

PRACTICE EXAM 51: 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.

In 1773, a group of colonists protesting British taxes boarded ships in Boston Harbor and dumped hundreds of chests of British tea into the water. In response, Britain passed the Intolerable Acts to punish Massachusetts.

— Description of the Boston Tea Party, 1773

1. The colonists who took part in the Boston Tea Party were protesting against
 - A. the establishment of an official church in the colonies
 - B. the presence of French troops near the colonial frontier
 - C. the lack of public schools in the colonies
 - D. taxes imposed on the colonists by the British government

2. Britain's response to the Boston Tea Party, the Intolerable Acts, was intended to
 - A. reward the colonists for their loyalty to the king
 - B. punish the colony of Massachusetts for the protest
 - C. grant the colonies greater self-government
 - D. lower the taxes the colonists were required to pay

3. Events like the Boston Tea Party contributed most directly to
 - A. the strengthening of British control over the colonies
 - B. the peaceful settlement of disputes with Britain
 - C. the growing movement toward American independence
 - D. the expansion of British trade with the colonies

Base your answers to questions 4 through 6 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Under the Constitution, the president is not chosen directly by the voters. Instead, voters in each state choose electors, who then cast the official votes for president. The number of electors each state has is based on its representation in Congress.

— Description of the Electoral College

4. According to this passage, the president of the United States is officially elected by

- A. electors chosen by the voters in each state
- B. the members of the United States Supreme Court
- C. the governors of each of the fifty states
- D. a direct popular vote of all American citizens

5. The number of electors each state receives is based on

- A. the total amount of land within the state's borders
- B. the wealth and tax revenue produced by the state
- C. the state's representation in the United States Congress
- D. the number of years the state has been in the Union

6. The Electoral College system was created by the framers of the Constitution as a

- A. way to give the federal courts power over elections
- B. method of allowing Congress to choose the president
- C. means of guaranteeing equal votes to every state
- D. compromise over how the president would be chosen

Base your answers to questions 7 through 9 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury... and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation... and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence."

— Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, 1791

7. This amendment guarantees a person accused of a crime the right to

- A. avoid paying any fines if found not guilty
- B. a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury
- C. be released from custody without posting bail
- D. appeal any conviction to the United States Senate

8. The phrase "Assistance of Counsel for his defence" in this amendment means that an accused person has the right to

- A. have a lawyer to help defend them in court
- B. choose the judge who will hear their case
- C. refuse to appear at their own trial
- D. select the members of the jury themselves

9. The Sixth Amendment is part of the section of the Constitution that protects the rights of individuals, known as the

- A. Preamble stating the goals of the government
- B. Articles establishing the three branches of government
- C. Reconstruction Amendments passed after the Civil War
- D. Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments

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

Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal connected the Great Lakes to the Hudson River and the port of New York City. It allowed goods and people to move more cheaply and quickly between the western frontier and eastern markets.

— Description of the Erie Canal

10. A major effect of the Erie Canal was that it

- A. ended all trade between the eastern and western states
- B. reduced the population of New York City
- C. lowered the cost of shipping goods and helped trade grow
- D. prevented settlers from moving to the western frontier

11. The building of the Erie Canal is an example of how improvements in transportation during this period helped to

- A. connect different regions and expand the national economy
- B. separate the western territories from the eastern states
- C. reduce the importance of cities along major waterways
- D. return the nation to a purely farming-based economy

Base your answers to questions 12 through 14 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Dorothea Dix worked to improve the treatment of people who were mentally ill and those held in prisons. Through her efforts, many states built hospitals to care for the mentally ill rather than housing them in jails under harsh conditions.

— Description of the work of Dorothea Dix

12. Dorothea Dix is best known for her work to

- A. expand the right of women to vote in elections
- B. improve the treatment of the mentally ill and prisoners
- C. end the institution of slavery in the southern states
- D. provide free public education for all children

13. The work of reformers like Dorothea Dix was part of a larger period of

- A. social reform movements in the early nineteenth century
- B. westward expansion across the American frontier
- C. industrial growth in the late nineteenth century
- D. overseas expansion of the United States empire

14. Reform movements during this period were inspired in part by

- A. the rapid growth of large business corporations
- B. the desire to expand the nation's overseas territory
- C. the spread of factory work in northern cities
- D. a religious revival that encouraged improving society

Base your answers to questions 15 through 17 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Completed in 1869, the transcontinental railroad linked the eastern and western United States by rail for the first time. It made travel and shipping across the country faster and helped speed the settlement of the West.

