

REGENTS EXAMINATION IN GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II — PRACTICE SIMULATION 13

1. Sir Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*, published in 1687, introduced his laws of motion and universal gravitation as part of the

- A. Scientific Revolution
- B. Romantic Movement
- C. Industrial Revolution
- D. Enlightenment Reformation

2. The Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire is best known for his sharp criticism of

- A. Free trade between European colonial empires
- B. The use of inductive reasoning in modern science
- C. Religious intolerance and Church abuses
- D. The British constitutional monarchy system

3. The 1762 work *The Social Contract*, which argued that legitimate political authority comes from the general will, was written by

- A. Voltaire
- B. John Locke
- C. Baron de Montesquieu
- D. Jean-Jacques Rousseau

4. The Reign of Terror during the French Revolution was directed by the Committee of Public Safety under the leadership of

- A. Napoleon Bonaparte
- B. Maximilien Robespierre
- C. Georges Danton
- D. Marquis de Lafayette

5. The Napoleonic Code of 1804 is best described as a

- A. Unified civil legal code applied across the French empire
- B. Religious settlement reconciling French Catholics and Protestants alike
- C. Trade agreement opening French ports to British commerce
- D. Constitutional charter restoring the Bourbon royal family

6. The Congress of Vienna of 1814–1815 was primarily organized by Austrian Foreign Minister Klemens von Metternich to

- A. Promote democratic revolutions across the continental European nations
- B. Establish free trade among all the major European powers
- C. Divide European colonies in Africa among the great powers
- D. Restore the balance of power after Napoleon's defeat

7. The Haitian Revolution of 1791–1804, the first successful slave revolt in the Western Hemisphere, was led in its early stages by

- A. Toussaint Louverture
- B. Simón Bolívar
- C. José de San Martín

D. Father Miguel Hidalgo

8. The 1848 revolutions that swept across Europe were generally driven by demands for

- A. The restoration of absolute monarchies and feudal privilege
- B. Liberal political reform and national self-determination
- C. The expansion of overseas colonial empires in Africa
- D. International workers' control of major industrial factories

9. The Triangular Trade of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries involved the exchange of European manufactured goods, African slaves, and

- A. Asian spices traded through the Silk Road network
- B. Australian wool exported to British textile mills
- C. Raw materials and cash crops from the Americas
- D. Russian furs traded through the Baltic Sea ports

10. The Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, initially sought

- A. Greater Indian participation within British colonial government
- B. Immediate violent overthrow of British colonial rule
- C. Partition of India along religious and linguistic lines
- D. The reunification of all former Mughal imperial territories

11. The Schlieffen Plan was Germany's military strategy at the outbreak of World War I to

- A. Defend the Rhineland against the expected French invasion forces
- B. Coordinate naval operations with Austria-Hungary's imperial fleets
- C. Launch a surprise attack on Russia through Galicia first

D. Defeat France quickly before turning to fight Russia

12. The February Revolution of 1917 in Russia resulted in the

- A. Establishment of a one-party Bolshevik communist dictatorship
- B. Abdication of Nicholas II and a Provisional Government
- C. Signing of a separate peace with the German Empire
- D. Restoration of the Romanov dynasty under a written constitution

13. The Lend-Lease Act passed by the United States in 1941 authorized President Roosevelt to

- A. Supply military equipment to Britain and other Allied nations
- B. Send American combat troops directly to fight in Europe
- C. Confiscate German and Japanese assets held within the U.S.
- D. Build atomic weapons through the secret Manhattan Project

14. The Battle of Britain in the summer and fall of 1940 was a

- A. Land battle for control of the Mediterranean shipping lanes
- B. Naval engagement between the British and Italian battle fleets
- C. Air campaign in which the RAF defeated the German Luftwaffe
- D. Diplomatic conference between Roosevelt and Churchill producing the Atlantic Charter

