

# PRACTICE EXAM 20 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

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1. The French Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire is best known for advocating
  - A. the divine right of monarchs to rule without constitutional limits
  - B. the abolition of all private property under a workers' commonwealth
  - C. the strict separation of executive, legislative, and judicial powers in government
  - D. religious tolerance, freedom of speech, and reform of arbitrary government
  
2. In *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748), Baron de Montesquieu argued that liberty was best preserved by
  - A. concentrating all governing authority in a single hereditary absolute monarch
  - B. unifying all European states under a single elected supranational parliament
  - C. dividing government powers into separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches
  - D. allowing religious leaders to oversee the operations of secular government institutions
  
3. Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *The Social Contract* (1762) argued that legitimate political authority comes from
  - A. the general will of the people who together form the political community

- B. divine command transmitted through the established Christian churches across all of Europe
- C. the rights of inheritance handed down through royal and aristocratic family lines
- D. military victory by which strong rulers establish lawful dominion over the weaker

4. The American Revolution (1775–1783) most directly influenced the French Revolution by

- A. providing direct military assistance to the French revolutionaries who fought Louis XVI
- B. demonstrating that Enlightenment ideas of liberty could overthrow an established government
- C. forcing France's king to grant immediate independence to all French overseas colonies
- D. ending the rivalry between Britain and France throughout the late 18th century

5. Napoleon's Continental System, established in 1806, was an attempt to

- A. unify the European continent under a single Napoleonic legal code and government
- B. spread the principles of the French Revolution across Latin American nations
- C. negotiate a permanent peace agreement with the British government in London
- D. defeat Britain through a continent-wide blockade against British trade and goods

6. The Battle of Waterloo in June 1815

- A. ended Napoleon's "Hundred Days" return from exile and confirmed his final defeat
- B. began the Napoleonic Wars with France's first major victory over its European enemies
- C. opened a long French occupation of Belgium that lasted into the 1830s and beyond

D. resulted in a decisive French victory that briefly restored Napoleonic rule in Europe

7. Belgium gained independence in 1830 when it

A. successfully invaded and defeated the armies of the surrounding European powers

B. negotiated a peaceful merger with neighboring France under Bourbon family rule

C. revolted against the Dutch-led United Kingdom of the Netherlands following the July Revolution

D. was granted independence by the Congress of Vienna as part of the postwar settlement

8. The Chartist Movement in Britain during the 1830s and 1840s called for

A. the immediate establishment of a workers' communist state across the British Isles

B. democratic reforms including universal male suffrage and the secret ballot in elections

C. the restoration of medieval guild monopolies in opposition to industrial mass production

D. the reunification of Britain with the Catholic Church under the pope's spiritual leadership

9. The Indian National Congress, founded in 1885, originally focused on

A. organizing an immediate armed uprising against British colonial administration in India

B. defending the Hindu religious traditions against Christian missionary activity in India

C. negotiating the partition of India into separate Hindu and Muslim majority states

D. seeking greater Indian participation in colonial government and gradual political reform

10. Britain's 1905 partition of Bengal into Hindu-majority and Muslim-majority provinces
- A. provoked widespread Indian protests and boycotts that strengthened the nationalist movement
  - B. was warmly welcomed by Indian nationalists as a step toward eventual independence
  - C. led directly to creation of an independent Bengali state separate from British India
  - D. ended communal tensions between Hindus and Muslims throughout the Indian subcontinent

11. The Boer War (1899–1902) in southern Africa was fought between

- A. Zulu warriors and British colonial forces over control of the diamond fields in Natal
- B. the British Empire and the Dutch-descended Afrikaner republics in the Transvaal and Orange Free State
- C. Portuguese colonial authorities and African resistance fighters in Mozambique and Angola colonies
- D. German imperial forces and British colonial troops over the territory of Southwest Africa

