

PRACTICE EXAM 21 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. James Watt's improvements to the steam engine in the 1760s and 1770s contributed to the Industrial Revolution by

- A. Reducing the demand for coal as the primary source of industrial energy worldwide
- B. Eliminating the need for human labor in textile factories within the first decade
- C. Providing a powerful and reliable source of mechanical energy independent of waterpower
- D. Replacing all sailing ships in the Atlantic with steam-powered vessels by the year 1800

2. The Great Exhibition of 1851, held at the Crystal Palace in London, was significant because it

- A. Marked the official beginning of British colonial rule across the Indian subcontinent
- B. Showcased British industrial supremacy and the products of nations from around the world
- C. Established the first international labor union to protect industrial workers' rights worldwide
- D. Triggered the first global recession in the modern industrial era of the 19th century

3. Robert Owen, a British industrialist and reformer, is best known for

- A. Inventing the spinning jenny and the water frame to mechanize cotton production
- B. Establishing the model factory community at New Lanark and promoting utopian socialism
- C. Leading the British abolitionist movement that ended the transatlantic slave trade
- D. Writing the foundational texts of free-market economics and individual property rights

4. Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859) introduced the theory that
- A. Species evolve over time through the process of natural selection acting on variation
 - B. Different races possess fixed biological traits that cannot change over many generations
 - C. All living organisms were created in their present form a few thousand years ago
 - D. Human societies progress through inevitable stages determined entirely by economic laws and forces
5. Florence Nightingale is most associated with the
- A. Founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross after the Franco-Prussian War
 - B. Successful campaign for women's suffrage in the United Kingdom and the United States
 - C. Discovery of the germ theory of disease in laboratories during the late 19th century
 - D. Modernization of nursing and military medical care during and after the Crimean War
6. France completed its conquest of Indochina (modern Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia) in the 1880s primarily for
- A. Religious motives based on the desire to convert all of Southeast Asia to Catholicism
 - B. Humanitarian reasons connected to ending widespread famine throughout the Southeast Asian region
 - C. Economic and strategic motives including access to resources, trade, and naval bases
 - D. The defensive requirements of protecting French Polynesia from Japanese imperial expansion
7. The Dreyfus Affair in late 19th-century France (1894–1906) exposed
- A. Deep antisemitism, divisions over the role of the army, and threats to French democracy
 - B. The successful integration of Jewish citizens into all levels of French government and society
 - C. A communist conspiracy to overthrow the French Third Republic with foreign assistance
 - D. The military superiority of France over Germany in the decades leading up to World War I

8. Czar Nicholas II's October Manifesto of 1905 was issued in response to revolutionary unrest and

- A. Established a fully democratic republic in place of the Russian Imperial autocracy
- B. Officially abolished serfdom across the Russian Empire for the very first time
- C. Ended the Russo-Japanese War with a Russian victory over the Japanese Empire
- D. Promised basic civil liberties and created an elected legislature called the Duma

9. Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa are most associated with the Mexican Revolution because they

- A. Restored President Porfirio Díaz to power after his initial overthrow in 1911
- B. Negotiated the peaceful transition of power from the Mexican military to civilian leaders
- C. Led the conservative landowning interests opposed to the demands of peasants for reform
- D. Led peasant armies that demanded land reform under the slogan "Land and Liberty"

10. The Russian Civil War (1918–1922) was fought primarily between

- A. The Bolshevik Red Army and Czarist forces seeking to restore the Romanov dynasty alone
- B. The communist "Reds" and the anti-communist "Whites," with foreign intervention on the White side
- C. Russia and an alliance of Germany and Austria-Hungary continuing the First World War
- D. Industrial workers in Russian cities and peasant farmers throughout the rural countryside

11. The Treaty of Sèvres (1920) attempted to

- A. Reunite the Austro-Hungarian Empire under a single democratic federal constitution and parliament
- B. End the German occupation of the Rhineland by withdrawing all military forces immediately
- C. Partition the defeated Ottoman Empire among European powers and create new states
- D. Establish the League of Nations as a permanent international peacekeeping organization

12. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's reforms after founding the Republic of Turkey in 1923 included

- A. Secularizing the state, abolishing the caliphate, and adopting Western legal and alphabet systems
- B. Restoring the Ottoman sultan and the religious authority of the caliphate over the country
- C. Joining the Soviet Union as a constituent republic of the new communist federation
- D. Converting Turkey into an absolute monarchy modeled on the empires of medieval Europe

