

PRACTICE EXAM 8

PART I — 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.

1. Which factor best explains why Spain established a vast colonial empire in the Americas during the sixteenth century?

- A. Spain refused to authorize voyages of exploration beyond the European continent
- B. Spain entered into a permanent military alliance with the Aztec and Inca empires
- C. Spanish settlers immediately abandoned mining operations across the New World
- D. Spanish conquistadors exploited Indigenous labor and rich silver and gold deposits

2. The headright system used in colonial Virginia is best described as

- A. a grant of land to settlers who paid the passage of new immigrants to the colony
- B. a tax on tobacco exports collected by royal officials in Jamestown
- C. a system of representative government modeled on the English Parliament
- D. a religious requirement imposed on settlers arriving in the Chesapeake region

3. Salutary neglect refers to the British policy of

- A. strictly enforcing all imperial trade laws across the American colonies
- B. dissolving colonial legislatures whenever they disagreed with the crown
- C. loosely enforcing trade regulations and allowing the colonies wide self-government
- D. transferring colonial governance from royal officials to the French monarchy

4. The Albany Plan of Union proposed by Benjamin Franklin in 1754 sought to
- A. dissolve the existing colonial legislatures elected by colonial property owners
 - B. unite the British colonies for common defense against the French and their allies
 - C. declare full independence from Great Britain on behalf of the thirteen colonies
 - D. establish a formal political alliance between the colonies and the Spanish empire
5. The Declaration of Independence drew heavily on the political ideas of
- A. medieval scholastic theology developed at European universities
 - B. classical Spartan and Roman military traditions of warrior citizenship
 - C. Tudor-era English absolutism centered on a strong divine-right monarchy
 - D. Enlightenment thinkers, especially John Locke and the theory of natural rights
6. The Three-Fifths Compromise at the Constitutional Convention determined that
- A. three-fifths of the enslaved population would count for representation and taxation
 - B. three-fifths of the states had to approve any future constitutional amendment
 - C. three-fifths of the federal budget would be spent on national defense annually
 - D. three-fifths of all federal judges would be appointed by state legislatures
7. Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the ratification debates of 1787–1788 disagreed primarily over
- A. whether the United States should declare war on Britain and France
 - B. the proper balance of power between the federal and state governments
 - C. the immediate abolition of slavery throughout the southern states
 - D. the establishment of an official national religion for the new republic

8. Alexander Hamilton's financial program as the first Secretary of the Treasury included

- A. the immediate abolition of all federal taxes on imported goods and trade
- B. the dissolution of all federal debts incurred during the Revolutionary War
- C. federal assumption of state debts and the creation of a national bank
- D. the prohibition of any tariff designed to protect American manufacturing

9. The Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804–1806) was significant because it

- A. ended the long-standing border dispute with Mexico over Texas and California
- B. led directly to the immediate admission of California as a free state of the Union
- C. closed the western frontier to further migration from the eastern United States
- D. explored the lands of the Louisiana Purchase and mapped routes to the Pacific

10. The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, contributed to American economic growth by

- A. linking the Great Lakes to the Atlantic and lowering shipping costs sharply
- B. ending the use of steamboats on American rivers and lakes
- C. discouraging settlement of the Ohio Valley and the upper Midwest
- D. transferring federal authority over interstate commerce to the individual states

11. Jacksonian Democracy is most closely associated with

- A. strict property qualifications restricting voting to wealthy male landowners
- B. the expansion of voting rights for white men and the rise of the "common man"
- C. the immediate extension of voting rights to women and African Americans
- D. the dissolution of political parties at both the federal and state levels

12. The major goal of the abolitionist movement in the antebellum United States was to

- A. relocate all enslaved African Americans to the new state of Liberia in West Africa
- B. restrict the practice of slavery only to the existing states of the lower South
- C. end the institution of slavery throughout the United States and its territories
- D. delay any national debate over slavery until the close of the nineteenth century

