

PRACTICE EXAM 16 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. The English philosopher Thomas Hobbes argued in his 1651 work *Leviathan* that
 - A. Government should rest on the consent of the governed and protect natural rights
 - B. Religious tolerance and free expression should be the foundation of all governance
 - C. Separation of powers was essential to prevent governmental tyranny over citizens
 - D. Strong absolute sovereignty was necessary to prevent a brutal state of nature

2. In *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), Adam Smith argued that economic prosperity is best achieved through
 - A. Free markets guided by self-interest and the invisible hand
 - B. State-managed industries directed by central economic planning officials
 - C. Restrictions on foreign trade to protect domestic industries
 - D. Communal ownership and equal distribution of all national wealth

3. Mary Wollstonecraft's 1792 work *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* is best known for
 - A. Defending the British monarchy from radical French republican ideas
 - B. Arguing for the abolition of the transatlantic African slave trade
 - C. Calling for the education and equal rights of women in society
 - D. Outlining the principles of laissez-faire industrial capitalism doctrine

4. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, adopted in 1789, proclaimed
- A. The divine right of kings to rule the nation absolutely
 - B. Liberty, equality, and the natural rights of all male citizens
 - C. The right of religious institutions to govern French civil society
 - D. The supremacy of property rights over all other freedoms
5. Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin in 1793 had which of the following effects in the United States?
- A. Reduced demand for slave labor on Southern plantations
 - B. Eliminated the production of textiles in Northern states
 - C. Dramatically expanded cotton production and slavery in the South
 - D. Ended American dependence on British manufactured cloth imports
6. Charles Darwin's 1859 work *On the Origin of Species* introduced
- A. The theory of evolution through natural selection
 - B. The laws of inheritance through chromosome pairing
 - C. The germ theory explaining infectious disease transmission
 - D. The periodic classification of the chemical elements
7. The Crimean War of 1853–1856 was fought primarily between Russia and
- A. Imperial Japan over disputed Manchurian territorial claims
 - B. The Ottoman Empire alone over Black Sea naval access
 - C. Prussia and Austria over Central European territorial influence
 - D. An alliance of Britain, France, and the Ottoman Empire

8. In 1861, Tsar Alexander II of Russia issued the Emancipation Edict, which
- A. Granted Russian women full voting rights in national elections
 - B. Freed approximately 23 million Russian serfs from bondage
 - C. Established a democratic parliamentary Duma legislative body
 - D. Required mandatory military service for all male citizens
9. The Taiping Rebellion of 1850–1864 in China was led by Hong Xiuquan, who
- A. Sought to restore the traditional Manchu Qing dynasty rule and customs
 - B. Demanded the immediate expulsion of all foreign merchants from Chinese ports
 - C. Claimed to be the younger brother of Jesus Christ and led a religious uprising
 - D. Organized a peasant movement aligned with European colonial powers and missionaries
10. The Open Door Policy proposed by U.S. Secretary of State John Hay in 1899 was intended to
- A. Ensure equal trading rights for all foreign powers in China
 - B. Promote unrestricted European immigration into the American homeland
 - C. End diplomatic isolation between America and the Soviet Union
 - D. Establish free trade between the U.S. and Latin American nations
11. The Mexican Revolution that began in 1910 was initially directed against the long rule of
- A. President Benito Juárez and the Liberal reformers in Mexico
 - B. President Porfirio Díaz and his long authoritarian regime
 - C. Emperor Maximilian and the French imperial intervention forces
 - D. President Lázaro Cárdenas and his sweeping land reform policies

12. The fall of the Qing dynasty and proclamation of the Republic of China in 1912 was inspired by the political philosophy of

- A. Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party movement
- B. Chiang Kai-shek and the Whampoa military academy network
- C. Yuan Shikai and traditional Confucian government officials
- D. Sun Yat-sen and his Three Principles of the People

13. The 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement was a secret treaty in which

- A. Britain and France divided Ottoman Middle Eastern territories into spheres
- B. The United States agreed to enter World War I against Germany
- C. Russia and Japan negotiated the partition of Manchuria into zones
- D. Italy and Austria-Hungary settled their disputed Alpine border regions

14. The 1917 Balfour Declaration was a statement by the British government supporting

- A. The independence of all British colonies in Africa and Asia
- B. The recognition of the Soviet Union as a legitimate sovereign state
- C. The establishment of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine
- D. The partition of the Ottoman Empire among the Allied powers

