

# REGENTS EXAMINATION IN GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II — PRACTICE SIMULATION 14

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1. The development of the steam engine by James Watt in the late 18th century is most closely associated with the

- A. beginning of mechanized factory production in Great Britain
- B. invention of electric power generation across continental Europe
- C. completion of the first transatlantic submarine telegraph cable
- D. discovery of new petroleum reserves in the Middle East

2. By the early 19th century, the British East India Company exercised control over much of India primarily through

- A. a treaty granting it sovereignty signed by the entire Mughal nobility
- B. direct annexation of all Indian princely states under a single charter
- C. trade monopolies, military force, and alliances with local Indian rulers
- D. unanimous votes of regional councils elected by the Indian population

3. The arrival of U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry's "Black Ships" in Tokyo Bay in 1853 led most directly to

- A. the immediate establishment of a Japanese parliamentary democracy nationwide
- B. the end of Japanese isolation and the opening of trade with the West

- C. the rapid colonization of the Japanese home islands by the United States
  - D. the establishment of a permanent American naval base on the island of Honshu
4. King Leopold II's personal rule of the Congo Free State (1885–1908) is best remembered for
- A. introducing modern democratic institutions and universal education to Central Africa
  - B. constructing transcontinental railroads linking the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean
  - C. peacefully negotiating Belgian territorial claims with neighboring African kingdoms
  - D. brutal forced labor that killed millions of Africans extracting rubber and ivory
5. Cecil Rhodes is best known for his role in
- A. negotiating the peaceful transfer of South Africa to African majority rule
  - B. expanding British control across southern Africa and the diamond mining industry
  - C. leading the Zulu kingdom's resistance to European colonization of southern Africa
  - D. organizing Indian indentured laborers into a successful labor union in Natal
6. Social Darwinism, popularized by thinkers such as Herbert Spencer, was often used during the late 19th century to
- A. justify European imperialism and racial hierarchies as natural, inevitable, and beneficial
  - B. promote international cooperation and equality among the world's many diverse cultures
  - C. argue for the abolition of capitalism and the redistribution of all private property
  - D. support the spread of pacifist movements opposed to all forms of military conflict
7. The Spanish-American War of 1898 resulted in the
- A. independence of Mexico from Spain after three centuries of colonial rule
  - B. restoration of the Spanish Empire as a major Atlantic colonial power

C. United States acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines

D. division of Cuba between Spanish loyalists and American settler colonies

8. Germany's Schlieffen Plan at the start of World War I called for

A. a defensive war fought primarily along Germany's eastern borders with Russia

B. an alliance with the Ottoman Empire to attack British holdings in the Middle East

C. naval blockade of the British Isles using a fleet of long-range submarines

D. a rapid invasion of France through neutral Belgium before turning to fight Russia

9. The German sinking of the British ocean liner Lusitania in 1915

A. killed nearly 1,200 civilians and helped turn American opinion against Germany

B. ended the German submarine campaign in the North Atlantic for the war's duration

C. forced Britain to abandon its naval blockade of the German coastline

D. demonstrated the superiority of dreadnought battleships over modern submarine warfare

10. After World War I, the League of Nations mandate system

A. returned all former colonies of the defeated powers to indigenous self-rule

B. placed former German and Ottoman territories under the administration of Allied powers

C. established a permanent international military force to police colonial regions

D. transferred all colonial empires from European powers to the United States

11. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's reforms in Turkey during the 1920s and 1930s included

A. restoring the Ottoman caliphate as the supreme religious and political authority

B. introducing Islamic Sharia law as the basis of the new Turkish legal system

- C. abolishing the caliphate, adopting the Latin alphabet, and granting women suffrage
- D. partitioning Turkey into several smaller states along ethnic and religious lines

12. The Treaty of Sèvres (1920) and the later Treaty of Lausanne (1923)

- A. dismantled the Ottoman Empire and led to the modern Republic of Turkey
- B. unified the Arab provinces of the former Ottoman Empire into a single independent kingdom
- C. restored the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire to their pre-World War I extent
- D. created a permanent UN protectorate over the Anatolian peninsula and surrounding territories

13. The 1918–1920 influenza pandemic is historically significant because it

- A. began in China and spread worldwide along the Silk Road trading routes
- B. was the first epidemic successfully contained by the World Health Organization's response
- C. led directly to the development and widespread distribution of the first viral vaccines
- D. killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide, more than died in the First World War

