

PRACTICE EXAM 37 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. David Ricardo, an early 19th-century English political economist, is best known for his theory of

- A. Mercantile trade restrictions designed to favor national economic interests
- B. Government public works programs designed to combat structural unemployment
- C. Comparative advantage in international trade and labor theory of value
- D. Government nationalization of all major industries and natural resources

2. Daniel O'Connell, the Irish nationalist known as "the Liberator," is most associated with

- A. Securing Catholic Emancipation in 1829 through peaceful mass political agitation
- B. Leading the violent 1798 Irish rebellion against the British colonial authorities
- C. Negotiating Irish independence from Britain after the First World War
- D. Founding the Irish Republican Army during the early 20th century

3. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the Mexican-American War resulted in

- A. Mexican annexation of large portions of the southwestern American territory

B. The restoration of Spanish colonial rule over the Mexican Republic

C. A French intervention establishing Emperor Maximilian in Mexico City

D. Mexico ceding over half of its territory to the United States

4. Giuseppe Mazzini, who founded Young Italy in 1831, is best remembered for

A. Leading Italy's military forces in the unification wars against Austria

B. Promoting Italian unification through republican nationalism and youth mobilization

C. Serving as the first king of a unified Italy after Risorgimento

D. Forging the diplomatic alliance with France that enabled Italian unification

5. Otto von Bismarck's Kulturkampf in the 1870s was a German political campaign aimed at

A. Promoting close cultural exchanges between Germany and the British Empire

B. Building popular support for German colonial expansion into central Africa

C. Crushing socialist political parties through emergency anti-labor legislative measures

D. Reducing the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in the German Empire

6. The 1898 Spanish-American War marked the effective end of the Spanish Empire because Spain lost

A. Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam to the United States

B. Mexico, Peru, and Argentina in a series of Latin American revolts

C. Morocco and the Western Sahara to the rising French colonial empire

D. The Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands to a victorious Britain

7. The Anglo-German naval arms race in the decades before World War I centered primarily on the construction of

A. Aircraft carriers capable of launching the new airplane bomber forces

B. Dreadnought battleships incorporating revolutionary new naval design innovations

C. Diesel-powered submarines designed to enforce a long-range blockade

D. Long-range artillery shore batteries to defend home coastal areas

8. The 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk between Russia and the Central Powers resulted in

A. The collapse of the German war effort on the Western Front in France

B. The continuation of Russian active participation in the First World War

C. Russia's withdrawal from World War I and major territorial losses

D. The immediate Bolshevik defeat in the ongoing Russian Civil War period

9. The reforms enacted by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Turkey during the 1920s and 1930s included

A. Restoration of the Ottoman sultanate and the Islamic caliphate institutions

B. The introduction of strict Islamic Sharia law throughout the Turkish state

C. Adoption of Russian Cyrillic as the official script of the Turkish Republic

D. Secularization, the Latin alphabet, and granting women's suffrage rights

10. Francisco Franco, who led the Nationalist forces to victory in the 1939 Spanish Civil War, then

- A. Ruled Spain as authoritarian dictator until his death in November 1975
- B. Restored the Spanish constitutional monarchy under direct Bourbon dynasty rule
- C. Established a Soviet-style communist regime closely allied with Stalin's Russia
- D. Joined the Axis powers and entered World War II on the German side

11. The May 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea was a major Pacific theater engagement notable as

- A. The largest naval surface battle since the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805
- B. The decisive American victory that destroyed the Japanese Imperial Navy entirely
- C. The first naval battle fought entirely between aircraft carrier-based airplanes
- D. The successful Japanese invasion of the Australian continent during the war

12. The 1944 Bretton Woods Conference established the postwar international economic order including

- A. The European Coal and Steel Community as the forerunner of the EU
- B. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank's predecessor
- C. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the WTO replacement
- D. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) trading bloc

