

PRACTICE EXAM 7: PRAXIS SOCIAL STUDIES 5581 SIMULATION

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

1. The Mississippian culture, which flourished from approximately 800 to 1600 CE, is best known for
 - A. its development of an advanced bronze metallurgy across the Great Plains
 - B. its establishment of a unified continental political confederation
 - C. its use of horses for hunting and seasonal migration
 - D. its construction of the urban center of Cahokia near present-day St. Louis

2. The Spanish colonial city of St. Augustine, founded in 1565 in present-day Florida, is significant because it
 - A. was the first permanent English settlement in North America
 - B. is the oldest continuously occupied European-established settlement in the present-day United States
 - C. served as the capital of the Spanish Viceroyalty of New Spain
 - D. was abandoned within a generation due to indigenous resistance

3. The New England Confederation of 1643 was formed primarily to
 - A. coordinate defense against Native American resistance and Dutch colonial expansion
 - B. establish a uniform religious orthodoxy across all New England colonies
 - C. negotiate trade agreements with French colonies in Canada

D. organize colonial opposition to British parliamentary authority

4. The system of mercantilism that governed British colonial economic policy held that

A. colonial economies should pursue free trade with all foreign nations

B. colonies should be permitted to develop independent manufacturing capacities

C. colonies existed primarily to enrich the mother country through controlled trade

D. colonial governors had complete autonomy over local economic regulation

5. The First Continental Congress, convened in September 1774, was assembled to

A. declare American independence from Great Britain

B. ratify a permanent constitution for the colonies

C. negotiate a defensive alliance with France

D. coordinate colonial responses to the Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts)

6. Read the excerpt below from Thomas Paine's **Common Sense** (1776) and answer the question that follows.

"There is something exceedingly ridiculous in the composition of monarchy; it first excludes a man from the means of information, yet empowers him to act in cases where the highest judgment is required."

This passage most directly served the purpose of

A. defending the legitimacy of the British crown over the American colonies

B. persuading colonists to support American independence from Britain

C. arguing for the establishment of a colonial monarchy in North America

D. opposing the convening of the Second Continental Congress

7. The Battle of Yorktown (October 1781) is significant because it
- A. effectively ended major fighting in the American Revolution
 - B. marked the British capture of the American capital at Philadelphia
 - C. produced the first formal treaty between the United States and France
 - D. resulted in the immediate signing of the Treaty of Paris
8. The Land Ordinance of 1785, enacted under the Articles of Confederation, established
- A. the boundaries of the original thirteen states under federal authority
 - B. a uniform system of taxation across the western territories
 - C. a rectangular survey system for selling federal lands in the Northwest
 - D. federal jurisdiction over Native American tribal lands
9. 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
10. The Hartford Convention of 1814–1815 is most closely associated with
- A. the planning and execution of the American Revolution
 - B. the drafting and ratification of the United States Constitution
 - C. the negotiation of the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812
 - D. New England Federalist opposition to the War of 1812 and Republican policies

11. The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, was most significant because it

- A. connected the Great Lakes to the Hudson River and dramatically reduced shipping costs
- B. linked the Atlantic Ocean directly to the Pacific Ocean through New York
- C. provided the first navigable water route from New Orleans to Chicago
- D. opened the Mississippi River to large-scale commercial shipping for the first time

12. The Nullification Crisis of 1832–1833 centered on which state's resistance to federal authority?

- A. Virginia, where opposition focused on federal banking policy
- B. Pennsylvania, where opposition focused on internal improvements
- C. South Carolina, where opposition focused on the federal tariff of 1828
- D. Massachusetts, where opposition focused on slavery in the territories

13. The American System, championed by Henry Clay, included all of the following components EXCEPT

- A. a high protective tariff to support American manufacturing
- B. the immediate abolition of slavery throughout the United States
- C. a national bank to stabilize currency and credit
- D. federal funding of internal improvements such as roads and canals

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

- A. the United States was destined by Providence to expand across the North American continent
- B. American constitutional principles would inevitably spread to all nations of the world
- C. the institution of slavery would eventually disappear through gradual emancipation
- D. the federal government would soon dissolve in favor of state-level sovereignty

15. The Wilmot Proviso of 1846 sought to

- A. abolish the international slave trade in all American ports immediately
- B. require the federal government to compensate freed enslaved people
- C. extend American citizenship to Mexican residents of newly acquired territories
- D. prohibit slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico

16. The Republican Party emerged in the mid-1850s primarily in opposition to

- A. the protective tariff policies favored by the Whig Party
- B. the gold standard advocated by Democratic candidates
- C. the expansion of slavery into the western territories
- D. American intervention in European political conflicts

17. The Battle of Antietam (September 1862) is significant because it

- A. provided the political opening for President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation
- B. resulted in the surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia
- C. produced the capture of the Confederate capital at Richmond
- D. ended Confederate naval power in the Atlantic theater

18. The Reconstruction-era Black Codes were enacted in former Confederate states to

- A. extend full citizenship rights to formerly enslaved people
- B. restrict the freedoms of formerly enslaved African Americans
- C. distribute confiscated plantation land to freedmen and women
- D. provide voting rights protections to Republican voters

19. The Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883 established

- A. the system of patronage appointments in federal agencies
- B. mandatory retirement ages for federal officeholders
- C. a uniform federal pay scale for all government employees
- D. merit-based competitive examinations for federal hiring

20. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was significant because it

- A. abolished restrictions on Chinese immigration to the West Coast
- B. extended American citizenship to Chinese laborers already in the country
- C. was the first federal law restricting immigration based on nationality
- D. permitted Chinese laborers to bring family members from China

21. The Pullman Strike of 1894 ended primarily because

- A. federal troops dispatched by President Cleveland broke the strike
- B. the railroad companies agreed to all of the strikers' wage demands
- C. the American Federation of Labor formally withdrew its support from the strikers
- D. Congress passed legislation outlawing strikes in transportation industries

22. The Federal Reserve Act of 1913 established

- A. the federal income tax structure under the Sixteenth Amendment
- B. the central banking system of the United States
- C. the system of direct election of United States senators
- D. the federal regulatory authority over interstate commerce

23. The Treaty of Versailles (1919) was rejected by the United States Senate primarily because of concerns about

- A. the territorial losses imposed on Germany after the war
- B. the war reparations imposed on the Allied powers
- C. the redrawing of borders in the Middle East under the mandate system
- D. American obligations under the League of Nations covenant

24. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), established in 1933, was significant because it

- A. brought electrification, flood control, and economic development to a poor rural region
- B. provided emergency cash relief to families with dependent children
- C. established the federal minimum wage and maximum-hours protections
- D. coordinated American war production for the Second World War

25. The Lend-Lease Act of 1941 authorized President Franklin Roosevelt to

- A. declare war on Germany without further congressional authorization
- B. impose comprehensive price controls on consumer goods during wartime
- C. provide military equipment and supplies to nations whose defense was deemed vital
- D. require all American men of military age to register for conscription

26. The Truman Doctrine (1947) committed the United States to

- A. maintaining strict neutrality in all post-war European conflicts
- B. supporting "free peoples" resisting subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures
- C. transferring atomic weapons to the United Nations for international control

D. forming a permanent military alliance with the Soviet Union

27. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (the G.I. Bill) provided returning veterans with

- A. funding for higher education and low-interest home loans
- B. permanent housing in federally constructed neighborhoods
- C. lifetime medical care through federally operated facilities
- D. preferential placement in federal civil service positions

28. The 1957 desegregation crisis at Central High School in which city required federal intervention by President Eisenhower?

