

PRACTICE EXAM 17: USHG FRAMEWORK SIMULATION

PART I — STIMULUS-BASED MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Directions (1–28): For each statement or question, record on your separate answer sheet the number of the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question.

Base your answers to questions 1 through 3 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"Each State retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every Power, Jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled... The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other..."

— Articles of Confederation, ratified 1781

1. The Articles of Confederation created a national government that
 - A. concentrated executive authority in the office of a single American president
 - B. authorized the federal Congress to levy direct taxes on all American citizens
 - C. established a federal judicial system with the power to overturn state court rulings
 - D. left primary sovereignty with the individual states rather than the central government

2. A major weakness of the Articles of Confederation was the inability of the federal Congress to

- A. propose constitutional amendments for ratification by all of the state legislatures
- B. levy taxes directly on American citizens or regulate interstate and foreign commerce
- C. coordinate any military action between the federal government and the state militias
- D. negotiate treaties of peace and trade with foreign governments such as France

3. A major event that exposed the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation was the

- A. outbreak of Shays's Rebellion in western Massachusetts during 1786 and 1787
- B. ratification of the Bill of Rights as the first ten amendments to the federal Constitution
- C. negotiation of the Treaty of Paris that ended the American Revolutionary War
- D. founding of the Bank of the United States by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton

Base your answers to questions 4 and 5 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"An Act laying an Embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States... an embargo be, and hereby is laid on all ships and vessels in the ports and places within the limits or jurisdiction of the United States, cleared or not cleared, bound to any foreign port or place."

— Embargo Act, December 1807

4. The primary purpose of the Embargo Act of 1807 was to
- A. encourage rapid American expansion into the territories of the western frontier
 - B. fund the construction of federal roads, canals, and other internal improvements
 - C. pressure Britain and France to respect American shipping rights without going to war
 - D. expand American commercial trade with the European powers during the Napoleonic Wars

5. A major consequence of the Embargo Act was the
- A. severe economic damage to New England merchants and to American export industries
 - B. immediate ratification of a constitutional amendment regulating American foreign trade
 - C. permanent restoration of friendly commercial relations between Britain and France
 - D. ratification of an amendment increasing the federal authority over American foreign commerce

Base your answers to questions 6 and 7 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"We, therefore, the People of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain... that the several acts and parts of acts of the Congress of the United States, purporting to be laws for the imposing duties and imposts on the importation of foreign commodities... are unauthorized by the Constitution of the United States, and violate the true meaning and intent thereof, and are null, void, and no law..."

— South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification, November 1832

6. The South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification was a response to

- A. the federal Indian Removal Act passed under President Andrew Jackson during the 1830s
- B. President Andrew Jackson's veto of the recharter of the Second Bank of the United States
- C. the federal Fugitive Slave Act passed as part of the broader Compromise of 1850
- D. federal tariff laws that South Carolinians viewed as harmful to the southern agricultural economy

7. President Andrew Jackson's response to the South Carolina Ordinance was to

- A. immediately accept the South Carolina nullification and repeal the disputed federal tariff laws
- B. authorize the immediate secession of South Carolina from the federal Union of the United States
- C. issue a proclamation rejecting nullification and seek authority to enforce federal law by force
- D. surrender executive authority to the United States Senate for managing the federal tariff dispute

Base your answers to questions 8 and 9 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"It was a new and special revelation, explaining dark and mysterious things, with which my youthful understanding had struggled, but struggled in vain. I now understood what had been to me a most perplexing difficulty—to wit, the white man's power to enslave the black man... From that moment, I understood the pathway from slavery to freedom."

— Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, 1845

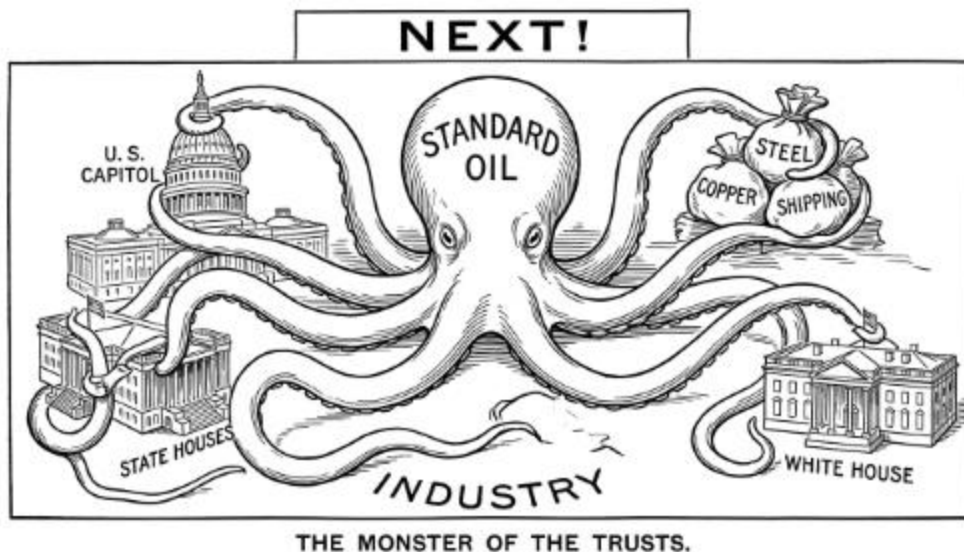
8. In this passage, Douglass describes the moment he came to understand that

- A. the southern planter class would voluntarily abolish slavery within the next few decades
- B. literacy and education were the key means by which enslaved persons could resist enslavement
- C. the federal government would soon use military force to end slavery throughout the United States
- D. enslaved persons should immediately leave the United States to settle in West Africa

9. Douglass's Narrative is significant in United States history because it

- A. provided a powerful firsthand abolitionist account that influenced northern public opinion
- B. served as the official legal record of enslaved persons in the southern plantation states
- C. provided the legal basis for the federal Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln
- D. demonstrated that the southern slaveholding economy could not survive without expansion

Base your answers to questions 10 and 11 on the political cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



10. The cartoonist's main point in this image is that

- A. the Standard Oil Company offered consumers fair and competitive prices for petroleum products
- B. the Standard Oil Company should expand its operations into the foreign markets of East Asia
- C. the federal government should provide significant financial subsidies to the Standard Oil Company
- D. the Standard Oil Company had grown so powerful that it threatened to dominate government and industry

11. A federal legislative response to the kind of concentration shown in this cartoon was the

- A. ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment establishing the nationwide prohibition of alcohol
- B. passage of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act significantly raising taxes on imported foreign goods
- C. passage of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 banning combinations in restraint of trade
- D. enactment of the Pure Food and Drug Act regulating the labeling of consumer food products

Base your answers to questions 12 and 13 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"Remember the Maine, to hell with Spain!" Following the unexplained explosion of the United States battleship Maine in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898, sensationalist newspapers controlled by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer blamed Spain for the disaster and demanded American military action..."

— Description of the events leading to the Spanish-American War, February 1898

12. The journalism described in this passage is most closely associated with

- A. the investigative muckraking reporting of writers such as Ida Tarbell and Lincoln Steffens
- B. the sensationalist style of reporting commonly known as "yellow journalism"
- C. the partisan press of the early American Republic during the Adams-Jefferson era
- D. the modern broadcast journalism of the postwar television networks during the 1950s

13. A direct outcome of the war that followed these events was the

- A. immediate American withdrawal from all political affairs of the Western Hemisphere
- B. independence of the Philippines and the immediate end of American territorial expansion overseas
- C. permanent restoration of Spanish colonial authority over the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico
- D. American acquisition of overseas territories including the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico

Base your answers to questions 14 and 15 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"The United States Government desires that the policy of the 'open door' shall be maintained in all parts of the Chinese Empire... that all powers shall enjoy equal commercial opportunities throughout the Chinese Empire, and that the territorial and administrative integrity of China shall be preserved..."

— Secretary of State John Hay, Open Door Note, 1899

14. The primary purpose of the Open Door Policy was to

- A. secure equal commercial trading opportunities for the United States in the Chinese market

- B. require the United States to immediately recognize the formal independence of all Chinese provinces
- C. authorize the establishment of American colonial rule over the territory of mainland China
- D. provide for the immediate American withdrawal of all naval and commercial vessels from East Asia

15. The Open Door Policy reflected a broader American interest in

- A. complete American military withdrawal from the regions of the Pacific Ocean and East Asia
- B. immediate American membership in the European colonial empires of the late nineteenth century
- C. expanding American economic and commercial influence in the Asian markets of the world
- D. forming a permanent military alliance between the United States and the Qing imperial government

