

PRACTICE EXAM 42 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. The 18th-century Scottish philosopher David Hume is best known for
 - A. founding the modern conservative tradition through detailed critiques of revolutionary politics
 - B. arguing that an enlightened absolute monarch must govern according to clear written laws
 - C. developing an empirical philosophy that human knowledge derives ultimately from sensory experience
 - D. publishing the world's first economic theory of socialist common ownership of all property

2. The 19th-century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche is best known for proclaiming that
 - A. "God is dead" and that traditional Christian morality no longer provides a foundation for European values
 - B. all human history can be explained as a struggle of social classes over the means of production
 - C. natural selection drives biological evolution through the inheritance of small but useful variations
 - D. the modern state must rest on a peaceful social contract among free and equal individuals

3. Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, developed in early 20th-century Vienna, argued that

- A. mental illness is primarily caused by spiritual sin and is best treated through religious confession
- B. all human thought is the product of conscious rational decisions made by free individual actors
- C. genetic inheritance fully determines individual personality from the moment a child is born
- D. unconscious drives and early childhood experiences shape much of adult behavior and mental life

4. The German sociologist Max Weber's *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1905) argued that

- A. capitalism originated solely from technological advances in the early modern English industrial economy
- B. Calvinist religious values such as discipline and worldly hard work helped foster modern capitalism
- C. religion has no significant influence on the development of large-scale modern economic systems
- D. all European societies developed identical economic systems despite very different religious traditions

5. The early-19th-century English economist David Ricardo is best known for the theory of

- A. mercantilism, which holds that national wealth depends mainly on a positive trade balance
- B. central planning, which gives the state authority to fix all prices and direct industrial production
- C. comparative advantage, which holds that nations gain by specializing in goods they produce most efficiently
- D. labor-based property theory, which holds that land can only be owned by those who farm it

6. The 19th-century French anarchist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon is best known for the slogan

- A. "Workers of the world, unite," which became the rallying cry of international Marxist communism
- B. "Liberty, equality, fraternity," which expressed the ideals of the French revolutionary radical tradition
- C. "Peace, land, and bread," which captured the Bolshevik program during the Russian Revolution
- D. "Property is theft," which expressed his critique of unearned ownership in industrial capitalism

7. The Thermidorian Reaction of July 1794 in revolutionary France

- A. overthrew Maximilien Robespierre, ended the Reign of Terror, and shifted the French Revolution rightward
- B. installed Napoleon Bonaparte as emperor of the French and ended the First French Republic
- C. restored the Bourbon monarchy through the return of King Louis XVIII to the throne in Paris
- D. created the Committee of Public Safety and intensified the most violent phase of the Revolution

8. Napoleon Bonaparte's coup of 18 Brumaire (November 1799)

- A. began the Hundred Days during which Napoleon returned from exile on the island of Elba
- B. overthrew the Directory and replaced it with the Consulate, with Napoleon as First Consul
- C. ended Napoleon's career after his defeat by the Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo
- D. abolished the Napoleonic Code and restored the legal privileges of the Old Regime nobility

9. The July Revolution of 1830 in France

- A. abolished the French monarchy and established the Third Republic under President Adolphe Thiers
- B. brought Napoleon III to power as emperor through a popular plebiscite of French male voters