- A. Birmingham, Alabama, in opposition to Governor George Wallace
- B. Montgomery, Alabama, following the bus boycott
- C. Little Rock, Arkansas, where Governor Faubus blocked integration
- D. Selma, Alabama, during voting rights demonstrations

29. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in

- A. only voting and electoral participation in federal elections
- B. only federally funded education programs and schools
- C. only federal employment and government contractors
- D. employment, public accommodations, and federally funded programs

30. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment (1971) is most closely associated with which of the following developments?

- A. The civil rights movement and federal voting protections
- B. The Vietnam War and arguments about the rights of those subject to the draft
- C. The women's liberation movement and equal protection for women
- D. The environmental movement and federal regulatory authority

31. The Camp David Accords (1978) established peace between

- A. Egypt and Israel
- B. North Korea and South Korea
- C. India and Pakistan
- D. Cuba and the United States

32. The Iran-Contra affair during the Reagan administration involved

- A. covert military operations in Cuba and the Caribbean
- B. illegal campaign contributions from foreign governments
- C. the secret diversion of arms-sale profits to Nicaraguan rebels
- D. unauthorized intelligence sharing with Soviet officials

33. The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 entitled eligible workers to

- A. fully paid maternity and paternity leave for twelve weeks
- B. universal childcare subsidies through the federal government
- C. mandatory employer-provided health insurance for dependents

D. unpaid leave for family or medical reasons without losing their jobs

34. The Affordable Care Act (2010) extended health insurance coverage primarily through

A. expanded Medicaid eligibility, subsidized private 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

35. The Bay of Pigs invasion of April 1961 was

A. a successful overthrow of Fidel Castro's government in Cuba

B. a failed CIA-backed attempt by Cuban exiles to overthrow Castro's government

C. a Soviet military operation in support of the Castro government

D. a United Nations peacekeeping mission to Cuba

36. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed in the immediate aftermath of which civil rights demonstration?

A. The Montgomery Bus Boycott led by Martin Luther King Jr.

B. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

C. The Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins

D. The Selma to Montgomery march, including "Bloody Sunday"

37. The OPEC oil embargo of 1973 was a response to

A. the discovery of major oil reserves in the North Sea

- B. the formation of the European Economic Community
- C. American military assistance to Israel during the Yom Kippur War
- D. the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

38. The Election of 1860 brought to the presidency

- A. Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party's nominee
- B. John C. Breckinridge, the Southern Democratic candidate
- C. Stephen A. Douglas, the Northern Democratic nominee
- D. John Bell, the Constitutional Union candidate

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

40. The Gilded Age, roughly the 1870s through the 1890s, was characterized by

- A. the federal regulation of nearly every major industry
- B. rapid industrial growth, urban expansion, immigration, and significant inequality
- C. the dominance of agrarian populist movements in national politics
- D. comprehensive federal labor protections for industrial workers

SECTION II — WORLD HISTORY (Questions 41–71)

41. The earliest known human civilizations developed in which type of geographic setting?
- A. High-altitude mountain plateaus with cool climates
 - B. Subarctic boreal forests with abundant timber
 - C. Tropical rainforest interiors with year-round warmth
 - D. River valleys with fertile alluvial soil and reliable water supply
42. The Phoenicians of the ancient Mediterranean are best known for
- A. establishing the first centralized empire in the Mediterranean region
 - B. founding the first monotheistic world religion in the ancient Near East
 - C. developing an alphabet that became the basis for Greek, Latin, and modern European scripts
 - D. inventing iron metallurgy and spreading it throughout the ancient world
43. The Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great and Darius I is significant because it
- A. pioneered administrative practices including provincial governors, road systems, and religious tolerance
 - B. established the first democratic government in human history
 - C. unified the Mediterranean basin under a single political authority
 - D. abolished slavery throughout its vast territories
44. The Hindu concept of *dharma* refers most directly to
- A. the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth across multiple lives

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

45. The Mauryan Empire under Ashoka (r. c. 268–232 BCE) is significant primarily because

- A. it conquered Persia and integrated it into a unified Indo-Iranian polity
- B. its rulers maintained traditional Hindu state religion as the foundation of governance
- C. it established the largest contiguous land empire in human history
- D. Ashoka converted to Buddhism and promoted Buddhist principles across his empire

46. The Byzantine Empire's Code of Justinian (sixth century CE) is significant primarily because it

- A. compiled and systematized Roman law in a form that profoundly influenced later European legal systems
- B. introduced Christianity as the official religion of the Byzantine Empire
- C. established democratic governance throughout the Byzantine territories
- D. unified Byzantine and Persian legal traditions under a single code

47. The rise and rapid spread of Islam in the seventh and eighth centuries was facilitated by

- A. the unanimous support of all Christian and Jewish populations in conquered regions
- B. the absence of organized military resistance anywhere in the Mediterranean
- C. the political weakness of the Byzantine and Sasanian empires after long wars
- D. the conversion of the Roman Emperor in Constantinople

48. The Mongol conquests of the thirteenth century resulted in

- A. the permanent unification of all Eurasia under a single political authority
- B. the intensification of cross-cultural contact across Eurasia along trade routes
- C. the complete suppression of Silk Road trade for nearly two centuries
- D. the conversion of all Mongol territories to Buddhism

49. The Black Death of 1347–1351 produced which of the following long-term effects in Western Europe?

- A. The strengthening of feudal labor obligations as lords reasserted control
- B. The unification of Europe under a single political authority
- C. The complete disappearance of the Catholic Church as an institution
- D. A significant decline in serfdom and increased bargaining power for surviving peasants

50. The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) divided non-Christian overseas claims between

- A. Spain and Portugal under papal mediation
- B. France and England across northern North America
- C. England and the Netherlands across the Caribbean
- D. Spain and the Ottoman Empire across the Mediterranean

51. The Spanish *encomienda* system in the Americas was a labor arrangement that

- A. recognized indigenous communal land ownership as the basis of colonial agriculture
- B. provided wage employment to free indigenous laborers in colonial enterprises
- C. granted Spanish colonizers the right to extract labor and tribute from indigenous communities
- D. abolished forced labor and replaced it with voluntary indentured service

52. The Council of Trent (1545–1563) was most directly a response to the

- A. Mongol invasion of Eastern Europe in earlier centuries
- B. Protestant Reformation and the resulting division of Western Christendom
- C. Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453
- D. discovery of the Americas and the resulting need to evangelize indigenous peoples