13. The Underground Railroad was best described as

- A. a secret network of safe houses and guides helping enslaved people reach freedom
- B. an early federal railway system that connected the eastern and western states
- C. a federal program that compensated slaveholders for the loss of escaped enslaved people
- D. a network of southern courts created to enforce the federal Fugitive Slave laws

14. The Battle of Antietam (1862) was strategically significant because it

- A. resulted in the immediate surrender of all remaining Confederate armies in the field
- B. forced President Lincoln to suspend the practice of writ of habeas corpus nationwide
- C. caused Great Britain and France to formally recognize the Confederacy as a nation
- D. gave Lincoln the victory he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation

15. The Freedmen's Bureau, established in 1865, was created primarily to

- A. fund the rebuilding of southern railroads damaged during the Civil War
- B. assist formerly enslaved people with food, education, labor contracts, and land
- C. enforce the rapid disarmament of the defeated Confederate state militias
- D. organize the trial of former Confederate officials in special federal courts

16. The Homestead Act of 1862 promoted western settlement by

- A. granting large land tracts to railroad corporations operating across the West
- B. selling western public lands only to established wealthy eastern investors
- C. offering 160 acres of public land to settlers who farmed it for five years
- D. transferring federal control of all western public lands to the individual states

17. Robber barons and captains of industry were terms used in the late nineteenth century to describe

- A. federal officials charged with regulating interstate railroad and trade activity
- B. labor leaders organizing skilled craft workers across major American industries
- C. immigrant entrepreneurs founding small businesses in major American cities
- D. powerful industrialists and financiers who built massive late-nineteenth-century fortunes

18. Jim Crow laws enacted in the southern states after Reconstruction

- A. enforced racial segregation in schools, transportation, and public accommodations
- B. guaranteed African Americans equal access to all public facilities throughout the South
- C. extended full federal voting rights protections to African Americans across the region
- D. abolished racial distinctions in southern public education within a single decade

19. The Open Door Policy announced by Secretary of State John Hay in 1899 sought to

- A. close all American ports to European immigrants seeking entry into the country
- B. open new American military bases in the West Indies and the South Pacific
- C. ensure equal trading access for all major powers in the markets of China
- D. transfer American diplomatic authority in Asia to the Japanese imperial government

20. The Federal Reserve Act of 1913 established

- A. a national old-age pension system financed by federal payroll taxes
- B. a central banking system designed to regulate the money supply and credit
- C. a federal program providing direct loans to American farmers and ranchers
- D. a national health insurance system covering all working American adults

21. The Treaty of Versailles (1919) included a provision that

- A. allowed Germany to retain its prewar overseas colonies and military forces
- B. permanently outlawed the practice of warfare among all European powers
- C. created a worldwide military alliance led by the United States Senate
- D. assigned Germany sole responsibility for World War I and required heavy reparations

22. The Scopes Trial of 1925 highlighted tensions in 1920s America over

- A. the teaching of evolution in public schools and the role of religion in education
- B. the federal regulation of stock market trading in major American cities
- C. the immediate desegregation of public schools across the southern states
- D. the abolition of the federal income tax authorized by the Sixteenth Amendment

23. The Wagner Act of 1935 (National Labor Relations Act) significantly aided organized labor by

- A. abolishing the federal minimum wage applied across all manufacturing industries
- B. banning strikes and other collective work stoppages in major American industries
- C. guaranteeing workers the right to form unions and engage in collective bargaining
- D. transferring full authority over labor disputes to the individual state governments

24. The Manhattan Project during World War II was best described as

- A. a federal program providing wartime housing for industrial workers in the Northeast
- B. the secret American effort to develop the first atomic weapons during the war
- C. a wartime federal initiative training merchant marine officers in New York Harbor
- D. a federal effort to expand the New York City subway system for military transport

25. The Berlin Airlift of 1948–1949 was significant in the early Cold War because it

- A. demonstrated American commitment to defend West Berlin against Soviet pressure
- B. ended the postwar division of Germany into separate occupation zones
- C. resulted in the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from all of Eastern Europe
- D. dissolved the wartime alliance between the United States and Great Britain

