UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY BETWEEN THE WARS: 1919-1941

Phase I – Return to Normalcy (?) in the 1920s (use a minimum of 2)

1. **Rejection of the Treaty of Versailles/Refusal to join the League of Nations (1919-20):** US refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles because it feared being pulled into foreign conflicts
2. **Washington Naval Conference (1922):** US arranged an international conference focused on peace keeping and disarmament
   - Five Power Treaty: US, England, France, Japan, & Italy agree to reduce the size of their navies
   - Nine Power Treaty: major powers agree to respect the Open Door Policy in China
3. **Dawes Plan (1924):** American banks would loan money to Germany to help them pay reparations to other European powers; those European nations would then repay their war debts to America
4. **Kellogg Briand Pact (1928):** international agreement to outlaw war

Phase II – Rise of Dictators/Buildup to WWII (use a minimum of 6)

5. **Stalin Comes to Power (late 1920s):** Joseph Stalin consolidates his power as the leader/dictator of the USSR
6. **Japan Invades Manchuria (N. China) (1931):** League of Nations encouraged Japan to withdraw; Japan left the League of Nations
7. **Stimson Doctrine (1932):** policy under Hoover stating the United States will not recognize any territories acquired by force
8. **Hitler Comes to Power (1933)**
9. **Neutrality Acts (1935, 1936, 1937):** (belligerent = country at war as defined by the President)
   - no American could legally sail on a belligerent’s ship
   - no American could loan money to belligerent countries (only Finland had repaid the US from WWI/everyone else defaulted)
   - no American could trade arms with belligerent countries
10. **Japan Invades China (1937)** – launches a full scale invasion of China; US does not recognize the “war” and continues to trade with “both” sides
11. **Germany Challenges Treaty of Versailles**
    - Hitler starts to rearms Germany (1935)
    - Germany annexes Austria (1938)
    - Germany seeks to annex the Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia) (1938)
12. **“Quarantine Speech” (1937):** FDR called for the United States to quarantine (isolate) the aggressors of the world; upset isolationists by acknowledging global problems
13. **Munich Conference (1938):** Britain and France appeased Hitler and gave him the Sudetenland; US begins to increase its military spending and preparation
14. **Nazi-Soviet Pact (8/1939):** Germany and the USSR sign a non-aggression pact; this set up Germany to attack Poland on their east and then move on to the Western Front (Belgium, Holland, France)
15. **World War II (9/1939):** Hitler invades Poland; Britain and France come to the aid of the Polish; the United States remains neutral
Phase III – Gradual American Entry into WWII
(use a minimum of 4)

16. **Cash-and-Carry Laws (9/1939):** the United States would trade w/ belligerents, but countries would have to pay in cash and carry munitions on their own ships

17. **German Victories (1939/1940):** by the spring of 1940, Germany has conquered most of Europe including France; the bombing of Britain started in the summer of 1940 and a full scale invasion of Britain was expected in the fall but never occurred after the British Air Force was able to fight off the German Air Force in the Battle of Britain

18. **Destroyers for Bases Deal (9/1940):** by executive order, FDR arranged an exchange of fifty old destroyers to England in exchange for US access to British naval bases

19. **America First Committee (9/1940):** powerful lobby group pushing to stay out of World War II; had nearly 800,000 members by Pearl Harbor

20. **Election of 1940:** FDR runs for a third term arguing the country needs experience in the time of international crisis; defeats Wendall Wilkie and opposition to a third term

21. **Lend-Lease Act (3/1941):** US would give (“loan”) Britain, and later the Soviets, munitions for defense and all aid short of troops – US has clearly picked a side

22. **Germany Invades USSR (6/1941)**

Phase IV – Immediate Causes of American Entry into WWII
(use a minimum of 2)

23. **Undeclared Naval War with Germany (1941):** FDR sent the navy with lend-lease shipments as far as Iceland; German subs attacked several US ships; US trading ships were later armed

24. **Negotiations with Japan (1941):** FDR gradually stopped US trade with Japan in 1940 and 1941; both sides realized if the US would not sell oil to Japan, Japan would be required to expand its war in to the oil rich areas in the South Pacific
   - the US demanded that Japan exit China immediately; Japan refused
   - America anticipated that Japan would attack US interests but expected it to be the Philippines or somewhere else in the Pacific

25. **Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor:** on 12/7/1941 hoping to destroy the American Pacific Fleet; 2400 Americans were killed, 20 warships were destroyed or damaged
   - FDR asked Congress to declare war the next day; a previously divided country was unified behind the war effort

You do not have to write out an answer, but you should be able to explain:
1) What was the course of American foreign policy from the end of World War I to the start of World War II?
2) What was the status of the war as the Americans joined in December of 1941?
3) What were arguments for and against the war? What caused changes in popular attitudes?