53. The Seven Years' War (1756–1763) is sometimes called the first "world war" because it

- A. was fought across multiple continents including Europe, North America, the Caribbean, and Asia
- B. produced casualties greater than any war until the twentieth century
- C. resulted in the dissolution of all colonial empires of the era
- D. involved every major military power existing at the time

54. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (August 1789) is the foundational document of

- A. the British constitutional monarchy under William and Mary
- B. the Spanish Bourbon Restoration after Napoleon
- C. the American Bill of Rights ratified in 1791
- D. the early phase of the French Revolution

55. The Latin American wars of independence (c. 1808–1826) were facilitated most directly by

- A. direct military assistance from the United States and the British navy
- B. the abolition of slavery throughout the Spanish Empire in 1812
- C. Napoleon's invasion of the Iberian Peninsula in 1808, creating a crisis of legitimacy in Spanish colonies

D. the formation of a continental Latin American congress in 1810

56. The Industrial Revolution's earliest factories used which of the following primary power sources?

- A. Internal combustion engines burning gasoline
- B. Water-powered machinery driven by streams and rivers
- C. Electric motors powered by hydroelectric generation
- D. Animal power through ox and horse teams

57. The Opium Wars (1839–1842 and 1856–1860) resulted in

- A. the British abolition of opium imports into the British Empire
- B. the establishment of equal trading rights between China and European powers
- C. unequal treaties imposing extraterritoriality and treaty ports on China
- D. the Chinese conquest of British trading posts in Southeast Asia

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

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

59. The Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905) was significant because it

- A. resulted in the partition of Korea between Russia and Japan
- B. produced the first treaty between Japan and the United States

- C. ended Russia's eastward expansion across Siberia
- D. was the first major modern military victory of an Asian power over a European one

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

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

61. 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. appeasement of Nazi Germany's territorial demands
- D. coordinated military action by the Allied powers

62. 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

63. 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 European Coal and Steel Community
- D. the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

64. The Indian National Congress and the Muslim League both supported

- A. the continuation of British colonial governance indefinitely
- B. the eventual independence of India from British rule, though differing on its terms
- C. the immediate annexation of India to neighboring Asian powers
- D. the elimination of religious differences as a basis for political organization

65. The Korean War (1950–1953) ended with

- A. the unification of Korea under a single democratic government
- B. the absorption of all Korea into communist China
- C. an armistice that left Korea divided along the 38th parallel
- D. the formal independence of Korea under United Nations administration

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

- A. Fidel Castro after overthrowing Fulgencio Batista
- B. Salvador Allende through a democratic election
- C. Augusto Pinochet through a military coup
- D. Juan Perón in close alliance with the United States

67. The Vietnam War ended in 1975 with the

- A. formal partition of Vietnam between the North and South
- B. American military victory and South Vietnamese stabilization
- C. negotiation of a power-sharing government in Saigon
- D. fall of Saigon to North Vietnamese forces and reunification

68. 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

69. 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

70. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War occurred in which year?

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

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

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

SECTION III — GEOGRAPHY (Questions 72–90)

72. The Mercator projection is most useful for which of the following purposes?

- A. Showing the true relative areas of countries near the equator and the poles
- B. Marine navigation, because straight lines on the map represent constant compass bearings
- C. Comparing population densities across countries on a single visual scale
- D. Producing visually balanced world reference maps with minimal distortion

73. A region defined by the daily commuting patterns and economic interactions surrounding a major city is best classified as

- A. a functional region organized around a central node
- B. a formal region defined by uniform political boundaries
- C. a vernacular region defined by cultural perception
- D. a physical region defined by climate and terrain

74. The Global Positioning System (GPS) determines a receiver's location through

- A. magnetic detection of the Earth's polar fields

- B. radar reflection from low-Earth-orbit satellites
- C. trilateration based on signals from multiple navigation satellites
- D. analysis of cellular tower signal strength

75. The greenhouse effect is the process by which

- A. ozone molecules in the upper atmosphere absorb ultraviolet radiation
- B. certain atmospheric gases trap heat near the Earth's surface
- C. urban areas develop higher temperatures than surrounding rural areas
- D. ocean currents transport heat from equatorial regions toward the poles

76. The Pacific Ring of Fire is best described as

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

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

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

78. Which of the following geographic regions is most densely populated?

- A. The Australian Outback
- B. The Sahara Desert
- C. The Ganges River valley of South Asia
- D. The Siberian boreal forest

79. The "brain drain" phenomenon refers to

- A. the loss of population in regions with rapidly aging demographic structures
- B. the emigration of highly educated and skilled professionals from their home countries
- C. the displacement of workers by automation in industrial economies
- D. the inability of educational systems to prepare workers for modern industries

80. Which of the following religious traditions is the largest by number of adherents worldwide?

- A. Islam, the second-largest world religion
- B. Hinduism, concentrated primarily in South Asia
- C. Buddhism, distributed across East and Southeast Asia
- D. Christianity, with approximately 2.4 billion adherents

81. A pidgin language differs from a creole language primarily in that

- A. a pidgin is a simplified contact language while a creole has become a fully developed first language
- B. a creole is restricted to coastal trading communities
- C. a pidgin uses non-Roman writing systems while a creole uses Roman script
- D. a pidgin is older than any creole language

82. Which of the following best describes the Concentric Zone Model of urban structure?

- A. A model emphasizing multiple competing centers of activity rather than a single dominant center
- B. A model based on the linear development of cities along major transportation corridors
- C. A model showing the city as a series of rings around a central business district
- D. A model focused exclusively on the suburban periphery of metropolitan areas

83. The four sectors of economic activity, in order from primary to quaternary, are

- A. agriculture, services, manufacturing, and information
- B. extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, services, and information-based services
- C. manufacturing, services, agriculture, and information
- D. services, manufacturing, agriculture, and trade

84. A nation-state is most accurately defined as

- A. any country recognized as a member of the United Nations
- B. a state organized as a federation of sovereign provinces
- C. a multinational empire ruling diverse populations
- D. a state whose population shares a single national identity

85. Geometric political boundaries are characterized by

- A. their drawing as straight lines, often along latitude or longitude, without regard to physical or cultural features
- B. their reflection of cultural and ethnic divisions among neighboring populations
- C. their alignment with major rivers, mountains, or other physical features

D. their establishment through the natural settlement of distinct ethnic groups over centuries

86. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was originally established in 1949 as

A. a global trade organization to reduce international tariffs

B. a humanitarian organization to coordinate disaster response

C. a collective defense alliance among Western democracies in response to Soviet expansion

D. a research organization studying climate change in the Arctic

87. The Sahel region of Africa is characterized as a

A. dense tropical rainforest covering equatorial Africa

B. high-altitude plateau of East Africa

C. coastal mangrove ecosystem of West Africa

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

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

A. consists of layers stratified by density without horizontal movement

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

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

D. is a single continuous shell that is gradually thinning

89. The Demographic Transition Model describes a typical sequence in which

A. countries move from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates as they industrialize

B. populations grow continuously without ever stabilizing over time

- C. populations decline steadily from initial high levels
- D. countries experience identical demographic patterns regardless of economic development

