

PRACTICE EXAM 34 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. Mary Wollstonecraft's 1792 work *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* argued that
 - A. women should remain confined to the domestic sphere as devoted wives and mothers
 - B. only women of aristocratic birth deserved access to formal education and political rights
 - C. women possess the same rational capacity as men and deserve equal access to education
 - D. women should pursue traditional crafts and avoid the corrupting influence of new ideas

2. In *Leviathan* (1651), Thomas Hobbes argued that without a strong central authority, human life would be
 - A. peaceful, harmonious, and characterized by the natural cooperation of free individuals
 - B. "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short" in a war of all against all
 - C. perfectly ordered by divine providence operating through universal natural moral law
 - D. governed by religious authorities operating in cooperation with elected secular representatives

3. Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859) is historically significant because it
 - A. introduced the theory of evolution by natural selection that transformed biological science

- B. provided the first scientific evidence supporting the literal biblical account of creation
 - C. argued that human beings were biologically separate from all other living animal species
 - D. predicted that human evolution would eventually halt within a few generations' time
4. The 19th-century anarchist movement led by thinkers such as Mikhail Bakunin advocated
- A. the establishment of a strong centralized communist state to plan economic activity
 - B. constitutional monarchy with universal male suffrage and elected representative parliamentary government
 - C. the gradual peaceful evolution of capitalism into a regulated welfare-state model
 - D. the abolition of all coercive state authority in favor of voluntary cooperative association
5. The Polish November Uprising of 1830–1831 was an attempt to
- A. unify Poland with neighboring Germany under a single democratic constitution
 - B. expel the Catholic Church from Polish political and educational institutions
 - C. throw off Russian imperial rule and restore Polish national independence
 - D. integrate Polish territories peacefully into the Austro-Hungarian Empire's federal structure
6. The Persian Constitutional Revolution of 1905–1911 resulted in the
- A. establishment of Iran's first national parliament (Majlis) and a written constitution
 - B. immediate overthrow of the Qajar dynasty and creation of an Iranian republic
 - C. integration of Persia into the British Empire as a protectorate of the Crown

D. signing of a permanent military alliance between Persia and the Russian Empire

7. The Gallipoli Campaign of 1915–1916 during World War I was

A. a successful Allied naval operation that captured Constantinople and forced an Ottoman surrender

B. a costly Allied attempt to seize the Dardanelles that failed against Ottoman defenses

C. a major German offensive aimed at capturing Paris from the French army

D. a Russian operation to seize the oilfields of the Caucasus from the Ottoman Empire

8. The Battle of Verdun (February–December 1916) is historically remembered as

A. a swift and decisive French victory that pushed German forces out of northern France

B. the German breakthrough that captured Paris and forced France to seek a peace treaty

C. a joint Anglo-French amphibious landing along the coastline of occupied Belgium

D. one of the longest and bloodiest battles in history, with around 700,000 casualties

9. The Treaty of Trianon (1920) following World War I

A. divided the former German Empire into four military occupation zones for the Allies

B. created the Republic of Turkey from the territories of the former Ottoman Empire

C. dismembered the Kingdom of Hungary and reduced it to about one-third its previous size

D. recognized the independence of Norway from the union with the Kingdom of Sweden

10. The Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 was a multinational agreement that

- A. renounced war as an instrument of national policy among its signatory states
- B. created a permanent international military force under the League of Nations command
- C. partitioned the Pacific Ocean among the United States, Britain, and Imperial Japan
- D. authorized German rearmament under careful international military and diplomatic supervision

11. The Great Purges (or "Great Terror") in the Soviet Union during 1936–1938 involved

- A. the peaceful retirement of senior Communist Party officials accused of mismanagement
- B. mass arrests, show trials, and executions of perceived enemies under Stalin's orders
- C. an open multiparty contest that ended with the defeat of Stalin's political faction
- D. the voluntary emigration of Soviet intellectuals and artists to Western European nations