26. The interstate highway system, authorized in 1956, contributed to American life by

- A. ending federal involvement in the construction of major transportation infrastructure
- B. discouraging the growth of suburbs around major American metropolitan areas
- C. requiring the immediate closure of all major American passenger rail lines
- D. promoting suburban growth, automobile travel, and the integration of national markets

27. The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 was resolved when

- A. American forces invaded Cuba and removed Fidel Castro's revolutionary government
- B. the Soviet Union agreed to remove its missiles from Cuba in exchange for U.S. pledges
- C. the United Nations Security Council assumed direct administration of the island nation
- D. the United States permanently withdrew all of its missiles from Western European bases

28. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment (1971) accomplished which of the following?

- A. It abolished the Electoral College and required the direct popular election of presidents
- B. It granted statehood to the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico simultaneously
- C. It lowered the national voting age from twenty-one to eighteen years
- D. It required all federal elections to be held on the same day across the nation

PRACTICE EXAM 8 – ANSWER KEY

1. D — Spanish conquistadors like Cortés and Pizarro toppled the Aztec and Inca empires and seized control of vast Indigenous populations. They forced Native laborers to work in silver and gold mines such as Potosí, generating enormous wealth for the Spanish crown. This extracted bullion funded Spain's rise as Europe's dominant sixteenth-century power.
2. A — The headright system granted 50 acres of Virginia land to anyone who paid the passage of a new settler. It encouraged wealthy planters to import indentured servants and later enslaved Africans, building large landholdings. The system fueled the rapid expansion of tobacco agriculture in the Chesapeake.
3. C — Salutary neglect describes Britain's loose enforcement of trade laws and tolerance of colonial self-government in the early 1700s. Colonial assemblies handled local taxation and lawmaking with little imperial interference. When Britain ended this policy after 1763, colonists viewed tighter enforcement as a violation of established rights.
4. B — Franklin's Albany Plan proposed uniting the colonies under a common council for defense against the French and their Indigenous allies. Although rejected by both colonial assemblies and the crown, it foreshadowed later efforts at intercolonial cooperation. The plan offered an early model for federal union.
5. D — The Declaration drew most directly on Enlightenment ideas, especially Locke's theory of natural rights to life, liberty, and property. Jefferson reframed these as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" and grounded government in popular consent. The document distilled Enlightenment political philosophy into the American founding.
6. A — The Three-Fifths Compromise counted three of every five enslaved persons toward a state's population for both representation in Congress and direct taxation. It was a bargain between Northern and Southern delegates at the 1787 convention. The clause boosted Southern political power until the Civil War.
7. B — Federalists supported a stronger central government under the new Constitution, while Anti-Federalists feared it would overwhelm the states and threaten liberty. The debate centered on the balance of federal versus state power. It ultimately produced the Bill of Rights as a safeguard against centralized authority.
8. C — Hamilton's program had the federal government assume state Revolutionary War debts and chartered the First Bank of the United States. He also pushed protective tariffs and an excise tax to fund the new government. These measures established federal financial credibility and tied wealthy creditors to the national government.

