

PRACTICE EXAM 15: PRAXIS SOCIAL STUDIES 5581 SIMULATION

SECTION I — UNITED STATES HISTORY (Questions 1–40)

1. The Anasazi (Ancestral Puebloan) people of the American Southwest are best known for

- A. organizing the first political confederation north of Mexico
- B. constructing temple-mound complexes along the Mississippi River valley
- C. establishing extensive trade networks with Aztec city-states
- D. building elaborate cliff dwellings and developing sophisticated irrigation systems

2. The Pueblo Revolt of 1680 in present-day New Mexico is significant because it

- A. successfully expelled Spanish colonizers for over a decade before their return
- B. permanently ended Spanish rule over the entire American Southwest
- C. resulted in the first formal treaty between Spanish and Native authorities
- D. established a unified Pueblo political system across the region

3. The Virginia House of Burgesses, established in 1619, is significant because it was the

- A. first colonial body to declare independence from British rule
- B. first legislative body to abolish slavery in any English colony
- C. first elected legislative assembly in the English colonies of the present-day United States
- D. first constitutional document drafted in colonial North America

4. Roger Williams's founding of Rhode Island in 1636 was significant because the colony

- A. served as the political capital of New England under royal authority
- B. established religious liberty and separation of church and state as founding principles
- C. abolished private property in favor of communal landholding
- D. developed the first plantation economy based on enslaved African labor

5. The Salem Witch Trials of 1692 occurred in which colonial setting?

- A. The Massachusetts Bay Colony in Puritan New England
- B. The Virginia Colony in the Chesapeake region
- C. The Plymouth Colony along the southern Massachusetts coast
- D. The Pennsylvania Colony under Quaker leadership

6. The triangular trade pattern of the colonial Atlantic economy involved

- A. trade between three British North American colonies in different climate zones
- B. trade in three principal commodities among the southern colonies
- C. trade among colonists, indigenous peoples, and free Africans in the Chesapeake region
- D. interconnected shipments of goods, enslaved Africans, and raw materials

7. The Boston Massacre of March 1770 occurred when

- A. American Patriots destroyed British tea cargo in Boston Harbor
- B. British soldiers fired into a crowd of colonists, killing five
- C. American minutemen ambushed a British supply column near Lexington
- D. British forces burned Boston in retaliation for tax resistance

8. The Battle of Saratoga (1777) is considered a turning point in the American Revolution primarily because it

- A. ended major British military operations in the southern colonies
- B. resulted in the capture of Boston by Continental forces
- C. helped persuade France to enter the war as an American ally
- D. forced the British to withdraw all troops from North America

9. The Treaty of Paris (1783) ending the American Revolutionary War established

- A. American independence with western boundaries set at the Mississippi River
- B. American independence with western boundaries set at the Appalachian Mountains
- C. American independence within a continued British commercial framework
- D. American independence with the Spanish recognition of Florida claims

10. Shays' Rebellion of 1786–1787 demonstrated which weakness of the Articles of Confederation?

- A. The excessive power of the federal judiciary in state affairs
- B. The dominance of the executive branch over Congress
- C. The federal government's inability to respond to domestic disorder
- D. The federal government's overreach into local economic policy

11. The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise) at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 resolved the dispute over

- A. the international slave trade and its eventual abolition
- B. executive veto authority over congressional legislation
- C. religious tests for federal officeholders

D. representation in Congress between large and small states

12. The XYZ Affair (1797–1798) most directly contributed to

A. the negotiation of the Louisiana Purchase from France

B. the undeclared "Quasi-War" between the United States and France

C. the formal alliance between the United States and Britain against Napoleon

D. American neutrality during the European Napoleonic Wars

13. The Marshall Court's decision in *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824) is most significant because it

A. established a broad interpretation of federal authority under the Commerce Clause

B. struck down state taxation of a federal bank as unconstitutional

C. recognized Native American tribes as sovereign nations under federal law

D. established the supremacy of state laws over federal laws in internal commerce

14. The doctrine of "Manifest Destiny," articulated in the 1840s, held that

A. American constitutional principles would inevitably spread to all nations of the world

B. the institution of slavery would eventually disappear through gradual emancipation

C. the United States was destined by Providence to expand across the North American continent

D. the federal government would soon dissolve in favor of state-level sovereignty

15. The Mexican-American War (1846–1848) ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which

A. established the southern border of Texas at the Nueces River rather than the Rio Grande

B. recognized California as a Mexican territory under joint administration

- C. required the United States to pay reparations to Mexico for the conduct of the war
- D. transferred vast territory in the present-day American Southwest to the United States

16. The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 is most closely associated with

- A. the launch of the organized women's rights movement in the United States
- B. the founding of the modern Republican Party in opposition to slavery
- C. the publication of **Uncle Tom's Cabin** by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- D. the passage of the Compromise of 1850 by the U.S. Congress

17. The Supreme Court decision in **Dred Scott v. Sandford** (1857) held that

- A. enslaved people who reached free territory automatically became free
- B. African Americans could not be citizens of the United States
- C. Congress had broad authority to regulate slavery in federal territories
- D. state laws abolishing slavery applied to all visitors regardless of origin

18. The Battle of Gettysburg (July 1863) is widely regarded as

- A. the largest naval engagement of the Civil War period
- B. the first major battle fought on Confederate territory
- C. the strategic turning point of the American Civil War
- D. the final battle that ended the Civil War in Virginia

19. The Reconstruction-era Fifteenth Amendment (1870) prohibited

- A. denial of the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or previous condition of servitude

- B. discrimination in employment based on race or sex characteristics
- C. literacy tests in state and federal voter registration
- D. segregation of public accommodations such as restaurants and hotels

20. The Compromise of 1877 effectively ended Reconstruction by

- A. repealing the Reconstruction Amendments to the Constitution
- B. dissolving the Republican Party in southern states
- C. transferring federal authority to a coalition of Northern Democrats
- D. withdrawing remaining federal troops from former Confederate states

21. The Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 was passed primarily in response to

- A. labor strikes in the railroad industry
- B. the consolidation of large industrial corporations into trusts
- C. growing demands for women's suffrage
- D. corruption scandals in the federal civil service

22. *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) established which doctrine that would govern American race relations for decades?

- A. The "separate but equal" doctrine permitting racial segregation
- B. The "clear and present danger" test for restricting speech
- C. The exclusionary rule barring illegally obtained evidence
- D. The doctrine of substantive due process protecting economic liberty

23. The muckrakers of the Progressive Era were

- A. corporate executives leading industrial consolidation
- B. religious revivalists promoting moral reform crusades
- C. agricultural organizers promoting farmer cooperatives
- D. investigative journalists exposing corruption and social problems

24. The Eighteenth Amendment, ratified in 1919, established

- A. women's suffrage in federal elections
- B. direct election of United States senators
- C. national prohibition of alcoholic beverages
- D. the federal income tax structure

25. The Wagner Act of 1935 (National Labor Relations Act) guaranteed workers

- A. a federal minimum wage and maximum-hours protections
- B. the right to organize unions and bargain collectively
- C. universal health insurance through federal payroll taxes
- D. retirement pensions through state-administered programs

26. The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II was upheld by the Supreme Court in

- A. **Korematsu v. United States** (1944)
- B. **Plessy v. Ferguson** (1896)
- C. **Brown v. Board of Education** (1954)
- D. **Schenck v. United States** (1919)

27. The Marshall Plan (1948) is best understood as

- A. a military alliance against the Soviet Union and its satellite states
- B. a treaty restricting nuclear weapons proliferation in Europe
- C. a federal initiative to integrate American public schools
- D. an economic aid program for the reconstruction of Western Europe

28. The Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) overturned which earlier doctrine?

- A. The federal supremacy doctrine established in *Gibbons v. Ogden*
- B. The "separate but equal" doctrine established in *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- C. The doctrine of states' rights established in *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- D. The principle of judicial review established in *Marbury v. Madison*

29. The Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962 was triggered by

- A. the Cuban government's request for United States military intervention
- B. a Soviet ground invasion of the Caribbean nation of Haiti
- C. American discovery of Soviet nuclear missiles deployed in Cuba
- D. an attempted assassination of Cuban leader Fidel Castro

30. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed by which president?