12. The Holodomor ("death by hunger") of 1932–1933 in Ukraine was

- A. a natural drought that destroyed harvests across the entire Ukrainian Soviet republic
- B. a successful agricultural reform that ended chronic food shortages in Soviet Ukraine
- C. a peaceful resettlement of Ukrainian peasants to industrial cities under Soviet planning
- D. a famine resulting from Stalin's forced collectivization that killed millions of Ukrainians

13. The Battle of the Bulge (December 1944–January 1945) was

- A. a Japanese counteroffensive in the southwestern Pacific that nearly retook the Philippines
- B. a Soviet offensive that broke through German lines in eastern Poland during the winter
- C. Germany's last major offensive on the Western Front, blunted by Allied resistance
- D. a British amphibious landing on the Norwegian coast in the war's final months

14. The Potsdam Conference held in July–August 1945

- A. brought together Truman, Stalin, and Churchill (later Attlee) to plan postwar Europe
- B. established the United Nations Charter and the General Assembly's voting procedures
- C. announced the immediate independence of all European colonial territories in Asia
- D. created NATO as a permanent military alliance among the Western Allied powers

15. The Marshall Plan (1948–1952) helped postwar Western Europe by

- A. dismantling all American military bases on the European continent permanently before 1952
- B. providing massive economic aid that funded reconstruction and revived industrial production
- C. forcing recipient nations to adopt the Soviet model of central economic planning
- D. transferring control of European colonies to the United States government in Washington

16. Indonesia gained independence in 1949 from

- A. the British Empire, which had governed the East Indies for over a century
- B. the Portuguese Empire, which had ruled Indonesia from coastal Portuguese trading outposts

- C. the United States, which had administered Indonesia after defeating Imperial Japan in 1945
- D. the Netherlands, after a four-year nationalist struggle led by Sukarno and Hatta

17. The 1960 Congo Crisis following Belgian decolonization was marked by

- A. a peaceful and orderly transition to multiparty democracy under the Belgian monarchy
- B. the immediate unification of the Congo with neighboring Angola and the French colonies
- C. secessionist movements, foreign intervention, and the assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba
- D. the founding of an Inter-African Bank to fund Congolese national economic development

18. Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's construction of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s

- A. was funded largely by the Soviet Union after the United States and Britain withdrew support
- B. was built jointly by the U.S. and Britain as a Cold War project against Moscow
- C. produced an immediate economic collapse in Egypt and was eventually abandoned before completion
- D. forced the relocation of all Egyptian populations away from the entire Nile River valley

19. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded in 1964 to

- A. negotiate a permanent two-state solution between Israel and a future Palestinian state
- B. represent the Palestinian people in efforts to recover lands lost during the earlier wars
- C. promote economic cooperation between Israel and its Arab neighbors in the Middle East
- D. coordinate the immigration of Jewish refugees from Europe to the State of Israel

20. The Indonesian mass killings of 1965–1966 were

- A. a peaceful political transition that produced lasting multiparty democracy across the country
- B. an unsuccessful communist seizure of power that was reversed by a popular uprising
- C. a violent military-led anti-communist purge that killed an estimated 500,000 or more people
- D. a coordinated regional response to Chinese communist military aggression in Southeast Asia

21. The Negritude movement that emerged among French-speaking African and Caribbean writers in the 1930s

- A. promoted the immediate assimilation of African colonies into French culture and civic life
- B. advocated returning African colonies to the spiritual leadership of the Catholic Church
- C. called for the political reunification of Africa and South America into a single federation
- D. celebrated Black African cultural identity and helped inspire anti-colonial nationalist movements

22. The Organization of African Unity (OAU), founded in 1963 and replaced by the African Union in 2002, was created to

- A. promote African political unity, decolonization, and cooperation among the independent African states
- B. coordinate the joint defense of Africa against threats from the People's Republic of China
- C. enforce a single African common currency on every state of the continent immediately
- D. govern the southern African region under multinational European administrative authority