Base your answers to questions 16 and 17 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

— Sixteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified 1913

16. The Sixteenth Amendment changed the United States Constitution by

- A. abolishing the use of any literacy tests as a qualification for voting in federal elections
- B. authorizing the federal Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals and corporations
- C. providing for the direct popular election of United States senators in each individual state

D. extending the right to vote in federal elections to all women throughout the country

17. A primary purpose of the Sixteenth Amendment was to

A. transfer all federal revenue collection responsibilities to the individual state governments

B. immediately reduce the size of the federal government and limit federal spending on public programs

C. eliminate the federal tariff as the principal source of revenue for the federal government

D. provide the federal government with a flexible and reliable source of revenue for federal programs

Base your answers to questions 18 and 19 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"In May and June 1932, about 17,000 World War I veterans, joined by their families and supporters, marched on Washington, D.C., to demand early payment of a bonus that Congress had promised to pay in 1945. President Herbert Hoover refused to meet with the marchers, and federal troops under General Douglas MacArthur eventually drove them from their camps by force..."

— Description of the Bonus Army march on Washington, 1932

18. The Bonus Army march on Washington described in this passage took place during the

A. early years of the Great Depression with widespread unemployment among American workers

B. peak years of the American economic prosperity of the early 1920s after the First World War

C. period of full employment that followed American entry into the Second World War

D. early years of the postwar Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union

19. The federal response to the Bonus Army described in this passage contributed to
- A. the immediate increase in popular support for the continuation of the Hoover administration
 - B. the defeat of President Hoover by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the presidential election of 1932
 - C. the immediate adoption of the entire New Deal economic recovery program by the Hoover administration
 - D. the early American entry into the war effort against the Axis powers in the Second World War

Base your answers to questions 20 and 21 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"To improve the navigability and to provide for the flood control of the Tennessee River; to provide for reforestation and the proper use of marginal lands in the Tennessee Valley; to provide for the agricultural and industrial development of said valley; to provide for the national defense by the creation of a corporation for the operation of Government properties at and near Muscle Shoals in the State of Alabama..."

— Tennessee Valley Authority Act, May 1933

20. A primary purpose of the Tennessee Valley Authority was to
- A. provide a direct federal cash payment to all unemployed industrial workers in the United States
 - B. dismantle all federal regulation of the American electric power generation industry across the nation
 - C. develop the Tennessee River basin through flood control, electric power, and rural electrification
 - D. transfer authority over the Tennessee River basin to the individual state governments in that region

21. The Tennessee Valley Authority is most closely associated with

- A. the Square Deal reforms championed by President Theodore Roosevelt in the early 1900s
- B. the New Freedom reforms enacted under President Woodrow Wilson before the First World War
- C. the Great Society programs adopted under President Lyndon B. Johnson during the 1960s
- D. the New Deal programs adopted under President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the 1930s

Base your answers to questions 22 and 23 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"The President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom... deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world..."

— Atlantic Charter, August 1941

22. The Atlantic Charter, signed by Roosevelt and Churchill before American entry into World War II, set forth

- A. principles for a postwar world based on self-determination, free trade, and collective security
- B. plans for an immediate joint American and British declaration of war against Nazi Germany
- C. a formal political union between the United States and the British Commonwealth of Nations
- D. the immediate American military withdrawal from all engagements in the Atlantic theater

23. The principles set forth in the Atlantic Charter helped lay the foundation for the

- A. League of Nations established by President Wilson at the end of the First World War
- B. North Atlantic Treaty Organization formed by the United States and Western European nations
- C. United Nations established by the Allied powers at the conclusion of the Second World War
- D. Warsaw Pact military alliance formed by the Soviet Union and the nations of Eastern Europe

Base your answers to questions 24 and 25 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"On April 17, 1961, approximately 1,400 Cuban exiles, trained and equipped by the United States Central Intelligence Agency, landed at the Bay of Pigs on the southern coast of Cuba in an attempt to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro. The invasion failed within three days, embarrassing the newly inaugurated administration of President John F. Kennedy..."