- A. Lyndon B. Johnson
- B. John F. Kennedy
- C. Richard Nixon

D. Dwight D. Eisenhower

31. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibited

- A. religious discrimination in public school admissions
- B. age discrimination in higher education employment
- C. discrimination based on disability in federal programs
- D. sex discrimination in federally funded education programs

32. The Watergate scandal led most directly to

- A. the impeachment and removal of President Nixon by the Senate
- B. the resignation of President Richard Nixon in August 1974
- C. the abolition of the Electoral College through constitutional amendment
- D. the passage of constitutional amendments limiting presidential terms

33. Reaganomics during the 1980s emphasized

- A. major tax increases combined with comprehensive spending cuts
- B. nationalization of major American industries
- C. major tax cuts, deregulation, and increased defense spending
- D. the replacement of Social Security with private retirement accounts

34. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibited discrimination based on disability in

- A. employment, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications
- B. only federal government employment and federally funded education

- C. only commercial buildings constructed after the law's enactment
- D. only public school admissions and university facilities

35. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), implemented in 1994, was eventually replaced in 2020 by

- A. the Trans-Pacific Partnership treaty
- B. the Central American Free Trade Agreement
- C. the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
- D. the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)

36. The September 11, 2001 attacks led most directly to which of the following federal actions?

- A. The withdrawal of American forces from the Middle East
- B. The invasion of Afghanistan and the passage of the PATRIOT Act
- C. The dissolution of the Department of Defense
- D. The repeal of major civil liberties protections in the Bill of Rights

37. The 2008 financial crisis is most directly associated with which of the following developments?

- A. The bankruptcy of major American automobile manufacturers without federal aid
- B. The collapse of the European Union banking system
- C. The failure of major financial institutions exposed to subprime mortgage securities
- D. The abandonment of the U.S. dollar as the global reserve currency

38. The Affordable Care Act (2010) extended health insurance coverage primarily through
- A. expanded Medicaid eligibility, subsidized insurance marketplaces, and an individual mandate
 - B. the creation of a single-payer national health insurance system
 - C. the nationalization of all American hospital systems
 - D. the elimination of federal Medicare benefits for seniors
39. The Indian Removal Act of 1830, signed by President Andrew Jackson, authorized
- A. the granting of full federal citizenship to all Native Americans
 - B. financial compensation for tribes whose lands had been previously seized
 - C. military protection for Cherokee territorial claims in Georgia
 - D. the relocation of southeastern tribes to territory west of the Mississippi
40. The Battle of Antietam (September 1862) is significant because it
- A. resulted in the surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia
 - B. produced the capture of the Confederate capital at Richmond
 - C. provided the political opening for President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation
 - D. ended Confederate naval power in the Atlantic theater

SECTION II — WORLD HISTORY (Questions 41–71)

41. The Sumerian invention of cuneiform writing was originally developed primarily for
- A. religious texts and prayers to local deities
 - B. accounting and recording commercial transactions

- C. military communications and battle orders
- D. literary works and epic poetry composition

42. The Code of Hammurabi (c. 1754 BCE) is significant primarily because it

- A. is among the earliest known comprehensive written legal codes
- B. abolished slavery throughout the Babylonian Empire
- C. established the first democratic government in human history
- D. introduced monotheism to the ancient Near East

43. The classical Indian system of *varna* organized society into

- A. democratic citizens, foreign residents, and enslaved people
- B. religious leaders, merchants, and laborers in three categories
- C. hereditary monarchs, appointed officials, and common subjects
- D. priests, warriors, merchants and farmers, and laborers

44. The Han dynasty of China (206 BCE–220 CE) is most closely associated with

- A. the conversion of China to Buddhism as the state religion
- B. the replacement of the Confucian civil service system with hereditary aristocracy
- C. the adoption of Confucianism as the official state ideology
- D. the construction of the Great Wall as a single continuous structure

45. The collapse of the Western Roman Empire in 476 CE was caused by a combination of factors including

- A. the rapid spread of Buddhism throughout the Mediterranean
- B. economic stagnation, political instability, and pressure from migrating Germanic peoples
- C. the discovery of the Americas by Roman expeditions
- D. the formation of a unified Islamic caliphate in southern Europe

46. The Hindu concept of *dharma* refers most directly to

- A. moral and religious duty appropriate to one's stage of life and social role
- B. the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth across multiple lives
- C. liberation from the cycle of reincarnation through enlightenment
- D. the principle of nonviolence toward all living beings

47. The Sunni-Shia division within Islam emerged most directly from

- A. theological disputes about the divine nature of the Qur'an
- B. cultural conflicts between Arab and non-Arab Muslims
- C. the introduction of Islam to non-Arab regions of the world
- D. disagreement over legitimate succession to leadership of the Muslim community

48. The European feudal system organized society around

- A. universal political participation through elected councils
- B. centralized monarchical control over all economic activity
- C. land tenure exchanged for military service and personal loyalty

D. wage labor in early industrial workshops

49. The Magna Carta (1215) is significant because it

- A. established the principle that even the king is subject to law
- B. created the modern British parliamentary system in its current form
- C. abolished the feudal manorial system in England
- D. granted political rights to all English subjects regardless of class

50. The Hundred Years' War (1337–1453) was fought primarily between

- A. the Holy Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire
- B. Spain and the Islamic Caliphate of Córdoba
- C. Italy and the Byzantine Empire
- D. England and France

51. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 marked the end of the

- A. Holy Roman Empire centered on Vienna
- B. Byzantine Empire after a thousand-year continuation of Roman rule
- C. Mongol Empire's western territories
- D. Ottoman Empire's expansion into Europe

52. The Aztec Empire was conquered by Spanish forces under the leadership of

- A. Hernán Cortés
- B. Christopher Columbus

C. Francisco Pizarro

D. Vasco da Gama

53. The Tokugawa Shogunate's policy of *sakoku* (1630s–1850s) involved

A. aggressive Japanese expansion into Korea and China

B. the conversion of Japan to Christianity as the official religion

C. near-total isolation of Japan from Europe and most of the outside world

D. the formal abolition of the samurai warrior class

54. The English Civil War (1642–1651) resulted in the temporary

A. unification of England, Scotland, and Wales under one crown

B. expansion of royal authority over Parliament

C. independence of the American colonies from English rule

D. abolition of the monarchy and establishment of a Commonwealth

55. The Encyclopédie, edited by Denis Diderot, was a foundational text of

A. the European Enlightenment

B. the Italian Renaissance

C. the Protestant Reformation

D. the Counter-Reformation

56. Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) articulated the foundational principles of

A. Marxist economic theory and class struggle

- B. mercantilist trade policy under royal authority
- C. classical economics and the case for free markets
- D. Keynesian fiscal stimulus during recessions

57. The Napoleonic Code (1804) profoundly influenced legal systems in

- A. East Asia and the Indian subcontinent
- B. continental Europe and Latin America
- C. the United States and the British Commonwealth
- D. sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East

58. The "Scramble for Africa" by European powers occurred primarily during which period?

- A. The early sixteenth century during the Age of Exploration
- B. The late seventeenth century during the slave trade
- C. The mid-twentieth century after the Second World War
- D. The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

59. The unification of Italy was completed in 1871 with the addition of which city?

- A. Rome, ending the Pope's temporal sovereignty
- B. Florence, the cultural center of the Renaissance
- C. Venice, the major port of the Adriatic
- D. Milan, the industrial heart of northern Italy

60. The Russian Revolution of 1917 occurred in which months according to the Western (Gregorian) calendar?

- A. January and June, marking the beginning and end of the year
- B. May and September, in the spring and fall
- C. March and November (formerly February and October in Russia)
- D. March (formerly February in Russia) and December (formerly November)

61. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) ended

- A. the Russian Civil War between Bolsheviks and White forces
- B. Russian participation in the First World War on punitive terms
- C. the territorial dispute between Russia and Japan
- D. the Russo-Polish War over the eastern frontier