14. The Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 under Mussolini

- A. successfully restored Ethiopia's traditional monarchy under Emperor Haile Selassie's leadership
- B. demonstrated the League of Nations' inability to stop aggression by major powers
- C. led to the immediate withdrawal of all Italian forces under international pressure
- D. resulted in a prolonged Italian occupation that continued well into the 1970s

15. Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass" in November 1938, was

- A. an Allied bombing raid on German industrial cities along the Rhine River
- B. a Soviet purge of Communist Party officials accused of disloyalty to Stalin

- C. a coordinated Nazi-led attack on Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues across Germany
- D. a popular German uprising against Hitler that was quickly suppressed by the Gestapo

16. The Wannsee Conference held in January 1942 was significant because senior Nazi officials

- A. coordinated the implementation of the "Final Solution" to murder Europe's Jewish population
- B. planned the surprise German invasion of the Soviet Union code-named Operation Barbarossa
- C. negotiated a separate peace with the Western Allies to focus on the Eastern Front
- D. agreed to halt deportations of European Jews in exchange for prisoner exchanges with Britain

17. At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin

- A. signed a permanent peace treaty formally ending hostilities with Imperial Japan
- B. agreed to the immediate independence of all European colonial possessions in Asia
- C. created the modern state of Israel by dividing the British Mandate of Palestine
- D. discussed the postwar division of Germany and the political future of Eastern Europe

18. Winston Churchill's 1946 "Iron Curtain" speech delivered in Fulton, Missouri

- A. announced the immediate withdrawal of all British forces from continental Europe
- B. proposed a permanent military alliance between Britain and the new Soviet Union
- C. warned that the Soviet Union was dividing Europe and establishing a totalitarian sphere
- D. called for the immediate decolonization of all remaining British overseas possessions

19. The People's Republic of China was established in October 1949 when

- A. the United Nations recognized Taiwan as the legitimate government of all China
- B. Mao Zedong's Communist forces defeated the Nationalists in the Chinese Civil War

- C. the Soviet Union annexed China as a new constituent republic of the USSR
- D. the Qing dynasty was overthrown by reformist officials in the imperial bureaucracy

20. The Bandung Conference of 1955 held in Indonesia is best remembered for

- A. launching the Non-Aligned Movement among newly independent African and Asian nations
- B. establishing a formal military alliance between China, India, and the Soviet Union
- C. negotiating the end of the Korean War between United Nations and communist forces
- D. founding the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank under United Nations auspices

21. The Hungarian Uprising of 1956 ended when

- A. Hungary peacefully withdrew from the Warsaw Pact under international pressure
- B. NATO forces intervened to support Hungarian demands for democratic reform
- C. the Soviet Union signed a treaty recognizing Hungarian neutrality and independence
- D. Soviet tanks crushed the revolt and reinstalled a communist government in Budapest

22. Fidel Castro's 1959 Cuban Revolution led most directly to

- A. the integration of Cuba into the European Common Market as an associate member
- B. the immediate withdrawal of all American business interests from Latin America
- C. the establishment of a one-party communist state aligned closely with the Soviet Union
- D. the restoration of Cuban democracy under elections supervised by the United Nations

23. The Prague Spring of 1968 was a period of political liberalization in

- A. Czechoslovakia under Alexander Dubček that was crushed by a Warsaw Pact invasion
- B. Romania under Nicolae Ceaușescu that produced lasting democratic reform legislation

- C. East Germany under Erich Honecker that led to opening the Berlin Wall
- D. Hungary under János Kádár that established a permanent multiparty political system

24. U.S. President Richard Nixon's 1972 visit to the People's Republic of China

- A. resulted in an immediate formal military alliance between the United States and China
- B. began the normalization of relations between the two nations after two decades of estrangement
- C. led to China's withdrawal from the United Nations Security Council permanent seat
- D. forced Taiwan to declare formal independence from the People's Republic of China

25. The fall of Saigon in April 1975 marked the

- A. beginning of large-scale United States military intervention in Vietnam's civil war
- B. signing of the Paris Peace Accords ending the conflict between North and South Vietnam
- C. formation of an independent South Vietnamese government allied with Western powers
- D. end of the Vietnam War and the unification of Vietnam under communist rule

26. The Iran hostage crisis (1979–1981) involved

- A. the kidnapping of American diplomats by Iraqi government forces during the Iran-Iraq War
- B. the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and detention of 52 American hostages
- C. the assassination of Iranian government officials by undercover American intelligence agents
- D. the negotiation of a peace treaty between revolutionary Iran and the United States