23. The Biafran War (1967–1970) in Nigeria was fought between

- A. Nigeria and the neighboring state of Cameroon over disputed Atlantic coastal territory
- B. rival Hausa and Yoruba political factions for control of the Nigerian federal government
- C. the Nigerian federal government and the secessionist Republic of Biafra in the southeast
- D. Nigerian Muslims and Christian missionaries over control of the northern educational system

24. Idi Amin's rule of Uganda from 1971 to 1979 is best remembered for

- A. transforming Uganda into one of the most prosperous and democratic states in Africa
- B. mass political violence, the expulsion of Asian Ugandans, and an estimated 300,000 deaths
- C. peaceful negotiations with rival ethnic communities that produced a new federal constitution
- D. major investments in education and public health that transformed Ugandan civil society

25. The 1959 Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule resulted in

- A. the formal recognition of an independent Tibetan state under United Nations supervision
- B. a peaceful negotiated settlement granting Tibet political autonomy within the People's Republic
- C. the withdrawal of all Chinese government military forces from the entire Tibetan plateau region
- D. the flight of the Dalai Lama into Indian exile and tightened Chinese control over Tibet

26. The Philippine People Power Revolution of February 1986

- A. overthrew the long-ruling regime of Ferdinand Marcos through largely nonviolent mass protests
- B. installed Ferdinand Marcos in power after he won the country's first multiparty election

- C. resulted in the partition of the Philippines into northern Christian and southern Muslim states
- D. transferred sovereignty of the Philippines from the United States back to Imperial Japan

27. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission established in post-apartheid South Africa was designed to

- A. prosecute and execute all white South Africans who served in the apartheid security forces
- B. uncover apartheid-era human rights abuses and offer conditional amnesty to those who confessed
- C. transfer all land owned by white South Africans to Black South African ownership immediately
- D. partition the country into separate Black and white South African republics with supervised borders

28. The May 1998 nuclear weapons tests by India and Pakistan resulted in

- A. an immediate joint India-Pakistan agreement to dismantle all of their nuclear weapons programs
- B. the integration of India and Pakistan into the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- C. international sanctions and a sharp rise in regional tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors
- D. the formation of a permanent military alliance between India and Pakistan against China

29. Aung San Suu Kyi is best known internationally for

- A. leading a long nonviolent pro-democracy movement against Myanmar's military rule
- B. founding the long-ruling military junta that has governed Myanmar since the 1960s
- C. negotiating the partition of Myanmar into separate Buddhist and Muslim majority states
- D. serving as the first elected president of an independent Republic of Bangladesh

30. Low-lying Pacific Island nations such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands face the most direct threat from

- A. military aggression by the People's Republic of China across the western Pacific basin
- B. mass migration of Australians and New Zealanders fleeing southern hemisphere armed conflicts
- C. economic competition from the rise of large Asian Tiger economies in East Asia
- D. rising sea levels caused by climate change that may render their territories uninhabitable

31. The Danube River, the second-longest river in Europe, flows through

- A. only the territory of the modern Russian Federation and empties into the Black Sea
- B. ten countries from Germany's Black Forest to the Black Sea and links central Europe
- C. four Scandinavian countries before draining into the Baltic Sea near the Gulf of Bothnia
- D. the Iberian Peninsula and forms the modern political border between Spain and Portugal

32. The Rhine River has historically been important in Europe because it

- A. forms the only navigable river link between the Mediterranean Sea and the Arctic Ocean
- B. flows entirely within French territory before draining into the Bay of Biscay near Bordeaux
- C. is a major shipping artery from the Swiss Alps to the North Sea, supporting industry
- D. supplies the freshwater drinking source for the eastern coastal cities of the United Kingdom

33. Australia's interior, sometimes called the "Outback," is characterized by

- A. vast areas of arid desert and semi-arid grassland with sparse population and ranching
- B. dense tropical rainforests with the highest concentration of biodiversity in the world
- C. towering snow-capped mountain ranges that supply most of the continent's fresh water
- D. extensive permafrost tundra similar to the Arctic regions of Siberia and northern Canada