62. The Munich Agreement of September 1938 is widely cited as a failed example of

- A. successful collective security through the League of Nations
- B. effective economic sanctions against aggressive states
- C. coordinated military action by the Allied powers
- D. appeasement of Nazi Germany's territorial demands

63. The Battle of Stalingrad (1942–1943) is generally regarded as

- A. the catastrophic German defeat marking the strategic turn of the Eastern Front
- B. the largest naval battle of the Second World War
- C. the German strategic victory that opened the Caucasus to Axis advance

D. the first major engagement between American and German forces

64. The Bretton Woods Conference of 1944 established

A. the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly

B. the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for collective defense

C. the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

D. the European Coal and Steel Community

65. The partition of British India in 1947 created the independent states of

A. India and Bangladesh exclusively

B. India and Burma as separate Commonwealth realms

C. India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan as initial states

D. India and Pakistan, with Bangladesh later separating

66. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 resulted in

A. the establishment of a secular democratic republic in Iran

B. the establishment of an Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini

C. the restoration of the Pahlavi dynasty under the Shah

D. the formal alliance of Iran with the United States against Iraq

67. The European Union introduced the euro currency in

A. 1999, with physical notes and coins entering circulation in 2002

B. 1985 with the signing of the Schengen Agreement

- C. 1957 with the Treaty of Rome
- D. 2009 following the global financial crisis

68. The Long March (1934–1935) is most closely associated with

- A. the Indian independence movement's nonviolent resistance campaigns
- B. the Soviet Union's mass deportations of ethnic minorities
- C. the Chinese Communist Party's strategic retreat under Mao Zedong
- D. the Japanese military advance across mainland Southeast Asia

69. The dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 led most directly to

- A. the German surrender in Europe ending the war on the continent
- B. the formation of the United Nations as a peacekeeping body
- C. the immediate beginning of the Cold War with the Soviet Union
- D. the surrender of Japan and the formal end of the Second World War

70. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the formal end of the Cold War occurred in

- A. 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall
- B. 1991, with the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union
- C. 1995, several years after political transitions
- D. 2001, following the September 11 terrorist attacks

71. The Cuban Revolution of 1959 brought to power the regime of

- A. Juan Perón in close alliance with the United States

- B. Salvador Allende through a democratic election
- C. Fidel Castro after overthrowing Fulgencio Batista
- D. Augusto Pinochet through a military coup

SECTION III — GEOGRAPHY (Questions 72–90)

72. Cartograms differ from conventional maps in that they

- A. distort geographic size to represent statistical data
- B. show topographic relief through detailed contour lines
- C. preserve the true area and shape of land masses
- D. depict ocean currents and prevailing wind patterns

73. The five themes of geography traditionally include all of the following EXCEPT

- A. location, both absolute and relative
- B. movement of people, goods, and ideas
- C. human-environment interaction
- D. demographic structure of a population

74. Absolute location refers to a place's

- A. position relative to nearby cultural landmarks
- B. precise coordinates in a global reference system
- C. cultural significance to surrounding communities
- D. distance from the equator measured in nautical miles

75. The greenhouse effect is caused by

- A. ozone depletion in the stratosphere over polar regions
- B. urban heat island effects from dense built environments
- C. atmospheric gases trapping infrared radiation near the Earth's surface
- D. solar radiation reflected from polar ice caps

76. A Mediterranean climate is characterized by

- A. mild wet winters and hot dry summers
- B. cold dry winters and hot humid summers
- C. uniform precipitation distributed evenly throughout the year
- D. extreme temperature ranges with continental seasonality

77. The boreal forest, also called taiga, is found primarily in

- A. tropical regions of Central and South America
- B. the temperate Mediterranean basin
- C. equatorial highlands of East Africa
- D. high northern latitudes of Eurasia and North America

78. The Demographic Transition Model describes

- A. the migration patterns of populations across continents
- B. the typical sequence of falling birth and death rates as countries industrialize
- C. the spread of religions across geographic regions
- D. the relationship between natural disasters and population displacement

79. The "graying" of populations in many developed countries refers to

- A. the rising proportion of older adults relative to working-age adults
- B. the dispersal of population from cities to suburban areas
- C. environmental degradation caused by industrial pollution
- D. the migration of younger workers from rural to urban areas

80. The diffusion of a cultural trait through direct interpersonal contact between members of different societies is called

- A. stimulus diffusion driven by underlying cultural ideas
- B. hierarchical diffusion through influential urban centers
- C. relocation diffusion through the movement of people
- D. contagious diffusion through population-wide spread

81. Globalization has produced both economic integration and significant

- A. uniform convergence of all national wage levels
- B. permanent increases in inequality across all sectors
- C. elimination of national governments as significant actors
- D. backlash against immigration, trade, and cultural homogenization

82. A primate city is one that

- A. serves as the political capital but lacks economic significance
- B. is disproportionately larger and more important than the next-largest city
- C. is the largest port in a coastal nation

D. has been recently established as a planned national capital

83. The Sahel region of Africa is characterized as a

A. transitional semi-arid zone between the Sahara and tropical Africa

B. dense tropical rainforest covering equatorial Africa

C. high-altitude plateau of East Africa

D. coastal mangrove ecosystem of West Africa

84. Plate tectonics theory holds that the Earth's lithosphere

A. consists of layers stratified by density without horizontal movement

B. has remained essentially unchanged since the formation of the planet

C. is a single continuous shell that is gradually thinning

D. is divided into plates that move and interact, producing earthquakes and volcanoes

85. Edge cities are characterized by

A. concentrations of office, retail, and entertainment outside downtowns

B. dense apartment housing in the historic urban core

C. rural communities just beyond a metropolitan area's outer ring

D. industrial districts converted to residential lofts in city centers

86. The Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric facility by installed capacity, is located on the

A. Mekong River of Southeast Asia

- B. Indus River of South Asia
- C. Yangtze River of China
- D. Amazon River of South America

87. Devolution refers to

- A. the dissolution of national governments into smaller independent states
- B. the formation of supranational unions of multiple countries
- C. the centralization of authority following constitutional reform
- D. the transfer of powers from a central government to subnational units

88. The Coriolis effect describes the apparent deflection of moving air and water

- A. caused by the Earth's rotation, deflecting movement to the right in the Northern Hemisphere
- B. caused by the gravitational pull of the moon on Earth's atmosphere
- C. produced exclusively by warm tropical ocean currents
- D. found only in the upper layers of the troposphere

89. The world's largest tropical rainforest is located in the basin of which river?

- A. The Mekong River in Southeast Asia
- B. The Congo River in Central Africa
- C. The Amazon River in South America
- D. The Ganges River in South Asia

90. The Pacific Ring of Fire is best described as

- A. an ocean current system circulating warm water across the Pacific
- B. a zone of intense seismic and volcanic activity surrounding the Pacific basin
- C. a chain of coral reef ecosystems in the South Pacific
- D. a Pacific atmospheric system producing periodic El Niño events

SECTION IV — CIVICS (Questions 91–122)

91. According to social contract theory, the legitimate authority of government rests on

- A. the divine right of monarchs to rule through hereditary succession
- B. the natural authority of property owners over their dependents
- C. the historical traditions of any given political community
- D. the consent of the governed who agree to surrender certain natural liberties

92. The English political philosopher who argued in **Two Treatises of Government** that legitimate government rests on the consent of the governed and protects natural rights to life, liberty, and property was

- A. John Locke of seventeenth-century England
- B. Thomas Hobbes of seventeenth-century England
- C. Edmund Burke of eighteenth-century Britain
- D. Jean-Jacques Rousseau of eighteenth-century Geneva

93. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 was originally convened to

- A. ratify the Bill of Rights for the new federal government

- B. negotiate a peace treaty with Britain after the Revolution
- C. revise the Articles of Confederation rather than draft a new constitution
- D. establish the boundaries of the Northwest Territory

94. Federalism in the U.S. constitutional system refers to

- A. separation of powers among three branches of the federal government
- B. the division of power between the federal government and the states
- C. the requirement that all states adopt identical legal codes
- D. the supremacy of federal courts over all state courts in every matter