13. Stalin's collectivization of agriculture beginning in 1928 was designed to

- A. Restore private land ownership and encourage the growth of small independent farms
- B. Modernize Soviet farming through close cooperation with American and German agricultural experts
- C. Eliminate independent peasants (kulaks) and place all agriculture under direct state control
- D. Reverse Lenin's New Economic Policy by returning to traditional Russian Orthodox farming

14. Kristallnacht ("Night of Broken Glass"), November 1938, refers to

- A. The Nazi annexation of Austria into the German Third Reich without any armed resistance
- B. Nazi-organized attacks against Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues across Germany and annexed Austria
- C. The dropping of incendiary bombs on the city of Dresden during the Allied bombing campaign
- D. The signing of the Munich Agreement that allowed Germany to annex the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia

15. The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of August 1939

- A. Created a permanent military alliance between Germany and the Soviet Union for over a decade
- B. Forced Germany to abandon its territorial ambitions in Poland and Eastern Europe entirely
- C. Established a joint Nazi-Soviet democratic government across the territory of Eastern Europe
- D. Included secret protocols dividing Eastern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence

16. The German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, is significant because it

- A. Triggered Britain and France's declarations of war and started World War II in Europe
- B. Was repelled by Polish forces, who quickly drove the invading Germans out of their country
- C. Led to immediate American military intervention against Germany on Polish territorial soil
- D. Restored Poland's pre-1772 borders by returning territory previously taken by Prussia and Russia

17. Following the German defeat of France in June 1940, Charles de Gaulle

- A. Led the Free French resistance from London while Marshal Pétain headed the Vichy collaborationist regime
- B. Negotiated the peaceful withdrawal of German forces from all of French national territory
- C. Assumed the position of Vichy France's president and worked closely with Nazi authorities
- D. Led a French military invasion of the German homeland to bring the war to a rapid close

18. The Tokyo War Crimes Trials (1946–1948), modeled on the Nuremberg Trials, prosecuted

- A. American military commanders for the firebombing of Japanese cities during the Pacific War
- B. Soviet officials for atrocities committed during the occupation of Japanese-held territories
- C. Japanese military and political leaders for war crimes committed during World War II in Asia
- D. Chinese Nationalist officers for atrocities committed against Japanese soldiers and civilians

19. The Berlin Wall, constructed beginning in August 1961, was built primarily to

- A. Defend West Berlin from a planned Soviet invasion of the western occupation zones
- B. Stop the mass flight of East Germans into West Berlin and the West German economy
- C. Symbolize the friendship between the two German states during the Cold War period
- D. Mark the formal boundary between East and West Germany throughout the entire country

20. The 1976 Soweto Uprising in South Africa began as a protest by Black students against

- A. The introduction of new science textbooks that excluded African historical perspectives entirely
- B. The integration of all Soweto schools with previously segregated white South African schools
- C. New Bantu education policies that improved school facilities throughout the entire township
- D. A government policy requiring instruction in Afrikaans, the language of the apartheid regime

21. South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (1995–2002), chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, was designed to

- A. Prosecute and execute the leaders of the former apartheid government for their many crimes
- B. Distribute economic reparations directly to all victims of apartheid violence from the white population
- C. Document apartheid-era human rights abuses and offer amnesty in exchange for truthful testimony
- D. Restore the legal system of racial segregation in a modified form under the new majority government

22. Argentina's "Dirty War" (1976–1983) under the military junta involved

- A. The kidnapping, torture, and "disappearance" of an estimated 30,000 suspected leftists and dissidents
- B. A successful guerrilla war that established a communist government in Buenos Aires
- C. A long border war between Argentina and Chile over disputed Patagonian territorial claims
- D. The peaceful democratic transition from military junta rule to civilian government in Argentina

23. The Sandinista National Liberation Front, which seized power in Nicaragua in 1979

- A. Was a right-wing military government supported by the United States and Israel
- B. Restored the Somoza family dictatorship that had ruled Nicaragua since the 1930s
- C. Established a Catholic monarchy modeled on the medieval Spanish religious orders
- D. Established a leftist revolutionary government that faced U.S.-backed Contra military opposition

24. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which took effect in 1994, was signed by