— Description of the Bay of Pigs invasion, April 1961

24. The Bay of Pigs invasion was a direct response to

- A. the construction of the Berlin Wall dividing the eastern and western halves of the city of Berlin
- B. the establishment of a communist government in Cuba under the leadership of Fidel Castro
- C. the deployment of Soviet nuclear missiles to the island of Cuba during the autumn of 1962
- D. the successful Soviet launch of the Sputnik satellite into low Earth orbit in the autumn of 1957

25. The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion contributed to

- A. increased Cuban dependence on the Soviet Union and rising tensions in the Cold War
- B. the immediate restoration of full diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States
- C. the long-term economic prosperity of the Cuban people during the 1960s and the 1970s
- D. the formal withdrawal of the United States from its commitment to the policy of containment

Base your answers to questions 26 through 28 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"On August 9, 1974, President Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency, the first chief executive ever to do so, after the release of recordings demonstrating that he had personally directed efforts to obstruct the investigation of a 1972 break-in at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate complex..."

— Description of the resignation of President Nixon, August 1974

26. A primary cause of President Nixon's resignation was

- A. the United States military defeat in the Vietnam War and the fall of the city of Saigon in 1975
- B. the energy crisis brought on by the Arab oil embargo against the United States during 1973
- C. evidence that the president had directed the obstruction of an FBI investigation of the burglary
- D. the federal economic policy decisions that resulted in widespread industrial unemployment

27. The Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Nixon* (1974), which led to the release of the tapes, established that

- A. the president of the United States has complete and unlimited executive privilege over all communications
- B. the president cannot withhold evidence relevant to a criminal investigation under a claim of executive privilege
- C. all internal White House communications are permanently exempt from any disclosure to the federal courts
- D. the federal courts have no authority to review actions taken by the president while in the office

28. A long-term consequence of the Watergate scandal was the

- A. immediate expansion of federal presidential authority over all executive branch agencies and offices
- B. permanent abolition of the constitutional office of the vice president in the federal executive branch
- C. complete restoration of unified public trust in the federal government in the years that followed
- D. enactment of new federal ethics and campaign finance laws and increased public skepticism of government

PRACTICE EXAM 17 —ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

1. D — The Articles made the states the primary holders of political power, reserving to each "its sovereignty, freedom, and independence" and any power not expressly delegated to Congress. The national government was deliberately weak so that the new republic would not recreate the centralized authority the colonies had just rebelled against.

2. B — Congress under the Articles could request funds from the states but could not tax citizens directly, and it had no general power to regulate interstate or foreign trade. These twin shortcomings left the national government chronically underfunded and unable to manage commercial relations with other nations.

3. A — In 1786–1787, debt-burdened Massachusetts farmers led by Daniel Shays shut down county courts to block foreclosures, and the Confederation government proved powerless to help suppress the uprising. The episode convinced many leaders that a stronger national government was necessary and prompted the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

- 4. C** — Jefferson hoped that cutting off American trade would force Britain and France, then locked in the Napoleonic Wars, to stop seizing American ships and impressing American sailors. The embargo was meant as a peaceful economic alternative to war between the United States and the European belligerents.
- 5. A** — Cut off from foreign markets, New England shipping, fishing, and exporting industries collapsed, and smuggling and protest spread across the region. The economic damage was so severe that the embargo was repealed in 1809 and contributed to deep New England hostility to the Madison administration during the War of 1812.
- 6. D** — South Carolina objected to the Tariffs of 1828 and 1832, denouncing them as the "Tariff of Abominations" because they protected northern manufacturing at the expense of southern planters who depended on imports and on foreign markets for cotton. The state's elite saw the tariffs as direct evidence that federal power was being used against southern economic interests.
- 7. C** — Jackson issued the Nullification Proclamation denouncing nullification as treason, asked Congress for the Force Bill authorizing him to use the military to collect federal duties, and quietly supported a compromise tariff. The confrontation produced a temporary settlement but reaffirmed federal supremacy over state objections.
- 8. B** — Recalling the moment his master forbade his wife from teaching him to read, Douglass realized that keeping enslaved people illiterate was central to keeping them enslaved. The passage names literacy and education as the "pathway from slavery to freedom," shaping Douglass's lifelong emphasis on learning and self-improvement.
- 9. A** — Douglass's vivid, articulate firsthand account of slavery undermined proslavery claims that enslaved people were content or incapable, and it became a best-seller across the northern free states and in Britain. His writing and lectures made him one of the most influential abolitionist voices in the nineteenth century.
- 10. D** — The octopus's tentacles wrap around the Capitol, the White House, state houses, and major industries such as copper, steel, and shipping, illustrating that Standard Oil's reach extended through both government and the broader economy. The "Next!" banner warns that the trust intended to keep expanding its grip.
- 11. C** — The Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 made every "contract, combination, or conspiracy in restraint of trade" illegal under federal law and authorized criminal and civil enforcement. It became the principal legal tool used to break up Standard Oil itself in 1911.
- 12. B** — "Yellow journalism," practiced especially by Joseph Pulitzer's *World* and William Randolph Hearst's *Journal*, relied on exaggerated headlines, lurid illustrations, and emotional appeals to drive circulation. Its sensational coverage of the *Maine* explosion helped push American public opinion toward war with Spain.
- 13. D** — Under the Treaty of Paris of 1898, Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States and granted Cuba formal independence. The acquisitions made the United States an Atlantic and Pacific colonial power and triggered an extended national debate over imperialism.