90. Hurricanes form most commonly under which of the following conditions?

- A. Cold ocean water in polar regions during winter months
- B. Dry desert conditions in continental interiors
- C. Warm ocean water in tropical and subtropical latitudes during summer
- D. High-altitude mountain regions year-round

SECTION IV — CIVICS (Questions 91–122)

91. The fundamental purpose of government, according to John Locke, is to

- A. provide for the spiritual welfare of citizens through state-sponsored religion
- B. protect the natural rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property
- C. maintain absolute control over economic activity
- D. enforce a single moral code derived from tradition

92. Baron de Montesquieu's most influential contribution to American constitutional design was the principle of

- A. direct democracy in large geographic territories
- B. hereditary monarchy with elected advisors
- C. religious uniformity as the basis of political stability
- D. separation of powers among legislative, executive, and judicial branches

93. The Articles of Confederation failed primarily because the national government

- A. lacked authority to tax, regulate commerce, or enforce its own laws
- B. concentrated too much power in a single chief executive
- C. exercised excessive control over state economic policy
- D. imposed religious requirements that violated colonial traditions

94. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 is significant because it

- A. created the executive branch under the Articles of Confederation
- B. authorized the federal government to negotiate treaties with European powers
- C. established a process for admitting new states and prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory
- D. abolished slavery throughout the United States

95. The U.S. Constitution divides power between the federal government and state governments through the principle of

- A. separation of powers among coequal branches
- B. judicial review of federal legislative actions
- C. checks and balances among the three branches
- D. federalism as a vertical division of authority

96. The Tenth Amendment provides that powers not delegated to the federal government

- A. are reserved to the states or the people
- B. are automatically transferred to the President
- C. become powers of the federal courts

D. require approval by two-thirds of both houses of Congress

97. Which of the following is an example of the system of checks and balances?

- A. Congress passing a federal income tax law for individuals
- B. The Senate's authority to confirm presidential appointments to the federal judiciary
- C. State governments establishing public school systems
- D. Citizens voting in periodic federal elections

98. The doctrine of judicial review was established in which landmark Supreme Court case?

- A. *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) on the national bank
- B. *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824) on interstate commerce
- C. *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857) on enslaved people's rights
- D. *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) on a federal judicial commission

99. The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution primarily in response to

- A. demands from European nations for stronger protections of foreign nationals
- B. concerns raised by the Confederate States during the Civil War period
- C. Anti-Federalist concerns that the original Constitution did not adequately protect liberties
- D. requests from Native American tribes for federal recognition of tribal sovereignty

100. The First Amendment protects all of the following EXCEPT

- A. the right to keep and bear arms
- B. freedom of speech and of the press

- C. the free exercise of religion
- D. the right peaceably to assemble and to petition the government

101. The Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause has been used by the Supreme Court to

- A. reduce federal authority over interstate commerce
- B. require states to balance their annual budgets
- C. expand the role of the Electoral College in presidential elections
- D. apply most Bill of Rights provisions to state governments through incorporation

102. *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) established that police must inform suspects in custody of

- A. the maximum sentence they could receive if convicted at trial
- B. their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney
- C. the names and addresses of all witnesses against them
- D. their right to a trial by jury within thirty days of arrest

103. A bill that has passed both houses of Congress in identical form is sent to the President, who may

- A. sign the bill into law, veto it and return it with objections, or take no action
- B. delegate decision-making to the Cabinet for further review
- C. submit the bill to the Supreme Court for constitutional review
- D. revise the bill and resubmit it to Congress for additional consideration

104. A presidential veto can be overridden by

- A. a simple majority vote in both houses of Congress

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

105. The filibuster, used to extend debate in the Senate, can typically be ended through

- A. a simple majority vote of senators present and voting
- B. an executive order issued by the President of the United States
- C. a ruling by the Chief Justice of the United States
- D. a cloture vote requiring 60 senators

106. The President serves as

- A. the only authority empowered to pass federal legislation
- B. the Commander in Chief of the armed forces and chief executive
- C. the chief justice of the federal judicial system
- D. the leader of the legislative branch under the Constitution

107. The Twenty-Second Amendment (1951) limits the President to

- A. two elected terms in office
- B. four years in office without exception or reelection
- C. ten years in office regardless of election results
- D. lifetime tenure if approved by Congress

108. The federal Cabinet consists of the heads of the executive

- A. branch's independent regulatory commissions
- B. office of the President's senior advisors
- C. branch's federal court system
- D. departments such as State, Treasury, Defense, and Justice

109. Mandatory federal spending consists primarily of

- A. discretionary funding for military procurement
- B. annual appropriations for federal agencies
- C. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other entitlement programs
- D. emergency disaster relief funding

110. The federal income tax was authorized by which constitutional amendment?

- A. The Fourteenth Amendment establishing equal protection
- B. The Sixteenth Amendment authorizing direct income taxation
- C. The Seventeenth Amendment for direct senator elections
- D. The Fifteenth Amendment prohibiting racial voting discrimination

111. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 most directly addressed

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

112. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits

- A. all forms of religious instruction in federally funded schools
- B. the use of standardized testing in federal college admissions
- C. discrimination based on race in higher education funding
- D. discrimination based on sex in federally funded education programs

113. Civil liberties differ from civil rights in that civil liberties are primarily

- A. economic guarantees provided by federal welfare programs
- B. obligations of citizens to participate in jury service and military service
- C. protections of individual freedom from government interference
- D. responsibilities of state governments to enforce federal laws

114. Voter turnout in U.S. presidential elections is generally

- A. lower than in most other developed democracies
- B. higher than in most other developed democracies
- C. roughly equal to turnout in midterm congressional elections
- D. consistently above 90 percent of the voting-eligible population

115. Interest groups influence the political process most directly through

- A. controlling the nomination of all federal judges
- B. requiring members of Congress to follow group voting instructions
- C. operating their own independent court systems
- D. lobbying, campaign contributions, grassroots mobilization, and litigation

116. Public opinion is most reliably measured through

- A. counting letters written to elected officials by constituents
- B. statistically representative survey research with carefully designed questions
- C. analyzing comments posted on social media platforms
- D. interviewing politicians and lobbyists about voter sentiment

117. Parliamentary systems differ from presidential systems primarily in that the executive in a parliamentary system is

- A. drawn from and accountable to the legislative majority
- B. directly elected by voters in a separate national election
- C. appointed by the head of state without legislative approval
- D. limited to a single fixed term independent of legislative confidence

118. 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

119. NATO is best described as

- A. a global trade organization regulating international tariffs
- B. a humanitarian organization coordinating disaster relief
- C. a research organization studying climate and ocean patterns

D. a collective defense alliance currently composed of more than thirty member states

120. The Paris Agreement of 2015 commits signatory countries to

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

121. The doctrine of incorporation refers to the Supreme Court's progressive application of

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

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

- A. all corporate political spending must be disclosed to federal regulators
- B. corporations and unions may not make any independent political expenditures
- C. corporations and unions have free speech rights to make independent political expenditures
- D. campaign contributions to candidates may be unlimited if disclosed publicly