- A. The United States, Canada, and Cuba to reduce trade barriers across the Caribbean and beyond
- B. The United States, Canada, and Mexico to eliminate most tariffs and trade barriers between them
- C. All nations of the Organization of American States to establish a single hemispheric currency
- D. The United States and the European Union to create a unified Atlantic trading bloc by 2000

25. The 1997 Asian Financial Crisis began with the collapse of the Thai baht and

- A. Resulted in the immediate financial recovery of every East Asian economy within six months
- B. Strengthened the value of the Japanese yen against all other major currencies of the world
- C. Spread to Indonesia, South Korea, and other Asian economies, requiring International Monetary Fund bailouts
- D. Forced the immediate adoption of a single Asian currency by all members of ASEAN that year

26. The 1999 Kosovo War ended with

- A. A complete Serbian victory and the formal annexation of Kosovo by the Serbian government
- B. The peaceful return of all Kosovar Albanian refugees to their original villages and homes
- C. NATO bombing of Serbia and the withdrawal of Serbian forces from the territory of Kosovo
- D. The voluntary unification of Kosovo and Albania into a single ethnic Albanian republic

27. East Timor gained its independence in 2002 after a 1999 referendum in which the population voted

- A. To separate from Indonesia following decades of military occupation and armed resistance
- B. To join Indonesia as the easternmost province under the leadership of President Suharto
- C. To form a federation with Australia and other South Pacific island nations of the region
- D. To return to Portuguese colonial control after the brief period of Indonesian administration

28. Aung San Suu Kyi became a global symbol of

- A. Successful military rule in Southeast Asia and the rapid modernization of Myanmar's economy
- B. The expansion of the European Union into the nations of Southeast Asia after the Cold War
- C. Communist insurgency against postcolonial governments throughout mainland Southeast Asia and Indochina
- D. Nonviolent democratic resistance against the long-ruling military junta in Myanmar (Burma)

29. The Islamic State (ISIS) rose to international prominence after 2014 by

- A. Negotiating peaceful diplomatic recognition from the United Nations and most Arab governments
- B. Seizing large portions of Iraq and Syria and declaring a self-proclaimed caliphate in the region
- C. Joining the existing Iraqi government as a recognized Sunni political party in parliament
- D. Forming a defensive military alliance with Iran, Russia, and the Syrian government of Bashar al-Assad

30. The Syrian Civil War that began in 2011 has

- A. Killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions, drawing in regional and global powers
- B. Ended quickly with a clear opposition victory over the government of Bashar al-Assad
- C. Been resolved through United Nations mediation and a peaceful nationwide constitutional referendum
- D. Restored Syria's pre-1967 borders and returned all occupied territory to its original owners

31. The 2015 European migrant crisis saw the largest movement of refugees into Europe since World War II driven primarily by

- A. Economic migration from Latin America in search of higher wages in European countries
- B. A famine that struck the African Sahel and forced mass migration northward to Europe
- C. Climate-driven migration from low-lying Pacific island nations affected by sea-level rise
- D. Conflict in Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq combined with instability and poverty in Africa

32. Vladimir Putin, who became Russia's president in 2000, has consolidated power by

- A. Strengthening Russia's multiparty democracy and expanding the free press throughout the country
- B. Limiting press freedom, weakening opposition, and increasing state control over the economy
- C. Negotiating Russia's full membership in NATO and the European Union by the year 2010
- D. Transferring presidential authority to the Russian parliament under a new federal constitution

33. The Eurozone debt crisis (2009–2012) most seriously affected

- A. The wealthier northern European nations, particularly Germany and the neighboring Netherlands
- B. Only the new Eastern European member states that joined the European Union after 2004
- C. Southern European nations including Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Ireland that needed bailouts
- D. The non-Eurozone members of the European Union, especially Britain and Sweden, the worst

34. International climate agreements such as the 2015 Paris Agreement and ongoing COP conferences attempt to

- A. Coordinate global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit average temperature rise
- B. Phase out renewable energy in favor of expanded coal, oil, and natural gas production worldwide
- C. Build new nuclear weapons stockpiles in major industrialized nations to deter climate denial
- D. Establish a single global government with binding legal authority over national environmental policy

35. The Battle of Verdun (1916) and the Battle of the Somme (1916) on the Western Front are remembered for

- A. The decisive German victory that ended World War I within a few months of the battles
- B. The successful use of cavalry charges to break enemy trench lines on the European battlefield
- C. The first use of strategic atomic weapons in the conflict between France and Germany

D. Catastrophic casualties that came to symbolize the futility and slaughter of modern trench warfare

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1-35)

1. C — Providing a powerful and reliable source of mechanical energy independent of waterpower. Watt's separate condenser and rotary motion innovations dramatically improved the efficiency of the earlier Newcomen engine, allowing factories to operate anywhere coal could be transported rather than only beside fast-flowing rivers. His engines powered textile mills, pumped mines, and later moved locomotives and ships — the literal driving force of the Industrial Revolution.