C. overthrew the reactionary Bourbon king Charles X and replaced him with the "citizen king" Louis-Philippe

D. transferred the French throne back to the Habsburg dynasty after the fall of Napoleon Bonaparte

10. The February Revolution of 1848 in France

A. overthrew King Louis-Philippe and established the Second French Republic under universal male suffrage

B. installed the conservative monarchy of Louis XVIII following the final defeat of Napoleon I in Europe

C. restored the absolute Bourbon monarchy and abolished all of the new revolutionary political rights

D. created a long-lasting federal union between France, Italy, and the various German-speaking states

11. The Austro-Prussian War (Seven Weeks' War) of 1866 ended with

A. the lasting union of Austria and Prussia under the Habsburg emperor as a federal Catholic state

B. the partition of central Europe between the Russian and French empires by treaty in 1867

C. the immediate creation of the unified Kingdom of Italy under King Victor Emmanuel II of Sardinia

D. a decisive Prussian victory at Königgrätz that excluded Austria from the future unified German state

12. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71

A. ended in a decisive French victory and the lasting French control of the Alsace-Lorraine region

B. produced a unified German Empire proclaimed at Versailles and the fall of the French Second Empire

C. produced the Soviet Union by transferring all Russian Romanov family territories to communist control

D. resulted in the dissolution of the Hohenzollern dynasty and the creation of a French-led union

13. The Paris Commune of 1871 was

A. an unsuccessful Catholic monarchist uprising aimed at restoring the Bourbon dynasty to the throne

B. a peaceful trade agreement between Paris and the other major industrial cities of France

C. a short-lived radical socialist government in Paris that was violently crushed by French national troops

D. an alliance of French aristocrats who supported the Prussian invasion of France during the war

14. The Dreyfus Affair in late-19th-century France was

A. a financial scandal involving fraudulent French investment in the canal across the Isthmus of Panama

B. a long French diplomatic dispute over the partition of West African colonies between the European powers

C. a French parliamentary debate about extending voting rights to women that produced lasting reforms

D. a long political crisis over the wrongful conviction of a Jewish army officer for espionage and treason

15. The Lateran Treaty of 1929 between Mussolini's Italy and the Vatican

A. recognized Vatican City as an independent state and ended decades of conflict over the "Roman Question"

B. transferred the city of Rome itself to the political control of the Catholic Church under the Pope

- C. abolished the Italian monarchy and made Mussolini sole head of state of the new Italian Republic
- D. created a permanent military alliance between Italy and Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler's leadership

16. The Reichstag Fire of February 1933 in Germany

- A. permanently ended the Nazi Party as a political force in Germany after a public investigation
- B. brought the leftist Social Democrats to power in a coalition government with the Center Party
- C. was used by Hitler to justify emergency decrees that paved the way for the Enabling Act
- D. forced Hitler to flee Germany and seek political exile in neighboring Austria for several years

17. The Night of the Long Knives in June–July 1934 in Nazi Germany involved

- A. a Soviet-backed Communist uprising that was crushed by Heinrich Himmler's elite SS forces in Berlin
- B. the murder of Ernst Röhm and other Nazi SA leaders on Hitler's orders to consolidate power
- C. a wave of attacks by SA stormtroopers on Jewish-owned businesses across the major German cities
- D. a series of large public rallies in Nuremberg that introduced the new Nazi racial laws to the world

18. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of April–May 1943 was

- A. the successful liberation of Warsaw from full German occupation by advancing Soviet army units
- B. a coordinated Polish nationalist revolt that briefly restored an independent Polish government in Warsaw
- C. a peaceful religious procession marking the Catholic feast of Easter within wartime occupied Poland

D. an armed Jewish revolt against the Nazi deportation of remaining ghetto residents to Treblinka

19. The Italian campaign of 1943–1945 in the Second World War led to

- A. the fall of Mussolini in 1943 and Italy's eventual surrender and switch to the Allied side
- B. the immediate Allied liberation of Rome within weeks of the initial Allied invasion of Sicily
- C. the lasting German occupation of all of Italy until the formal Japanese surrender in late 1945
- D. the lasting unification of Italy with neighboring Austria as a single combined post-war Axis republic

20. The Berlin Blockade of 1948–1949

- A. produced an immediate Allied military invasion of East Berlin to force Soviet troops to withdraw
- B. ended the partition of Germany and led to the immediate reunification of the country by 1950
- C. closed Soviet land routes to West Berlin and was overcome by the Allied airlift of food and fuel
- D. forced the United States and Britain to permanently withdraw their occupation forces from western Berlin