34. Greenland is geographically significant in the 21st century because it

- A. has become the most heavily populated island in the entire North Atlantic Ocean region
- B. forms the geographic boundary between the Indian Ocean and the southern Pacific Ocean
- C. functions as the principal land link between North America and the European continent
- D. holds the world's second-largest ice sheet, whose melting contributes to global sea-level rise

35. The Northwest Passage through the Arctic islands of northern Canada

- A. has long been a major commercial shipping route between Europe and the Pacific Ocean
- B. is becoming increasingly navigable as Arctic sea ice melts, drawing competing claims and interest
- C. is the warmest and southernmost shipping route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
- D. has been controlled entirely by Russia since the 18th-century explorations of Peter the Great

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1–35)

- 1. C** — Writing in response to Talleyrand's exclusion of girls from public education in revolutionary France, Wollstonecraft contended that women appeared less rational only because they were systematically denied schooling. Her argument that reason is not sex-specific and that educated women would make better wives, mothers, and citizens laid the intellectual foundation for later feminist movements.
- 2. B** — Hobbes wrote in the shadow of the English Civil War and argued that, absent a powerful sovereign, individuals would compete violently for limited resources in a "state of nature." His remedy was a social contract by which subjects surrender their natural liberty to an absolute ruler in exchange for security, an argument that profoundly shaped modern political theory.
- 3. A** — Drawing on observations from the *Beagle* voyage, Darwin proposed that species change over time as individuals best adapted to their environment survive and reproduce. The theory provided a unifying mechanism for biology and ignited fierce debates with religious authorities, while also being misappropriated as "Social Darwinism" to justify imperialism and racism.
- 4. D** — Anarchists held that the state — whether monarchist, capitalist, or socialist — is inherently coercive and must be replaced by federations of self-governing communes and workers' associations. Bakunin's bitter disputes with Karl Marx over the role of the state split the First International in 1872 and helped define modern radical politics.
- 5. C** — Polish officer cadets in Warsaw rose against Russian rule in November 1830, briefly establishing a provisional national government before being crushed by Tsar Nicholas I in 1831. The uprising provoked harsh "Russification" measures and a wave of Polish émigré intellectuals — including Chopin and Mickiewicz — who kept the dream of independence alive across Europe.
- 6. A** — Protests by clerics, merchants, and reformist intellectuals forced Muzaffar al-Din Shah to grant a constitution and convene Iran's first parliament in 1906. Although the new system was repeatedly subverted by royal power, foreign interference, and instability, it inaugurated more than a century of Iranian struggle over constitutional government.
- 7. B** — Conceived by Winston Churchill as a way to knock Ottoman Turkey out of the war and open a supply route to Russia, the Allied landings on the Gallipoli peninsula bogged down in trench warfare under withering Ottoman fire. After eight months and roughly half a million casualties on both sides combined, the Allies evacuated in early 1916, leaving Churchill's reputation badly damaged.
- 8. D** — German Chief of Staff Erich von Falkenhayn launched the offensive to "bleed the French army white" at the fortress city of Verdun, where Marshal Pétain's defense became a symbol of French national endurance. Roughly 700,000 men were killed, wounded, or missing on both sides, making Verdun one of the costliest and most symbolically charged battles of the war.
- 9. C** — Signed at the Trianon Palace at Versailles, the treaty stripped Hungary of about two-thirds of its prewar territory and more than half of its population, transferring lands to Romania, Czechoslovakia, and

the new Yugoslav state. Hungarian resentment of "Trianon" fueled interwar revisionism and remains a sensitive political issue today.

10. A — Drafted by U.S. Secretary of State Frank Kellogg and French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand, the pact was eventually signed by more than 60 nations, including Germany, Italy, and Japan. Although it lacked enforcement mechanisms and could not prevent the aggressions of the 1930s, it became part of the postwar foundation for prosecuting "crimes against peace" at Nuremberg.