95. The principle of checks and balances is best illustrated by which of the following?

- A. The President's authority to issue executive orders without congressional involvement
- B. The Supreme Court's authority to schedule its own term and caseload
- C. State governors' authority over their state National Guard units
- D. The Senate's authority to confirm or reject presidential nominations

96. The First Amendment protects all of the following freedoms EXCEPT

- A. the right to keep and bear arms in defense of self and community
- B. the free exercise of religion without governmental interference
- C. freedom of speech and of the press from government censorship
- D. the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government

97. The Fourth Amendment protects against

- A. cruel and unusual punishment after conviction
- B. compelled self-incrimination during criminal proceedings
- C. unreasonable searches and seizures by government officials
- D. excessive bail set during pretrial release proceedings

98. *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) established that suspects in police custody must be informed of their

- A. right to a public trial within ninety days of arrest
- B. right to remain silent and right to an attorney before interrogation
- C. right to refuse to consent to lawful searches of their property
- D. right to be released on personal recognizance during pretrial proceedings

99. The Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause has been the constitutional basis for

- A. the federal government's authority to regulate interstate commerce
- B. the establishment of the Federal Reserve System in 1913
- C. the prohibition of poll taxes in federal elections
- D. major civil rights victories including *Brown v. Board of Education*

100. The Constitution provides that bills for raising revenue must originate in the

- A. House of Representatives, where they are subject to amendment by the Senate
- B. Senate, where they are subject to amendment by the House
- C. Office of the President for submission to Congress
- D. Joint Committee on Taxation for review by both chambers

101. The presidential veto power can be overridden by

- A. a simple majority vote in both houses of Congress
- B. a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress
- C. a unanimous Supreme Court ruling against the President
- D. a three-fourths vote in the Senate alone

102. The President's role as Commander in Chief is established in

- A. the War Powers Resolution of 1973
- B. an executive order issued during the Civil War
- C. Article I of the Constitution enumerating congressional powers
- D. Article II of the Constitution defining executive powers

103. Federal judges are selected through

- A. presidential nomination and Senate confirmation
- B. nationwide elections held every six years for each judicial circuit
- C. appointment by state governors with senatorial approval
- D. selection by the Chief Justice of the United States from a national pool

104. *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) established the principle that

- A. state courts must apply federal law in all civil cases
- B. the President's removal authority over executive officials is unlimited
- C. federal courts may declare laws and executive actions unconstitutional
- D. only Congress may interpret the meaning of constitutional provisions

105. The Tenth Amendment reserves to the states or the people

- A. all enumerated powers granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8
- B. exclusive authority to regulate interstate commerce among the states
- C. the power to coin money and fix standards of weights and measures
- D. powers not delegated to the federal government nor prohibited to the states

106. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 most directly addressed

- A. employment discrimination based on race or sex characteristics
- B. literacy tests and other tools used to disenfranchise African American voters
- C. segregation in public accommodations such as restaurants and hotels
- D. unequal funding of public schools across racial lines

107. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment, ratified in 1971,

- A. lowered the voting age from twenty-one to eighteen
- B. established direct election of United States senators
- C. abolished the poll tax in federal elections
- D. extended the presidential term limit to two terms

108. Voter turnout in U.S. presidential elections typically falls within which range?

- A. Approximately 70 to 80 percent in nearly every cycle
- B. Approximately 25 to 35 percent in most elections
- C. Approximately 50 to 65 percent of the voting-eligible population
- D. Approximately 90 to 95 percent in highly contested races

109. Political action committees (PACs) influence federal elections primarily by

- A. controlling the nomination of all federal judges
- B. operating independent court systems for campaign disputes
- C. setting policy agendas for both major political parties
- D. raising funds and contributing to political candidates and causes

110. The principal agents of political socialization include

- A. the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, and tax authorities
- B. the family, schools, religious institutions, peer groups, and media
- C. supranational organizations like the United Nations
- D. private corporations and their advertising activities

111. A presidential system differs from a parliamentary system primarily in that

- A. the executive in a parliamentary system is drawn from the legislature
- B. presidential systems lack regular elections
- C. parliamentary systems do not have political parties
- D. presidential systems use proportional representation electoral rules

112. Single-member plurality electoral systems tend to produce

- A. multi-party legislatures with frequent coalition governments
- B. proportional representation of all political viewpoints
- C. nonpartisan elections in nearly every district
- D. two-party competition because votes for third parties are typically wasted

113. The United Nations Security Council includes how many permanent veto-wielding members?

- A. Seven, with rotating membership for two of them
- B. Ten, equal to the number of elected members
- C. Five — the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China
- D. Fifteen, identical to the total Security Council membership

114. NATO is best described as

- A. a global trade organization promoting free trade among Western democracies
- B. a collective defense alliance currently composed of more than thirty members
- C. a humanitarian organization coordinating disaster relief
- D. a research organization studying climate and ocean patterns

115. The Paris Agreement of 2015 committed signatory countries to

- A. limit global warming to "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- B. immediately eliminate all greenhouse gas emissions
- C. transfer climate authority to a single supranational body
- D. abandon all fossil fuel use within fifteen years

116. A major function of supranational organizations like the European Union is to

- A. preserve unlimited national sovereignty across all member states
- B. impose identical national constitutions on all member states
- C. dissolve member-state governments in favor of a single federal authority
- D. coordinate economic, political, and legal cooperation while pooling some sovereignty

117. The doctrine of incorporation refers to the Supreme Court's gradual application of

- A. corporate rights to political expenditures under the First Amendment
- B. federal regulatory authority to overseas territories of the United States
- C. most Bill of Rights provisions to state governments through the Fourteenth Amendment
- D. international treaties to domestic constitutional interpretation

118. *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010) held that

- A. corporations and unions have free speech rights to make independent political expenditures
- B. campaign contributions to candidates may be unlimited if disclosed publicly
- C. all corporate political spending must be reported to federal regulators
- D. independent political expenditures are subject to strict federal limits

119. The Speaker of the House of Representatives is selected by

- A. appointment by the President of the United States
- B. a vote of the entire membership of the House of Representatives
- C. nomination by the Senate Majority Leader
- D. seniority based on years of service in Congress

120. Senate confirmation of presidential nominees to the federal judiciary requires

- A. a two-thirds supermajority of senators present and voting
- B. concurrent approval by the House of Representatives
- C. unanimous consent of all senators
- D. a simple majority of senators present and voting

121. The principle of popular sovereignty in the U.S. Constitution is most directly expressed in

- A. the opening words of the Preamble, "We the People of the United States"
- B. the Three-Fifths Compromise within Article I
- C. the Supremacy Clause of Article VI
- D. the prohibition of religious tests for federal office

122. The Eighth Amendment prohibits

- A. unreasonable searches and seizures by federal officers
- B. trials in civil cases without a jury of peers
- C. excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishment
- D. the establishment of a national religion by Congress

SECTION V — ECONOMICS (Questions 123–140)

123. The fundamental economic problem addressed by the discipline of economics is

- A. inflation arising in market economies
- B. scarcity of resources relative to unlimited human wants
- C. unequal distribution of income within nations
- D. fluctuations in international exchange rates

124. The Production Possibilities Curve (PPC) illustrates which of the following concepts?

- A. The relationship between inflation and unemployment in the macroeconomy
- B. The gradual aggregation of household consumption into national output

- C. The relationship between exchange rates and the trade balance
- D. Scarcity, opportunity cost, and trade-offs in resource allocation

125. A market economy coordinates economic activity primarily through

- A. prices and the voluntary exchanges of buyers and sellers
- B. central government planning of all production and distribution
- C. inherited customs and traditional rules of resource use
- D. religious authorities setting just prices for essential goods

126. The law of demand states that, holding other factors constant, as the price of a good rises,

- A. the quantity supplied automatically rises in proportion
- B. consumer income immediately increases to compensate
- C. the quantity demanded falls
- D. the price elasticity of demand approaches zero