21. The Brezhnev Doctrine, articulated by the Soviet leadership after 1968, declared that

- A. all Warsaw Pact nations were free to choose any political and economic system without Soviet interference
- B. the Soviet Union had the right to intervene militarily in socialist countries to prevent counter-revolution
- C. nuclear weapons would never again be deployed in Europe by either the Soviet Union or the United States

D. the Soviet Union would withdraw all its forces from Eastern Europe by the early 1980s at the latest

22. The Emergency declared by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from 1975 to 1977

A. suspended civil liberties, jailed opposition leaders, and was reversed when she lost the 1977 elections

B. permanently established one-party communist rule in India under the Congress Party's leadership

C. produced the immediate partition of India into separate Hindu and Muslim states under UN supervision

D. successfully eliminated all caste-based discrimination in India through major emergency constitutional amendments

23. The Tlatelolco massacre of October 1968 in Mexico City involved

A. a peaceful Olympic opening ceremony that produced no lasting political effects or any controversy

B. a successful student-led overthrow of the Mexican government just before the 1968 Olympic Games

C. the assassination of the elected Mexican president by leftist guerrillas during the Olympic events

D. the killing of hundreds of student demonstrators by Mexican security forces shortly before the Olympics

24. Mobutu Sese Seko ruled Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) from 1965 to 1997 through

A. a peaceful democratic system that protected civil liberties and produced strong inclusive economic growth

B. authoritarian one-party rule, large-scale state corruption, and Cold War support from the United States

- C. a strict Marxist-Leninist system aligned with Cuba and the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War
- D. a constitutional monarchy modeled on the Belgian system that had previously ruled the colonial Congo

25. The August 1991 coup attempt against Mikhail Gorbachev was

- A. a successful Soviet military takeover that immediately restored hardline communist rule across the USSR
- B. a NATO operation designed to remove Gorbachev and replace him with a Western-aligned leader
- C. a failed attempt by hardline communists that collapsed after Boris Yeltsin rallied resistance in Moscow
- D. a constitutional transfer of power that produced a long-lasting renewed Soviet federal government

26. The 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea

- A. followed Russia's seizure of the peninsula from Ukraine and was condemned by most UN member states
- B. was peacefully agreed by all parties and quickly recognized by all permanent UN Security Council members
- C. transferred the Crimean peninsula from Russian to Turkish control under a NATO-brokered treaty
- D. produced an immediate joint Russian-Ukrainian sovereignty arrangement strongly supported by the European Union

27. The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in August 2021 followed

- A. a UN-supervised election in which the Taliban won a majority of seats in the new national parliament

- B. a peaceful constitutional transfer of power negotiated by the Afghan national government and tribal elders
- C. a successful U.S. military offensive that defeated the Taliban and installed them as a friendly regime
- D. the collapse of the U.S.-backed Afghan government as American and NATO forces withdrew that summer

28. Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961) argued that

- A. peaceful negotiation alone, without any form of resistance, would secure full colonial independence
- B. colonial violence had produced psychological damage that decolonization struggles must confront directly
- C. colonial subjects should accept European cultural superiority and integrate gradually into European systems
- D. independent African states should restore traditional pre-colonial monarchies as the basis of stable rule

29. The 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, India,

- A. was a peaceful religious ceremony attended jointly by Hindu and Muslim local community leaders
- B. produced no lasting violence or political consequences in Indian society or national politics
- C. was carried out by Hindu nationalist activists and triggered deadly Hindu-Muslim riots across India
- D. led to the immediate dissolution of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by the Indian Supreme Court

30. President Suharto's "New Order" regime in Indonesia from 1967 to 1998

- A. combined authoritarian military rule with rapid export-led economic growth and Western Cold War support
- B. was a Marxist-Leninist government closely allied with the People's Republic of China throughout the era
- C. peacefully transferred power to multiparty democracy within five years of its initial establishment
- D. restored the precolonial sultanates of the Indonesian archipelago under traditional Islamic religious rule