13. The Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, marked the end of the Vietnam War with

- A. The capture of South Vietnam's capital city by North Vietnamese forces
 - B. The negotiated peace settlement signed in the city of Paris, France
 - C. The successful American military evacuation of all Vietnamese civilians
 - D. The establishment of a UN-supervised neutral Vietnamese federal republic
14. The My Lai Massacre of March 1968, which became a major Vietnam War scandal, involved
- A. The North Vietnamese execution of American prisoners during the Tet Offensive
 - B. The Viet Cong execution of South Vietnamese government civilian officials
 - C. The American bombing of a Cambodian neutral border village in Indochina
 - D. The killing of hundreds of unarmed Vietnamese civilians by U.S. soldiers
15. Solidarity, founded at the Gdańsk shipyards in 1980, was the first independent
- A. Communist Party in the Eastern Bloc free to dissent from Moscow directives
 - B. Catholic charitable organization legalized within the wider Eastern European bloc
 - C. Trade union in the Soviet bloc, led by electrician Lech Wałęsa
 - D. Polish military veterans' association recognized by the postwar government
16. The Soviet Union officially ceased to exist on December 26, 1991, following
- A. A successful military coup that ousted Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev
 - B. The resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev and the Belavezha Accords signing

- C. The Russian invasion of Lithuania and the other Baltic Soviet republics
- D. A nuclear accident at Chernobyl that disabled the central government

17. The Velvet Revolution of November 1989 in Czechoslovakia ended communist rule through

- A. Largely peaceful mass protests and a general strike, with little bloodshed
- B. A violent armed uprising centered in the Slovak regions of the country
- C. Soviet military intervention to replace the existing communist government leadership
- D. A staged election that gave the communist party a narrow electoral victory

18. The "Velvet Divorce" of January 1, 1993, refers to

- A. The peaceful end of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa
- B. The end of the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the USSR
- C. The amicable separation of West and East Germany's reunification process
- D. The peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia

19. The 1995 Dayton Accords, negotiated in Ohio, ended the war in

- A. Kosovo, where NATO airstrikes had forced Serbian withdrawal from the province
- B. Bosnia and Herzegovina, dividing it between Serb and Muslim-Croat entities
- C. Chechnya, granting the breakaway republic substantial Russian regional autonomy
- D. Northern Ireland, ending decades of sectarian violence in British UK territory

20. The December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, one of the deadliest natural disasters in history, was caused by

- A. A massive volcanic eruption from Indonesia's Mount Krakatoa volcanic peak
- B. A submarine landslide off the western coast of the Indian subcontinent
- C. A 9.1-magnitude earthquake off the western coast of northern Sumatra
- D. An asteroid impact in the equatorial Pacific Ocean near Polynesian Islands

21. The August 2008 Russo-Georgian War broke out over the disputed territory of

- A. Crimea, which Russia later formally annexed from neighboring Ukraine
- B. Chechnya, where Russian forces had previously fought two long wars
- C. Transnistria, the breakaway eastern region of the Republic of Moldova
- D. South Ossetia, the Georgian breakaway region with Russian backing support

22. The Arab Spring began in December 2010 when Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian street vendor

- A. Set himself on fire in protest of police harassment and official corruption
- B. Was assassinated by government security forces at a Tunis political rally
- C. Organized a general strike of all street vendors across Tunisia's major cities
- D. Smuggled weapons to anti-government rebels in the rural Tunisian inland regions

23. The 2006 Palestinian legislative elections produced an unexpected result when

- A. The Israeli Labor Party won a majority of the West Bank assembly seats
- B. Fatah, led by Mahmoud Abbas, swept the legislative elections decisively
- C. Hamas won a majority, leading to a Fatah split and Gaza takeover
- D. Hezbollah extended its influence by winning the Palestinian electoral elections

24. The 2014 Umbrella Movement protests in Hong Kong demanded

- A. Hong Kong's complete formal independence from the Chinese central government
- B. Genuine universal suffrage for the Chief Executive election in Hong Kong
- C. The immediate restoration of British colonial administration in Hong Kong
- D. The expulsion of all mainland Chinese tourists from Hong Kong territory