127. A surplus in a competitive market occurs when

- A. consumer demand exceeds the available supply of a good
- B. the quantity supplied exceeds the quantity demanded at the prevailing price
- C. the government imposes a price ceiling below the equilibrium price
- D. firms voluntarily reduce production despite stable demand

128. The four factors of production are

- A. land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship

- B. money, machinery, materials, and management
- C. supply, demand, prices, and profits
- D. consumers, producers, governments, and foreign trade

129. Marginal cost is best defined as

- A. the average cost across all units already produced
- B. the largest single cost incurred during production
- C. the total fixed cost divided by total units produced
- D. the additional cost of producing one more unit of output

130. Perfect competition is characterized by

- A. a single firm controlling the entire market
- B. a small number of large firms strategically reacting to one another
- C. many sellers offering identical products with free entry and exit
- D. firms producing differentiated products with significant brand power

131. A natural monopoly is most commonly associated with

- A. industries with large fixed costs and significant economies of scale
- B. agricultural commodity production in competitive markets
- C. retail clothing and apparel sales in shopping districts
- D. restaurants and personal services in urban areas

132. Government intervention in markets is most commonly justified by economists in cases involving

- A. transactions between voluntary buyers and sellers in normal markets
- B. externalities, public goods, information asymmetries, and market power
- C. industries with many small firms competing on price and quality
- D. markets where consumer preferences shift across seasonal cycles

133. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures the total

- A. wealth held by a country's residents at a single point in time
- B. average income earned by households in a country
- C. volume of international trade conducted by a country's businesses
- D. market value of final goods and services produced within a country

134. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures inflation through

- A. the cost of a representative basket of consumer goods and services
- B. the average wages of urban industrial workers
- C. the value of corporate stock prices on major exchanges
- D. household savings rates across different income groups

135. Frictional unemployment refers to

- A. unemployment caused by mismatches between worker skills and job requirements
- B. unemployment driven by downturns in the macroeconomic business cycle
- C. short-term unemployment as workers transition between jobs
- D. unemployment produced by predictable seasonal variations in work

136. The Federal Reserve System's "dual mandate" requires it to

- A. coordinate monetary policy with the Treasury's debt management
- B. promote maximum employment and stable prices
- C. regulate state-chartered banks and supervise consumer protection
- D. provide monetary support for federal fiscal stimulus programs

137. The Federal Reserve's most frequently used monetary policy tool is

- A. setting the reserve requirement for member banks
- B. changing the discount rate charged to commercial banks
- C. directly extending consumer loans to American households
- D. open market operations involving government securities

138. Expansionary fiscal policy designed to combat a recession typically involves

- A. increases in government spending, tax cuts, or both
- B. reductions in government spending paired with tax increases
- C. increases in interest rates and reductions in money supply
- D. restrictions on international trade and capital flows

139. According to the principle of comparative advantage, two countries can both gain from trade when

- A. one country has absolute advantage in producing every good
- B. each specializes in producing the goods in which it has lower opportunity costs
- C. tariff barriers protect domestic industries from foreign competition
- D. both countries produce identical goods using identical methods

140. The Gini coefficient is used to measure

- A. the rate of inflation in consumer prices over time
- B. the value of a country's currency in international exchange
- C. income or wealth inequality within a country
- D. the productivity of agricultural land in different regions

PRACTICE EXAM 15 — ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

SECTION I — UNITED STATES HISTORY (Questions 1–40)

1. D — The Anasazi (Ancestral Puebloan) people built elaborate cliff dwellings such as those at Mesa Verde and developed sophisticated irrigation systems to support agriculture in arid landscapes. Their culture flourished from roughly 100 to 1300 CE before climate stress and other factors led to dispersal across the Southwest.
2. A — The Pueblo Revolt of 1680, led by Popé, successfully expelled Spanish colonizers from New Mexico for over a decade before their return in 1692. It was the most successful indigenous uprising against European colonization in North American history and produced lasting concessions in the Spanish colonial relationship with Pueblo peoples.
3. C — The Virginia House of Burgesses, established in 1619 in Jamestown, was the first elected legislative assembly in the English colonies of the present-day United States. It set a precedent for representative government that would influence later American political development.
4. B — Roger Williams founded Rhode Island in 1636 on the principle of religious liberty after his banishment from Massachusetts Bay. The colony established separation of church and state as a founding principle, providing refuge for Quakers, Jews, and other religious minorities ahead of similar developments elsewhere.
5. A — The Salem Witch Trials occurred in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in Puritan New England in 1692, resulting in the execution of twenty people. The trials reflect the religious tensions, political instability, and social anxieties of late seventeenth-century Puritan society.
6. D — The Triangular Trade involved interconnected shipments of goods, enslaved Africans, and raw materials among Africa, the Americas, and Europe. Manufactured goods went from Europe to Africa, enslaved people from Africa to the Americas, and raw materials like sugar and tobacco from the Americas to Europe.
7. B — The Boston Massacre occurred when British soldiers fired into a hostile crowd of colonists in March 1770, killing five including Crispus Attucks. The incident was effectively used as anti-British propaganda by Patriots like Paul Revere despite the soldiers' subsequent acquittal.
8. C — Saratoga's strategic significance lay in convincing France to enter the war as an American ally in 1778. French money, supplies, and naval power were ultimately decisive in securing American independence. The southern campaign and Boston had separate trajectories.

9. A — The Treaty of Paris (1783) established American independence with western boundaries set at the Mississippi River. The United States gained vast territory beyond the Appalachians, more than doubling the area under American control compared to the original colonies.
10. C — Shays' Rebellion was a Massachusetts uprising of indebted farmers that the federal government under the Articles could not effectively address, revealing the federal government's inability to respond to domestic disorder. The rebellion provided crucial momentum for the Constitutional Convention of 1787.
11. D — The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise) resolved the dispute between large states (favoring representation by population) and small states (favoring equal representation per state) by creating a bicameral legislature: the population-based House and the state-based Senate.
12. B — The XYZ Affair (1797–1798) most directly contributed to the undeclared "Quasi-War" between the United States and France. French agents (designated X, Y, and Z) demanded bribes from American diplomats, producing widespread American outrage and naval conflict at sea.
13. A — *Gibbons v. Ogden* established a broad interpretation of federal authority under the Commerce Clause, ruling that federal power over interstate commerce extended to navigation between states. The decision became a foundation for the expansive federal regulatory authority that emerged in the twentieth century.
14. C — "Manifest Destiny," coined by journalist John O'Sullivan in 1845, held that the United States was destined by Providence to expand across the North American continent. The doctrine justified the annexation of Texas, the Mexican-American War, and westward expansion generally.
15. D — The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo transferred vast territory in the present-day American Southwest — including California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming — from Mexico to the United States. The United States paid Mexico \$15 million.
16. A — Seneca Falls in 1848 launched the organized women's rights movement, where Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott authored the Declaration of Sentiments demanding political and legal equality. The Republican Party was founded later, in 1854; *Uncle Tom's Cabin* appeared in 1852.
17. B — *Dred Scott* held that African Americans, whether enslaved or free, could not be citizens of the United States. The decision also voided the Missouri Compromise as unconstitutional and accelerated the political crisis leading to the Civil War.
18. C — Gettysburg, fought July 1–3, 1863, ended Lee's invasion of the North and is widely regarded as the strategic turning point of the Civil War. Combined with the Union victory at Vicksburg the same week, it shifted the strategic balance decisively in favor of the Union.