31. The Pyrenees Mountains in southwestern Europe

- A. form the natural northern border between modern Russia and the new independent state of Belarus
- B. form the natural border between France and Spain and have historically separated Iberian and French states
- C. mark the southern boundary between mainland Italy and the major Mediterranean island of Sicily
- D. divide mainland Greece from the modern country of Turkey along the eastern Aegean coastline

32. The Caucasus Mountains have been historically important because they

- A. mark the line between the modern French and German states along the upper Rhine river basin
- B. form the natural boundary between Norway and Sweden across the central Scandinavian peninsula region
- C. separate the Korean Peninsula from the eastern Chinese mainland along the Yalu River frontier
- D. lie between the Black and Caspian Seas and form a contested borderland between Russia and the Middle East

33. The Dead Sea, on the border of Israel and Jordan, is geographically unique because it is

- A. the world's largest freshwater lake and a major source of regional drinking water and irrigation
- B. an artificial reservoir created in the 1950s by joint Israeli-Jordanian hydroelectric dam construction projects
- C. one of the world's saltiest bodies of water and the lowest land elevation on the Earth's surface
- D. the deepest oceanic trench in the eastern hemisphere and a major regional fishing ground

34. Lake Victoria in East Africa is geographically significant because it is

- A. Africa's largest lake and the chief source of the White Nile that flows north through Sudan and Egypt
- B. located entirely north of the Sahara Desert and serves as the source of the lower Niger River
- C. the world's deepest lake and contains the largest known volume of liquid freshwater on the planet
- D. an artificial lake created during the colonial era by joint French and Belgian damming of the Congo River

35. The Italian Peninsula is geographically defined by

- A. broad lowland plains stretching across the entire peninsula with almost no significant mountain ranges
- B. the Apennine mountain range running down its length and the Alps along its northern continental border
- C. its position entirely north of the Mediterranean Sea, with no significant coastline on any major sea
- D. an arid desert climate across the whole peninsula similar to that of the Sahara region of North Africa

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1–35)

1. C — Hume held that all genuine ideas trace back to "impressions" — sensations and feelings — and that we have no access to innate concepts or to anything beyond what experience reveals. His skeptical analysis of cause and effect, the self, and miracles became a foundational text of British empiricism and famously "awoke Kant from his dogmatic slumber."

2. A — In *The Gay Science* (1882) and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (1883–85), Nietzsche announced that belief in the Christian God had effectively died as a force in European intellectual life, leaving a void that needed to be filled by a new "transvaluation of all values." His ideas later influenced existentialism and postmodernism, and — distorted by his sister and German nationalists — were misappropriated by the Nazi movement.

3. D — Freud held that powerful sexual and aggressive drives, repressed into the unconscious during childhood, return in disguised form as dreams, slips of the tongue, and neurotic symptoms, which could be brought to light through free-association therapy. Although many of his specific claims (Oedipus complex, penis envy) are now disputed, his model of the divided mind and the "talking cure" reshaped 20th-century psychology, art, and literature.

4. B — Weber argued that the Calvinist doctrine of predestination encouraged believers to seek reassurance of their salvation through methodical hard work, frugality, and reinvestment of profit — a "this-worldly asceticism" that proved highly compatible with capitalist accumulation. The thesis remains one of the most influential and contested arguments in modern sociology about the cultural roots of economic systems.

5. C — In *On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* (1817), Ricardo showed that even a country less efficient at producing every good would gain by specializing in the goods it produced *relatively* most efficiently and trading for the rest. The doctrine of comparative advantage became the central theoretical justification for free trade in 19th-century Britain and remains a cornerstone of modern international economics.