25. In August 2022, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan prompted

- A. The immediate Chinese military invasion of the main island of Taiwan
- B. A formal diplomatic break between Taiwan and the United States government
- C. Chinese economic sanctions ending all bilateral trade with Taiwan completely
- D. Major Chinese military exercises encircling Taiwan in clear protest gestures

26. The Sudanese civil war that erupted in April 2023 has been fought primarily between

- A. The Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces
- B. The northern Arab government and the southern Christian rebel groups

- C. Sudan and the newly independent neighboring nation of South Sudan
- D. Sudanese pro-democracy protesters and the established military government

27. The protests that swept Iran in late 2022 were triggered by the death in custody of

- A. A prominent Iranian-American journalist and global human rights advocate
- B. Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman detained by the morality police
- C. The Ayatollah Khomeini, succeeded by his political and religious chosen ally
- D. President Ebrahim Raisi during a public appearance in central Tehran

28. The United Kingdom formally left the European Union on January 31, 2020, in the process called

- A. The Scottish Referendum, in which UK voters rejected continued EU membership
- B. Maastrexit, named after the Treaty of Maastricht originally establishing the European Union
- C. Brexit, following the narrow Leave victory in the June 2016 referendum
- D. The Lisbon Withdrawal, named after the EU treaty governing member exit procedures

29. The January 2015 Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris was carried out by

- A. White supremacist gunmen targeting a left-leaning major French political magazine
- B. Russian intelligence operatives in retaliation for coverage of Putin policies
- C. ETA Basque separatists protesting the magazine's coverage of Spain politics
- D. Two French Islamist brothers in response to the magazine's Muhammad cartoons

30. Pope John Paul II, who died in April 2005, is widely credited with

- A. Helping to inspire the collapse of communism in Poland and Eastern Europe
- B. Issuing the first papal endorsement of Latin American liberation theology
- C. Approving the formal Catholic ordination of women to the priesthood
- D. Promoting the Vatican II Council reforms over conservative church opposition

31. The Greek sovereign debt crisis that began in 2010 was addressed through

- A. Greece's voluntary withdrawal from the European Union and the eurozone
- B. Multiple international bailouts paired with severe Greek austerity measures
- C. A debt forgiveness program coordinated by the United Nations General Assembly
- D. The Greek government's nationalization of all foreign-owned Greek businesses

32. The September 2004 Beslan school siege ended in tragedy when

- A. Russian Spetsnaz forces successfully rescued all the hostages from the building
- B. The Chechen terrorist hostage-takers were quietly tried in an international court
- C. Over 330 hostages, including many children, died during the violent siege end
- D. The Russian government granted Chechnya full independence to end the siege

33. The Battle of Britain in summer and autumn 1940 was significant because it

- A. Marked Germany's first major defeat and ended invasion plans for the British Isles
- B. Resulted in the German occupation of all the British Isles by November 1940
- C. Brought the United States into World War II as an active combatant nation
- D. Forced Britain to negotiate a separate peace treaty with Nazi Germany's leaders

34. The Battle of Guadalcanal from August 1942 to February 1943 was significant as

- A. The largest naval engagement in the entire course of the Second World War
- B. The final defeat of Japanese Imperial Navy carrier forces in the Pacific theater
- C. The decisive bombing campaign over the Japanese home islands main targets
- D. The first major Allied ground offensive against Japanese forces in the Pacific

35. The April 1942 Doolittle Raid, in which U.S. B-25 bombers struck Tokyo, was significant because it

- A. Destroyed most of the Japanese imperial military command and supply infrastructure
- B. Boosted American morale after Pearl Harbor despite causing limited material damage
- C. Forced the immediate surrender of the Japanese imperial government to U.S. forces
- D. Initiated the long campaign of atomic bombing against the Japanese home islands

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1–35)