12. On the eve of World War I, the major European alliance system grouped

- A. France, Britain, and Italy in the Triple Alliance against Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia
- B. all of the major European powers into a single coalition against Ottoman Turkey
- C. France, Britain, and Russia in the Triple Entente against Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- D. Russia and Germany in a defensive pact against France, Britain, and the Ottoman Empire

13. The immediate trigger of the First World War was the

- A. June 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary at Sarajevo in Bosnia
- B. signing of a defensive treaty between Germany and the Russian Empire over the Balkans
- C. dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and the partition of its remaining European territories
- D. German naval bombardment of British coastal cities and ports in the North Sea region

14. The February (March) Revolution of 1917 in Russia

- A. brought Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks to power for the first time in the empire
- B. restored Tsar Nicholas II to full autocratic authority after a brief constitutional period
- C. produced a stable parliamentary democracy that lasted for the next several decades in Russia
- D. led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II and the establishment of a Provisional Government

15. Trench warfare on the Western Front during World War I was characterized by

- A. rapid cavalry charges that broke through enemy lines and produced quick decisive victories
- B. defensive lines, machine guns, barbed wire, and massive casualties for little territorial gain
- C. naval engagements between dreadnought battleships in the open waters of the North Sea
- D. mountain warfare conducted between Italian and Austro-Hungarian forces in the high Alps

16. Rudyard Kipling's 1899 poem "The White Man's Burden" reflected the late 19th-century belief that

- A. European workers should resist the spread of industrial capitalism to colonized regions
- B. all races and cultures were morally equal and should govern themselves without interference

- C. Europeans had a duty to "civilize" the non-Western peoples ruled by their colonial empires
- D. religious tolerance among the world's faiths was essential to maintain the international peace

17. Jawaharlal Nehru is best known for

- A. serving as the first prime minister of independent India and promoting non-alignment
- B. founding the Muslim League and pressing for the creation of a separate Pakistan
- C. leading the partition of British India under direct Pakistani government military supervision
- D. negotiating the peaceful annexation of all the Indian princely states by Pakistan

18. Yugoslavia's leader Josip Broz Tito (1945–1980) is best known for

- A. leading a successful Soviet-backed communist takeover of Yugoslav central government institutions
- B. negotiating the partition of Yugoslavia into the modern Balkan successor states by 1955
- C. allying Yugoslavia closely with NATO throughout the entire Cold War period in Europe
- D. maintaining Yugoslav independence from Soviet control and helping to lead the Non-Aligned Movement

19. Nikita Khrushchev's 1956 "Secret Speech" at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party

- A. announced the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union into 15 independent successor republics
- B. proposed the immediate reunification of East and West Germany under joint Allied administration
- C. denounced the crimes of Joseph Stalin and began a process of "de-Stalinization" across the bloc
- D. declared a permanent alliance between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China

20. The Soviet launch of Sputnik 1 in October 1957 is historically significant because it
- A. ended the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union almost immediately
  - B. became the first artificial satellite and intensified the U.S.-Soviet space and arms race
  - C. carried the first human into orbit around the Earth for nearly a full day in space
  - D. resulted in the immediate establishment of a joint American-Soviet space exploration program
21. The Camp David Accords of 1978 negotiated under U.S. President Jimmy Carter resulted in
- A. the partition of Jerusalem between Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian administrative authorities
  - B. a permanent peace settlement between Israel and all of its neighboring Arab states at once
  - C. the immediate creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip
  - D. a framework for Egypt-Israel peace and the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt
22. The Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua in 1979 resulted in the
- A. overthrow of the Somoza family dictatorship and rise of a left-wing government in Managua
  - B. restoration of Spanish colonial administration over the Central American nation of Nicaragua
  - C. peaceful integration of Nicaragua into the United States as a new American territory
  - D. immediate establishment of a stable two-party constitutional democracy in Central America
23. The 1973 overthrow of Chilean President Salvador Allende