— Description of the transcontinental railroad

15. A major effect of the transcontinental railroad was that it

- A. ended the settlement of the western United States
- B. reduced trade between the eastern and western states
- C. made travel and shipping across the country faster
- D. separated the western territories from the rest of the nation

16. The transcontinental railroad contributed most directly to

- A. the decline of cities along the railroad routes
- B. the rapid settlement and development of the West
- C. the return of settlers to the eastern states
- D. the end of all farming in the western territories

17. The expansion of railroads across the West often had a negative effect on

- A. the wealthy owners of the railroad companies
- B. the growth of new towns along the rail lines
- C. the eastern manufacturers who shipped their goods
- D. Native American nations whose lands were taken or crossed

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

After Reconstruction ended, many southern states passed "Jim Crow" laws that enforced racial segregation. These laws separated African Americans from white people in schools, restaurants, transportation, and other public places.

— Description of Jim Crow laws

18. The main purpose of Jim Crow laws was to

- A. enforce racial segregation between Black and white Americans
- B. guarantee equal rights to all American citizens
- C. provide federal protection for the rights of freed people
- D. end discrimination in the southern states

19. The Jim Crow system of segregation was supported by the Supreme Court decision in

- A. *Brown v. Board of Education*, which banned segregation
- B. *Marbury v. Madison*, which established judicial review
- C. *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which allowed "separate but equal" facilities
- D. *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which guaranteed the right to a lawyer

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

In the early 1900s, the United States built the Panama Canal across Central America. The canal connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, allowing ships to travel between them without sailing all the way around South America.

— Description of the Panama Canal

20. The main benefit of the Panama Canal to the United States was that it

- A. gave the United States control over all of South America
- B. shortened the sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
- C. ended the need for the United States to maintain a navy
- D. reduced American trade with the nations of Asia

21. The construction of the Panama Canal reflected the growing United States interest in

- A. avoiding all involvement in the affairs of other nations
- B. returning overseas territories to their former rulers
- C. reducing the size of the American navy and military
- D. expanding its power and influence in world affairs

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

After entering World War I, the United States needed to raise a large army and pay for the war. The government passed the Selective Service Act to draft soldiers and sold "Liberty Bonds" to help finance the war effort.

— Description of United States mobilization during World War I

22. The Selective Service Act passed during World War I was used to

- A. draft men into the United States armed forces
- B. provide jobs for unemployed workers
- C. raise taxes on wealthy American citizens
- D. control the prices of goods during the war

23. The sale of Liberty Bonds during World War I was intended to

- A. reduce the size of the United States military
- B. help raise money to pay for the war effort
- C. provide loans to the nations of Europe
- D. lower the cost of goods for American consumers

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

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a New Deal program that gave jobs to young, unemployed men. They worked on projects such as planting trees, building parks, and preventing soil erosion, while earning wages to send home to their families.

— Description of the Civilian Conservation Corps

24. The main purpose of the Civilian Conservation Corps was to

- A. provide military training to young American men
- B. build new factories in the nation's largest cities
- C. provide jobs to unemployed young men during the Depression
- D. give large amounts of money directly to wealthy businesses

25. The Civilian Conservation Corps is an example of how the New Deal tried to

- A. provide relief and jobs to Americans during the Great Depression
- B. reduce the role of the federal government in the economy
- C. expand the overseas territory of the United States
- D. end all federal spending on public projects

Base your answer to question 26 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Passed in 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) banned discrimination against people with disabilities. It required businesses, schools, and public buildings to provide reasonable access, such as ramps and other accommodations.

— Description of the Americans with Disabilities Act

26. The main purpose of the Americans with Disabilities Act was to

- A. provide free medical care to all American citizens
- B. increase funding for the nation's public schools
- C. reduce the cost of housing for low-income families
- D. ban discrimination against people with disabilities

Base your answers to questions 27 and 28 on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

During the 1920s, many Americans enjoyed greater prosperity. New products such as automobiles, radios, and household appliances became widely available. Many people bought these goods on credit, paying for them over time in installments.