6. D — In *What Is Property?* (1840) Proudhon famously answered his own title with "Property is theft," meaning that ownership of land and capital allowed proprietors to extract income from the labor of others without working themselves. He distinguished such "property" from "possession" of what one personally used, and his ideas helped found 19th-century mutualism and the broader anarchist tradition.

7. A — Members of the National Convention, fearing they would be next on the guillotine, denounced Robespierre on 9 Thermidor Year II (27 July 1794); he was arrested and executed the following day along with Saint-Just and other Jacobin leaders. The Reign of Terror ended, the Jacobin clubs were closed, and political power shifted to the more conservative "Thermidorians," eventually producing the Directory in 1795.

8. B — With the Directory weakened by corruption, war, and royalist plotting, Napoleon and his allies — including the Abbé Sieyès — used troops to disperse the legislative councils at Saint-Cloud and proclaimed a new Consulate of three members. Napoleon, as First Consul, dominated the new government

from the outset and was confirmed by plebiscite, ending the decade-long French Revolution and beginning the road to the Empire of 1804.

9. C — Charles X's "July Ordinances" of 1830 dissolved the newly elected Chamber, restricted the suffrage to large landowners, and muzzled the press, provoking three days of street fighting in Paris known as *les Trois Glorieuses*. The Bourbons fled to Britain, and the liberal Orléanist branch took the throne under Louis-Philippe, the "citizen king," whose constitutional July Monarchy lasted until 1848.

10. A — When Louis-Philippe's government banned the reform "banquets" being used to demand a wider franchise, Parisians took to the streets in late February 1848; the king abdicated and fled to Britain. A provisional government proclaimed the Second Republic and adopted universal manhood suffrage, opening a brief and turbulent democratic experiment that helped ignite the wider European Revolutions of 1848.

11. D — Prussian forces, equipped with the breech-loading needle gun and directed by Helmuth von Moltke, crushed the main Habsburg army at Königgrätz (Sadowa) in Bohemia in July 1866. The Peace of Prague excluded Austria from German affairs, dissolved the German Confederation, and allowed Bismarck to organize the North German Confederation under Prussian leadership — a major step toward the 1871 German Empire.

12. B — Provoked by Bismarck's manipulation of the Ems Telegram, Napoleon III declared war and was decisively defeated at Sedan in September 1870, ending the Second Empire. King Wilhelm I was proclaimed Kaiser of a new German Empire in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles in January 1871, and France was forced to cede Alsace and most of Lorraine and pay a large indemnity.

13. C — After French regulars surrendered to Prussia, radicals in Paris refused to accept the conservative national government at Versailles and proclaimed the Commune in March 1871; it experimented with workers' cooperatives, separation of church and state, and the abolition of conscription. Government troops retook the city during the "Bloody Week" of late May, killing roughly 20,000 Communards — an event Marx celebrated as the first workers' government and Lenin studied as a model.

14. D — Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer on the French General Staff, was convicted in 1894 of selling secrets to Germany and sentenced to Devil's Island; evidence later showed the real culprit was Major Esterhazy. The case split France into Dreyfusards and anti-Dreyfusards for more than a decade, exposed deep currents of antisemitism — captured in Émile Zola's "*J'Accuse...!*" — and helped push reforms separating church and state.

15. A — Signed at the Lateran Palace in February 1929, the agreement created the 109-acre Vatican City as a sovereign state, paid the Holy See an indemnity for territories lost in 1870, and made Catholicism the state religion of Italy. The treaty resolved the long-running "Roman Question" left by Italian unification and gave Mussolini valuable legitimacy with Catholic Italians.

16. C — When the Reichstag building burned on the night of 27 February 1933, the Nazis blamed a Dutch communist and persuaded President Hindenburg to sign the Reichstag Fire Decree suspending civil liberties; the next month, with Communist deputies arrested or barred, the Reichstag passed the Enabling

Act giving Hitler the power to legislate by decree. Together these measures dismantled the Weimar constitution within weeks and laid the legal foundation of the Nazi dictatorship.