11. B — At the height of the terror, the Soviet secret police (NKVD) under Nikolai Yezhov arrested millions of party members, military officers, ethnic minorities, and ordinary citizens; staged public show trials of senior Bolsheviks; and either executed defendants or sent them to the gulag. Stalin used the purges to eliminate potential rivals and instill paralyzing fear throughout Soviet society.

12. D — Stalin's drive to collectivize Ukrainian agriculture seized peasant grain to feed cities and pay for industrialization, even as Ukrainian villagers were forbidden to leave their homes in search of food. Recent scholarship estimates that roughly 3.5 to 5 million Ukrainians died, and many governments now recognize the famine as a genocide.

13. C — Hitler gambled his last armored reserves on a surprise push through the Ardennes Forest aimed at splitting Allied armies and recapturing the port of Antwerp. After initial gains created the namesake "bulge" in Allied lines, fierce defense at Bastogne and the eventual clearing weather allowed the Allies to crush the offensive, hastening Germany's defeat.

14. A — Meeting in the German city of Potsdam from July 17 to August 2, 1945, the Allied leaders confirmed the division of Germany and Berlin into occupation zones, set policies for denazification and reparations, and approved the demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. Mid-conference, Churchill was replaced by Clement Attlee following Labour's election victory in Britain.

15. B — Secretary of State George Marshall offered roughly \$13 billion to Europe through the European Recovery Program, on the condition that recipient nations cooperate to plan their own reconstruction. The aid rebuilt factories, ports, and farms; stabilized democratic governments against communist parties; and helped tie Western Europe into a U.S.-led economic order.

16. D — After Japan's surrender, Indonesian nationalists led by Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta declared independence in August 1945, fighting a four-year war against returning Dutch forces. International pressure, especially from the United States, finally forced the Netherlands to recognize the Republic of Indonesia in December 1949.

17. C — Within days of Belgian withdrawal in June 1960, mineral-rich Katanga province seceded under Moïse Tshombe with Belgian backing, and a UN mission arrived to try to restore order. Prime Minister Lumumba was deposed, handed over to Katangan forces, and murdered in January 1961, an episode in which Belgian and U.S. intelligence services have since been implicated.

18. A — After the United States and Britain withdrew their offer to help finance the dam — partly because of Egypt's growing ties with the Soviet bloc — Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal to pay for it, triggering

the 1956 Suez Crisis. The Soviet Union then funded and provided engineers for the project, which was completed in 1970 and transformed Egyptian agriculture and electricity supply.

19. B — Established by the Arab League at a 1964 summit in Cairo, the PLO united various armed and political factions under a single umbrella aimed at recovering the lands lost in 1948 and later in 1967. Under Yasser Arafat the organization gradually shifted from armed struggle to diplomacy, culminating in the Oslo process of the 1990s.

20. C — Following an alleged communist coup attempt against the Indonesian army on October 1, 1965, generals led by Suharto and their civilian allies launched a sweeping anti-communist purge that consumed at least half a million suspected leftists and ethnic Chinese Indonesians. The campaign brought Suharto to power and produced a decades-long pro-Western military dictatorship.

21. D — Pioneered by writers such as Aimé Césaire of Martinique, Léopold Sédar Senghor of Senegal, and Léon Damas of French Guiana, Negritude rejected colonial assumptions of African inferiority and affirmed the value of Black African heritage. Its emphasis on cultural pride influenced postwar independence leaders and movements across Africa and the Caribbean.

22. A — Founded in Addis Ababa in May 1963 by 32 newly independent African states, the OAU promoted the liberation of remaining colonies, defended existing colonial-era borders to prevent secessionist conflicts, and provided a forum for Pan-African diplomacy. Its successor, the African Union, expanded its mandate to include peacekeeping, economic integration, and democratic governance.

