



Sample Test Questions

Middle Level Humanities Subtest 2: Social Studies



SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS

The sample test questions in this document are designed to give you an introduction to the nature of the questions included in the Washington Educator Skills Tests—Endorsements (WEST–E). They represent the various types of questions you may expect to see on an actual test in this test field; however, they are *not* designed to provide diagnostic information to help you identify specific areas of individual strength or weakness or to predict your performance on the test as a whole.

Work through the sample questions carefully before referring to the answer key that follows. The answer key provides the correct response for each question and lists the objective within the test framework to which each question is linked. When you are finished with the sample questions, you may wish to review the test objectives and descriptive statements provided in the test framework for this test field.

In addition to reading and answering the sample questions, you should also utilize the following preparation materials available on the WEST Web site:

- Read **WEST–E Test-Taking Strategies** to understand how test questions are designed to measure specific test objectives and to learn important test-taking strategies for the day of the test.
- Review the **Test Summary and Framework** for your test field to familiarize yourself with the structure and content of the test. This document contains general testing information as well as the percentage of the total test score derived from each content domain described in the test framework.

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SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. The nation's founders made the concept of federalism an integral feature of the government they created because they believed federalism would help achieve which of the following political goals?
 - A. expanding popular participation and providing justice to all
 - B. dispersing power and protecting liberty
 - C. increasing governmental efficiency and establishing the rule of law
 - D. resolving intergroup conflict and maintaining order
2. Which of the following best matches a branch of the U.S. government with a major function of that branch?
 - A. **legislative branch:** raising revenues through taxation
 - B. **judicial branch:** establishing federal courts
 - C. **legislative branch:** nominating members of the cabinet
 - D. **judicial branch:** enforcing federal criminal laws
3. In 2003, President George W. Bush was unable to persuade major European allies to join the "coalition of the willing" that the United States was organizing for the invasion of Iraq. This best illustrates which of the following limits on presidential power in the area of foreign policy?
 - A. the problem of obtaining adequate information
 - B. the constraints that time places on foreign policy initiatives
 - C. the inability to control international events
 - D. the need to honor existing foreign policy commitments



4. Use the excerpt below from the **Mayflower Compact** to answer the question that follows.

We, whose names are underwritten . . . Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation[;] . . . And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience.

The excerpt above can best be used to illustrate the development of which of the following principles of democratic government in the United States?

- A. Government must not interfere with the liberties of individuals.
 - B. Citizens can best express their will through elected representatives.
 - C. All citizens have a right and duty to participate in government.
 - D. Government should operate in accordance with established laws.
5. Which of the following best describes the primary function of the U.S. Constitution?
- A. to express the fundamental values of the nation
 - B. to define and limit the authority of government
 - C. to provide guidelines for the resolution of political conflicts
 - D. to establish standards for the effective operation of government
6. A U.S. citizen would be most likely to develop a sense of social efficacy by engaging in which of the following civic activities?
- A. signing an online petition sponsored by a national advocacy group
 - B. attending parent-teacher organization meetings in one's school district
 - C. volunteering in the campaign of a candidate for local elected office
 - D. staying informed about current issues affecting one's state and community



7. A major difference between command and mixed economies is that in command economies the government is more likely to:
- A. enact laws to protect buyers and sellers.
 - B. stimulate employment during periods of recession.
 - C. establish production quotas for industry and agriculture.
 - D. require businesses to bargain with labor unions.
8. The economic concept of opportunity cost can best be used to show how:
- A. businesses organize production to maximize output.
 - B. consumers address scarcity and choice.
 - C. financial institutions establish lending policies.
 - D. government allocates resources to maintain full employment.
9. The Proclamation of 1763 created tensions between Great Britain and the thirteen colonies because it:
- A. legalized the housing of British troops in colonial homes.
 - B. asserted Parliament's right to tax the colonists.
 - C. provided for greater regulation of colonial trade.
 - D. restricted colonial settlement west of the Appalachians.
10. Which of the following was a major consequence of industrialization in the United States between 1870 and 1920?
- A. The number of industrial, transportation, and mining companies expanded significantly throughout the period.
 - B. The United States became the primary supplier of manufactured goods to the rest of the world.
 - C. The Democratic and Republican parties lost control of Congress in the face of Populist and Progressive electoral challenges.
 - D. The proportion of people living in rural areas declined steadily throughout the period.

