

PRACTICE EXAM 25 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. The Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) is best known for
 - A. Using a telescope to confirm the heliocentric model of the cosmos
 - B. Discovering the laws of universal gravitation and planetary motion
 - C. Founding the modern scientific method through inductive reasoning principles
 - D. Inventing the first mechanical printing press for mass communication

2. The Encyclopédie, edited by Denis Diderot and Jean d'Alembert beginning in 1751, was significant because it
 - A. Codified the religious doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church
 - B. Provided a definitive royal genealogy of the European ruling houses
 - C. Established the first national curriculum for French primary schools
 - D. Compiled and disseminated Enlightenment knowledge across many fields and disciplines

3. Catherine the Great of Russia (1762–1796) is best characterized as an example of
 - A. A divine-right monarch who rejected all Western European influence
 - B. A radical revolutionary who abolished serfdom across her empire
 - C. An enlightened despot who corresponded with leading Enlightenment philosophers
 - D. A constitutional monarch who shared power with an elected Russian Duma

4. Napoleon Bonaparte first seized political power in France in November 1799 through
- A. A direct election by male French citizens following the Reign of Terror
 - B. A military coup against the Directory known as the 18 Brumaire
 - C. An appointment by Pope Pius VII as the legitimate Catholic emperor
 - D. A negotiated transfer of power from the Bourbon royal pretenders
5. The 1805 Battle of Trafalgar was a decisive naval victory by Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson over the combined fleets of
- A. Russia and Prussia in the eastern Baltic Sea against British shipping
 - B. The Ottoman Empire and Egypt in the eastern Mediterranean theater
 - C. Denmark and Sweden in the Skagerrak strait near the North Sea
 - D. France and Spain off the southwestern coast of Spain near Cádiz
6. The Holy Alliance formed in 1815 by Russia, Austria, and Prussia was intended to
- A. Suppress liberal and nationalist revolutions across continental Europe
 - B. Promote Enlightenment political reforms across all of continental Europe
 - C. Establish a customs union among the German-speaking northern states
 - D. Coordinate joint colonization of the African and Asian continents
7. The Great Reform Act of 1832 in Britain
- A. Granted full voting rights to all adult British women immediately
 - B. Expanded the electorate and redistributed parliamentary seats to industrial cities
 - C. Established the system of universal manhood suffrage across the United Kingdom
 - D. Abolished the unelected House of Lords from the British Parliament

8. The French scientist Louis Pasteur made revolutionary contributions to public health through
- A. The discovery of penicillin and the development of antibiotic medicine
 - B. The creation of the first surgical anesthesia using chloroform gas
 - C. The germ theory of disease and the development of pasteurization
 - D. The first successful blood transfusions between human patients in hospitals
9. The Trans-Siberian Railway, completed in the early twentieth century, was significant for Russia because it
- A. Connected European Russia to the Pacific coast, integrating vast territories
 - B. Replaced rivers as the main transportation route across European Russia
 - C. Allowed mass exports of agricultural products to Mediterranean trading markets
 - D. Linked Russian industrial centers to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean
10. Henry Ford revolutionized industrial production in the early twentieth century by
- A. Inventing the internal combustion gasoline engine for use in automobiles
 - B. Founding the first automobile manufacturing company in the world
 - C. Establishing the eight-hour workday for all American industrial workers
 - D. Introducing the moving assembly line for mass production of automobiles
11. Albert Einstein's theories of special relativity (1905) and general relativity (1915) revolutionized physics by
- A. Establishing the principles of quantum mechanics at the subatomic atomic scale
 - B. Showing that space and time are relative to the observer's motion and gravity
 - C. Demonstrating the structure of DNA as the molecule of biological genetic inheritance
 - D. Proving the existence of the strong nuclear force binding the atomic nuclei

12. Pan-Slavism in the late nineteenth century was a movement that

- A. Sought to convert all Slavic peoples to Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- B. Promoted democracy and constitutional reform across all Slavic territories
- C. Advocated political and cultural unity of Slavic peoples under Russian leadership
- D. Established a confederation of independent Slavic socialist national republics