27. The Falklands War of 1982 was fought between

- A. Brazil and Argentina over disputed border territory in the Amazon basin
- B. Chile and Bolivia over the latter's loss of Pacific Ocean coastline

- C. the United Kingdom and Argentina over the South Atlantic Falkland Islands
- D. the United Kingdom and Spain over the territory and status of Gibraltar

28. The Chernobyl disaster of April 1986 was significant because it

- A. was the worst nuclear power accident in history and contaminated parts of Eastern Europe
- B. led to the immediate global abandonment of all civilian nuclear power generation programs
- C. caused the collapse of the Soviet government within weeks of the initial reactor explosion
- D. occurred during a test of nuclear weapons banned by the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty

29. The reunification of Germany in October 1990

- A. was strongly opposed by the United States and its NATO partner allies in Europe
- B. created a neutral state that was barred from joining either the EU or NATO
- C. occurred after East Germany agreed to be absorbed into the West German Federal Republic
- D. divided Berlin into four separate military occupation zones administered by the Allied powers

30. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991 led to the

- A. immediate reunification of the former Soviet republics into the new Russian Empire
- B. continuation of the Cold War between Russia and the United States under new leaders
- C. peaceful annexation of all Soviet republics by neighboring China and Iran
- D. emergence of 15 independent successor states, with Russia as the largest

31. The 2003 United States–led invasion of Iraq was justified by the Bush administration on the grounds that

- A. Saddam Hussein had personally led the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America
- B. Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and had ties to international terrorist networks

- C. Iraqi forces had recently invaded Saudi Arabia and threatened the Persian Gulf oil supply
- D. Iraq had violated the 1991 Persian Gulf War ceasefire by attacking Kuwait

32. The Nile River has historically supported the development of civilization in northeastern Africa by

- A. providing annual floods that deposited fertile silt for agriculture along its banks
- B. serving as the primary trade route connecting the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean
- C. supplying the gold and diamond reserves that funded the medieval Egyptian state
- D. forming an impassable barrier that protected Egypt from invasion by African powers

33. The Strait of Hormuz is strategically important because it is

- A. the only deep-water passage connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea
- B. the world's busiest shipping lane for container traffic between Asia and Europe
- C. the narrow passage through which roughly one-fifth of the world's petroleum is shipped
- D. the historical land route used by silk traders between China and the Roman Empire

34. The seasonal monsoon winds of South Asia have historically been essential to

- A. the navigation of the Suez Canal connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea
- B. the development of nomadic herding cultures across the Central Asian steppe regions
- C. the formation of Mediterranean-style olive and grape cultivation across the region
- D. agriculture in India, Bangladesh, and other states that depend on summer monsoon rains

35. The Andes mountain range, the longest continental mountain range in the world, runs along the

- A. eastern coast of Africa from Egypt to the southern tip of Madagascar
- B. western edge of South America from Venezuela to the southern tip of Chile

- C. northern edge of Eurasia from the British Isles to the Russian Pacific coast
- D. southern coast of Australia from Perth to the eastern coast near Sydney

## ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1-35)

- 1. A** — Watt's 1769 improvements to the Newcomen steam engine produced a far more efficient power source that no longer had to be sited near rivers. Steam-powered textile mills, ironworks, and railways concentrated production in factories and cities, making Britain the world's first industrial nation by the early 19th century.
- 2. C** — The Company secured exclusive trading rights from Parliament and built a private army that defeated French and Indian rivals at battles such as Plassey (1757) and Buxar (1764). It then ruled large parts of India through "subsidiary alliances" with princely states and direct tax collection until the British Crown took over after the 1857 Rebellion.
- 3. B** — Perry arrived with a squadron of heavily armed steam warships and demanded that Japan open to foreign trade after more than 200 years of Tokugawa isolation. The resulting Treaty of Kanagawa (1854) and later commercial treaties exposed the shogunate's weakness and set the stage for the Meiji Restoration of 1868.
- 4. D** — Operating the Congo as his private estate, Leopold extracted wild rubber and ivory through forced labor enforced by mutilations, hostage-taking, and mass killing. Estimates place the death toll at 5 to 10 million Congolese, and international outrage finally forced the Belgian parliament to take over the colony in 1908.
- 5. B** — A mining magnate and politician, Rhodes founded De Beers and effectively monopolized the South African diamond industry while serving as prime minister of the Cape Colony. He drove the expansion of British territory northward into what became Rhodesia (today's Zambia and Zimbabwe) and famously dreamed of a "Cape to Cairo" railway under British control.
- 6. A** — Spencer's misapplication of Darwin's "survival of the fittest" to human societies cast wealthy industrialists and European empires as biologically superior and their dominance as part of natural progress. The doctrine was widely invoked to defend colonial conquest, restrictive immigration policies, and laissez-faire opposition to social reform.
- 7. C** — Spain's swift defeat in 1898 ended its centuries-old empire in the Americas and the Pacific. Under the Treaty of Paris, Cuba became nominally independent under U.S. supervision, and Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States, marking America's emergence as an overseas imperial power.
- 8. D** — Designed by Field Marshal Alfred von Schlieffen, the plan aimed to avoid a two-front war by quickly defeating France through Belgium and Luxembourg, then redeploying east against the slower-mobilizing Russians. The German advance was halted at the First Battle of the Marne in September 1914, producing the long stalemate of trench warfare.