19. A — The Fifteenth Amendment prohibited denial of the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The amendment was effectively nullified across the South within a generation through poll taxes, literacy tests, and racial terror, until federal protections were restored a century later.
20. D — The Compromise of 1877 ended Reconstruction primarily by withdrawing remaining federal troops from Southern states. The withdrawal removed federal protection for African American political participation, opening the way for the Jim Crow regime of disenfranchisement and segregation.
21. B — The Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 was passed primarily in response to the growing concentration of corporate power in industrial trusts during the Gilded Age. Early enforcement was weak, but the Act laid the foundation for later antitrust action against Standard Oil and other monopolies.
22. A — *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) established the "separate but equal" doctrine permitting racial segregation in public facilities. The decision provided constitutional cover for Jim Crow laws across the South until it was overturned by *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.
23. D — Muckrakers were investigative journalists who exposed corruption and social problems during the Progressive Era. Figures like Ida Tarbell (Standard Oil), Upton Sinclair (meatpacking), and Lincoln Steffens (urban political corruption) drove public demand for reform.
24. C — The Eighteenth Amendment, ratified in 1919 and effective in 1920, established national prohibition of the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages. Prohibition produced the rise of organized crime and was repealed by the Twenty-First Amendment in 1933.
25. B — The Wagner Act of 1935 (National Labor Relations Act) guaranteed workers the right to organize unions and bargain collectively, and established the National Labor Relations Board to enforce these rights. It was foundational to the dramatic growth of organized labor in the late 1930s and 1940s.
26. A — *Korematsu v. United States* (1944) upheld Japanese American internment under Executive Order 9066. The decision is now widely repudiated and was officially condemned by Congress in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided reparations to surviving internees.
27. D — The Marshall Plan was an enormous American economic aid program for the reconstruction of Western Europe after World War II. It is credited with both rebuilding war-torn economies and binding Western Europe to the American-led Cold War alliance.
28. B — *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine established in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), declaring that segregated educational facilities are inherently unequal. The unanimous opinion became the constitutional foundation of the modern civil rights movement.

29. C — The Cuban Missile Crisis was triggered by American discovery of Soviet nuclear missiles deployed in Cuba, ninety miles from the Florida coast. The thirteen-day standoff brought the world closer to nuclear war than any other moment of the Cold War.
30. A — The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964, after a successful effort to break the longest filibuster in Senate history. Johnson invoked the memory of his assassinated predecessor John F. Kennedy in pressing for the law's passage.
31. D — Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibited sex discrimination in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. It has had wide-ranging effects on women's athletics, professional school admissions, and educational opportunities.
32. B — Watergate led most directly to Richard Nixon's resignation on August 9, 1974, after the release of incriminating tape recordings made his impeachment and removal certain. The Senate did not in fact remove him because he resigned first.
33. C — Reaganomics emphasized major tax cuts (the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 and the Tax Reform Act of 1986), deregulation across multiple industries, and a substantial defense buildup. Federal deficits expanded substantially under these policies.
34. A — The ADA prohibited discrimination based on disability in employment, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications. It required accessibility in physical and communication environments and was a landmark civil rights achievement signed by President George H. W. Bush.
35. D — NAFTA was replaced by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which entered into force on July 1, 2020. The new agreement updated NAFTA provisions on labor, environment, intellectual property, and digital trade.
36. B — September 11 led most directly to the invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001 (toppling the Taliban government that had sheltered al-Qaeda) and to the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, which dramatically expanded federal surveillance and law enforcement authority.
37. C — The 2008 financial crisis was triggered by the failure of major financial institutions exposed to subprime mortgage securities, most prominently the September 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers. The crisis required massive federal intervention, including the Troubled Asset Relief Program.
38. A — The ACA expanded health insurance coverage primarily through Medicaid expansion (taken up by some but not all states), subsidized private insurance marketplaces, and an individual mandate that was later effectively eliminated. The ACA extended coverage to roughly 20 million previously uninsured Americans.

39. D — The Indian Removal Act of 1830 authorized the relocation of southeastern tribes to territory west of the Mississippi. The most infamous result was the Trail of Tears (1838–1839), the forced removal of the Cherokee Nation from Georgia in which roughly 4,000 Cherokee died.
40. C — Antietam was the bloodiest single day in American history, but more importantly it was a strategic Union victory that halted Lee's invasion of Maryland. The result gave Lincoln the political opening to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, transforming the war's purpose.

SECTION II — WORLD HISTORY (Questions 41–71)

41. B — Cuneiform was originally developed primarily for accounting and recording commercial transactions in ancient Sumer. Only later did it expand to other uses, including literature like the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, religious texts, and legal codes.
42. A — The Code of Hammurabi (c. 1754 BCE) is among the earliest known comprehensive written legal codes, featuring graduated penalties based on social class and the principle of *lex talionis* ("an eye for an eye"). It established the principle that laws should be publicly knowable rather than arbitrary.
43. D — The classical Indian *varna* system organized society into four categories: priests (Brahmins), warriors (Kshatriyas), merchants and farmers (Vaishyas), and laborers (Shudras), with Dalits or "Untouchables" considered outside the system entirely. The system was hierarchical, hereditary, and central to Hindu social organization.
44. C — The Han dynasty adopted Confucianism as the official state ideology and consolidated the imperial framework first established by the Qin. The Han also developed the civil service examination system based on mastery of Confucian classics, which would shape Chinese governance for two millennia.
45. B — The Western Roman Empire's decline reflected a combination of economic stagnation, political instability, civil wars, and pressure from Germanic peoples migrating under pressure from the Huns. Single-cause explanations of Rome's fall are generally rejected by modern historians in favor of multi-factor analysis.
46. A — *Dharma* in Hindu thought refers to moral and religious duty appropriate to one's stage of life and social role. The concept is central to Hindu ethics and includes both universal moral obligations and duties specific to caste, family role, and life stage.
47. D — The Sunni-Shia division emerged from disagreement over legitimate succession after Muhammad's death in 632. Sunnis accepted the legitimacy of the early caliphs and broader community as the source of authority; Shia held that legitimate leadership belonged to Muhammad's direct descendants through his son-in-law Ali.

48. C — The European feudal system organized society around land tenure exchanged for military service and personal loyalty between lords and vassals. The arrangement reflected the political fragmentation that followed Carolingian collapse and persisted in modified forms for centuries.
49. A — Magna Carta (1215) established the foundational principle that even the king is subject to law. While its immediate provisions were modest, the principle of legal limitation on royal authority became foundational to constitutional government in England and beyond.
50. D — The Hundred Years' War (1337–1453) was fought primarily between England and France, beginning over disputed claims to the French throne. It produced significant developments in military technology, including the longbow and early gunpowder weapons.
51. B — The fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 marked the end of the Byzantine Empire after a thousand-year continuation of Roman rule. It is sometimes used to mark the conventional end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the early modern period.
52. A — The Aztec Empire was conquered by Spanish forces under Hernán Cortés between 1519 and 1521, supported by tens of thousands of indigenous allies who resented Aztec rule. Catastrophic disease and the political fragmentation of central Mexico were major factors in the conquest.
53. C — The Tokugawa policy of *sakoku* involved near-total isolation of Japan from Europe and most of the outside world from the 1630s to the 1850s. The policy excluded most foreigners, restricted Japanese travel abroad, and prohibited Christianity.
54. D — The English Civil War resulted in the temporary abolition of the monarchy and establishment of a Commonwealth (1649–1660) under Oliver Cromwell. The execution of Charles I in 1649 was unprecedented in European history; the monarchy was restored under Charles II in 1660.
55. A — The *Encyclopédie*, edited by Denis Diderot and published from 1751 to 1772, was a foundational text of the European Enlightenment. It sought to compile and disseminate all human knowledge and embodied the Enlightenment commitment to reason and empirical inquiry.
56. C — Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) articulated the foundational principles of classical economics and the case for free markets. Smith argued that competition among self-interested actors, guided by an "invisible hand," typically produces social benefits.
57. B — The Napoleonic Code (1804) profoundly influenced legal systems in continental Europe and Latin America, shaping civil law traditions in dozens of countries. Its principles of equality before the law, property rights, and religious tolerance remain influential today.
58. D — The "Scramble for Africa" occurred primarily during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Between 1870 and 1914, European powers expanded their control of African territory from less than 10 percent to approximately 90 percent of the continent.