14. A — Hay's Open Door Notes asked the European powers and Japan to refrain from carving China into exclusive spheres of influence and to allow equal commercial access for all trading nations. American officials worried that exclusion from China would shut the United States out of one of the largest potential markets in the world.

15. C — The policy expressed an American commercial expansionism focused on markets rather than territorial colonies in Asia, reflecting both the growth of American industry and the search for outlets for surplus production. It set a long-term pattern of American interest in the Pacific.

16. B — The Sixteenth Amendment overturned the Supreme Court's *Pollock v. Farmers' Loan & Trust* (1895) decision and gave Congress the unambiguous constitutional authority to tax incomes directly without apportioning the tax among the states by population. It made the federal income tax permanent.

17. D — Income taxation gave the federal government a revenue source that could expand with the economy and provide steady financing for the growing federal role in regulation, defense, and social policy. The amendment proved essential to financing later programs, from the First World War to the New Deal and beyond.

18. A — By the spring of 1932, the Great Depression had pushed national unemployment above 20 percent, and many of the marching veterans had been jobless for years. The Bonus Army's plight reflected the desperate conditions that gripped American workers in the depths of the downturn.

19. B — Newsreels and photographs of cavalry, tanks, and tear gas being used against unarmed veterans and their families turned much of the public against Hoover and reinforced perceptions that the president lacked compassion. The political damage helped Roosevelt win a landslide victory in November 1932.

20. C — The TVA built dams to control floods, generated low-cost hydroelectric power, brought electricity to one of the poorest regions of the country, and promoted soil conservation and modernized agriculture. It was the boldest example of regional economic planning in New Deal policy.

21. D — The TVA Act was signed in May 1933 during the New Deal's "Hundred Days," alongside the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, and the National Industrial Recovery Act. It embodied the New Deal commitment to using federal authority to rebuild the depressed national economy.

22. A — The Atlantic Charter outlined eight principles, including no territorial aggrandizement, self-determination, freer trade, freedom of the seas, and a permanent system of "general security" for all nations. It became the ideological framework for the Allied war effort once the United States formally entered the war.

23. C — The Atlantic Charter's commitment to a postwar international organization for collective security led directly to the United Nations Declaration of January 1942 and to the founding conference held in San Francisco in 1945. The UN Charter incorporated many of the Atlantic Charter's basic principles.

24. B — Castro had taken power in January 1959, nationalized American-owned property, allied with the Soviet Union, and turned Cuba into a communist state ninety miles from Florida. The CIA-trained exile invasion was intended to spark an uprising that would topple his government.

25. A — Following the failed invasion, Castro openly declared himself a Marxist–Leninist and accelerated Cuba's military and economic integration with the Soviet bloc. The episode contributed directly to the Soviet decision to install nuclear missiles in Cuba in 1962, producing the missile crisis.

26. C — The release of the White House tape recordings showed that Nixon had personally directed efforts to use the CIA to interfere with the FBI's investigation of the Watergate burglary, making impeachment for obstruction of justice highly likely. Facing certain removal, Nixon chose to resign.

27. B — In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court held that while executive privilege has constitutional roots, it cannot be used to withhold evidence in a pending criminal case where the need for the evidence outweighs a generalized claim of confidentiality. The ruling forced Nixon to surrender the tapes that ended his presidency.

28. D — Congress passed a series of post-Watergate reforms, including amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act, the Ethics in Government Act, and the independent counsel statute, all aimed at constraining presidential power and improving political accountability. The scandal also produced a lasting decline in public confidence in the federal government.