— Description of American life in the 1920s

27. The 1920s are often remembered as a period of

- A. severe economic depression and widespread unemployment
- B. rising prosperity and the growth of consumer culture
- C. declining use of new technology and products
- D. a return to a mostly farming-based way of life

28. The practice of buying goods "on credit," described in this passage, allowed consumers to

- A. pay much higher prices than the goods were worth
- B. avoid purchasing any new products during the decade
- C. buy products immediately and pay for them over time
- D. receive free goods provided by the federal government

PRACTICE EXAM 51: USHG FRAMEWORK SIMULATION – ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

- 1. D** — The Boston Tea Party was a protest against taxes imposed by the British government, especially the tax on tea. Colonists dumped British tea to oppose taxation without representation. This act of defiance challenged British authority.
- 2. B** — Britain passed the Intolerable Acts to punish Massachusetts for the destruction of the tea. The laws closed Boston Harbor and restricted self-government. These harsh measures angered colonists further.
- 3. C** — Events like the Boston Tea Party fueled the growing movement toward American independence. They deepened colonial resistance to British rule. Such protests pushed the colonies closer to revolution.
- 4. A** — The president is officially elected by electors chosen by the voters in each state. Voters select electors, who then cast the formal votes. This is the function of the Electoral College.
- 5. C** — Each state's number of electors is based on its representation in Congress. This combines its House seats and its two senators. Larger states therefore receive more electoral votes.
- 6. D** — The Electoral College was created as a compromise over how the president would be chosen. The framers debated between popular election and selection by Congress. The system balanced those competing approaches.
- 7. B** — The Sixth Amendment guarantees a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury. This protects the accused from secret or delayed proceedings. It is a core safeguard of criminal justice.
- 8. A** — "Assistance of Counsel" means an accused person has the right to have a lawyer for their defense. Legal representation helps ensure a fair trial. This right protects those facing criminal charges.
- 9. D** — The Sixth Amendment is part of the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments. These amendments protect individual liberties against government power. They were added to secure ratification of the Constitution.
- 10. C** — The Erie Canal lowered the cost of shipping goods and helped trade grow. Cheaper, faster transport connected western producers to eastern markets. This boosted commerce and economic development.
- 11. A** — The Erie Canal shows how improved transportation connected regions and expanded the national economy. Better links tied the frontier to the coast. This strengthened economic integration across the country.
- 12. B** — Dorothea Dix is best known for improving the treatment of the mentally ill and prisoners. She exposed harsh conditions and pushed for reform. Her work led many states to build hospitals.

- 13. A** — Her work was part of the broad social reform movements of the early nineteenth century. Reformers sought to improve many aspects of society. Dix's efforts reflected this reforming spirit.
- 14. D** — These reform movements were inspired in part by a religious revival that encouraged improving society. The Second Great Awakening spurred moral and social activism. This faith-driven energy fueled reform.
- 15. C** — The transcontinental railroad made travel and shipping across the country faster. It connected East and West by rail for the first time. This transformed transportation and commerce.
- 16. B** — The railroad contributed most directly to the rapid settlement and development of the West. Easier access drew settlers and businesses westward. This accelerated western growth.
- 17. D** — Railroad expansion often harmed Native American nations whose lands were taken or crossed. Construction and settlement disrupted their territories and ways of life. This came at a heavy cost to Native peoples.
- 18. A** — The main purpose of Jim Crow laws was to enforce racial segregation between Black and white Americans. They separated the races in public life. These laws upheld systematic discrimination.
- 19. C** — The Jim Crow system was supported by *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which allowed "separate but equal" facilities. The ruling gave legal cover to segregation. It stood until overturned by later decisions.
- 20. B** — The Panama Canal shortened the sea route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Ships no longer had to sail around South America. This greatly benefited trade and naval movement.
- 21. D** — Building the canal reflected growing U.S. interest in expanding its power and influence in world affairs. It strengthened American strategic and commercial reach. This marked the nation's rise as a global power.
- 22. A** — The Selective Service Act was used to draft men into the armed forces. It raised the large army needed for World War I. Conscription quickly expanded U.S. military strength.
- 23. B** — Liberty Bonds were sold to help raise money to pay for the war effort. Americans lent money to the government by buying them. This financed the costs of fighting World War I.
- 24. C** — The CCC's main purpose was to provide jobs to unemployed young men during the Depression. They worked on conservation projects while earning wages. This offered both relief and useful public work.
- 25. A** — The CCC shows how the New Deal aimed to provide relief and jobs during the Great Depression. It put people to work through federal programs. This reflected the New Deal's focus on recovery.
- 26. D** — The Americans with Disabilities Act aimed to ban discrimination against people with disabilities. It required reasonable access in public life and workplaces. This expanded civil rights protections.

27. B — The 1920s are remembered as a period of rising prosperity and the growth of consumer culture. New products and conveniences became widely available. This shaped the era's optimistic, modern mood.

28. C — Buying "on credit" allowed consumers to purchase products immediately and pay over time. Installment plans made expensive goods more accessible. This fueled the consumer boom of the 1920s.