15. The Battle of Midway in June 1942 is widely regarded as the turning point of the Pacific War because it

- A. Allowed American forces to capture mainland Japanese home territory
- B. Forced the immediate Japanese surrender of all Pacific island holdings
- C. Brought the Soviet Union into the war against Imperial Japan

D. Crippled the Japanese carrier fleet and shifted naval superiority

16. The Yalta Conference of February 1945 brought together Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin to discuss

A. The economic reconstruction of war-torn Western European nations

B. The postwar political division and occupation of Germany

C. The establishment of a permanent NATO defensive alliance

D. The transfer of nuclear weapons technology to the Soviets

17. Winston Churchill's 1946 "Iron Curtain" speech at Fulton, Missouri, warned the West about

A. The economic collapse of Western European parliamentary democracies

B. The threat of resurgent fascism in postwar Spain and Italy

C. Soviet domination of Eastern Europe behind a closed border

D. The danger of nuclear proliferation among smaller European nations

18. The 1948–1949 Berlin Airlift was the Western response to

A. The Soviet blockade of ground access to West Berlin

B. The construction of the Berlin Wall by East Germany

C. The Soviet refusal to share atomic weapons research

D. The communist takeover of Czechoslovakia by political force

19. The 1947 Partition of British India created the two new independent states of

A. Pakistan and Bangladesh under joint Muslim leadership

B. India and Sri Lanka divided along religious differences

C. Hindu India and Buddhist Burma along ethnic lines

D. India under Nehru and Pakistan under Jinnah

20. The State of Israel was founded in May 1948 following

- A. A treaty signed by all neighboring Arab nations and Israel
- B. A United Nations partition plan and British mandate withdrawal
- C. A direct military conquest of the entire Palestinian territory
- D. A unanimous vote by the Arab League supporting Jewish statehood

21. The 1955 Bandung Conference in Indonesia brought together newly independent Asian and African nations to promote

- A. The expansion of Soviet-style communism across the global south
- B. Alignment with the United States against Soviet expansionism
- C. Cooperation and non-alignment between the Cold War superpowers
- D. The reestablishment of European colonial trading relationships

22. The Berlin Wall was constructed in 1961 primarily to

- A. Stop the mass migration of East Germans to West Berlin
- B. Defend East Berlin from a feared NATO military invasion
- C. Mark the legal boundary of the four-power occupation zones
- D. Block Western espionage and intelligence networks in the East

23. The 1973 Yom Kippur War began when

- A. Israel launched a surprise attack on Syrian Golan defenses
- B. The Palestinian Liberation Organization invaded across northern Israel
- C. The United States deployed forces to defend Israeli airspace

D. Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israeli positions

24. The 1975 Helsinki Accords signed by 35 nations were significant because they

- A. Ended the war in Vietnam between the U.S. and North Vietnam
- B. Recognized postwar European borders and affirmed human rights
- C. Eliminated all intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe
- D. Created the European Economic Community customs union framework

25. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 was undertaken to

- A. Establish a Soviet warm-water port on the Indian Ocean coast
- B. Acquire control over major Afghan natural gas and oil reserves
- C. Support an allied communist government threatened by mujahideen insurgents
- D. Block U.S. military deployment of missiles in neighboring Pakistan

26. The 1982 Falklands War was fought between Argentina and

- A. The United Kingdom over disputed South Atlantic islands
- B. Chile over contested Patagonian glacier border territory disputes
- C. Brazil over disputed Amazonian rainforest territorial boundaries
- D. The United States over Central American naval interests

27. The 1989 Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia is notable for being a

- A. Violent uprising that overthrew the Soviet-allied communist government
- B. Successful military coup organized by reformist army officers
- C. Religious revival movement led by the Roman Catholic Church

D. Peaceful transition from communism to democratic government

28. The 1989 Romanian Revolution was unique among Eastern European transitions because it

- A. Resulted in the immediate restoration of the prewar monarchy
- B. Ended with the violent overthrow and execution of the dictator
- C. Reestablished communist control after a brief liberal interlude
- D. Maintained the existing communist leadership through gradual reforms