23. C — Following coups, ethnic tensions, and pogroms targeting Igbos in the north, the eastern region led by Colonel Ojukwu proclaimed itself the Republic of Biafra in May 1967. Federal forces gradually surrounded and blockaded Biafra, producing a famine that killed an estimated one to two million people before Biafra surrendered in January 1970.

24. B — Coming to power in a military coup, Amin expelled tens of thousands of Asian Ugandans in 1972, devastating the economy, and unleashed army and security units against ethnic Acholi and Lango populations, intellectuals, and political opponents. His regime collapsed in 1979 after a disastrous invasion of Tanzania provoked a Tanzanian counter-invasion that captured Kampala.

25. D — When Chinese forces moved to consolidate control over Tibet, an uprising in Lhasa in March 1959 was crushed within days, and the 14th Dalai Lama escaped across the Himalayas to set up a Tibetan government-in-exile at Dharamsala, India. China responded with mass detentions, the abolition of the old Tibetan government, and policies of religious and cultural suppression.

26. A — When Marcos appeared to steal the February 1986 snap election from opposition leader Corazon Aquino, military defections and millions of Filipinos gathered on the EDSA highway in Manila to block troops loyal to the regime. After four days of peaceful confrontation, Marcos fled into exile and Aquino became president, providing a model later cited by other nonviolent movements.

27. B — Chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and operating from 1996 to 1998, the commission held public hearings at which victims described abuses and perpetrators could apply for amnesty in exchange

for full disclosure of politically motivated crimes. The process was criticized for granting amnesty to serious offenders, but it became a widely studied alternative to either retribution or silence.

28. C — Within days of India's "Operation Shakti" tests in early May 1998, Pakistan conducted its own tests in the Chagai Hills, confirming both countries as nuclear-armed powers. The United States, Japan, and others imposed economic sanctions, and the subsequent 1999 Kargil conflict illustrated the new dangers of nuclear escalation in South Asia.

29. A — Daughter of independence hero General Aung San, Suu Kyi led the National League for Democracy to a landslide election victory in 1990 that the military refused to honor, and she spent much of the next two decades under house arrest. Awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, she later faced international criticism for her response to the Rohingya crisis after she entered government.

30. D — With most of their land only a few meters above sea level, these states are exposed to coastal erosion, salt-water intrusion into freshwater supplies, and increasingly severe storm surges. Some governments are already negotiating relocation arrangements and pressing larger emitters at climate conferences to recognize the threat to their national survival.

31. B — Rising in Germany's Black Forest and flowing about 2,850 kilometers through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine before reaching the Black Sea, the Danube is Europe's most international river. Modern canal links connect it to the Rhine and Main, creating an inland waterway from the North Sea to the Black Sea.

32. C — Flowing roughly 1,230 kilometers from the Swiss Alps through Germany and the Netherlands to the North Sea at Rotterdam, the Rhine drains a heavily industrialized region and carries enormous volumes of cargo year-round. The river has shaped the economies of cities such as Basel, Strasbourg, Cologne, and Rotterdam and was central to industrial growth in 19th- and 20th-century Europe.

33. A — Most of Australia's interior receives less than 500 millimeters of rainfall annually, producing landscapes ranging from the red sands of the central deserts to dry shrubland and grasslands used for sheep and cattle stations. The harshness of the interior concentrates the country's population along the wetter eastern and southwestern coasts, where most major cities are located.

34. D — The Greenland ice sheet covers roughly 1.7 million square kilometers and is second only to Antarctica in volume; if it melted completely, global sea levels would rise by about 7 meters. Accelerating melt has already become a leading contributor to current sea-level rise and has drawn renewed strategic and resource interest from the United States, Denmark, China, and others.

35. B — Once choked with ice except for occasional voyages such as Amundsen's 1903–06 crossing, the passage's summer ice cover has shrunk dramatically since the 1990s and small commercial vessels now transit it in some seasons. Canada claims the route as internal waters while the United States and other nations regard it as an international strait, setting up a long-running sovereignty dispute.