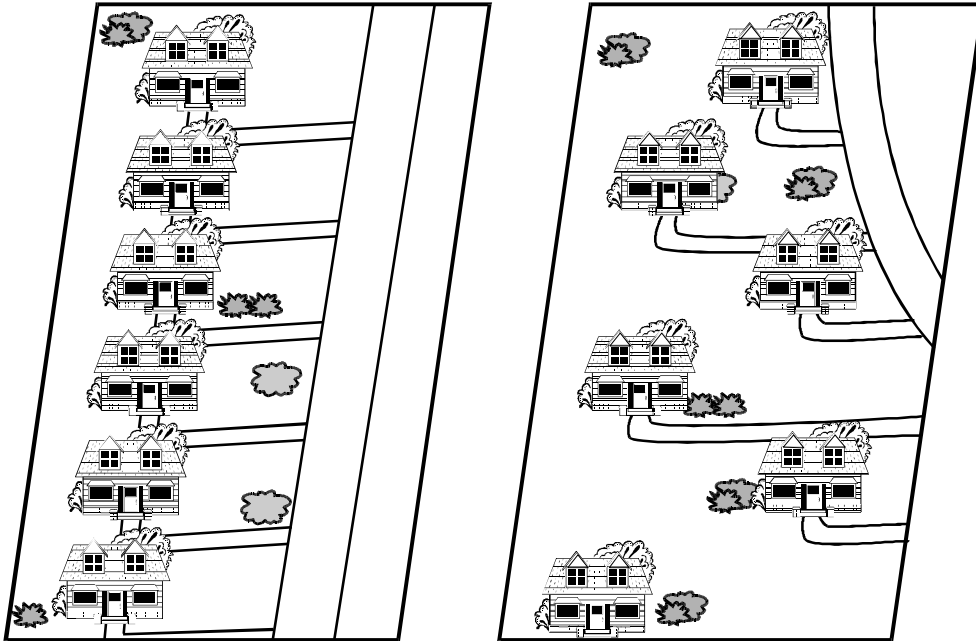


11. Which of the following best describes how the Mexican War (1846–1848) contributed to the divisions that resulted in the Civil War?
- A. The war reopened the debate over the route for a transcontinental railroad.
 - B. The war prompted Southern political leaders to denounce Northern support for the conflict.
 - C. The war reopened the question of extending slavery into the western territories.
 - D. The war prompted Southern political leaders to strengthen state militia forces.
12. Which of the following best describe the most important material components of traditional life among Native Americans of the Washington State coast?
- A. herring and iron
 - B. halibut and whitebark pine
 - C. cod and copper
 - D. salmon and red cedar
13. Which of the following best describes the impact of the Klondike gold rush of 1897 on the early development of Washington State?
- A. It caused a severe decline in Washington's mining production.
 - B. It promoted rapid economic and population growth in Seattle.
 - C. It generated massive revenues for the Northern Pacific Railroad.
 - D. It attracted large numbers of Chinese immigrants to the Puget Sound area.
14. During the late twentieth century, the Hanford Reservation was the focus of public debate surrounding which of the following environmental issues?
- A. the decline of wild salmon populations
 - B. the logging of old growth forests
 - C. the disposal of radioactive waste
 - D. the emission of greenhouse gases



15. Which of the following best describes a repeating pattern in Chinese history?
- A. Eras of cultural liberalization are followed by a revival of conservatism and a return to classical culture.
 - B. A benevolent emperor comes under the influence of unprincipled advisors, and much of the emperor's good work is undermined.
 - C. As time passes, a vigorous dynasty is undermined by corruption, loses its mandate to rule, and is overthrown.
 - D. Periods of aristocratic dominance give way to periods in which peasant leaders exercise control of government.
16. Which of the following best describes a common feature of the West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai between 1000 and 1600 CE?
- A. the establishment of overseas trade with India and Arabia
 - B. the construction of monumental tombs in honor of deceased rulers
 - C. the development of universal and compulsory educational systems
 - D. the synthesis of Islamic and African cultural practices
17. The emergence of feudalism in Western Europe during the Middle Ages was primarily a response to:
- A. changes in military technology.
 - B. an absence of effective central government.
 - C. new economic opportunities.
 - D. the power and influence of the Catholic Church.

18. Use the two diagrams below to answer the question that follows.



A geographer conducting a spatial analysis of the diagrams above would recognize a difference in:

- A. concentration.
- B. density.
- C. pattern.
- D. accessibility.



19. Which of the following would most likely alter the *relative location* of a given place?
- A. the development of a major shopping mall
 - B. the in-migration of people from another country
 - C. the opening of a new regional airport
 - D. the shutdown of several large factories
20. One can best understand why the Appalachian Mountains run in a north-south line by examining which of the following physical processes?
- A. glaciation
 - B. erosion and deposition
 - C. volcanism
 - D. plate tectonics
21. In South America, almost 90 percent of the population lives within 200 miles of the Atlantic, Pacific, or Caribbean coasts. Which of the following explains a major cause of this demographic pattern?
- A. Climatic conditions are more hospitable along the coasts than within the interior.
 - B. The indigenous peoples of the interior regions have resisted settlement by other groups.
 - C. Immigrant groups generally settled in or around the port cities through which they entered the region.
 - D. The mountainous interior regions are relatively inaccessible and present few economic opportunities.
22. One can best understand the impact of acid rain on the Northeast region of the United States by examining:
- A. the transportation networks connecting Canada and the Northeast.
 - B. principal commercial activities along the eastern seaboard.
 - C. the distribution of population among New England, New York, and New Jersey.
 - D. prevailing wind patterns between the Midwest and the Northeast.



23. Which of the following features of the contemporary world is most directly attributable to the spread of Islam between the seventh and seventeenth centuries?
- A. the economic ties between Southwest Asia and North Africa
 - B. the differences between political and ethnic boundaries in sub-Saharan Africa
 - C. the cultural connections between Indonesia and the Middle East
 - D. the differences between the political systems of China, Japan, and North and South Korea
24. In August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Within 24 hours, gasoline prices in Europe and North America rose 10 percent; by January 1991, they had increased 36 percent. Meanwhile, the stock prices of many companies dependent on petroleum inputs declined. These changes best illustrate which of the following geographic concepts?
- A. interdependence of places
 - B. spatial diffusion of global economic activities
 - C. uniqueness of places
 - D. transferability of economic goods
25. A historian conducting a study of late nineteenth-century Seattle would most likely consult census data for which of the following purposes?
- A. to analyze the effects of geographic factors on the city's development
 - B. to trace the evolution of Seattle government
 - C. to examine the social structure of the city's population
 - D. to compare the experiences of different ethnic groups in Seattle



ANSWER KEY

Question Number	Correct Response	Test Objective
1	B	0013
2	A	0013
3	C	0013
4	D	0014
5	B	0014
6	C	0014
7	C	0015
8	B	0015
9	D	0016
10	D	0016
11	C	0016
12	D	0017
13	B	0017
14	C	0017
15	C	0018
16	D	0018
17	B	0018
18	C	0019
19	C	0019
20	D	0019
21	A	0020
22	D	0020
23	C	0020
24	A	0021
25	C	0021