15. The Fourteen Points presented by President Woodrow Wilson in January 1918 included a call for

- A. The immediate decolonization of all European overseas colonial territories
- B. National self-determination and the creation of a League of Nations
- C. The expansion of American military bases throughout Europe and Asia
- D. The redistribution of all German colonies to the United States

16. The Holodomor of 1932–1933 refers to the man-made famine that killed millions of

- A. Ukrainian peasants during Stalin's forced agricultural collectivization campaign
- B. Chinese farmers during Mao's Great Leap Forward initiative
- C. Indian peasants during British colonial grain requisition policies
- D. German civilians during the Allied strategic bombing campaigns

17. Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, refers to the November 1938 events in Nazi Germany when

- A. Polish forces invaded the Danzig Free City along the Baltic coast
- B. The Reichstag fire allowed Hitler to assume emergency dictatorial powers
- C. German troops formally crossed the border to invade neighboring Poland
- D. Coordinated attacks destroyed Jewish synagogues, businesses, and family homes

18. The 1935 Italian invasion of Ethiopia under Mussolini exposed the weakness of

- A. The Triple Entente military alliance between the great powers
- B. The Warsaw Pact's collective defense commitment between members
- C. The League of Nations and its system of collective security
- D. The Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis fascist alliance political framework

19. Operation Barbarossa, launched in June 1941, was the codename for

- A. The Allied invasion of Italy through Sicily and the Mediterranean
- B. The German invasion of the Soviet Union along a vast eastern front
- C. The Japanese surprise attack on the American base at Pearl Harbor
- D. The British amphibious operation evacuating Allied troops from Dunkirk beaches

20. The Atlantic Charter issued in August 1941 by Roosevelt and Churchill outlined

- A. The specific military strategy for an Allied invasion of Europe
- B. The boundaries of postwar occupation zones across defeated Germany
- C. The detailed terms for unconditional German and Japanese surrender
- D. Shared Allied war aims including self-determination and free trade

21. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948, was largely drafted under the leadership of

- A. Eleanor Roosevelt as chair of the U.N. Human Rights Commission
- B. Winston Churchill as a former British prime minister and statesman
- C. Charles de Gaulle as the leader of the Free French government
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru as the prime minister of newly independent India

22. The Mau Mau Uprising of 1952–1960 was an armed resistance movement in

- A. South Africa against the white minority apartheid government
- B. Algeria against ongoing French colonial military occupation
- C. Kenya against British settler control of fertile farmland
- D. Rhodesia against the white minority Ian Smith government

23. The Algerian War of Independence from 1954 to 1962 ended with

- A. The continued integration of Algeria as a French overseas department
- B. Algerian independence from France and the rise of the FLN to power
- C. The partition of Algeria between Arab and Berber autonomous regions
- D. The establishment of a French-Algerian federation under joint civilian rule

24. The 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa occurred when police opened fire on
- A. Communist Party members protesting Soviet-style economic policies in townships
 - B. Striking gold miners demanding higher wages from mining companies
 - C. Afrikaner farmers demonstrating against new land redistribution proposals
 - D. Black demonstrators protesting apartheid pass laws restricting movement
25. The launch of Sputnik by the Soviet Union in October 1957 was historically significant because it
- A. Marked the beginning of the space age and intensified the Cold War
 - B. Brought a permanent end to the nuclear arms race between the superpowers
 - C. Established the first international space station in orbit around the Earth
 - D. Allowed the Soviet Union to deploy nuclear weapons from outer space directly
26. The Bay of Pigs invasion of April 1961 was a failed attempt by
- A. Soviet forces to install nuclear missiles secretly inside Cuban territory
 - B. Cuban exiles to overthrow the U.S.-backed Batista government
 - C. CIA-trained Cuban exiles to overthrow Fidel Castro's government
 - D. United States Marines to recapture the Guantánamo naval base
27. The Sino-Soviet Split of the 1960s refers to the breakdown of relations between
- A. The Soviet Union and the Eastern European Warsaw Pact members
 - B. China and the Republic of China-aligned government on Taiwan
 - C. The Soviet Union and the People's Republic of North Korea
 - D. Communist China under Mao and the Soviet Union under Khrushchev

28. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed by the U.S. Congress in 1964 authorized

- A. The deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons to South Korean military defenses
- B. President Johnson to expand American military involvement in Vietnam
- C. The CIA to conduct covert operations against the Cuban government
- D. The withdrawal of American troops from West Berlin checkpoints

29. The 1971 Indo-Pakistani War resulted in the creation of the new independent state of

- A. Bangladesh from the former East Pakistan separated territory
- B. Sri Lanka from the former Indian colony of Ceylon
- C. Kashmir from the disputed Indian-Pakistani northern border region
- D. Bhutan from the former British Himalayan mountain protectorate

30. The 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) between the United States and Soviet Union

- A. Eliminated all medium-range nuclear missiles from European deployments
- B. Required mutual destruction of all existing chemical weapons stockpiles
- C. Capped the number of intercontinental ballistic missile launcher systems
- D. Established a joint inspection system for all nuclear test sites

31. The Iranian Hostage Crisis began in November 1979 when

- A. Iraqi forces under Saddam Hussein invaded southwestern Iranian territory
- B. Iranian students seized the American embassy and held 52 Americans captive
- C. The Shah of Iran fled to Egypt seeking medical cancer treatment abroad
- D. American forces attempted a failed rescue mission in the Iranian desert

32. The Iran-Iraq War from 1980 to 1988 began when Iraqi forces invaded Iran under the leadership of

- A. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini following the recent Islamic Revolution in Iran
- B. King Hussein of Jordan to defend Sunni Muslim regional interests
- C. Hafez al-Assad to expand Syrian regional Arab influence in the Gulf
- D. Saddam Hussein seeking territorial gains in the Shatt al-Arab waterway

33. The Soweto Uprising of June 1976 in South Africa began as a protest by black students against

- A. The compulsory use of Afrikaans as a language of instruction
- B. Mandatory military service in the South African Defence Force
- C. The removal of black history from the secondary school curriculum
- D. The closure of segregated black universities in major townships

34. The 1989 Polish Round Table Talks between the communist government and Solidarity resulted in

- A. Soviet military intervention to suppress the labor opposition movement
- B. The immediate dissolution of the Polish Communist Party leadership
- C. Partially free elections that led to a non-communist government
- D. The reunification of Poland with the Soviet Union into one state

35. The International Criminal Court (ICC), established by the Rome Statute and becoming operational in 2002, has jurisdiction over

- A. All disputes between member states regarding international trade matters
- B. Genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression
- C. Civil disputes involving cross-border corporate liability and contract issues
- D. Border disputes and territorial conflicts between sovereign member nations

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1-35)

- 1. D** — Strong absolute sovereignty was necessary to prevent a brutal state of nature. Writing in the aftermath of the English Civil War, Hobbes argued in *Leviathan* that without a powerful sovereign authority, human life would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Citizens should surrender natural rights to an absolute ruler in exchange for security and order.
- 2. A** — Free markets guided by self-interest and the invisible hand. Smith argued that individuals pursuing their own economic self-interest in a free market are led "as if by an invisible hand" to promote the general welfare. *The Wealth of Nations* became the founding text of classical liberal economics and laissez-faire capitalism.
- 3. C** — Calling for the education and equal rights of women in society. Responding to the exclusion of women from the rights proclaimed by the French Revolution, Wollstonecraft argued that women appeared inferior only because they were denied education and opportunity. The work is considered one of the earliest foundational texts of modern feminist philosophy.
- 4. B** — Liberty, equality, and the natural rights of all male citizens. Adopted by the French National Assembly in August 1789, the Declaration enshrined Enlightenment principles including freedom of speech, equality before the law, and the protection of property. It deliberately excluded women, slaves, and propertyless men from full citizenship rights.
- 5. C** — Dramatically expanded cotton production and slavery in the South. Whitney's machine made it economically viable to process short-staple cotton, transforming the South into the world's leading cotton producer. The resulting boom dramatically increased demand for enslaved labor, entrenching slavery in the antebellum American economy.
- 6. A** — The theory of evolution through natural selection. Darwin's work argued that species evolve over generations through the differential survival and reproduction of organisms with advantageous traits. The theory revolutionized biology and provoked enduring controversy with religious accounts of human origins.
- 7. D** — An alliance of Britain, France, and the Ottoman Empire. Russia's expansion toward the Mediterranean and claims to protect Orthodox Christians in Ottoman lands alarmed Britain and France, who joined the war on the Ottoman side in 1854. The conflict is often cited as the first modern war due to its use of railroads, telegraphs, and entrenched siege tactics.
- 8. B** — Freed approximately 23 million Russian serfs from bondage. Alexander II's reform, the most consequential of his "Great Reforms," ended a feudal system that had bound peasants to noble landowners for centuries. The freed serfs received land but often at burdensome redemption payments, leaving rural poverty largely intact.
- 9. C** — Claimed to be the younger brother of Jesus Christ and led a religious uprising. A failed civil service candidate influenced by Christian tracts, Hong founded the God Worshipping Society and proclaimed the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace. The civil war that followed killed an estimated 20 to 30 million people, making it one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.