13. The Bolshevik October Revolution of 1917 in Petrograd overthrew the

- A. Romanov dynasty under Tsar Nicholas II and his imperial family
- B. Cadets political party led by Pavel Milyukov in the State Duma
- C. Czech Legion forces holding positions along the Trans-Siberian Railway
- D. Provisional Government of Russia led by Prime Minister Alexander Kerensky

14. During the Russian Civil War from 1918 to 1922, the Red Army of the Bolsheviks fought against the

- A. White Army composed of monarchists, liberals, and various anti-Bolshevik forces
- B. Green Army composed exclusively of Russian Orthodox Church clergy members
- C. Black Army composed only of foreign expeditionary forces from Britain and France
- D. Blue Army composed of Polish nationalists demanding eastern Russian territory

15. Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP), introduced in 1921, was a strategic retreat from war communism that

- A. Established immediate full state ownership of all Russian industry and trade
- B. Abolished currency in favor of a barter exchange system across Russia
- C. Permitted limited private enterprise and small-scale market capitalism
- D. Required forced collectivization of all Russian peasant farmland

16. The Reichstag Fire of February 1933 was used by Hitler to

- A. Officially declare war on the western democracies of Britain and France
- B. Push through emergency decrees suspending most civil liberties in Germany
- C. Justify the German invasion and annexation of neighboring neutral Austria
- D. Order the immediate construction of the first Nazi concentration camps

17. The Night of the Long Knives in June 1934 involved Hitler's purge of

- A. The leadership of the Nazi SA paramilitary organization and other rivals
- B. The German General Staff who opposed his foreign policy ambitions
- C. The Catholic Center Party leaders who refused to support the Nazi regime
- D. The Communist Party of Germany members serving in the national Reichstag

18. The Long March of 1934–1935 was a strategic retreat by Chinese Communist forces under

- A. Sun Yat-sen escaping from Beijing to establish a southern republic
- B. Chiang Kai-shek consolidating Nationalist power across the country regions
- C. Yuan Shikai attempting to restore the traditional imperial Chinese throne
- D. Mao Zedong from Jiangxi to Yan'an to escape Nationalist encirclement

19. The Potsdam Conference of July 1945 brought together the leaders of the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union to

- A. Plan the secret development of atomic weapons by the Manhattan Project
- B. Negotiate a separate peace treaty with the leadership of Imperial Japan
- C. Establish postwar political arrangements for occupied Germany and Eastern Europe
- D. Authorize the Marshall Plan for economic reconstruction of Western Europe

20. The Soviet Union successfully detonated its first atomic bomb in

- A. 1949, ending the American monopoly on nuclear weapons worldwide
- B. 1945, simultaneously with the first American atomic weapons test
- C. 1953, in response to American thermonuclear weapons systems development
- D. 1961, before the construction of the Berlin Wall began

21. The Cuban Revolution of 1959 resulted in

- A. The restoration of Spanish colonial rule over the island of Cuba
- B. Fidel Castro's overthrow of the dictator Fulgencio Batista's military regime
- C. American military annexation of Cuba as a new U.S. territory
- D. The peaceful democratic election of a new constitutional government

22. Salvador Allende, the democratically elected socialist president of Chile, was overthrown in September 1973 by

- A. Argentine military forces invading from the south through Patagonia
- B. American Marine forces deployed under direct executive presidential orders
- C. Cuban revolutionary brigades trained in Soviet-style guerrilla warfare
- D. A military coup led by Chilean General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte

23. The Argentine "Dirty War" from 1976 to 1983 was characterized by

- A. A border conflict between Argentina and neighboring Chile in Patagonia
- B. An armed insurgency by communist Cuban-trained guerrilla nationalist forces
- C. State terror by the military junta against suspected leftist opponents
- D. A peaceful labor strike by Argentine industrial worker movements