29. The Soviet Union formally ceased to exist in December 1991 when

- A. The Communist Party banned all opposition political parties forever
- B. Mikhail Gorbachev was overthrown by a military hardline coup
- C. The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus signed a dissolution accord
- D. The United Nations refused to recognize Soviet membership any longer

30. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which took effect in 1994, created a free trade zone among

- A. The United States, Canada, and Mexico
- B. The United States, Canada, and Cuba
- C. The United States, Mexico, and Guatemala
- D. Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean nations

31. Hong Kong was returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 under a framework known as

- A. The Three Principles of the People as developed by Sun Yat-sen
- B. The "One Country, Two Systems" governance arrangement
- C. The Special Autonomous Region constitutional governance model

D. The Greater Bay Area economic and political integration zone

32. The 1999 NATO intervention in Kosovo was launched primarily to

- A. Defend Serbia from Albanian guerrilla cross-border raids
- B. Enforce a United Nations Security Council military resolution
- C. Establish a permanent NATO base in the Balkans peninsula
- D. Halt the Serbian campaign of ethnic cleansing against Albanians

33. The United States-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 was justified by the Bush administration primarily on the basis of

- A. Alleged Iraqi possession of weapons of mass destruction
- B. The need to restore Kuwaiti sovereignty over Iraqi territory
- C. The protection of Kurdish populations in northern Iraq
- D. Iraqi government persecution of Shia Muslim minority groups

34. The Arab Spring that began in late 2010 originated with protests in

- A. Egypt against President Hosni Mubarak's longstanding military regime
- B. Syria against the rule of Bashar al-Assad in Damascus
- C. Tunisia against the rule of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
- D. Libya against the regime of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi

35. The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, signed by nearly 200 nations, committed signatories to

- A. Halting all use of fossil fuels worldwide by the year 2030
- B. Limiting global temperature increases through nationally determined pledges
- C. Creating a binding global carbon tax enforced by the United Nations

D. Establishing nuclear power as the primary global energy source

PRACTICE EXAM 13: ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. A — Scientific Revolution. Newton's *Principia Mathematica* (1687) culminated the seventeenth-century transformation of natural philosophy that included Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler. His three laws of motion and law of universal gravitation provided a unified mathematical framework that defined the new scientific worldview.

2. C — Religious intolerance and Church abuses. Voltaire's writings, especially *Candide* (1759) and the *Treatise on Tolerance* (1763), attacked religious bigotry, persecution, and the political power of the Catholic Church. His battle cry "Écrasez l'infâme" ("Crush the infamous thing") became a defining slogan of Enlightenment anticlericalism.

3. D — Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *The Social Contract* opens with the famous line "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains" and argues that political legitimacy rests on the general will of the people. The text profoundly influenced the French Revolution and modern democratic theory.

4. B — Maximilien Robespierre. As the dominant figure on the Committee of Public Safety from 1793 to 1794, Robespierre directed the Reign of Terror, sending thousands to the guillotine including former allies like Danton. He was himself overthrown and executed in the Thermidorian Reaction of July 1794.

5. A — Unified civil legal code applied across the French empire. Promulgated in 1804, the Napoleonic Code consolidated French law on contracts, property, and family relationships into a single rational system. It spread across Europe with Napoleon's armies and remains the basis for civil law in France and many other countries today.

6. D — Restore the balance of power after Napoleon's defeat. Convened by the major European powers in 1814–1815, the Congress redrew the map of Europe to contain France and prevent any single state from dominating the continent. Metternich's conservative system maintained relative peace among the great powers for nearly a century.

7. A — Toussaint Louverture. A former slave, Louverture led the early military and political phases of the revolt that began in 1791, transforming Saint-Domingue into a self-governing French territory. He was captured by Napoleon's forces in 1802, and his lieutenant Jean-Jacques Dessalines completed independence in 1804.