SECTION V — ECONOMICS (Questions 123–140)

123. The fundamental economic problem that gives rise to the discipline of economics is

- A. inflation 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 opportunity cost of attending college full-time is best described as

- A. the total amount of tuition and fees paid to the institution
- B. the average salary of college graduates in the workforce
- C. the cost of textbooks and required course materials only
- D. the wages and benefits forgone by not working full-time during enrollment

125. The Production Possibilities Curve illustrates which of the following concepts?

- A. Scarcity, opportunity cost, and the trade-offs an economy faces
- B. The relationship between inflation and unemployment in macroeconomics
- C. The aggregation of household consumption into national output
- D. The relationship between exchange rates and trade balances

126. The law of demand states that, all else equal, as the price of a good rises,

- A. the quantity demanded rises in proportion to the price
- B. consumer income automatically increases to compensate

- C. the quantity demanded falls
- D. the quantity demanded remains constant regardless of price

127. A shortage in a competitive market occurs when

- A. quantity supplied exceeds quantity demanded at the prevailing price
- B. quantity demanded exceeds quantity supplied at the prevailing price
- C. the government imposes a price floor above 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. The law of diminishing returns states that as additional units of a variable input are added to fixed inputs, the marginal product of the variable input

- A. continues to rise indefinitely without limit
- B. always remains constant across output levels
- C. equals the average product at all production levels
- D. eventually declines

130. A firm operating in perfect competition is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT

- A. many sellers producing identical products
- B. firms acting as price takers rather than price setters
- C. significant barriers preventing new firms from entering
- D. easy entry and exit of firms in the long run

131. A monopoly market structure is most likely to result in

- A. lower prices and higher output than would prevail under competition
- B. higher prices and lower output than would prevail under competition
- C. complete elimination of all firm profits over time
- D. perfect information for all market participants in equilibrium

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

- A. externalities, public goods, information asymmetries, and significant market power
- B. all transactions between voluntary buyers and sellers in markets
- 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

- A. the total wealth held by a country's residents at a given moment
- B. the average income earned by households in a country
- C. the total market value of final goods and services produced within a country in a given period
- D. the total volume of international trade conducted by a country

134. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used primarily to measure

- A. average household savings rates across income groups
- B. the unemployment rate among urban industrial workers
- C. the value of corporate stock prices on major exchanges
- D. inflation through the cost of a representative basket of consumer goods

135. A worker who has lost a job because of a downturn in the business cycle is best classified as experiencing

- A. frictional unemployment
- B. cyclical unemployment
- C. structural unemployment
- D. seasonal unemployment

136. The three core functions of money are to serve as a

- A. medium of exchange, store of value, and unit of account
- B. tool of fiscal policy, source of inflation, and basis of taxation
- C. measure of GDP, indicator of growth, and predictor of recessions
- D. store of value, unit of account, and means of international trade

137. The Federal Reserve System's primary tools for conducting monetary policy include

- A. setting federal income tax rates and Social Security benefit levels
- B. determining the federal minimum wage and unemployment rules
- C. negotiating international trade agreements and tariff schedules

D. open market operations, the reserve requirement, and the discount rate

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

A. increases in interest rates and reductions in money supply

B. cuts in federal spending combined with tax increases

C. increases in government spending, tax cuts, or both

D. restrictions on international trade and capital flows

139. The principle of comparative advantage holds that nations gain from international trade by

A. eliminating all imports through high tariffs

B. specializing in the goods in which they have lower opportunity costs

C. limiting trade to nations with similar resource endowments

D. producing exclusively the goods in which they have absolute advantage

140. The Gini coefficient is used to measure

A. income or wealth inequality within a country

B. the rate of inflation in consumer prices over time

C. the value of currency in international exchange

D. the productivity of agricultural land

PRACTICE EXAM 7 — ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

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

1. D — The Mississippian culture is best known for its construction of the urban center of Cahokia near present-day St. Louis, the largest pre-Columbian city north of Mexico with a peak population of perhaps 20,000. The civilization was characterized by elaborate earthen mound construction and extensive trade networks.
2. B — St. Augustine, founded in 1565 by Spanish explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, is the oldest continuously occupied European-established settlement in the present-day United States. It predates Jamestown (1607) and Plymouth (1620) by decades and reflects the early Spanish presence in North America.
3. A — The New England Confederation of 1643 was formed primarily to coordinate defense against Native American resistance and Dutch colonial expansion. Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven joined the alliance, which functioned for several decades and prefigured later colonial cooperation.
4. C — Mercantilism held that colonies existed primarily to enrich the mother country through controlled trade — supplying raw materials and serving as captive markets for finished goods. The Navigation Acts (beginning in 1651) enforced these principles by restricting colonial trade to British ships and ports.
5. D — The First Continental Congress was assembled in September 1774 to coordinate colonial responses to the Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts) that Britain had imposed after the Boston Tea Party. Twelve of the thirteen colonies sent delegates and agreed to a coordinated boycott of British goods.
6. B — Paine's *Common Sense* served the purpose of persuading colonists to support American independence from Britain. Published in January 1776, it sold an extraordinary 120,000 copies in three months and made the case for independence in plain, accessible prose.
7. A — The Battle of Yorktown (October 1781) effectively ended major fighting in the American Revolution when British General Cornwallis surrendered to Washington's combined American and French forces. The Treaty of Paris formally ending the war was signed nearly two years later in 1783.

8. C — The Land Ordinance of 1785 established a rectangular survey system for selling federal lands in the Northwest, dividing land into townships of 36 square miles. This grid system became the foundation for property ownership across most of the western United States.
9. 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.
10. D — The Hartford Convention of 1814–1815 was a meeting of New England Federalists who opposed the War of 1812 and Republican policies. The convention discussed possible constitutional amendments and even secession; it discredited the Federalist Party, which collapsed after the war's successful conclusion.
11. A — The Erie Canal connected the Great Lakes to the Hudson River, dramatically reducing shipping costs from the Midwest to New York and the Atlantic. It transformed New York City into the nation's premier commercial center; shipping costs dropped by roughly 90 percent.
12. C — The Nullification Crisis of 1832–1833 centered on South Carolina's resistance to federal authority, specifically the federal tariff of 1828 (the "Tariff of Abominations"). South Carolina passed an Ordinance of Nullification declaring the tariff void; Andrew Jackson responded with the threat of military force.
13. B — The American System emphasized economic nationalism through tariffs, a national bank, and internal improvements — not the abolition of slavery. Henry Clay was a slaveholder who supported the program of national economic development without challenging the institution of slavery.
14. A — "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 Wilmot Proviso, attached to an 1846 appropriations bill, sought to prohibit slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico in the Mexican-American War. Though it failed to pass the Senate, it dramatized the sectional conflict over slavery's expansion.
16. C — The Republican Party emerged in 1854 primarily in opposition to the expansion of slavery into the western territories, especially in the wake of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The party's commitment was not to immediate abolition but to preventing slavery's geographic spread.
17. A — 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.
18. B — Black Codes were enacted in former Confederate states to restrict the freedoms of formerly enslaved African Americans, controlling labor, movement, and civil rights. Their enactment

provoked Radical Republicans in Congress to override President Andrew Johnson's lenient Reconstruction policies.