2. B — Showcased British industrial supremacy and the products of nations from around the world. Prince Albert's exhibition drew six million visitors to a soaring iron-and-glass building in Hyde Park, displaying machinery, manufactured goods, and raw materials from across the British Empire and the globe. It symbolized Britain's position as the world's leading industrial power and inspired similar world's fairs in Paris, Chicago, and elsewhere.

3. B — Establishing the model factory community at New Lanark and promoting utopian socialism. Owen turned his Scottish cotton mill into a model community with shorter hours, education for workers' children, and humane living conditions, demonstrating that profitable industry need not exploit workers. His ideas inspired the cooperative movement, the early labor movement, and utopian experiments like New Harmony in the United States.

4. A — Species evolve over time through the process of natural selection acting on variation. Darwin argued that organisms with traits better suited to their environment survive and reproduce, gradually transforming species over generations. The theory revolutionized biology and provoked intense religious and social controversy, while being misapplied by Social Darwinists to justify imperialism, racism, and unregulated capitalism.

5. D — Modernization of nursing and military medical care during and after the Crimean War. Nightingale's organization of nursing at the British military hospital in Scutari dramatically reduced soldier mortality through sanitation, ventilation, and basic hygiene. She later founded the first secular nursing school at St. Thomas's Hospital and pioneered the use of statistics in public health, transforming nursing into a respected profession.

6. C — Economic and strategic motives including access to resources, trade, and naval bases. France sought rice, rubber, coal, and tin, along with a foothold for trade with southern China and a naval presence in the South China Sea. Catholic missionary protection provided additional justification, but the underlying drive — like the broader "New Imperialism" of the late 1800s — was economic and strategic competition with other European powers.

7. A — Deep antisemitism, divisions over the role of the army, and threats to French democracy. Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish army officer, was falsely convicted of treason in 1894 and exiled to Devil's Island; evidence of his innocence and a military cover-up emerged, sparking a national crisis between "Dreyfusards" and anti-Dreyfusards. Émile Zola's open letter "J'accuse" exposed the scandal, and Dreyfus

was eventually exonerated, but the affair revealed how fragile Republican institutions were and contributed to Theodor Herzl's founding of modern Zionism.

8. D — Promised basic civil liberties and created an elected legislature called the Duma. Faced with strikes, military mutinies, and the formation of soviets, Nicholas II reluctantly issued the manifesto granting freedom of speech, assembly, and religion. The reforms calmed the immediate crisis but were undermined when Nicholas later restricted Duma powers, contributing to the deeper revolutionary unrest of 1917.

9. D — Led peasant armies that demanded land reform under the slogan "Land and Liberty." Emiliano Zapata's forces in the southern state of Morelos demanded the return of communal village lands seized by hacienda owners, while Pancho Villa led a powerful cavalry force in the north. Both were eventually killed — Zapata assassinated in 1919 and Villa in 1923 — but their land-reform demands shaped the Mexican Constitution of 1917 and Mexican politics for decades.

10. B — The communist "Reds" and the anti-communist "Whites," with foreign intervention on the White side. The Whites combined Czarist officers, liberals, peasants, and nationalists but were divided and poorly coordinated; the Reds under Trotsky's leadership and Lenin's direction controlled central Russia and won by 1922. The United States, Britain, France, and Japan sent troops to support the Whites, an intervention long remembered with bitterness by Soviet leaders.

11. C — Partition the defeated Ottoman Empire among European powers and create new states. The treaty stripped the Ottomans of Arab lands, gave Greece territory in western Anatolia, and provided for Armenian and Kurdish autonomy. The harsh terms triggered Turkish nationalist resistance led by Mustafa Kemal, leading to its replacement by the more favorable Treaty of Lausanne in 1923.