24. The Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) launched an uprising in January 1994 in the Mexican state of

- A. Chiapas to oppose NAFTA and demand indigenous Maya rights
- B. Sonora to demand reunification with the United States Southwest
- C. Yucatán to demand independence as a separate Maya state
- D. Veracruz to nationalize the offshore Gulf of Mexico oil deposits

25. Liberation theology, which emerged in Latin America during the 1960s and 1970s, combined

- A. Indigenous religious traditions with mainstream Catholic Church teachings and doctrine
- B. Catholic Christian teachings with calls for social justice and economic reform
- C. Pentecostal Protestant practices with traditional indigenous Latin American shamanism
- D. Conservative Catholic doctrine with support for military authoritarian governments

26. Hugo Chávez, who became President of Venezuela in 1999, launched what he called the

- A. New Economic Policy modeled on early Soviet Russia under Lenin
- B. Open Door Policy welcoming foreign investment in Venezuelan oil
- C. Bolivarian Revolution promoting socialism and anti-American foreign policy goals
- D. Liberal Restoration restoring full constitutional separation of governmental powers

27. During the 1930s and World War II, Emperor Hirohito of Japan presided over a government dominated by

- A. Pacifist Buddhist clergy advocating diplomatic engagement with neighboring nations
- B. Liberal democratic political parties elected through universal manhood suffrage
- C. Western-educated bureaucrats favoring close ties with the United States
- D. Militarists and ultranationalists pursuing imperial expansion across mainland Asia

28. The Bataan Death March of April 1942 involved the forced march of

- A. American and Filipino prisoners of war by Japanese forces after Bataan fell
- B. German prisoners by Soviet forces during the retreat from Stalingrad
- C. Jewish concentration camp prisoners by SS guards in occupied Poland
- D. British and Indian prisoners by Italian forces in the North African desert

29. The 1945 Battle of Iwo Jima is famously remembered for

- A. The signing of Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS Missouri battleship
- B. The iconic photograph of U.S. Marines raising the flag on Mount Suribachi
- C. The first deployment of atomic weapons against the Japanese home islands
- D. The Japanese naval ambush of the entire American Pacific carrier fleet

30. The Greek Civil War from 1946 to 1949 was fought between

- A. Greek royalists against rival pro-Russian Orthodox Christian political factions
- B. Northern and southern Greek provinces over disputed land boundaries
- C. The Greek government with Western backing and communist insurgents
- D. Greece and Turkey over disputed islands in the Aegean Sea

31. The Chinese Civil War that resumed after World War II ended in 1949 with

- A. Mao's Communist forces driving Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists to Taiwan
- B. A negotiated power-sharing agreement between Communists and Nationalist forces
- C. The restoration of the Qing dynasty under a constitutional monarch
- D. The partition of China between the Soviet Union and the United States

32. The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), established in 1954, was modeled on NATO and intended to

- A. Coordinate economic integration among Southeast Asian developing nations and states
- B. Provide humanitarian assistance to refugees fleeing from regional Asian conflicts
- C. Promote cultural and educational exchange across the Pacific Rim countries
- D. Contain the spread of communism throughout Southeast Asia and the Pacific

33. The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918–1919 killed an estimated

- A. 1 to 2 million people worldwide before declining naturally on its own
- B. 50 to 100 million people worldwide, more than World War I itself
- C. 500,000 people, mostly among military personnel returning from the war
- D. 250 million people, primarily in southern colonial Asian territories

34. The Berlin-Baghdad Railway, planned in the early twentieth century, was viewed by Britain as a threat because it would

- A. Allow direct German military access to Caribbean coastal trade regions
- B. Permit Germany to control mainland European oil pipeline infrastructure networks
- C. Extend German influence through the Ottoman Empire toward the Persian Gulf
- D. Connect Germany to the East African colonial markets via Cape Town