8. B — Liberal political reform and national self-determination. The wave of uprisings in France, the German states, the Italian peninsula, the Habsburg empire, and elsewhere demanded constitutions, civil liberties, and national unification. Although most were suppressed within a year, they signaled the rising power of liberalism and nationalism in modern Europe.

9. C — Raw materials and cash crops from the Americas. The triangular pattern moved European manufactured goods to Africa, enslaved Africans across the Atlantic in the brutal Middle Passage, and

shipped sugar, tobacco, cotton, and other plantation products back to Europe. The system enriched European powers while devastating African societies.

10. A — Greater Indian participation within British colonial government. Founded in 1885 with British acquiescence, the Congress initially served as a moderate body of educated Indian elites seeking reforms within the Raj. It later transformed under Gandhi and Nehru into the mass movement that achieved Indian independence in 1947.

11. D — Defeat France quickly before turning to fight Russia. Developed before 1914 by Field Marshal Alfred von Schlieffen, the plan called for a rapid sweep through neutral Belgium to encircle Paris before Russia could fully mobilize. Its failure at the First Battle of the Marne produced the trench-warfare stalemate that defined the Western Front.

12. B — Abdication of Nicholas II and a Provisional Government. Triggered by bread shortages and military mutinies in Petrograd in March 1917 (February by the old Julian calendar), the revolution ended three centuries of Romanov rule. A liberal Provisional Government took power until the Bolshevik October Revolution later that same year.

13. A — Supply military equipment to Britain and other Allied nations. Passed in March 1941 before American entry into the war, Lend-Lease allowed the U.S. to provide weapons, food, and supplies to nations whose defense was deemed vital to U.S. security. The program eventually delivered over \$50 billion in aid to Britain, the Soviet Union, China, and others.

14. C — Air campaign in which the RAF defeated the German Luftwaffe. From July through October 1940, British fighter pilots flying Spitfires and Hurricanes outfought German bombers and fighters over southern England. Their victory forced Hitler to abandon planned invasion of Britain and marked Germany's first major defeat of the war.

15. D — Crippled the Japanese carrier fleet and shifted naval superiority. American carrier aircraft sank four Japanese fleet carriers — Akagi, Kaga, Soryu, and Hiryu — in a single decisive engagement near Midway Atoll. Japan never recovered its aircraft carrier strength, and the Pacific war shifted decisively to American offensive operations.

16. B — The postwar political division and occupation of Germany. Meeting at the Crimean resort in February 1945, the Big Three agreed to divide Germany and Berlin into four occupation zones, set policy on war crimes and reparations, and committed the USSR to enter the Pacific war. Yalta's concessions to Stalin remain controversial as the start of Cold War tensions.

17. C — Soviet domination of Eastern Europe behind a closed border. At Westminster College in March 1946, Churchill declared that "from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent." The speech crystallized Western recognition that wartime Soviet cooperation had given way to a hostile communist bloc.

18. A — The Soviet blockade of ground access to West Berlin. In June 1948, Stalin cut off all road, rail, and canal access to the Western sectors of Berlin to force the Allies out. The U.S. and Britain responded

with a 15-month airlift that flew in food, fuel, and supplies until the Soviets lifted the blockade in May 1949.

19. D — India under Nehru and Pakistan under Jinnah. The British Indian Empire was divided in August 1947 into Hindu-majority India led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Muslim-majority Pakistan led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Partition triggered enormous communal violence and the displacement of an estimated 15 million people across the new borders.

20. B — A United Nations partition plan and British mandate withdrawal. UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of November 1947 proposed dividing Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, and David Ben-Gurion declared Israeli independence on May 14, 1948, the day the British mandate ended. Surrounding Arab states immediately invaded, beginning the first Arab-Israeli war.

21. C — Cooperation and non-alignment between the Cold War superpowers. Twenty-nine Asian and African states met in Bandung, Indonesia, hosted by Indonesian President Sukarno and including Nehru, Zhou Enlai, and Nasser. The conference laid the foundation for the Non-Aligned Movement formally established at Belgrade in 1961.