12. A — Secularizing the state, abolishing the caliphate, and adopting Western legal and alphabet systems. Atatürk separated mosque and state, replaced Islamic law with Swiss-inspired civil codes, banned the fez, gave women the right to vote, and replaced Arabic script with a modified Latin alphabet. His reforms transformed Turkey into a secular republic and provided a model that influenced later modernization in the Muslim world.

13. C — Eliminate independent peasants (kulaks) and place all agriculture under direct state control. Stalin forced peasants into collective farms (kolkhozes) and state farms (sovkhozes), deporting or killing wealthier peasants labeled "kulaks." Collectivization disrupted Soviet agriculture so severely that it caused famines, including the Ukrainian Holodomor, killing millions while extracting grain to fund industrialization.

14. B — Nazi-organized attacks against Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues across Germany and annexed Austria. On the nights of November 9–10, 1938, SA paramilitaries and civilians attacked Jewish property, smashing windows, burning synagogues, killing at least 91 Jews, and sending roughly 30,000 to concentration camps. The pogrom marked a sharp escalation from legal discrimination toward open violence and is often considered the prelude to the Holocaust.

15. D — Included secret protocols dividing Eastern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence. The public agreement promised non-aggression, but secret clauses gave Germany western Poland and the

Soviets eastern Poland, the Baltic states, Finland, and Bessarabia. The pact cleared the way for Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, and lasted only until Germany invaded the USSR in June 1941.

16. A — Triggered Britain and France's declarations of war and started World War II in Europe. Germany's blitzkrieg used air power, tanks, and motorized infantry to overwhelm Polish defenses within weeks, while the Soviet Union invaded from the east on September 17 under the secret protocols. Britain and France declared war on September 3 in fulfillment of their guarantees to Poland, formally beginning World War II.

17. A — Led the Free French resistance from London while Marshal Pétain headed the Vichy collaborationist regime. From London, de Gaulle delivered radio appeals calling on the French to continue resistance, while Pétain's Vichy government in unoccupied southern France collaborated with the Nazis and adopted antisemitic laws. De Gaulle led the Free French into Paris after liberation in August 1944 and became the dominant political figure of postwar France.

18. C — Japanese military and political leaders for war crimes committed during World War II in Asia. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East prosecuted 28 senior leaders including former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo for waging aggressive war, ordering massacres, and abusing prisoners of war; seven were hanged. Emperor Hirohito was controversially shielded from prosecution by General MacArthur to facilitate the American occupation.

19. B — Stop the mass flight of East Germans into West Berlin and the West German economy. By 1961 roughly 3.5 million East Germans had escaped to the West through Berlin, devastating the East German economy and embarrassing the regime. The Wall — initially barbed wire, later concrete with watchtowers — sealed the border, and East German guards shot at least 140 people attempting to cross before its fall in November 1989.

20. D — A government policy requiring instruction in Afrikaans, the language of the apartheid regime. On June 16, 1976, thousands of Black students marched in Soweto to protest a government decree making Afrikaans a compulsory language of instruction; police opened fire, killing hundreds including 13-year-old Hector Pieterse. The image of Pieterse's body shocked the world and marked a turning point in international opposition to apartheid.

21. C — Document apartheid-era human rights abuses and offer amnesty in exchange for truthful testimony. The TRC held public hearings where victims testified and perpetrators could apply for amnesty by fully disclosing politically motivated crimes from 1960 to 1994. The restorative justice approach, controversial but largely admired internationally, helped South Africa avoid the cycle of vengeance many had feared.

22. A — The kidnapping, torture, and "disappearance" of an estimated 30,000 suspected leftists and dissidents. The military junta led by General Jorge Videla seized power in 1976 and waged a campaign of state terror targeting students, journalists, union organizers, and political opponents; many victims were drugged and thrown from aircraft into the Atlantic. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo became a globally recognized symbol of resistance, demanding information about their missing children.

23. D — Established a leftist revolutionary government that faced U.S.-backed Contra military opposition. The Sandinistas overthrew the U.S.-backed Somoza dynasty and pursued land reform, mass literacy programs, and ties to Cuba and the Soviet Union. The Reagan administration funded the Contra rebels — illegally diverting proceeds from secret Iranian arms sales in the Iran-Contra affair — until the Sandinistas lost a 1990 election to opposition candidate Violeta Chamorro.