35. Yugoslavia under Marshal Josip Broz Tito after World War II was distinctive among communist states because it

- A. Adopted Western-style multiparty parliamentary democracy with regular free elections
- B. Remained entirely outside any Cold War alliance and refused communist principles
- C. Maintained close military and political alignment with the Soviet Union

D. Broke with Stalin in 1948 and pursued non-aligned foreign policy

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1-35)

- 1. A** — Using a telescope to confirm the heliocentric model of the cosmos. Galileo's astronomical observations of Jupiter's moons, the phases of Venus, and lunar craters provided strong evidence for Copernicus's sun-centered model. His advocacy for heliocentrism led to his 1633 trial by the Roman Inquisition and house arrest for the remainder of his life.
- 2. D** — Compiled and disseminated Enlightenment knowledge across many fields. The 28-volume *Encyclopédie* featured contributions from leading philosophes including Voltaire, Rousseau, and Montesquieu, covering science, philosophy, technology, and crafts. The Catholic Church and French government attempted to suppress it, but it became one of the most influential publishing projects of the eighteenth century.
- 3. C** — An enlightened despot who corresponded with Enlightenment philosophers. Catherine famously exchanged letters with Voltaire and Diderot, even purchasing the latter's library, while expanding Russian territory and modernizing administration. Her enlightened reputation, however, did not extend to ending serfdom, which actually intensified during her reign.
- 4. B** — A military coup against the Directory known as the 18 Brumaire. On 9–10 November 1799 (18–19 Brumaire on the revolutionary calendar), Napoleon and conspirators overthrew the unpopular Directory and established the Consulate. Napoleon became First Consul and effectively ruled France, crowning himself emperor five years later.
- 5. D** — France and Spain off the southwestern coast of Spain near Cádiz. On October 21, 1805, Nelson's Royal Navy fleet destroyed the Franco-Spanish fleet under Admirals Villeneuve and Gravina off Cape Trafalgar. Nelson was killed by a French sharpshooter, but the victory secured British naval supremacy for the next century.
- 6. A** — Suppress liberal and nationalist revolutions across continental Europe. Proposed by Tsar Alexander I and embraced by Austria's Metternich and Prussia's Frederick William III, the alliance committed conservative monarchies to defend the post-Napoleonic restoration order. The Concert of Europe it supported successfully crushed uprisings in Italy, Spain, and elsewhere into the 1820s.
- 7. B** — Expanded the electorate and redistributed parliamentary seats to industrial cities. The Act enfranchised a portion of the middle class and abolished "rotten boroughs" with tiny populations, transferring seats to growing manufacturing centers like Manchester and Birmingham. It marked the beginning of gradual democratic reform that continued through the 1867 and 1884 Reform Acts.
- 8. C** — The germ theory of disease and the development of pasteurization. Pasteur demonstrated that microorganisms cause specific diseases and could be killed through controlled heating, dramatically

reducing food spoilage and infections. He also developed vaccines for rabies and anthrax, laying the foundation for modern microbiology and immunology.

9. A — Connected European Russia to the Pacific coast, integrating vast territories. Completed in 1916, the 5,772-mile railway from Moscow to Vladivostok bound Siberia economically and militarily to European Russia. Construction encouraged migration, accelerated industrialization, and projected Russian power into East Asia, contributing to the rivalry with Japan that erupted in 1904.

10. D — Introducing the moving assembly line for mass production of automobiles. Ford's 1913 innovation at the Highland Park plant cut Model T assembly time from over twelve hours to roughly ninety minutes, slashing prices and enabling middle-class car ownership. Ford paired the line with his \$5-a-day wage, transforming manufacturing labor across the industrialized world.

11. B — Showing that space and time are relative to the observer's motion and gravity. Special relativity established that the speed of light is constant and that time slows and lengths contract at high velocities, while general relativity described gravity as the curvature of spacetime. The theories enabled GPS technology, modern cosmology, and the understanding of black holes and the Big Bang.