22. A — Stop the mass migration of East Germans to West Berlin. Between 1949 and 1961, roughly 2.7 million East Germans, many highly skilled, fled westward through the open Berlin sector. The communist regime began constructing the wall on August 13, 1961, to halt the population drain and stabilize the East German state.

23. D — Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israeli positions. On October 6, 1973, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, Egyptian forces crossed the Suez Canal while Syrian forces attacked the Golan Heights. Israel reversed initial losses with massive American resupply, and the war triggered the OPEC oil embargo and ultimately led to Egyptian-Israeli peace.

24. B — Recognized postwar European borders and affirmed human rights. The Helsinki Final Act signed by the U.S., Soviet Union, Canada, and European states accepted existing borders in exchange for Soviet commitments on human rights and fundamental freedoms. The human rights provisions gave dissidents like Andrei Sakharov and Václav Havel a legal foundation for their work.

25. C — Support an allied communist government threatened by mujahideen insurgents. Soviet forces invaded in December 1979 to prop up the embattled communist People's Democratic Party government against an Islamist insurgency. The decade-long quagmire that followed drained Soviet resources and is often cited as a major contributor to the USSR's eventual collapse.

26. A — The United Kingdom over disputed South Atlantic islands. Argentina seized the British-controlled Falkland Islands (Las Malvinas) in April 1982, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dispatched a naval task force that recaptured them by mid-June. The British victory boosted national confidence and contributed to the fall of Argentina's military junta.

27. D — Peaceful transition from communism to democratic government. Beginning with student protests in November 1989, the Civic Forum led by playwright Václav Havel negotiated the resignation of the

Communist government within weeks and without bloodshed. Havel became president on December 29, 1989, and free elections followed in June 1990.

28. B — Ended with the violent overthrow and execution of the dictator. Unlike the largely peaceful revolutions elsewhere in Eastern Europe, the Romanian uprising of December 1989 turned bloody as security forces fired on protesters. Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife Elena were captured, tried, and executed by firing squad on Christmas Day.

29. C — The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus signed a dissolution accord. Meeting at Belavezha in early December 1991, Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk, and Stanislav Shushkevich declared that the USSR no longer existed and established the Commonwealth of Independent States. Gorbachev formally resigned on December 25, and the Soviet flag came down over the Kremlin.

30. A — The United States, Canada, and Mexico. NAFTA took effect on January 1, 1994, eliminating most tariffs and trade barriers among the three countries over a fifteen-year phase-in period. It became one of the world's largest free trade zones and was renegotiated as the USMCA, which took effect in 2020.

31. B — The "One Country, Two Systems" governance arrangement. Negotiated in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, the formula promised Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy and preservation of its capitalist economy and civil liberties for fifty years after the 1997 handover. Critics argue Beijing has substantially eroded this autonomy since 2020.

32. D — Halt the Serbian campaign of ethnic cleansing against Albanians. After Serbian forces under Slobodan Milošević drove out hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, NATO conducted a 78-day air campaign in 1999 without UN Security Council authorization. Russia and China had threatened to veto any Security Council resolution authorizing force.

33. A — Alleged Iraqi possession of weapons of mass destruction. President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair argued that Saddam Hussein possessed chemical, biological, and possibly nuclear weapons programs that posed an imminent threat. No such weapons stockpiles were ever found after the invasion, severely damaging the credibility of the intelligence used to justify the war.

34. C — Tunisia against the rule of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The self-immolation of street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi in December 2010 sparked mass protests that forced President Ben Ali to flee to Saudi Arabia in January 2011. The Tunisian uprising inspired similar movements in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain.

35. B — Limiting global temperature increases through nationally determined pledges. Signed at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in December 2015, the agreement set the goal of holding warming "well below 2 degrees Celsius" above pre-industrial levels. It relies on voluntary nationally determined contributions rather than legally binding emission targets enforced by an international body.