59. A — Italian unification was completed in 1871 with the addition of Rome, ending the Pope's temporal sovereignty over the Papal States. The new kingdom established Rome as its capital, and the Pope retreated into the Vatican as a "prisoner."
60. C — The Russian Revolution occurred in March (formerly February in the Russian Julian calendar) and November (formerly October) of 1917. The "February Revolution" overthrew the Tsar; the "October Revolution" brought the Bolsheviks to power.
61. B — The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) ended Russian participation in the First World War on punitive terms, transferring vast territory from Russia to Germany. Lenin accepted the harsh terms to consolidate Bolshevik power against domestic opposition.
62. D — The Munich Agreement of September 1938 is widely cited as a failed example of appeasement. By allowing Hitler to annex the Sudetenland in exchange for promises of no further demands, Britain and France emboldened German aggression that culminated in the invasion of Poland a year later.
63. A — Stalingrad was the catastrophic German defeat that marked the strategic turn of the Eastern Front. An entire German army (the Sixth Army) was destroyed, and the Soviet Union began its long advance westward that eventually reached Berlin in 1945.
64. C — The Bretton Woods Conference of 1944 established the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to promote international monetary cooperation and provide development financing. These institutions remain central to the global economic system.
65. D — The partition of British India in 1947 created India and Pakistan, with Bangladesh later separating from Pakistan in 1971 after a brutal civil war. Partition produced massive communal violence, with estimates of one to two million dead and 15 million displaced.
66. B — The Iranian Revolution of 1979 resulted in the establishment of an Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini, replacing the pro-Western Shah. The revolution dramatically reshaped Middle Eastern politics and produced the Iran Hostage Crisis at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.
67. A — The European Union introduced the euro in 1999 as electronic currency, with physical notes and coins entering circulation in 2002. The euro is now the official currency of 20 EU member states and represents one of the most significant integrations in European history.
68. C — The Long March (1934–1935) is most closely associated with the Chinese Communist Party's strategic retreat under Mao Zedong, covering roughly 6,000 miles to escape Nationalist encirclement. The march established Mao's leadership and became central to Communist Party mythology.
69. D — The atomic bombings of Hiroshima (August 6, 1945) and Nagasaki (August 9, 1945) led most directly to Japan's surrender on September 2, 1945, ending the Second World War. The bombings remain the only wartime use of nuclear weapons in history.

70. B — The Soviet Union officially dissolved on December 26, 1991. The events of 1989 — the fall of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of Communist regimes across Eastern Europe — preceded the Soviet collapse. By 1991, the dissolution of the USSR ended the Cold War in formal terms.
71. C — The Cuban Revolution of 1959 brought Fidel Castro to power after overthrowing dictator Fulgencio Batista. Castro's regime soon aligned with the Soviet Union and survived more than a half-century of American hostility.

SECTION III — GEOGRAPHY (Questions 72–90)

72. A — Cartograms distort geographic size to represent statistical data, with countries or regions appearing larger or smaller in proportion to the variable being mapped. They are useful for visualizing data like population, GDP, or election results, though they sacrifice geographic accuracy.
73. D — Demographic structure of a population is not one of the five themes of geography. The five traditional themes are location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction.
74. B — Absolute location refers to a place's precise coordinates in a global reference system such as latitude and longitude or a street address. It contrasts with relative location, which describes position in relation to other places or features.
75. C — The greenhouse effect is caused by atmospheric gases — carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, and others — trapping infrared radiation near the Earth's surface. The natural greenhouse effect makes Earth habitable; anthropogenic increases are driving contemporary climate change.
76. A — A Mediterranean climate is characterized by mild wet winters and hot dry summers. It occurs in regions including the Mediterranean Basin, central California, central Chile, the Western Cape of South Africa, and parts of southwestern and southern Australia.
77. D — The boreal forest, also called taiga, is found primarily in high northern latitudes of Eurasia and North America. It is the world's largest land biome and is dominated by coniferous trees adapted to cold continental climates.
78. B — The Demographic Transition Model describes the typical sequence of falling birth and death rates as countries industrialize, moving through four (sometimes five) stages. The model is descriptive rather than universally predictive.
79. A — The "graying" of populations refers to the rising proportion of older adults relative to the working-age population. It results from the combination of falling birth rates and rising life expectancy, and creates significant fiscal pressures on pensions and healthcare systems.
80. C — Relocation diffusion is the spread of a cultural trait through the movement of people from one place to another. It contrasts with expansion diffusion (which spreads from a hearth without people necessarily moving) including hierarchical, contagious, and stimulus diffusion.

81. D — Globalization has produced significant backlash against immigration, trade, and cultural homogenization. Recent populist movements in many countries, Brexit, and trade-related political tensions reflect this widespread reaction to the costs and disruptions of globalization.
82. B — A primate city is one disproportionately larger and more important than the next-largest city in its country, often dominating economic, political, and cultural life. Examples include Paris, Mexico City, and Bangkok.
83. A — The Sahel is a transitional semi-arid zone between the Sahara to the north and tropical Africa to the south, stretching across the continent from Senegal to Sudan. It is highly vulnerable to drought, desertification, and food insecurity.
84. D — Plate tectonics theory holds that the Earth's lithosphere is divided into plates that move and interact, producing earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain building, and ocean basin formation. The theory unified geology in the 1960s and explains a vast range of geophysical phenomena.
85. A — Edge cities are concentrations of office, retail, and entertainment activity outside traditional downtowns, typically located along beltways and highway interchanges in metropolitan suburbs. They emerged as a distinctive urban form in the late twentieth century.
86. C — The Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric facility by installed capacity, is located on the Yangtze River in central China. It produces approximately 22,500 megawatts of electricity, but has been criticized for environmental and social costs including the displacement of over a million people.
87. D — Devolution is the transfer of powers from a central government to subnational units in response to regional pressures. Examples include the Scottish and Welsh devolved governments within the United Kingdom and the autonomous regions of Spain.
88. A — The Coriolis effect is the apparent deflection of moving air and water caused by the Earth's rotation, deflecting movement to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere. It shapes prevailing wind patterns and ocean currents globally.
89. C — The world's largest tropical rainforest is in the Amazon Basin in South America, covering approximately 5.5 million square kilometers across nine countries. It is sometimes called "the lungs of the planet" for its role in oxygen production and carbon storage.
90. B — The Pacific Ring of Fire is a zone of intense seismic and volcanic activity surrounding the Pacific Ocean basin, produced by the convergent boundaries of multiple tectonic plates. The region contains a significant majority of the world's active volcanoes and earthquakes.

SECTION IV — CIVICS (Questions 91–122)

91. D — Social contract theory holds that legitimate government rests on the consent of the governed, who agree to surrender certain natural liberties in exchange for security and order. The framework, developed by Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, was foundational to American constitutional thought.

92. A — John Locke argued in *Two Treatises of Government* (1689) that legitimate government rests on the consent of the governed and protects natural rights to life, liberty, and property. Locke's framework directly shaped the Declaration of Independence and remains foundational to American constitutional thought.
93. C — The Constitutional Convention of 1787 was originally convened to revise the Articles of Confederation rather than draft a new constitution. The delegates exceeded their mandate by drafting an entirely new framework, which was then submitted to state ratifying conventions.
94. B — Federalism in the U.S. constitutional system refers to the division of power between the federal government and the states. Separation of powers (among branches) and federalism (between national and state levels) are distinct constitutional principles working together.
95. D — The Senate's authority to confirm or reject presidential nominations is a textbook example of checks and balances: one branch (executive) makes the appointment, but another branch (legislative) must approve it. Each branch's specific powers limit the others' freedom of action.
96. A — The right to keep and bear arms is protected by the Second Amendment, not the First. The First Amendment protects freedom of religion (Establishment and Free Exercise), speech, press, assembly, and petition.
97. C — The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures by government officials, generally requiring probable cause and a warrant. Cruel and unusual punishment is prohibited by the Eighth Amendment; self-incrimination by the Fifth.
98. B — *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) established that suspects in police custody must be informed of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney before interrogation. The "Miranda warning" became a foundational protection of Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights.
99. D — The Equal Protection Clause has been the constitutional basis for major civil rights victories including *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), *Loving v. Virginia* (1967), *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), and many others. It is the principal vehicle through which constitutional equality is enforced against state action.
100. A — Bills for raising revenue must originate in the House of Representatives, per Article I, Section 7. The Senate may amend revenue bills, but origination is reserved to the House. The provision reflects the framers' concern that taxation be initiated in the chamber more directly responsive to the people.
101. B — A presidential veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress. The supermajority requirement is one of the most important checks on legislative power and reflects the Framers' desire to require broad consensus for legislation passed over presidential objection.