12. C — Advocated political and cultural unity of Slavic peoples under Russian leadership. Pan-Slavism grew strongest in Russia after the Crimean War, justifying Russian intervention on behalf of Balkan Slavs under Ottoman or Austrian rule. The movement fueled Serbian-Russian solidarity that drew both nations into World War I after Sarajevo.

13. D — Provisional Government of Russia led by Prime Minister Alexander Kerensky. The Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky seized power on November 7, 1917 (October 25 in the old Julian calendar) by capturing key sites in Petrograd and storming the Winter Palace. The takeover ended Russia's brief experiment with parliamentary democracy and established the world's first communist state.

14. A — White Army composed of monarchists, liberals, and various anti-Bolshevik forces. The "Whites" combined former tsarist officers, Constitutional Democrats, conservatives, and other opponents of Bolshevism, backed at various points by British, French, American, and Japanese intervention forces. Their lack of a unified program, contrasted with Bolshevik discipline and central control of Russia's industrial core, doomed them by 1922.

15. C — Permitted limited private enterprise and small-scale capitalism. The NEP restored small-scale market exchange in agriculture, retail, and light industry while the state retained control over the "commanding heights" of heavy industry, banking, and foreign trade. The compromise saved Soviet Russia from economic collapse before Stalin reversed it with forced collectivization in 1928.

16. B — Push through emergency decrees suspending civil liberties in Germany. Blamed on a Dutch communist, the fire allowed Hitler to invoke President Hindenburg's emergency powers under Article 48, leading to the Reichstag Fire Decree that suspended habeas corpus, freedom of the press, and assembly. The Enabling Act passed weeks later granted Hitler dictatorial powers.

17. A — The leadership of the Nazi SA paramilitary organization and other rivals. On June 30–July 2, 1934, Hitler ordered the SS to murder SA chief Ernst Röhm and dozens of others including conservative

critics and political rivals. The purge reassured the German army of Nazi loyalty and consolidated Hitler's personal control over the regime.

18. D — Mao Zedong from Jiangxi to Yan'an to escape Nationalist encirclement. About 86,000 Red Army troops began the 6,000-mile retreat through harsh terrain pursued by Chiang Kai-shek's forces, with fewer than 10,000 reaching Shaanxi province roughly a year later. The ordeal established Mao's leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and became a foundational myth of the People's Republic.

19. C — Establish postwar arrangements for occupied Germany and Eastern Europe. Truman, Stalin, and initially Churchill (replaced by Attlee mid-conference) confirmed the division of Germany into four zones, set reparations policy, and authorized the population transfer of Germans from Eastern Europe. The meeting also produced the Potsdam Declaration demanding unconditional Japanese surrender.

20. A — 1949, ending the American monopoly on nuclear weapons. The first Soviet test at Semipalatinsk on August 29, 1949, code-named "First Lightning," shocked Western leaders who had expected the Soviet program to take far longer. The test accelerated the U.S. decision to develop the hydrogen bomb and intensified the early Cold War arms race.

21. B — Fidel Castro's overthrow of dictator Fulgencio Batista's regime. Castro's 26th of July Movement defeated Batista's forces in a guerrilla war based in the Sierra Maestra mountains, and Batista fled Cuba on January 1, 1959. Castro initially pursued moderate reforms but soon aligned Cuba with the Soviet Union, transforming it into a communist state at America's doorstep.

22. D — A military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet. On September 11, 1973, Chilean armed forces backed by U.S. covert support bombed La Moneda presidential palace, where Allende died during the assault. Pinochet's subsequent 17-year dictatorship was marked by free-market economic reforms, severe political repression, and the death or disappearance of thousands of opponents.

23. C — State terror by the military junta against suspected leftist opponents. The military regime that seized power in 1976 abducted, tortured, and "disappeared" an estimated 9,000 to 30,000 Argentines suspected of leftist sympathies. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, demanding information about their missing children, became iconic symbols of nonviolent resistance.

