CH. 20 VIETNAM WAR REVIEW

You may change or add to your answers.
1. Why did President Johnson enter the Vietnam War?

• He believed in the domino theory
2. What did the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution allow President Johnson to do?

- To take all necessary measures to defend against armed attacks on U.S. forces.
3. What was Operation Thunder?

- It was a sustained bombing campaign against North Vietnam.
4. In Ho Chi Minh’s metaphor who was the elephant and who was the tiger?

• Elephant was US military forces.

• Tiger was Ho Chi Minh’s military.
5. Which plan or agreement divided Vietnam into North and South?

• Geneva Accords
6. Why did President Truman agree to aid France’s efforts to regain control over Vietnam?

• He feared the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.
7. Describe the Vietcong’s war strategy. How did they prefer to fight?

• Small skirmishes
8. Which President escalated U.S. involvement in Vietnam by ordering air strikes and committing troops?

• President Johnson
9. What did Ngo Dinh Diem do in the Vietnamese 1956 elections?

- He refused to participate. (Knew he would lose)
10. How did most of the men in the Vietnam War become soldiers by 1965?

• They were drafted.
11. How were African American soldiers typically used during the Vietnam War?

- They were more likely than others to serve in combat positions.
12. How did the Tet Offensive damage American morale?

- It showed Americans that the communists had not lost the will or ability to fight.
13. Who won the 1968 presidential election?

• Nixon
14. What event in 1968 convinced U.S. military leaders that a quick end to the war was not possible?

• The Tet Offensive
15. Why did Nixon order secret bombings of the Ho Chi Minh trail?

• To reduce the flow of supplies to the communists.
16. What happened in My Lai?

• U.S. troops killed hundreds of innocent civilians.
17. What revealed that American leaders misled Congress and the American people about the war?

• Pentagon Papers
18. When did the communists take control of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam?

• At the end of the Vietnam War
19. According to whom, the Nixon’s visit to China has bridged “the vastest ocean in the world, twenty-five years of no communication.”?

• Zhou Enlai the Chinese Primere.
20. How does Nixon describe his approach to foreign policy?

• Pragmatic
21. What did Nixon believe would have as a result of normalizing relations between U.S. and China?

• It would drive a wedge between China and the Soviet Union.
22. What did China demonstrate by inviting an American table tennis team to play against its athletes?

- China’s willingness to open talks with U.S.
23. How did the Soviet Union respond to the normalization of relations between China and the United States?

- Brezhnev invited Nixon to visit Moscow.
24. What was the difference in reception of the Vietnam veterans versus veterans from WWII?

- Vietnam veterans did not receive a warm welcome, whereas victory parades were held in response to the return of veterans from the world wars.
25. Which presidential administration began the “credibility gap”?

- Johnson’s administration

General Westmoreland & the Credibility Gap

“The U.S. has never lost a battle in Vietnam”

“The Vietcong surrender is imminent”

“There is a light at the end of the tunnel”

But, the military continued to draft more young men to fight in Vietnam

The American public believed there was a “credibility gap” between what the gov’t was saying & the reality of the Vietnam War.
26. What was President Nixon’s Vietnamization policy?

• He wanted to empower South Vietnamese forces to assume more combat duties.
27. Why did the U.S. government plot to overthrow and assassinate Ngo Dinh Diem?

• Diem’s restrictive regime was not supported by the South Vietnamese people.
28. In the 1968 presidential election what were the middle class blue-collar workers and conservative youth called?

• The Silent Majority

Tonight - to you, the great silent majority of my fellow Americans - I ask for your support.  

(Richard Nixon)
29. Who was rebel leader who demanded independence for Vietnam?

• Ho Chi Minh
30. What theory supported the idea that if Vietnam fell to communism, its neighbors would follow?

- Domino theory
31. What were the guerrilla fighters who launched an insurgency in Vietnam called?

- Vietcong
32. What is napalm?

- A jellied gasoline that explodes when dropped in large canisters
33. What was the coordinated assault by communist forces on more than 40 cities in Vietnam called?

- Tet Offensive
34. Who was Eugene McCarthy?

- An anti-war candidate for President in 1968
35. Who was President Nixon’s leading adviser on national security and international affairs?

• Henry Kissinger
36. Who was the Chinese premier who normalized relations with President Nixon?

• Zhou Enlai