9. D — Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory and find a practical route to the Pacific. Their 1804–1806 expedition mapped rivers and terrain, recorded plant and animal life, and built relations with many Indigenous nations. The journey opened the West to later American settlement.
10. A — The Erie Canal connected the Great Lakes to the Hudson River and the port of New York. By dramatically lowering shipping costs between the Midwest and the Atlantic, it accelerated commerce, migration, and the growth of cities like Buffalo and New York. The canal helped knit together a national market economy.
11. B — Jacksonian Democracy is associated with the elimination of property qualifications and the expansion of voting rights to nearly all white men. Andrew Jackson's election in 1828 symbolized the political rise of the "common man." The era also brought the spoils system and a more populist political style.
12. C — Abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and the Grimké sisters demanded an end to slavery throughout the United States and its territories. They used newspapers, lectures, petitions, and aid to fugitives to press their cause. The movement reshaped Northern opinion and helped trigger the sectional crisis.
13. A — The Underground Railroad was a clandestine network of safe houses, guides, and routes that helped enslaved people escape to the North or Canada. Figures like Harriet Tubman led many to freedom at great personal risk. The system embodied active resistance to slavery across state lines.
14. D — Antietam in September 1862 halted Lee's invasion of Maryland and gave the Union the strategic victory Lincoln needed. He used the result to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation days later. The battle thus turned the war into an explicit struggle against slavery.
15. B — The Freedmen's Bureau provided food, medical care, schools, and labor contract supervision for formerly enslaved people. It also tried, with limited success, to oversee land arrangements between freedmen and planters. Its educational work in particular laid foundations for African American institutions in the South.
16. C — The Homestead Act offered 160 acres of public land to any settler who lived on and improved it for five years. The law drew hundreds of thousands of farmers, immigrants, and freedmen onto the Great Plains. It accelerated western settlement and reshaped Indigenous land claims.
17. D — "Robber barons" and "captains of industry" referred to powerful late-nineteenth-century figures like Rockefeller, Carnegie, Vanderbilt, and Morgan. They amassed huge fortunes through industrial consolidation, sharp business practices, and financial dominance. The terms expressed both criticism of their methods and admiration of their achievements.
18. A — Jim Crow laws imposed racial segregation across the South in schools, transit, restaurants, and public spaces. Upheld by the Supreme Court's *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision in 1896, they enforced a system of "separate but equal" that was rarely equal in practice. Jim Crow shaped Southern life until the civil rights movement of the mid-twentieth century.
19. C — Secretary of State John Hay's Open Door notes asked the imperial powers to keep China open to equal trading access. The policy aimed to prevent European nations and Japan from carving China into exclusive spheres of influence. It served American commercial interests while signaling growing U.S. involvement in East Asia.
20. B — The Federal Reserve Act created a central banking system with regional reserve banks under a Federal Reserve Board. The Fed was designed to manage the money supply, regulate credit, and stabilize the financial system after recurring panics. It remains the foundation of American monetary policy.

21. D — The Treaty of Versailles included a "war guilt" clause assigning Germany sole responsibility for World War I. It imposed heavy reparations, stripped Germany of colonies and territory, and limited its military. Resentment of these terms fueled political instability in Germany during the interwar years.
22. A — The Scopes "Monkey Trial" pitted teacher John Scopes against Tennessee's law banning the teaching of evolution. The case dramatized the cultural clash between modernist science and traditional religious belief in 1920s America. It became a symbol of broader urban-rural and modernist-fundamentalist tensions.
23. C — The Wagner Act guaranteed workers the right to organize unions and bargain collectively with employers. It created the National Labor Relations Board to oversee elections and curb unfair labor practices. The law spurred a dramatic surge in union membership during the New Deal era.
24. B — The Manhattan Project was the top-secret Allied effort, led by the United States, to develop atomic weapons during World War II. Headed by General Leslie Groves with scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer, it produced the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. The project opened the nuclear age in global politics.
25. A — When the Soviets blockaded West Berlin in 1948, the United States and its allies airlifted food, fuel, and supplies into the city for nearly a year. The successful airlift demonstrated American resolve to defend West Berlin and forced the Soviets to lift the blockade. It became a defining early Cold War confrontation.
26. D — The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 funded a vast interstate highway network connecting the nation. The system promoted suburbanization, automobile-centered travel, trucking, and faster movement of goods between regions. It reshaped American settlement patterns and economic geography.
27. B — The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis ended when the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its nuclear missiles from Cuba. In exchange, the United States publicly pledged not to invade Cuba and quietly removed Jupiter missiles from Turkey. The resolution pulled the superpowers back from the brink of nuclear war.
28. C — The Twenty-Sixth Amendment, ratified in 1971, lowered the voting age in federal and state elections from twenty-one to eighteen. Activists argued that those old enough to be drafted for the Vietnam War should be old enough to vote. The amendment expanded the American electorate by millions of young citizens.