- 1. C** — Comparative advantage in international trade and labor theory of value. In his 1817 *Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, Ricardo demonstrated that nations benefit from specializing in goods they can produce most efficiently relative to others, even if they lack absolute advantage. His "iron law of wages" argued that wages naturally tend toward subsistence level, influencing both classical economics and later Marxist critique.
- 2. A** — Securing Catholic Emancipation in 1829 through peaceful mass political agitation. O'Connell organized the Catholic Association in 1823 and used mass meetings ("monster meetings") and small membership dues to build unprecedented popular pressure on Westminster. His election to Parliament in 1828 forced Wellington and Peel to pass the Catholic Relief Act, allowing Catholics to sit in Parliament for the first time since the seventeenth century.
- 3. D** — Mexico ceding over half of its territory to the United States. The treaty transferred the territory that became California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming in exchange for \$15 million. The vast territorial loss left a deep legacy of resentment in Mexico and intensified U.S. debates over slavery's westward expansion that contributed to the Civil War.
- 4. B** — Promoting Italian unification through republican nationalism and youth mobilization. Mazzini founded Young Italy from exile in Marseille, calling for a unified democratic republic free of Austrian and papal control, and inspired similar movements across Europe. Though Italy was eventually unified as a monarchy under the House of Savoy rather than the republic he envisioned, Mazzini is considered one of the spiritual fathers of the Risorgimento.
- 5. D** — Reducing the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in the new German Empire. Suspicious of Catholic loyalty to the pope, particularly in the newly annexed Polish and Rhineland regions, Bismarck pushed laws subjecting clergy to state oversight, expelling Jesuits, and arresting bishops. The campaign largely backfired by strengthening the Catholic Center Party, and Bismarck eventually retreated from most measures by the early 1880s.
- 6. A** — Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam to the United States. The Treaty of Paris of December 1898 transferred Spain's remaining major overseas possessions, with Cuba becoming nominally independent under U.S. supervision and the others passing directly to American control. The defeat ended four centuries of Spanish imperial presence in the Americas and Pacific, and marked the U.S. emergence as a global power.
- 7. B** — Dreadnought battleships incorporating revolutionary new naval design innovations. Britain's launch of HMS Dreadnought in 1906, with its uniform large-caliber guns and steam turbine propulsion, instantly rendered all existing battleships obsolete and triggered a frantic race with Germany. By 1914 Britain had outbuilt Germany in dreadnoughts, but the costly competition severely strained relations between the two powers.
- 8. C** — Russia's withdrawal from World War I and major territorial losses. Signed in March 1918 by the new Bolshevik government, the treaty stripped Russia of Poland, Ukraine, the Baltic states, Finland, and Belarus — about a third of Russia's population and arable land and most of its industry. Germany's defeat

in November 1918 voided most of these terms, but the treaty's harshness contributed to the Russian Civil War.

9. D — Secularization, the Latin alphabet, and granting women's suffrage rights. Atatürk abolished the Ottoman caliphate in 1924, banned religious schools and dress, replaced Islamic law with European civil codes, and introduced the Latin alphabet in 1928. Turkish women received the right to vote in national elections in 1934, ahead of several Western European countries including France.

10. A — Ruled Spain as authoritarian dictator until his death in November 1975. *Generalísimo* Franco established a nationalist, Catholic, and anti-communist regime that remained officially neutral in World War II despite ideological affinities with the Axis powers. His designated successor Juan Carlos surprised observers by guiding Spain toward democracy after Franco's death, completing the transition by the early 1980s.

11. C — The first naval battle fought entirely between aircraft carrier-based airplanes. Opposing fleets never came within sight of each other; all attacks were carried out by carrier-launched aircraft, revolutionizing naval warfare and presaging the decisive battle of Midway a month later. Although tactically inconclusive, it stopped the Japanese seaborne advance toward Port Moresby and protected Australia from invasion.