- 10. A** — Ensure equal trading rights for all foreign powers in China. Hay's notes to the major powers asked them to respect equal commercial access within their respective spheres of influence in China. The policy preserved American commercial opportunities while opposing the outright partition of China by European empires.
- 11. B** — President Porfirio Díaz and his long authoritarian regime. Díaz had ruled Mexico for more than three decades under the slogan "order and progress," favoring foreign investors and large landowners at the expense of peasants and workers. Francisco Madero's call to arms in 1910 launched a decade-long revolution that transformed Mexican society.
- 12. D** — Sun Yat-sen and his Three Principles of the People. Sun's doctrine of nationalism (*mínzú*), democracy (*mínquán*), and people's livelihood (*mínshēng*) provided the ideological foundation for the Xinhai Revolution of 1911. He briefly served as the first Provisional President of the new Republic of China in January 1912.
- 13. A** — Britain and France divided Ottoman Middle Eastern territories into spheres. Negotiated in secret by British diplomat Mark Sykes and French diplomat François Georges-Picot, the agreement carved up the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire into French and British zones. Its revelation by the Bolsheviks in 1917 betrayed promises of Arab independence made during the war.
- 14. C** — The establishment of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine. Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour's letter to Lord Rothschild stated that the British government viewed "with favour" the establishment of such a home, while protecting the rights of existing non-Jewish communities. The declaration became foundational to the Zionist movement and to later Arab-Israeli conflicts.
- 15. B** — National self-determination and the creation of a League of Nations. Wilson's program for postwar peace called for open diplomacy, freedom of the seas, free trade, arms reductions, adjustment of colonial claims, and a general association of nations. Several points were diluted at Versailles, but the League and self-determination principles became defining legacies.
- 16. A** — Ukrainian peasants during Stalin's forced agricultural collectivization campaign. Soviet grain requisition quotas during forced collectivization left Ukraine's agricultural regions stripped of food, while internal passport laws prevented peasants from leaving. Estimates of deaths range from 3.5 to 7 million, and many governments now recognize the famine as a genocide.
- 17. D** — Coordinated attacks destroyed Jewish synagogues, businesses, and family homes. Triggered on November 9–10, 1938, by the assassination of a German diplomat in Paris, Nazi paramilitaries and civilians attacked Jewish targets across Germany and Austria. Around 100 Jews were killed and 30,000 sent to concentration camps, marking a dramatic escalation of Nazi anti-Jewish violence.
- 18. C** — The League of Nations and its system of collective security. The League condemned the invasion and imposed limited economic sanctions but excluded oil and key materials and failed to close the Suez Canal to Italian troopships. Mussolini's successful conquest demonstrated the League's impotence and emboldened further aggression by Hitler.

19. B — The German invasion of the Soviet Union along a vast eastern front. Hitler launched roughly 3.8 million Axis troops across the Soviet border on June 22, 1941, breaking the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact. The campaign opened the largest theater of World War II, where the Soviets ultimately suffered an estimated 27 million dead.

20. D — Shared Allied war aims including self-determination and free trade. Issued from a shipboard meeting off Newfoundland, the Atlantic Charter committed the U.S. and Britain to no territorial gains, respect for self-government, free access to trade, freedom of the seas, and disarmament of aggressors. Its principles shaped the later United Nations Charter.

