. How do Americans become or not become members of any party?
5. Describe the main pursuits of the Democratic Party.
6. What kind of organization is the Republican Party?
7. What are the emblems of the US Democratic and Republican parties?
8. List the similarities and differences between the two parties.
9. Sum up the role and influence of smaller political parties.
10. Explain the term “bipartisan system”.
11. Do the chief American political parties have clear political platforms?
12. Explain the provision of the American Constitution about the right of the people to know.
13. What kinds of the US mass media do you know? Describe them.
14. Examine the phenomenal growth of the press in the United States.
15. Characterize the most prestigious newspapers and magazines of the country.
16. What are the most popular dailies in the USA?
17. Name the TV giants of the American electronic press.
18. Did the TV change the activities and lifestyles of the American people?
19. What TV programmes are most popular in the USA?

#### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

- 1 (pp. 257-259), 4 (p. 94), 7 (p. 200).

## **D. GLOSSARY**

ALIEN AND SEDITION ACTS (1798) Restrictive legislation passed by the Federalists to weaken their opposition, the Republicans.

“BARNBURNERS” An antislavery faction that split the Democratic Party in New York in 1848 and caused the Whigs to elect General Taylor as President. The loyal Democrats in this election were nicknamed the “Hunkers”.

GOP Grand Old Party, nickname of the Republican Party.

“HALF-BREEDS” A nickname given to Liberal Republicans by their “Stalwart” opponents about 1880. “Half-Breeds” included Hayes, Blaine, and Garfield.

LIBERTY PARTY An antislavery, third party that nominated a presidential candidate in 1840.

“SPOILS SYSTEM” The practice of victorious political parties of removing officeholders of the opposition party and giving their jobs to supporters of the ruling party.

“STALWARTS” Nickname applied to the spoilsmen and conservatives in the Republican Party around 1880. “Stalwarts” included Conkling, Platt, and Arthur.

**Seminar 7**  
**THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE USA.**  
**UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

**A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. School Education.
  - a) Types of Schools.
  - b) Structure and Content of School Education.
  - c) Elementary School.
  - d) Intermediate Education – the Junior High School.
  - e) Secondary Education – the Senior High School.
2. Higher Education.
  - a) Junior Colleges.
  - b) Four-Year Colleges.
  - c) Colleges of Liberal Arts.
  - d) Specialized Institutions.
  - e) Universities.

**B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. How many young Americans attend elementary and secondary schools?
2. What do you know about the aims and content of US secondary school education?
3. Is education free of charge in the USA?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of local control over education?
5. Are the laws regulating education the same across the USA?
6. What does the term “grade” mean?
7. Who controls the public schools?
8. Is the quality of education higher in private schools as compared with public schools?
9. What are the required basic subjects at a secondary school?
10. What do you know about the parochial schools?
11. What does each element of the 6+3+3 school system mean?
12. What does each element of the 8+4 school system mean?
13. Who helps high school students to choose the subjects which are called electives?
14. How do elective courses differ from school to school?
15. What is the difference between “majors” and “electives”?

16. Which courses do many colleges require all freshmen and sophomores to take?

17. Is the quality of education very satisfactory in American high schools?

18. List and discuss the similarities and differences between schooling in the USA and in Ukraine?

19. How is the students' progress controlled during the term?

20. How can a student receive financial aid from a college?

21. Why do most students study at public institutions of higher education?

22. What do you know about two-year and four-year colleges in the USA?

23. Does a student have to earn a certain number of "credits" to receive a degree at the end of four years of college?

24. When does a graduate receive the BA or BS?

25. What are the conditions which every applicant must know to enter a college of higher education?

26. Do private colleges and universities require an admission examination?

27. Which are the best higher education institutions in the USA? Are they public or private?

28. Which department of the President's administration is responsible for education?

29. Say what you know about the Ivy League Universities.

30. What degrees and ranks do you know in the US system of higher education?

31. What academic ranks does the word "professor" include?

32. Imagine that you have applied for admission to the American university. What is the procedure of admission to the university? Who covers students' tuition fee and everyday expenses? Is it the same in our country?

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 255-256), 7 (pp. 112-114; 206-235).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

IVY LEAGUE is a group of eight elite universities.

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR Specially trained educators who assist the students in making decisions about what courses to take and to help them with personal problems.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL A private school which is run by or connected with a church.

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

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