102. D — The President's role as Commander in Chief is established in Article II of the Constitution defining executive powers. The role gives the President broad authority over the conduct of military operations, though Congress retains the power to declare war and to fund the military.
103. A — Federal judges are selected through presidential nomination and Senate confirmation, then serve "during good behavior" — effectively life tenure, removable only by impeachment. The process is one of the most consequential checks the executive and legislative branches have on the long-term direction of the judiciary.
104. C — *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) established the principle that federal courts may declare laws and executive actions unconstitutional. The decision transformed the federal judiciary into a coequal branch of government and is foundational to American constitutional law.
105. D — The Tenth Amendment reserves to the states or the people powers not delegated to the federal government nor prohibited to the states. It is the constitutional articulation of the principle of reserved powers and a touchstone for arguments about federalism.
106. B — The Voting Rights Act of 1965 most directly addressed literacy tests and other tools used to disenfranchise African American voters in the South. The Act dramatically increased African American voter registration and political participation.
107. A — The Twenty-Sixth Amendment, ratified in 1971, lowered the voting age from twenty-one to eighteen, partly in response to the argument that 18-year-olds drafted to fight in Vietnam should also be entitled to vote. It was ratified faster than any other amendment.
108. C — Voter turnout in U.S. presidential elections typically falls within approximately 50 to 65 percent of the voting-eligible population. The 2020 election produced the highest turnout in over a century at approximately 66 percent, but lower turnout is more typical historically.
109. D — Political action committees influence federal elections primarily by raising funds and contributing to political candidates and causes within the limits of federal campaign finance law. Super PACs, established after *Citizens United* (2010), can spend unlimited amounts on independent activity.
110. B — The principal agents of political socialization include the family, schools, religious institutions, peer groups, and the media. The family is generally the most influential, particularly for partisan identification and basic political values.
111. A — In a parliamentary system, the executive (prime minister and cabinet) is drawn from and accountable to the legislative majority. The PM continues in office only as long as the legislature continues to support the government, distinguishing parliamentary systems fundamentally from presidential ones.

112. D — Single-member plurality electoral systems tend to produce two-party competition because votes for third parties are typically wasted (Duverger's Law). The structure rewards consolidation around two large parties capable of competing for outright pluralities in individual districts.
113. C — The UN Security Council includes five permanent veto-wielding members: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. Ten other members are elected to two-year terms by the General Assembly.
114. B — NATO is a collective defense alliance currently composed of more than thirty member states (currently 32, after Finland and Sweden joined). Article 5 commits members to mutual defense — the foundational principle of the alliance.
115. A — The Paris Agreement of 2015 commits signatory countries to limit global warming to "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. Each country sets its own nationally determined contributions toward these goals.
116. D — Supranational organizations like the European Union coordinate economic, political, and legal cooperation while pooling some sovereignty — transferring authority from member states to common institutions in defined areas. This distinguishes them from looser forms of international cooperation.
117. C — The doctrine of incorporation refers to the Supreme Court's progressive application of most provisions of the Bill of Rights to state governments through the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause. Originally the Bill of Rights restricted only the federal government.
118. A — *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010) held that corporations and unions have free speech rights to make independent political expenditures. The decision led directly to the rise of Super PACs that can raise and spend unlimited amounts on independent political activity.
119. B — The Speaker of the House of Representatives is selected by a vote of the entire membership of the House at the start of each new Congress. The Speaker is typically the leader of the majority party. The Speaker is second in line for the presidency under the Presidential Succession Act.
120. D — Senate confirmation of presidential nominees, including federal judges, requires a simple majority of senators present and voting. The previous tradition of needing 60 votes to overcome filibusters on judicial nominations was eliminated for lower-court judges in 2013 and for Supreme Court justices in 2017.
121. A — The principle of popular sovereignty is most directly expressed in the opening words of the Preamble: "We the People of the United States." This phrase signifies that the Constitution emanates from the people themselves, who are the ultimate source of governmental authority.
122. C — The Eighth Amendment prohibits excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishment. It applies to both pretrial and post-conviction stages of criminal procedure and shapes contemporary debates over capital punishment and prison conditions.

SECTION V — ECONOMICS (Questions 123–140)

123. B — Scarcity — the limited availability of resources relative to unlimited human wants — is the foundational economic problem that gives rise to the discipline of economics. Without scarcity, no choices would be necessary and economics would not exist as a field of study.
124. D — The Production Possibilities Curve illustrates scarcity, opportunity cost, and the trade-offs an economy faces in choosing how to allocate limited resources between competing uses. Movement along the curve illustrates opportunity cost; outward shifts represent economic growth.
125. A — A market economy coordinates economic activity primarily through prices and the voluntary exchanges of buyers and sellers. Prices serve as signals that aggregate dispersed information about preferences, costs, and availability.
126. C — The law of demand states that as price rises, quantity demanded falls, holding other factors constant. The relationship is captured graphically as a downward-sloping demand curve and reflects consumers' tendency to economize when goods become more expensive.
127. B — A surplus occurs when the quantity supplied exceeds the quantity demanded at the prevailing price. Surpluses typically arise when prices are above equilibrium (e.g., when price floors are set above the equilibrium price). The price mechanism then pushes prices down toward equilibrium.
128. A — The four factors of production are land (natural resources), labor (human effort), capital (manufactured goods used in production), and entrepreneurship (the organizing function that combines the others and bears risk).
129. D — Marginal cost is the additional cost of producing one more unit of output. Marginal analysis is central to firm decision-making: profit-maximizing firms produce up to the point where marginal cost equals marginal revenue.
130. C — Perfect competition is characterized by many sellers offering identical products with free entry and exit, and individual firms acting as price takers. It produces both allocative and productive efficiency in equilibrium and serves as the theoretical benchmark for market analysis.
131. A — A natural monopoly is most commonly associated with industries having large fixed costs and significant economies of scale, such that one firm can supply the market more efficiently than multiple competitors. Public utilities (water, electricity, natural gas distribution) are classic examples.
132. B — Government intervention in markets is most commonly justified by economists in cases of market failure — externalities, public goods, information asymmetries, and significant market power. Even economists most skeptical of government intervention generally accept the case for action in these specific situations.

133. D — Gross Domestic Product measures the total market value of final goods and services produced within a country in a given period. GDP is calculated through the expenditure approach as $C + I + G + (X - M)$.
134. A — The Consumer Price Index measures inflation through the cost of a representative basket of consumer goods and services typically purchased by urban consumers. It is calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and used to adjust Social Security payments and many wage and contract terms.
135. C — Frictional unemployment refers to short-term, often voluntary unemployment as workers transition between jobs, enter the labor force, or relocate. It is normal and even desirable in a dynamic economy and contrasts with structural, cyclical, and seasonal unemployment.
136. B — The Federal Reserve's "dual mandate" requires it to promote maximum employment and stable prices. The mandate was formalized in the Federal Reserve Reform Act of 1977 and shapes how the Fed weighs trade-offs between unemployment and inflation in setting monetary policy.
137. D — The Federal Reserve's most frequently used monetary policy tool is open market operations involving government securities. Buying securities injects money into the economy; selling securities removes money. The reserve requirement and discount rate are used less frequently.
138. A — Expansionary fiscal policy designed to combat a recession typically involves increases in government spending, tax cuts, or both. These actions stimulate aggregate demand and typically increase the budget deficit during the recession.
139. B — Comparative advantage holds that two countries can both gain from trade when each specializes in producing the goods in which it has lower opportunity costs. Even a country with absolute advantage in every good can benefit from specializing according to comparative advantage.
140. C — The Gini coefficient measures income or wealth inequality within a country, ranging from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (maximum inequality). It is the most widely used summary statistic of inequality and allows comparison across countries and over time.