- A. produced an immediate transition to a stable parliamentary democracy under elected leaders
- B. resulted in a peaceful socialist revolution that nationalized Chilean industries and farms
- C. brought General Augusto Pinochet to power in a U.S.-supported military coup against Allende
- D. integrated Chile into the Soviet bloc as the first Latin American communist republic

24. The partition of British India in 1947 was accompanied by

- A. a peaceful and orderly transfer of populations between the new states of India and Pakistan
- B. massive communal violence between Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs that killed roughly one million people
- C. the immediate establishment of a single secular federal government for the entire subcontinent
- D. the formal British rejection of any partition plan favored by Indian Muslim nationalist leaders

25. The Sri Lankan civil war (1983–2009) was fought primarily between

- A. the Sinhalese Buddhist-dominated government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
- B. Hindu and Muslim populations over the partition of the island into two separate states
- C. communist insurgents and a U.S.-backed government similar to the war in Vietnam
- D. the British colonial administration and indigenous independence movements across the entire island

26. The Darfur conflict that intensified after 2003 has been characterized by

- A. a peaceful negotiated settlement reached under United Nations and African Union supervision
- B. economic disputes between rival commercial trading companies in the region's gold and oil sectors

- C. cooperative humanitarian operations led by neighboring African states under World Bank funding
- D. mass killings and displacement of non-Arab populations by Sudanese government-backed Janjaweed militias

27. The Syrian civil war that began in 2011 grew out of

- A. an external invasion of Syria by neighboring Iraq under Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime
- B. a peaceful agreement reached between the Assad government and Syrian opposition groups
- C. Arab Spring protests against the Assad regime that escalated into a multi-sided armed conflict
- D. a religious reform movement led by Sunni clerics in cooperation with the Syrian military

28. The global financial crisis that began in 2008 was triggered most directly by

- A. the collapse of communist economies across Eastern Europe and Russia in the early 2000s
- B. the bursting of a U.S. housing bubble and the failure of major banks and lenders
- C. the imposition of new global trade tariffs by the World Trade Organization on member states
- D. the simultaneous bankruptcy of every major sovereign nation in the Eurozone monetary union

29. The 2019–2020 Hong Kong protests were sparked primarily by

- A. a proposed extradition bill that would have allowed transfers of suspects to mainland China
- B. the immediate abolition of the "one country, two systems" framework by Hong Kong's leaders
- C. the discovery of large new petroleum reserves under the territorial waters of Hong Kong
- D. demands by Hong Kong to formally rejoin the United Kingdom as an overseas territory

30. The Yangtze River, the longest river in Asia, has historically been important to China as

- A. a natural barrier completely sealing northern China from contact with southern populations
- B. the source of all of China's coastal trade with Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia
- C. a major artery for transport, irrigation, and agriculture that supports much of China's population
- D. the geographic feature that defines China's northern border with the Russian Federation

31. The Ganges River is religiously and culturally significant in South Asia because it

- A. forms the natural northern boundary between modern India and the country of Pakistan
- B. supplies fresh drinking water to nearly all of the populations of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
- C. served as the main shipping route used by European traders during the colonial era
- D. is considered sacred in Hinduism and supports the agricultural plains of northern India

32. The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits in modern Turkey are strategically important because they

- A. provide the only navigable freshwater route between Russia and the Mediterranean Sea
- B. connect the Black Sea to the Mediterranean and have been contested for centuries
- C. form the natural geographic border separating Turkey from Greece and the Balkan states
- D. supply the bulk of Europe's drinking water through underground tunnels and pipelines

33. The Panama Canal, completed by the United States in 1914, increased global trade by

- A. providing a direct shipping route between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean
- B. linking the Indian Ocean to the South Atlantic through a canal cut across southern Africa
- C. connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through locks across the Central American isthmus
- D. opening an Arctic Ocean passage between the Bering Sea and the North Atlantic regions