12. B — The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank's predecessor. Delegates from 44 Allied nations meeting in New Hampshire in July 1944 established a dollar-gold exchange standard, created the IMF to manage exchange rates and provide emergency lending, and founded the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The dollar-gold link collapsed when Nixon ended convertibility in 1971, but the IMF and World Bank remain central to global finance.

13. A — The capture of South Vietnam's capital city by North Vietnamese forces. North Vietnamese tanks crashed through the gates of the Presidential Palace as the last U.S. helicopters lifted off the embassy rooftop in scenes that became iconic images of American defeat. Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City, and the two Vietnams were formally reunified under communist rule the following year.

14. D — The killing of hundreds of unarmed Vietnamese civilians by U.S. soldiers. U.S. Army soldiers of Charlie Company murdered between 347 and 504 unarmed villagers in the hamlet of Son Mỹ, including women, children, and elderly people. The massacre's belated exposure by journalist Seymour Hersh in 1969 became a watershed moment in turning American public opinion against the war.

15. C — Trade union in the Soviet bloc, led by electrician Lech Wałęsa. Solidarity quickly grew to ten million members and became a broad social movement challenging communist rule despite martial law imposed by General Wojciech Jaruzelski in December 1981. The 1989 Round Table Talks led to partly free elections that Solidarity overwhelmingly won, triggering the collapse of communism across Eastern Europe.

16. B — The resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev and the Belavezha Accords signing. The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus signed the Belavezha Accords on December 8, 1991, declaring the Soviet Union dissolved and creating the Commonwealth of Independent States. Gorbachev resigned on December 25,

the Soviet flag was lowered from the Kremlin, and on December 26 the Supreme Soviet voted itself out of existence.

17. A — Largely peaceful mass protests and a general strike, with little bloodshed. The protests began on November 17, 1989, with a brutally suppressed student demonstration and grew within days into massive crowds on Wenceslas Square jingling keys to signal the regime's time was up. Playwright Václav Havel emerged as the leader and became president by the end of December.

18. D — The peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Negotiated by Czech Prime Minister Václav Klaus and Slovak Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar despite polling showing most citizens opposed separation, the divorce was accomplished without a referendum or violence. Both successor states later joined NATO in 1999 and 2004 and the European Union together in 2004.

19. B — Bosnia and Herzegovina, dividing it between Serb and Muslim-Croat entities. Negotiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base under U.S. mediation by Richard Holbrooke, the accords created a single Bosnian state divided into the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina under an international high representative. NATO-led peacekeepers were deployed to enforce the settlement that ended nearly four years of war and the worst atrocities in Europe since WWII.

20. C — A 9.1-magnitude earthquake off the western coast of northern Sumatra. The third-largest earthquake ever recorded generated waves up to 30 meters high that struck coastlines in fourteen countries, killing approximately 230,000 people. The disaster prompted an unprecedented international humanitarian response and led to the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System.

21. D — South Ossetia, the Georgian breakaway region with Russian backing support. After Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili attempted to retake South Ossetia by force in August 2008, Russian troops invaded and pushed deep into Georgian territory within days. Russia subsequently recognized South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states, a status recognized by only a handful of other countries.

22. A — Set himself on fire in protest of police harassment and official corruption. The 26-year-old vegetable seller's self-immolation outside the governor's office in Sidi Bouzid on December 17, 2010, after a policewoman confiscated his produce cart, ignited massive protests that brought down President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali within a month. Bouazizi's act became the symbolic spark of the broader Arab Spring uprisings across the region.

23. C — Hamas won a majority, leading to a Fatah split and Gaza takeover. Hamas's victory caught Israel, the Bush administration, and Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah by surprise, leading to an international aid boycott of the new Palestinian government. Tensions between the two factions erupted in 2007 violence that left Hamas in control of Gaza and Fatah governing the West Bank.

24. B — Genuine universal suffrage for the Chief Executive election in Hong Kong. Protesters opposed Beijing's August 2014 ruling that candidates would have to be pre-screened by a nominating committee dominated by pro-Beijing figures. The 79-day occupation of major thoroughfares, using umbrellas as protection against police pepper spray, ended without concessions and presaged the larger 2019 protests.