24. A — Chiapas to oppose NAFTA and demand indigenous rights. Subcomandante Marcos and the EZLN launched the uprising on January 1, 1994, the day NAFTA took effect, declaring that free trade would devastate indigenous communities. Their occupation of several towns gave way to a long political struggle over indigenous autonomy that achieved partial constitutional recognition.

25. B — Catholic Christian teachings with calls for social justice and economic reform. Developed by Latin American theologians like Gustavo Gutiérrez and bishops at the 1968 Medellín Conference, the movement emphasized God's "preferential option for the poor" and structural critiques of capitalism. The Vatican under John Paul II viewed it with suspicion for its borrowings from Marxist analysis.

26. C — Bolivarian Revolution promoting socialism and anti-American foreign policy goals. Named for nineteenth-century liberator Simón Bolívar, Chávez's program used Venezuela's oil wealth to fund social programs while nationalizing key industries and aligning with Cuba, Iran, and Russia. The model

produced significant poverty reduction initially but collapsed into economic crisis and mass emigration under his successor Nicolás Maduro.

27. D — Militarists and ultranationalists pursuing imperial expansion across mainland Asia. Army officers increasingly dominated Japanese politics through the 1930s, launching the invasion of China in 1937 and ultimately attacking Pearl Harbor in 1941. Emperor Hirohito's exact role in directing aggression remains debated, but the postwar U.S. occupation preserved him as a constitutional monarch.

28. A — American and Filipino prisoners of war by Japanese forces after Bataan fell. After surrender on the Bataan Peninsula in April 1942, approximately 76,000 Allied prisoners were forced to march 65 miles to prison camps in tropical heat without adequate food or water. Several thousand died from execution, starvation, or disease along the way, and the atrocity became a major war crimes case at the postwar tribunals.

29. B — The iconic photograph of U.S. Marines raising the flag on Mount Suribachi. Photographer Joe Rosenthal's image of the second flag raising on February 23, 1945, became one of the most reproduced photographs in history and won the Pulitzer Prize. The five-week battle killed nearly 7,000 Americans and 18,000 Japanese, securing a critical airbase for bombing the Japanese home islands.

30. C — The Greek government with Western backing and communist insurgents. British and later American support helped the royalist government defeat communist guerrillas under the Democratic Army of Greece, which lost outside support after the 1948 Tito-Stalin split closed the Yugoslav border. The conflict prompted the 1947 Truman Doctrine pledging U.S. support for anti-communist governments.

31. A — Mao's Communist forces driving Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists to Taiwan. By October 1, 1949, when Mao proclaimed the People's Republic in Beijing, Communist armies had defeated the Nationalists in successive campaigns across northern China. Chiang Kai-shek and roughly two million followers retreated to Taiwan, where the Republic of China continued as a separate government.

32. D — Contain the spread of communism throughout Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Founded by the United States, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand under the Manila Pact, SEATO was designed to extend the containment doctrine to Asia. It never developed NATO's level of integration and was formally dissolved in 1977.

33. B — 50 to 100 million people worldwide, more than World War I itself. The H1N1 influenza virus infected roughly one-third of the global population in three waves, with the second proving the deadliest. Unlike most flu strains, it disproportionately killed healthy young adults aged 20 to 40, possibly through immune overreaction known as cytokine storm.

34. C — Extend German influence through the Ottoman Empire toward the Persian Gulf. Begun in 1903 under an Ottoman concession to a German consortium, the planned 1,600-mile railway threatened British control of trade routes to India and access to Middle Eastern oil. The competition intensified pre-war tensions between Britain and Germany and shaped Allied policy toward the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

35. D — Broke with Stalin in 1948 and pursued non-aligned foreign policy. The Tito-Stalin split led to Yugoslavia's expulsion from the Cominform and the development of a distinct "workers' self-management" socialist model. Tito became a founding leader of the Non-Aligned Movement at Belgrade in 1961, charting a course independent of both Cold War blocs.