34. The Caspian Sea region is significant in global politics because it contains

- A. major reserves of petroleum and natural gas that are exported through pipelines across Eurasia
- B. the freshwater drinking source for over half of Europe's modern population and industry
- C. the largest single deposit of gold and diamond reserves located on the European continent
- D. an inland sea fully enclosed by NATO member states forming a unified maritime alliance

35. The Sahel region of Africa is best described as

- A. the tropical rainforest belt that stretches across the central regions of the African continent
- B. a semi-arid transitional zone between the Sahara Desert and the savanna further south
- C. a Mediterranean-climate coastal belt running along the northern coast of the African continent
- D. the highland plateau region of southern Africa centered on the country of South Africa

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

**1. D** — In works such as *Letters Concerning the English Nation* and *Treatise on Tolerance*, Voltaire defended freedom of speech and the press, ridiculed superstition, and attacked the political privileges of the French Catholic Church. His famous (apocryphal) motto — "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" — captures his enduring influence on Enlightenment defenses of civil liberty.

**2. C** — Montesquieu studied the English constitution and concluded that liberty depended on each branch of government checking the others, so that "power should be a check to power." His tripartite scheme

directly influenced the framers of the United States Constitution and remains the standard model for modern liberal democracies.

**3. A** — Rousseau argued that legitimate sovereignty rests with the "general will" — the collective will of free citizens aimed at the common good — and that any government must serve as its agent. The idea inspired democratic revolutionaries in France and beyond, though critics have noted it can also justify majoritarian or even authoritarian rule in the name of "the people."

**4. B** — The American colonists' successful revolt against George III showed Europeans that an ordinary population could throw off a king in the name of natural rights and self-government. French soldiers who served alongside the Americans, such as the Marquis de Lafayette, returned home carrying these ideas, which then circulated through pamphlets and salons during the crisis of 1789.

**5. D** — In the Berlin and Milan Decrees, Napoleon forbade trade between Britain and any territory under French control, hoping to bankrupt the British "nation of shopkeepers" without a direct invasion. The blockade caused widespread smuggling and economic hardship across Europe, drove Russia to break with France in 1812, and ultimately failed to defeat Britain.

**6. A** — After escaping his exile on Elba, Napoleon returned to France and ruled for about 100 days before facing an allied British, Dutch, and Prussian army under the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo in modern Belgium. The crushing defeat ended the Napoleonic era, sent Napoleon into permanent exile on Saint Helena, and confirmed the Vienna settlement of European borders.

**7. C** — Inspired by the July Revolution that put a constitutional monarch on the French throne, Belgian Catholics and liberals rose against William I, whose Dutch-Protestant rule they resented. The Great Powers recognized Belgian independence at the 1831 London Conference and guaranteed its neutrality — a guarantee whose violation by Germany in 1914 brought Britain into World War I.

**8. B** — The 1838 People's Charter laid out six demands: universal manhood suffrage, the secret ballot, equal electoral districts, annual Parliaments, payment of members of Parliament, and the abolition of property qualifications for MPs. Although Parliament rejected every Chartist petition, five of the six demands were eventually enacted, making the movement a foundation of modern British democracy.

**9. D** — Initially a moderate body composed largely of English-educated lawyers, doctors, and journalists, the Congress petitioned for expanded Indian representation in the Indian Civil Service and provincial councils. It became more assertive under leaders such as Tilak and later Gandhi, evolving into the mass movement that achieved independence in 1947.

**10. A** — Viceroy Lord Curzon's division of Bengal was widely seen by Hindu Bengalis as a deliberate British strategy of "divide and rule" to weaken Indian nationalism. The resulting *swadeshi* boycott of British goods, mass demonstrations, and revolutionary violence energized the Indian National Congress and forced Britain to reverse the partition in 1911.