19. D — The Pendleton Civil Service Act of 1883 established merit-based competitive examinations for federal hiring, beginning the gradual replacement of the spoils system with a professional civil service. It was passed in the wake of President Garfield's assassination by a disappointed office-seeker.
20. C — The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first federal law restricting immigration based on nationality, banning Chinese laborers from entry and denying naturalization to Chinese already in the country. It represented a major precedent for later restrictive immigration laws.
21. A — Federal troops dispatched by President Cleveland broke the Pullman Strike over the strenuous objections of Illinois Governor John Altgeld. The intervention crushed the strike and the American Railway Union, illustrating how federal power was deployed against labor in the late nineteenth century.
22. B — The Federal Reserve Act of 1913 established the central banking system of the United States. The Fed was created in response to recurring financial panics, including the Panic of 1907, and was structured as a hybrid public-private institution with regional reserve banks.
23. D — The Senate's rejection of the Treaty of Versailles, led by Henry Cabot Lodge, focused on concerns about American sovereignty under the League of Nations covenant — particularly Article X, which committed members to mutual defense. As a result, the United States never joined the League.
24. A — The TVA was a New Deal program that brought electrification, flood control, and economic development to the Tennessee River valley — a poor rural region that had been bypassed by previous private investment. It remains one of the most ambitious regional development projects in American history.
25. C — Lend-Lease authorized the President to provide military equipment and supplies to nations whose defense the President deemed vital to American security — most importantly Britain and the Soviet Union. It marked a major step away from neutrality before formal American entry into World War II.
26. B — The Truman Doctrine pledged to support "free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures." Initially applied to Greece and Turkey, the doctrine became foundational to American Cold War containment policy.
27. A — The G.I. Bill provided returning World War II veterans with funding for higher education and low-interest home loans. The legislation transformed American higher education and homeownership patterns and contributed substantially to postwar middle-class expansion.

28. C — The 1957 desegregation crisis at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, where Governor Orval Faubus blocked integration, required federal intervention by President Eisenhower. Eisenhower deployed the 101st Airborne Division to enforce the court-ordered admission of nine Black students.
29. D — The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination in employment (Title VII), public accommodations (Title II), and federally funded programs (Title VI), as well as in education and other domains. It was the most comprehensive civil rights legislation since Reconstruction.
30. B — The Twenty-Sixth Amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18, partly in response to the argument that 18-year-olds drafted to fight in Vietnam should also be entitled to vote. The Vietnam War provided the political momentum for the amendment's rapid ratification.
31. A — The Camp David Accords (1978) established peace between Egypt and Israel, leading to the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty of 1979. The Accords were brokered by President Jimmy Carter and remain one of the most significant diplomatic achievements in modern Middle Eastern history.
32. C — The Iran-Contra affair involved the secret sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to fund the Nicaraguan Contras, despite a congressional ban on such aid. The scandal damaged the Reagan administration but did not result in presidential impeachment.
33. D — The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 entitled eligible workers to up to twelve weeks of unpaid leave for family or medical reasons without losing their jobs or health benefits. The law applied to employers with fifty or more employees.
34. 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.
35. B — The Bay of Pigs invasion was a CIA-backed operation in which roughly 1,400 Cuban exiles attempted to overthrow Castro's government. The invasion was a humiliating failure that strengthened Castro domestically and drove him further toward the Soviet Union.
36. D — The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed in the immediate aftermath of the Selma to Montgomery march, including the brutal "Bloody Sunday" attack on demonstrators at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The march's televised violence created decisive momentum for federal voting rights legislation.
37. C — The OPEC oil embargo of 1973 was a response to American military assistance to Israel during the Yom Kippur War. The embargo produced the first major oil crisis of the modern era, dramatically raising prices and reshaping American energy policy.

38. A — The Election of 1860 brought Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party's nominee, to the presidency. His victory in a four-way race triggered the secession of South Carolina and ten other Southern states, leading directly to the Civil War.
39. C — 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.
40. B — The Gilded Age was characterized by rapid industrial growth, urban expansion, immigration, and significant inequality. The term, coined by Mark Twain, captured the era's combination of glittering wealth at the top with widespread hardship for industrial workers and farmers.

SECTION II — WORLD HISTORY (Questions 41–71)

41. D — The earliest known civilizations emerged in river valleys with fertile alluvial soil and reliable water supply: Mesopotamia (Tigris-Euphrates), Egypt (Nile), the Indus Valley, and northern China (Yellow River). Annual flooding deposited fertile silt and supported intensive agriculture for dense populations.
42. C — The Phoenicians developed an alphabet of approximately 22 consonant signs that the Greeks adapted by adding vowels. The Phoenician alphabet became the basis for Greek, Latin, and most modern European scripts. The Phoenicians were also major maritime traders but did not establish a centralized empire.
43. A — The Persian Empire pioneered administrative practices including provincial governors (satraps), an extensive royal road system, and notable religious tolerance toward conquered populations. These innovations enabled effective rule over a vast territory stretching from the Indus to the Mediterranean.
44. B — *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.
45. D — Ashoka converted to Buddhism after a particularly bloody military campaign in Kalinga, renounced further wars of conquest, and promoted Buddhist principles through edicts inscribed on pillars across his empire. He is often regarded as one of the great moral rulers of antiquity.
46. A — The Code of Justinian (the *Corpus Juris Civilis*), compiled in the sixth century under Emperor Justinian, systematized centuries of Roman legal development. It became the foundation of legal systems throughout continental Europe and Latin America and influences modern civil law traditions today.
47. C — Islam's rapid seventh-century expansion was facilitated by the political and military weakness of the Byzantine and Sasanian empires, which had exhausted themselves in long wars against one

another. Many subject populations welcomed or accepted Muslim rule as preferable to their previous overlords.