**9. A** — The torpedoing of the Cunard liner off the Irish coast killed 1,198 passengers and crew, including 128 Americans, provoking outrage in the United States. Combined with later sinkings and the Zimmermann Telegram, the incident eroded American neutrality and contributed to U.S. entry into World War I in 1917.

**10. B** — Under Article 22 of the League Covenant, former German colonies in Africa and the Pacific and former Ottoman provinces in the Middle East were administered as "mandates" by Britain, France, Belgium, Japan, and others. The system preserved colonial control under a thin veneer of international supervision until the territories gained independence after World War II.

**11. C** — As founding president of the Republic of Turkey, Atatürk abolished the Ottoman sultanate in 1922 and the caliphate in 1924, replaced Arabic script with a Latin-based Turkish alphabet, and granted women the vote in 1934 ahead of many Western nations. His secular, Western-oriented reforms shaped Turkey for the rest of the 20th century.

**12. A** — The harsh Treaty of Sèvres partitioned the Ottoman Empire among the Allies, but Atatürk's nationalist forces rejected it and won the Turkish War of Independence. The replacement Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 recognized the new Republic of Turkey within roughly its modern borders and ended Ottoman sovereignty for good.

**13. D** — Often called the "Spanish flu" because neutral Spain reported it openly, the H1N1 pandemic infected roughly a third of the world's population and killed an estimated 50 million people from 1918 to 1920. The death toll exceeded that of the First World War and remains one of the deadliest disease outbreaks in modern history.

**14. B** — Despite Ethiopia being a League of Nations member, the organization imposed only weak and selectively applied sanctions on Italy, none of which restricted oil. Mussolini conquered Ethiopia and proclaimed an Italian East African empire in 1936, exposing the League as unable to deter aggression and emboldening Hitler in Europe.

**15. C** — On November 9–10, 1938, SA paramilitaries and ordinary citizens smashed the windows of Jewish-owned shops, burned hundreds of synagogues, and beat and killed Jews across Germany and Austria. Around 30,000 Jewish men were sent to concentration camps, marking a dramatic escalation from legal persecution toward open state-sponsored violence.

**16. A** — Convened by Reinhard Heydrich at a villa outside Berlin, the meeting brought together senior SS, Nazi Party, and government officials to coordinate the deportation and systematic murder of Europe's roughly 11 million Jews. The conference did not initiate the Holocaust, but it organized the bureaucratic machinery that carried out the killings in extermination camps.

**17. D** — Meeting at the Crimean resort, the "Big Three" agreed that Germany would be divided into occupation zones, that free elections would be held in liberated Eastern Europe (a promise Stalin soon broke), and that the Soviet Union would enter the war against Japan. The conference shaped the postwar order and is often cited as an origin point of the Cold War.

**18. C** — Speaking at Westminster College, Churchill warned that "from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an Iron Curtain has descended across the Continent," with Soviet-dominated regimes behind it. The phrase captured the emerging division of Europe and became a defining image of the early Cold War.

**19. B** — After more than two decades of intermittent civil war, Mao Zedong's People's Liberation Army defeated Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists, who fled to Taiwan with the Republic of China government. On October 1, 1949, Mao proclaimed the People's Republic of China from Tiananmen Gate, beginning communist rule that continues today.

**20. A** — The conference brought together 29 newly independent African and Asian states — including India, Indonesia, Egypt, and China — to assert a "third way" between the U.S. and Soviet blocs. It laid the foundation for the formal Non-Aligned Movement established in Belgrade in 1961 under leaders such as Nehru, Nasser, and Tito.