**11. B** — Britain fought two related conflicts (1880–81 and 1899–1902) to absorb the gold- and diamond-rich Afrikaner republics into its South African empire. To defeat Boer guerrillas, the British army adopted

scorched-earth tactics and confined civilians in "concentration camps" where roughly 28,000 Boers and many more Africans died, foreshadowing the total-war practices of the 20th century.

**12. C** — The Triple Entente bound France, Britain, and Russia through a series of agreements from 1894 to 1907, while Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed the Triple Alliance dating from 1882. Italy switched sides in 1915 to join the Entente, and the rigid alliance system helped transform the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand into a continent-wide war.

**13. A** — When Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb nationalist, shot the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife in Sarajevo, Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia and then declared war. The mobilization timetables of the alliance system pulled Russia, Germany, France, and Britain into the conflict within weeks, beginning the First World War.

**14. D** — Bread riots and a soldiers' mutiny in Petrograd forced Tsar Nicholas II to abdicate on March 15, 1917 (March 2 in the old-style Julian calendar), ending more than three centuries of Romanov rule. Power passed to a Provisional Government under Prince Lvov and later Alexander Kerensky, which was itself overthrown by the Bolsheviks in October.

**15. B** — Once both sides "dug in" after the Battle of the Marne, the Western Front stretched from the English Channel to the Swiss border in a network of parallel trenches that barely moved for years. Battles such as Verdun and the Somme produced hundreds of thousands of casualties for gains measured in yards, exposing the horror of industrial-age warfare.

**16. C** — Published in 1899 in connection with the U.S. takeover of the Philippines, Kipling's verse urged Americans to assume the supposed obligation of governing "your new-caught sullen peoples, half devil and half child." The poem encapsulated the paternalistic, racist ideology that imperial powers used to justify domination over Africa and Asia during the high age of imperialism.

**17. A** — A close ally of Mahatma Gandhi who became prime minister at independence in 1947, Nehru pursued state-led industrialization, secular democracy, and a foreign policy of non-alignment between the U.S. and Soviet blocs. Along with Nasser and Tito he helped shape the Non-Aligned Movement, and his political dynasty (Indira and Rajiv Gandhi) dominated Indian politics for decades.

**18. D** — A wartime communist partisan leader, Tito broke with Stalin in 1948 and refused to subordinate Yugoslavia to Moscow, surviving repeated Soviet pressure. He balanced relations between East and West, pursued a distinctive "self-management" socialism, and co-founded the Non-Aligned Movement at the 1961 Belgrade conference.

**19. C** — Speaking to a closed session of the Communist Party, Khrushchev catalogued Stalin's purges, deportations, and "cult of personality," shocking delegates and signaling a partial liberalization of Soviet life. The speech encouraged reformers across the bloc, contributing to the 1956 uprisings in Poland and Hungary and to a gradual reduction of overt terror under successive Soviet leaders.

**20. B** — A polished 184-pound metal sphere with four trailing antennas, Sputnik orbited Earth every 96 minutes, broadcasting a beep that amateur radio operators worldwide could pick up. The shock prompted

the creation of NASA and DARPA in the United States, sweeping reforms of science and mathematics education, and a decade-long race that culminated in the 1969 Apollo moon landing.

**21. D** — Negotiated at the U.S. presidential retreat over 13 days, the accords produced two framework agreements: one outlining a Palestinian autonomy plan and another committing Egypt and Israel to a peace treaty. The 1979 Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty returned the Sinai Peninsula and earned Sadat and Begin the Nobel Peace Prize, though Sadat was assassinated by Islamist extremists in 1981.

**22. A** — The Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional, named for 1930s anti-American guerrilla Augusto Sandino, drove dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle into exile in July 1979 after decades of corrupt family rule. The new junta nationalized industries, undertook land reform, and aligned with Cuba and the Soviet Union, prompting the Reagan administration to fund the Contra insurgency throughout the 1980s.