24. B — The United States, Canada, and Mexico to eliminate most tariffs and trade barriers between them. NAFTA created the world's largest free trade zone, tripling regional trade and integrating supply chains across the three countries. The agreement remained controversial over American job losses to Mexico, environmental concerns, and pressure on Mexican farmers, and was renegotiated and replaced by the USMCA in 2020.

25. C — Spread to Indonesia, South Korea, and other Asian economies, requiring International Monetary Fund bailouts. Speculative attacks on currencies, excessive private foreign debt, and "crony capitalism" produced cascading bank failures across East and Southeast Asia. IMF rescue packages came with severe austerity conditions that deepened recessions and contributed to political upheaval, including the fall of Indonesia's Suharto dictatorship in 1998.

26. C — NATO bombing of Serbia and the withdrawal of Serbian forces from the territory of Kosovo. Slobodan Milošević's campaign against Kosovo's Albanian majority displaced hundreds of thousands of refugees, prompting NATO to launch a 78-day air campaign against Serbia without UN Security Council authorization. Kosovo came under UN administration, declared independence in 2008, and remains diplomatically contested by Serbia and its supporters.

27. A — To separate from Indonesia following decades of military occupation and armed resistance. Indonesia had invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and imposed a brutal occupation that killed an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 people. The UN-supervised referendum recorded a 78.5% vote for independence, triggering pro-Indonesian militia violence before international peacekeepers restored order and East Timor became fully independent in 2002.

28. D — Nonviolent democratic resistance against the long-ruling military junta in Myanmar (Burma). Daughter of independence leader Aung San, she returned to Myanmar in 1988 and led the National League for Democracy to victory in the annulled 1990 elections, spending 15 years under house arrest. She won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, though her later silence regarding the military's persecution of the Rohingya damaged her international reputation, and the 2021 coup imprisoned her again.

29. B — Seizing large portions of Iraq and Syria and declaring a self-proclaimed caliphate in the region. Born out of al-Qaeda in Iraq amid the Syrian Civil War and U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, ISIS captured Mosul in June 2014 and proclaimed leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi caliph of all Muslims. The group's brutal tactics including beheadings, mass executions, enslavement of Yazidi women, and destruction of antiquities prompted a U.S.-led coalition that gradually destroyed its territorial caliphate by 2019.

30. A — Killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions, drawing in regional and global powers. The war that began with peaceful Arab Spring protests against Bashar al-Assad's regime escalated into a multi-sided conflict involving Sunni rebel groups, Kurdish forces, ISIS, Iran, Hezbollah, Russia, Turkey,

and the United States. Roughly half a million people have been killed and over 13 million displaced, and Assad held power with Russian and Iranian backing until his sudden collapse in late 2024.

31. D — Conflict in Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq combined with instability and poverty in Africa. More than a million people crossed into Europe in 2015, most arriving by sea from Turkey to Greece or from Libya to Italy. The crisis strained EU asylum systems, divided member states, and contributed to political shifts including the rise of right-wing parties, Brexit, and tightening immigration policies across the continent.

32. B — Limiting press freedom, weakening opposition, and increasing state control over the economy. Putin has cracked down on independent media, imprisoned or driven into exile opposition figures including Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Boris Nemtsov (assassinated), and Alexei Navalny (died in prison), and brought strategic industries under Kremlin-aligned ownership. The combination of "managed democracy" and aggressive foreign policy — including wars in Georgia, Syria, and Ukraine — has shaped Russia's authoritarian turn.

33. C — Southern European nations including Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Ireland that needed bailouts. Greece's revelation of massive hidden government debt triggered a broader crisis as bond markets lost confidence in southern European sovereigns trapped in the euro and unable to devalue. EU and IMF bailouts came with harsh austerity that produced deep recessions, mass unemployment (especially youth unemployment), and political backlash that fueled new parties like Syriza in Greece and Podemos in Spain.

34. A — Coordinate global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit average temperature rise. The annual Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change produce voluntary national pledges to reduce emissions; Paris set the target of holding warming well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C. Critics argue that current pledges fall far short of what is needed, and youth activists like Greta Thunberg have pressed governments and corporations to act more aggressively.

35. D — Catastrophic casualties that came to symbolize the futility and slaughter of modern trench warfare. Verdun saw roughly 700,000 French and German casualties over ten months; the Somme produced over a million casualties in five months, including nearly 20,000 British dead on the first day alone. The battles came to embody the senseless industrial-scale carnage of the Western Front and shaped a generation's pacifism in interwar Europe.