48. B — The Mongol conquests, despite their initial brutality, produced the *Pax Mongolica* — a period of relative security across Eurasia that intensified Silk Road trade, communication, and cultural exchange. The Black Death itself likely traveled westward along Mongol-controlled trade routes.
49. D — The Black Death killed approximately one-third of Europe's population, producing a labor shortage that significantly increased the bargaining power of surviving peasants and accelerated the breakdown of serfdom in Western Europe. It also strained religious institutions and produced anti-Jewish pogroms in many regions.
50. A — The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), mediated by Pope Alexander VI, divided non-Christian overseas claims between Spain and Portugal. Spain received lands west of an imagined line in the Atlantic; Portugal received lands east of it. The line ultimately gave Brazil to Portugal and most of the Americas to Spain.
51. C — The *encomienda* system granted Spanish colonizers the right to extract labor and tribute from indigenous communities. Combined with catastrophic disease, the system devastated indigenous populations during the early colonial period and was a foundational institution of Spanish colonial rule.
52. B — The Council of Trent (1545–1563) was the Catholic Counter-Reformation's formal response to the Protestant challenge. It clarified Catholic doctrine, reformed Church practices, and energized Catholic missionary work. It rejected most Protestant theological innovations while addressing some genuine abuses.
53. A — The Seven Years' War was fought across Europe (where it pitted Prussia and Britain against Austria, France, Russia, and Sweden), North America (the French and Indian War), the Caribbean, West Africa, and India. Its global scope distinguishes it from earlier purely European conflicts.
54. D — The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, adopted by the French National Assembly in August 1789, articulated the foundational principles of the French Revolution: liberty, equality, property, security, and resistance to oppression. It echoes Enlightenment political philosophy.
55. C — Napoleon's 1808 invasion of the Iberian Peninsula deposed both the Spanish and Portuguese monarchies and created a crisis of legitimacy in their American colonies. Creole elites increasingly came to favor independence, and the wars of independence followed across most of Spanish and Portuguese America.
56. B — The earliest factories of the Industrial Revolution used water-powered machinery driven by streams and rivers, which is why the first industrial mills clustered along swift-flowing rivers in places like northern England and New England. Steam power followed and eventually surpassed water power.

57. C — The Opium Wars resulted in unequal treaties imposing extraterritoriality (immunity of foreign citizens from Chinese law), treaty ports open to foreign trade, and significant territorial concessions including the cession of Hong Kong to Britain. The treaties initiated a "century of humiliation" in Chinese historical memory.
58. 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."
59. D — The Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905) was the first major modern military victory of an Asian power over a European one. Japan's victory over Russia signaled Japan's emergence as a great power and challenged European assumptions about racial and military hierarchies.
60. B — 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.
61. C — 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.
62. 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.
63. D — 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.
64. B — Both the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League supported the eventual independence of India from British rule, though they differed sharply on its terms — the Muslim League under Jinnah ultimately demanded a separate Muslim state, leading to Partition in 1947.
65. C — The Korean War ended with an armistice in 1953 that left Korea divided along the 38th parallel, where it remains today. No formal peace treaty has ever been signed, and the Korean War technically continues in legal terms.
66. A — 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, becoming a defining issue in Cold War Latin America.

67. D — The Vietnam War ended in 1975 with the fall of Saigon to North Vietnamese forces and the reunification of Vietnam under Communist rule. The collapse of South Vietnam followed the withdrawal of American forces under the 1973 Paris Peace Accords.
68. 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.
69. 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.
70. C — 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. D — September 11 led most directly to the invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001 and to the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, which dramatically expanded federal surveillance and law enforcement authority. The Department of Homeland Security was established the following year.

SECTION III — GEOGRAPHY (Questions 72–90)

72. B — The Mercator projection's defining feature is that any straight line on the map represents a constant compass bearing, making it ideal for marine navigation. The trade-off is severe area distortion at high latitudes, where land masses appear vastly larger than they actually are.
73. A — A region defined by daily commuting patterns and economic interactions surrounding a major city is a functional region organized around a central node. Metropolitan areas, trade hinterlands, and broadcast coverage areas are all examples of functional regions defined by connections rather than uniform features.
74. C — GPS receivers determine location through trilateration based on signals from at least four navigation satellites. Each satellite broadcasts its position and the precise time; the receiver calculates its distance from each satellite based on signal travel time and uses these distances to compute its position.
75. B — The greenhouse effect is the process by which certain atmospheric gases — carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, and others — trap heat near the Earth's surface, raising surface temperatures. The natural greenhouse effect makes Earth habitable; anthropogenic increases are driving climate change.
76. D — 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.

77. A — 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.
78. C — The Ganges River valley of South Asia is one of the world's most densely populated regions, supporting hundreds of millions of people through intensive irrigated agriculture on alluvial soil. The Australian Outback, the Sahara Desert, and the Siberian boreal forest are all sparsely populated.
79. B — "Brain drain" refers to the emigration of highly educated and skilled professionals — doctors, engineers, scientists, technicians — from their home countries to wealthier destinations. The phenomenon represents a significant cost to sending countries that have invested in their citizens' education.
80. D — Christianity is the world's largest religion by number of adherents, with approximately 2.4 billion followers globally. Islam is the second-largest at approximately 1.9 billion. Hinduism follows at approximately 1.2 billion, with Buddhism considerably smaller.
81. A — A pidgin is a simplified contact language that emerges between groups speaking different first languages, used primarily for trade or work. A creole develops when a pidgin becomes the first language of subsequent generations and acquires fully developed grammar and vocabulary.
82. C — The Concentric Zone Model (Burgess, 1925) describes the city as a series of rings around a central business district. The pattern moves from the CBD outward through inner-city industry and lower-income housing to working-class housing and finally middle- and upper-class suburbs.
83. B — The four sectors are primary (extraction of raw materials), secondary (manufacturing), tertiary (services), and quaternary (information-based services). Pre-industrial economies are dominated by the primary sector; post-industrial economies are dominated by tertiary and quaternary services.
84. D — A nation-state is a state whose population shares a single national identity. True nation-states are relatively rare; most states are multinational, containing multiple national groups, and many nations lack states of their own.
85. A — Geometric political boundaries are drawn as straight lines, often along latitude or longitude, without regard to physical or cultural features. The U.S.–Canada border west of the Great Lakes and many African borders established at the Berlin Conference are examples.
86. C — NATO was established in 1949 as a collective defense alliance among Western democracies in response to the perceived threat of Soviet expansion in Europe. It was the first peacetime military alliance in American history. Article 5 commits members to mutual defense if any member is attacked.

87. D — 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.
88. B — 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.
89. A — The Demographic Transition Model describes a typical sequence in which countries move from high birth and death rates, through a period of rapid population growth as death rates fall first, to low birth and death rates as societies industrialize and urbanize.
90. C — Hurricanes form over warm ocean water in tropical and subtropical latitudes during summer and early fall, when sea surface temperatures are at their highest. They require warm water, atmospheric instability, and sufficient distance from the equator for the Coriolis effect to produce rotation.

SECTION IV — CIVICS (Questions 91–122)

91. B — John Locke argued that the fundamental purpose of government is to protect the natural rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property. When government fails this purpose, citizens retain the right of revolution. Locke's framework directly shaped the Declaration of Independence.
92. D — Montesquieu's most influential contribution was the principle of separation of powers among legislative, executive, and judicial branches as a safeguard against tyranny. James Madison explicitly cited Montesquieu in *Federalist No. 47* as the authority on this principle.
93. A — The Articles of Confederation failed primarily because the national government lacked authority to tax, regulate commerce, or enforce its own laws. The result was an ineffective national government unable to pay debts, enforce treaties, or respond to crises like Shays' Rebellion.
94. C — The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 established a process for organizing territories and admitting new states from the lands north of the Ohio River and prohibited slavery in those territories. It was the most significant achievement of the Confederation Congress.
95. D — Federalism is the constitutional principle dividing power between the federal government and state governments. Separation of powers divides authority horizontally among branches at the same level; federalism divides it vertically between national and state levels.
96. A — The Tenth Amendment provides that powers not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states or the people. This is the constitutional articulation of the principle of reserved powers.
97. B — The Senate's authority to confirm presidential appointments to the federal judiciary is a textbook example of checks and balances: one branch (the executive) makes the appointment, but another branch (the legislature) must approve it.