**23. C** — A democratically elected Marxist, Allende had nationalized Chile's copper industry and large estates, alarming the United States and Chilean elites. On September 11, 1973, the armed forces under General Pinochet bombed the presidential palace; Allende died during the assault, and Pinochet ruled until 1990 in a regime that killed or "disappeared" several thousand opponents.

**24. B** — As the British rushed to leave, Punjab and Bengal were split along religious lines, triggering the largest forced migration in modern history with roughly 15 million displaced. Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh communities slaughtered one another in train cars, villages, and refugee columns, and the legacy of partition violence still shapes India-Pakistan relations.

**25. A** — Decades of Sinhalese-majority discrimination against Tamil-speaking, mostly Hindu citizens of the north and east led the LTTE — popularly known as the Tamil Tigers — to demand a separate state of Tamil Eelam through a long insurgency featuring suicide bombings and conventional combat. Government forces crushed the LTTE in May 2009, with the war's final phase producing thousands of civilian deaths.

**26. D** — Beginning in 2003, the Sudanese government armed Arab nomadic militias known as the Janjaweed to crush rebellion among non-Arab farming communities of Darfur such as the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa. Roughly 300,000 people are estimated to have died and more than 2.5 million were displaced, leading the International Criminal Court to indict President Omar al-Bashir for genocide.

**27. C** — Protests in the city of Daraa in March 2011, inspired by uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, were met with deadly force by the Assad government, igniting an armed rebellion. The conflict drew in Russia, Iran, Hezbollah, the United States, Turkey, Kurdish forces, and ISIS, killing more than half a million people and displacing roughly half the Syrian population.

**28. B** — Years of subprime mortgage lending in the United States produced a housing bubble that burst in 2007–08, devastating mortgage-backed securities held by financial institutions worldwide. The September 2008 bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers froze global credit markets, requiring massive government bailouts and producing the deepest worldwide recession since the 1930s.

**29. A** — The Hong Kong government proposed allowing fugitives to be transferred to mainland Chinese courts, which protesters feared would expose dissidents to a politicized legal system. Demonstrations grew

into a broader pro-democracy movement, drawing one to two million participants at their peak and prompting Beijing to impose a sweeping National Security Law in 2020.

**30. C** — Stretching roughly 6,300 kilometers from the Tibetan Plateau to Shanghai, the Yangtze drains nearly a fifth of China's land area and waters the most fertile agricultural region of the country. Its basin holds about a third of China's population, and the Three Gorges Dam now provides the world's largest single source of hydroelectric power.

**31. D** — Hindus venerate the Ganges as the goddess Ganga and bathe in her waters at sacred sites such as Varanasi to wash away sin; the river is also central to cremation and funeral rites. Beyond its religious importance, it irrigates the densely populated Ganges Plain, feeding hundreds of millions of people across northern India and Bangladesh.

**32. B** — Together the two straits — with the Sea of Marmara between them — form the only sea passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, controlling Russian, Ukrainian, and Romanian access to world oceans. Their control has shaped conflicts from the Crimean War through World War I's Gallipoli Campaign and is still governed today by the 1936 Montreux Convention.

**33. C** — Cut across the narrowest point of Central America, the canal uses a series of locks to raise ships from sea level to Gatun Lake and back down again, cutting roughly 13,000 kilometers from voyages between the U.S. East and West Coasts. The canal remains one of the world's most strategically important waterways and was returned from U.S. to Panamanian sovereignty in 1999.

**34. A** — The Caspian basin sits atop massive hydrocarbon reserves exploited by Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Iran, with pipelines such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan carrying oil to world markets. Competition for these resources and for pipeline routes has been a major focus of post-Soviet geopolitics involving Russia, the United States, and China.

**35. B** — Stretching across about a dozen African countries from Senegal to Sudan, the Sahel marks the gradual climate transition from desert to wetter grassland. Recurring droughts, expanding desertification, and population pressure have fueled famine, mass migration, and armed conflict, while the region has also become a front line in struggles against jihadist insurgencies.