25. D — Major Chinese military exercises encircling Taiwan in clear protest gestures. Pelosi was the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Taiwan since 1997, and Beijing responded with unprecedented live-fire exercises in six zones around the island that effectively imposed a temporary blockade. The exercises included ballistic missiles overflying Taiwan for the first time and demonstrated China's capability to isolate the island.

26. A — The Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. The fighting between SAF chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo erupted from a dispute over integrating the RSF into the regular military as part of a transition to civilian rule. The conflict has killed tens of thousands, displaced over ten million, and created what UN officials have called the world's largest displacement crisis.

27. B — Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman detained by the morality police. The 22-year-old died in custody on September 16, 2022, after being arrested in Tehran for allegedly wearing her hijab improperly, igniting nationwide protests under the slogan "Woman, Life, Freedom." The regime's violent crackdown killed hundreds and led to executions of protesters, but the protests represented the most serious challenge to the Islamic Republic since the 2009 Green Movement.

28. C — Brexit, following the narrow Leave victory in the June 2016 referendum. The 51.9% to 48.1% Leave victory led to over three years of political turmoil under Prime Ministers Cameron, May, and Johnson before withdrawal was finalized. Britain officially left the EU on January 31, 2020, with a transition period ending on December 31, 2020.

29. D — Two French Islamist brothers in response to the magazine's Muhammad cartoons. Said and Chérif Kouachi, claiming allegiance to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, stormed the satirical magazine's offices and killed twelve people, including cartoonist Stéphane Charbonnier. The attacks prompted an unprecedented rally of world leaders in Paris and the worldwide "Je suis Charlie" solidarity movement defending free expression.

30. A — Helping to inspire the collapse of communism in Poland and Eastern Europe. As the first Slavic and first Polish pope, Karol Wojtyła's 1979 pilgrimage to his homeland drew millions of Poles and gave moral support to what became the Solidarity movement. His influence and the Vatican's behind-the-scenes diplomacy are widely credited as a major factor in the peaceful end of communist rule across the region.

31. B — Multiple international bailouts paired with severe Greek austerity measures. Greece received three bailouts totaling roughly 280 billion euros from the "troika" of the European Commission, European Central Bank, and IMF in exchange for deep cuts to pensions, public-sector wages, and government spending. The austerity drove unemployment above 25% and shrank Greek GDP by roughly a quarter, fueling the rise of left-wing Syriza and far-right Golden Dawn.

32. C — Over 330 hostages, including many children, died during the violent siege end. Chechen and Ingush militants seized School Number One on the first day of the school year, holding more than 1,100 hostages, mostly children and parents, in the gymnasium without food or water for three days. On the third day, explosions in the gymnasium triggered chaotic gunfire and a Russian assault that killed 334 hostages, including 186 children.

33. A — Marked Germany's first major defeat and ended invasion plans for the British Isles. The RAF, aided by radar, the Ultra signals intelligence program, and the resilience of British production, denied the Luftwaffe the air superiority required for Operation Sea Lion. Hitler indefinitely postponed the invasion and shifted attention eastward toward the planned attack on the Soviet Union the following year.

34. D — The first major Allied ground offensive against Japanese forces in the Pacific. The brutal six-month land, sea, and air struggle for the strategically located airfield on the Solomon Islands ended with Japanese evacuation in February 1943. The victory shifted the strategic initiative permanently to the Allies and began the long island-hopping campaign that drove toward the Japanese home islands.

35. B — Boosted American morale after Pearl Harbor despite causing limited material damage. Sixteen B-25s under Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle launched from the carrier USS Hornet and bombed Tokyo and other Japanese cities in the first attack on the Japanese home islands. The physical damage was minimal but the psychological impact on both sides was enormous, contributing to Japan's decision to attempt the Midway operation that ended in disaster.