**21. D** — Reformist Prime Minister Imre Nagy declared Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact and proclaimed neutrality, prompting Khrushchev to order a massive military intervention in November 1956. Thousands of Hungarians were killed, roughly 200,000 fled abroad, and Nagy was later executed; the West offered sympathy but no military aid.

**22. C** — After overthrowing the Batista regime in January 1959, Castro nationalized U.S. and Cuban businesses, jailed or exiled opponents, and formally declared the revolution Marxist-Leninist in 1961. Cuba aligned with Moscow, became a Cold War flashpoint, and remained a one-party communist state for the remainder of the 20th century.

**23. A** — First Secretary Dubček's reforms, summarized as "socialism with a human face," loosened censorship, expanded civil liberties, and proposed limited economic decentralization. Alarmed by the example, Brezhnev sent Warsaw Pact tanks into Prague in August 1968, ending the reforms and producing the "Brezhnev Doctrine" that Moscow would intervene wherever socialism was threatened.

**24. B** — Although the United States had refused to recognize the People's Republic since 1949, Nixon's eight-day trip — including meetings with Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai — opened the path to full diplomatic relations established in 1979. The opening also realigned Cold War geopolitics by exploiting the Sino-Soviet split to pressure Moscow.

**25. D** — North Vietnamese tanks crashed through the gates of the Presidential Palace in Saigon on April 30, 1975, completing the conquest of the South after the U.S. withdrawal under the 1973 Paris Peace Accords. The country was formally unified the next year as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam under communist rule.

**26. B** — Following the Iranian Revolution, militant students stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979, and held 52 American diplomats and citizens for 444 days. The crisis contributed to President Carter's defeat in 1980, and the hostages were released minutes after Ronald Reagan's inauguration in January 1981.

**27. C** — When Argentina's military junta seized the British-administered islands in the South Atlantic in April 1982, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dispatched a naval task force that retook the territory after about ten weeks of fighting. The British victory bolstered Thatcher's domestic standing and contributed to the collapse of the Argentine junta.

**28. A** — On April 26, 1986, Reactor No. 4 at the Soviet nuclear plant in Ukraine exploded during a safety test, releasing huge amounts of radioactive material across Belarus, Ukraine, and much of Europe. The disaster forced the evacuation of tens of thousands, damaged confidence in the Soviet system, and reinforced Gorbachev's later commitment to glasnost.

**29. C** — Under the 1990 Unification Treaty, the five eastern Länder formally acceded to the West German constitution (the Basic Law) on October 3, 1990, dissolving the German Democratic Republic. The "Two Plus Four" agreement with the wartime Allies cleared the diplomatic path, and a united Germany remained anchored in NATO and the European Community.

**30. D** — When Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian leaders signed the Belavezha Accords in December 1991, the USSR ceased to exist, and Mikhail Gorbachev resigned on December 25. Fifteen newly independent states emerged from the former union, with the Russian Federation inheriting the Soviet seat at the UN, most of its weapons, and most diplomatic obligations.

**31. B** — The Bush administration claimed Iraq was hiding chemical, biological, and possibly nuclear weapons in violation of UN resolutions and had ties to al-Qaeda. After the invasion, no functional WMD stockpiles were found and the alleged al-Qaeda links were largely discredited, generating enduring controversy over the war's justifications.

**32. A** — Before the construction of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s, the Nile's annual summer flood deposited rich silt across the narrow floodplain, sustaining intensive agriculture in an otherwise arid landscape. This reliable productivity supported ancient Egyptian civilization and continues to underpin Egypt's modern population, which still clusters along the river.

**33. C** — Bordered by Iran to the north and Oman and the UAE to the south, the strait is only about 33 kilometers wide at its narrowest point, yet roughly 20% of the world's petroleum and large volumes of liquefied natural gas pass through it. Any threat to traffic there raises global energy prices and has repeatedly drawn international military attention.

**34. D** — Warm, moisture-laden winds drawn off the Indian Ocean each summer deliver the rains that supply most of South Asia's annual precipitation, watering rice, wheat, and other staple crops. A weak or delayed monsoon can devastate harvests across India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, while excessive rains bring catastrophic flooding.

**35. B** — Stretching about 7,000 kilometers from Venezuela through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina, the Andes form the world's longest continental mountain range. They were the heartland of the Inca Empire and continue to shape the climate, settlement patterns, and economies of the western coast of South America.