98. D — Judicial review was established in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), in which Chief Justice John Marshall declared that "it is emphatically the duty of the Judicial Department to say what the law is." The decision transformed the federal judiciary into a coequal branch of government.
99. C — The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution primarily in response to Anti-Federalist concerns during the ratification debate that the original document did not adequately protect individual liberties against the new federal government.
100. 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 Clauses), speech, press, assembly, and petition.
101. D — The Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause has been the constitutional vehicle through which the Supreme Court has applied most provisions of the Bill of Rights to state governments through the doctrine of incorporation. Originally, the Bill of Rights restricted only the federal government.
102. B — *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) held that suspects in custody must be informed of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney before being interrogated. The "Miranda warning" became a foundational protection of Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights.
103. A — A bill that has passed both houses of Congress in identical form is sent to the President, who may sign it into law, veto it and return it to Congress with objections, or take no action. If Congress is in session, an unsigned bill becomes law after 10 days; if Congress adjourns, it is pocket-vetoed.
104. C — 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.
105. D — The filibuster in the Senate can be ended through a cloture vote requiring 60 senators (three-fifths of the chamber). The cloture requirement effectively means that most non-budget legislation requires 60 votes rather than a simple majority of 51 to pass the Senate.
106. B — The President serves as Commander in Chief of the armed forces and as the chief executive of the federal government. The President does not pass legislation (Congress does), is not a judicial officer, and is constitutionally part of the executive branch, not the legislative branch.
107. A — The Twenty-Second Amendment limits the President to two elected terms in office. It was adopted in 1951 in response to Franklin Roosevelt's four consecutive elections. A vice president who serves more than two years of another's term may be elected only once thereafter.
108. D — The federal Cabinet consists of the heads of the executive departments — State, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, Education, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security.

109. C — Mandatory federal spending consists primarily of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other entitlement programs whose spending levels are determined by existing law rather than annual appropriations. Mandatory spending has grown to consume more than 60 percent of the federal budget.
110. B — The Sixteenth Amendment (1913) authorized the federal income tax. Earlier income taxes had been struck down as unconstitutional direct taxes; the Sixteenth Amendment removed this obstacle and laid the foundation for the modern federal tax system.
111. A — The Voting Rights Act of 1965 directly addressed literacy tests, poll taxes (in state elections), and other tools used to disenfranchise African American voters in the South. The Act dramatically increased African American voter registration and political participation.
112. D — Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. It has had wide-ranging effects on women's athletics, professional schools, and educational opportunities.
113. C — Civil liberties are protections of individual freedom from government interference, primarily negative rights such as those enshrined in the Bill of Rights. Civil rights, by contrast, are protections against discriminatory treatment, primarily positive rights of equal treatment.
114. A — Voter turnout in U.S. presidential elections is generally lower than in most other developed democracies, typically 50 to 65 percent of the voting-eligible population. Many other developed democracies achieve turnout of 75 percent or higher.
115. D — Interest groups influence the political process most directly through lobbying (direct communication with officials), campaign contributions (often through PACs and Super PACs), grassroots mobilization, and litigation in the courts.
116. B — Public opinion is most reliably measured through statistically representative survey research with carefully designed questions. Random sampling, appropriate weighting, and well-constructed questions produce reliable estimates within known margins of error.
117. A — In parliamentary systems, the executive (prime minister and cabinet) is drawn from and accountable to the legislative majority. The PM is the leader of the majority party or coalition and continues in office only as long as the legislature continues to support the government.
118. C — The United Nations 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.
119. D — 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.

120. B — 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.
121. A — 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.
122. C — *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.

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 opportunity cost of attending college full-time is the value of the next-best alternative given up — primarily the wages and benefits forgone by not working full-time during enrollment. Tuition and fees are explicit costs; the forgone wages are the implicit (opportunity) cost.
125. A — 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.
126. C — The law of demand states that as the price of a good rises, the quantity demanded falls, all else equal. The relationship is captured graphically as a downward-sloping demand curve. The intuition is that fewer consumers are willing and able to buy at higher prices.
127. B — A shortage occurs when quantity demanded exceeds quantity supplied at the prevailing price. Shortages typically arise when prices are set below equilibrium (by price ceilings or temporarily out-of-equilibrium markets). The price mechanism then pushes prices up 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). Their respective earnings are rent, wages, interest, and profit.
129. D — The law of diminishing returns states that as additional units of a variable input are added to fixed inputs, the marginal product of the variable input eventually declines. The principle explains why, beyond some point, adding more workers to a fixed workspace produces progressively smaller output gains.
130. C — Perfect competition is characterized by easy entry and exit; significant barriers preventing new firms from entering would describe an oligopoly or monopoly. Perfect competition also features many sellers, identical products, and price-taking behavior by individual firms.

131. B — A monopoly market structure is most likely to result in higher prices and lower output than would prevail under competition, because a monopolist restricts production to maximize profit. Monopoly typically generates economic profits but reduces consumer welfare and overall efficiency.
132. A — Government intervention in markets is most commonly justified by economists in cases of market failure — externalities (pollution, public goods underprovision), public goods, information asymmetries, and significant market power. These failures cause unregulated markets to produce inefficient outcomes.
133. C — Gross Domestic Product measures the total market value of final goods and services produced within a country's borders during a given period. GDP is calculated through the expenditure approach as $C + I + G + (X - M)$.
134. D — 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. B — Cyclical unemployment results from downturns in the business cycle, when aggregate demand falls and firms reduce hiring. Frictional unemployment reflects normal job transitions; structural unemployment reflects skill mismatches; seasonal unemployment reflects predictable seasonal variations.
136. A — The three core functions of money are to serve as a medium of exchange (eliminating the need for barter), a store of value (preserving purchasing power across time), and a unit of account (providing a common measure for comparing values).
137. D — The Federal Reserve's primary tools for conducting monetary policy are open market operations (buying and selling government securities, the most frequently used tool), the reserve requirement (rarely changed), and the discount rate. Tax rates and Social Security are fiscal policy, not monetary policy.
138. C — Expansionary fiscal policy designed to combat a recession typically includes increases in government spending, tax cuts, or both. These actions stimulate aggregate demand and typically increase the budget deficit during the recession.
139. B — The principle of comparative advantage holds that nations gain from international trade by specializing in the goods in which they have lower opportunity costs of production, even if they have absolute advantage (or disadvantage) in every good. Specialization allows both nations to consume more than autarky would permit.
140. A — 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.