21. A — Eleanor Roosevelt as chair of the U.N. Human Rights Commission. The former First Lady led the drafting process that produced the thirty articles of the Declaration, working with figures like Canadian legal scholar John Humphrey and French jurist René Cassin. The Declaration remains the cornerstone document of the modern international human rights framework.

22. C — Kenya against British settler control of fertile farmland. Predominantly composed of Kikuyu fighters, the Mau Mau resisted British colonial rule and the dispossession of African land in the highlands. The brutal British counterinsurgency hastened the political pressure that produced Kenyan independence under Jomo Kenyatta in 1963.

23. B — Algerian independence from France and the rise of the FLN to power. The brutal eight-year war between the National Liberation Front (FLN) and French forces ended with the Évian Accords of March 1962. Roughly one million European settlers fled to France as Algeria became independent under FLN leader Ahmed Ben Bella.

24. D — Black demonstrators protesting apartheid pass laws restricting movement. South African police opened fire on a crowd in Sharpeville on March 21, 1960, killing 69 people, most shot in the back as they fled. The massacre triggered international condemnation, the banning of the ANC and PAC, and Nelson Mandela's turn to armed resistance.

25. A — Marked the beginning of the space age and intensified the Cold War. The first artificial satellite, a 184-pound sphere launched on October 4, 1957, demonstrated Soviet rocket capabilities that could potentially deliver nuclear weapons across continents. The shock prompted the U.S. to create NASA and dramatically expand science and engineering education.

26. C — CIA-trained Cuban exiles to overthrow Fidel Castro's government. About 1,400 exiles trained by the CIA landed at the Bay of Pigs on Cuba's southern coast on April 17, 1961, expecting a popular uprising that never came. Castro's forces defeated the invasion within three days, humiliating the new Kennedy administration and pushing Cuba closer to the Soviet Union.

27. D — Communist China under Mao and the Soviet Union under Khrushchev. Disputes over ideological orthodoxy, Khrushchev's de-Stalinization, and competition for leadership of the communist world drove a public break by the early 1960s. The split led to border skirmishes in 1969 and ultimately to U.S. President Nixon's opening to China in 1972.

28. B — President Johnson to expand American military involvement in Vietnam. Passed after reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. destroyers in August 1964, the resolution gave Johnson broad authority to use military force in Southeast Asia. It served as the legal basis for major escalation of American combat operations in Vietnam without a formal declaration of war.

29. A — Bangladesh from the former East Pakistan separated territory. Brutal repression of the Bengali independence movement by West Pakistani forces drove millions of refugees into India, which intervened militarily in December 1971. The two-week war ended with Pakistani surrender at Dhaka and Bangladesh's independence under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

30. C — Capped the number of intercontinental ballistic missile launchers. Signed by Presidents Nixon and Brezhnev in Moscow, SALT I froze the number of fixed ICBM launchers at existing levels and imposed limits on submarine-launched ballistic missiles. It also produced the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty restricting missile defenses to two sites per side.

31. B — Iranian students seized the American embassy and held 52 Americans captive. After President Carter admitted the deposed Shah to the U.S. for medical treatment, militants stormed the embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979. The 444-day standoff doomed Carter's reelection and ended only on the day of Reagan's inauguration in January 1981.

32. D — Saddam Hussein seeking territorial gains in the Shatt al-Arab waterway. Hoping to exploit revolutionary chaos in Iran and reverse a 1975 border agreement, Saddam launched the invasion in September 1980. The eight-year war killed an estimated one million people, used chemical weapons extensively, and ended essentially where it began.

33. A — The compulsory use of Afrikaans as a language of instruction. Black students in Soweto protested a government decree requiring half of their secondary school subjects to be taught in Afrikaans, viewed as the language of the oppressor. Police killed dozens of demonstrators, with the death of 13-year-old Hector Pieterse becoming an enduring image of apartheid brutality.

34. C — Partially free elections that led to a non-communist government. Negotiations in early 1989 between the Communist government and the legalized Solidarity opposition produced semi-free elections in June, which Solidarity won overwhelmingly. By August, Tadeusz Mazowiecki became the first non-communist prime minister in the Soviet bloc since the late 1940s.

35. B — Genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression. Headquartered in The Hague, the ICC prosecutes individuals for the gravest crimes under international law when national courts are unwilling or unable to do so. Major powers including the United States, Russia, and China are not parties to the Rome Statute.