17. B — Hitler used SS forces to arrest and shoot SA chief of staff Ernst Röhm, his deputies, conservative rivals such as former Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher, and other perceived enemies in a roughly 48-hour purge. The action eliminated the brown-shirted SA as a political force, reassured the army and big business that Hitler would govern in their interests, and won him the support to combine the presidency and chancellorship after Hindenburg's death weeks later.

18. D — When SS units moved to deport the remaining 60,000 Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka killing center in April 1943, members of the Jewish Combat Organization and the Jewish Military Union fought back with smuggled and improvised weapons. The Germans crushed the uprising over nearly a month, burning the ghetto block by block, but the revolt — the largest by Jews during the Holocaust — became a powerful symbol of armed Jewish resistance.

19. A — After Allied forces landed in Sicily in July 1943, the Italian Grand Council removed Mussolini and the new Badoglio government secretly negotiated an armistice announced in September. Germany swiftly occupied northern and central Italy and reinstated Mussolini in the puppet Italian Social Republic, producing nearly two more years of grinding warfare on the peninsula before final Allied victory in May 1945.

20. C — On 24 June 1948, the Soviets closed all road, rail, and canal routes from the Western zones of Germany into West Berlin in an attempt to force the Western Allies out of the city. American and British aircraft instead flew in food, coal, and other supplies — sometimes more than 4,000 tons a day — for nearly a year until Stalin lifted the blockade in May 1949, the first major confrontation of the Cold War.

21. B — Articulated by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev after the August 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia crushed the Prague Spring, the doctrine held that any threat to socialist rule in any Warsaw Pact state was a threat to all and justified intervention by the wider socialist camp. The doctrine formally bound Eastern Europe to Moscow until Gorbachev disavowed it in 1988–89, opening the way for the peaceful revolutions of 1989.

22. A — Citing internal threats and a court ruling against her over election irregularities, Indira Gandhi persuaded President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to declare a state of emergency in June 1975, jailed opposition leaders such as Jayaprakash Narayan, censored the press, and ran a coercive sterilization campaign under her son Sanjay. When she allowed elections in 1977 she was defeated by the Janata Party — the first non-Congress government since independence — and the Emergency remains a defining episode in Indian democratic memory.

23. D — On the evening of 2 October 1968, ten days before the Mexico City Olympics opened, security forces and paramilitaries opened fire on a student rally in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas at Tlatelolco, killing somewhere between 200 and 400 people according to later estimates. The massacre exposed the authoritarian character of the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and helped spark the country's slow democratization over the following decades.

24. B — Coming to power in a 1965 U.S.-backed coup, Mobutu renamed the country Zaire, banned opposition parties, and looted state finances on a vast scale — Western analysts later coined the term "kleptocracy" partly to describe his rule. The United States and other NATO allies tolerated his corruption because Zaire served as a base for anti-communist operations against Angola and other African leftist movements during the Cold War.

25. C — A self-styled "State Committee on the State of Emergency" of hardline officials placed Gorbachev under house arrest in Crimea on 19 August 1991 and sent tanks into Moscow, hoping to halt the new union treaty that would devolve power to the republics. Russian President Boris Yeltsin climbed onto a tank outside the parliament building to denounce the plotters, the army wavered and refused to attack, and the coup collapsed within three days — fatally weakening both Gorbachev and the Soviet Union, which dissolved by December.

26. A — Following the ouster of Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014, Russian troops without insignia seized key sites on the Crimean peninsula, and a hastily organized referendum was used to justify Moscow's formal annexation. The UN General Assembly voted 100–11 to reject the annexation as illegal, most countries imposed sanctions on Russia, and the seizure helped set the stage for the much larger Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

27. D — A U.S.-Taliban agreement signed in Doha in February 2020 committed American forces to leave by mid-2021; as the withdrawal accelerated, the Afghan National Army melted away, the Taliban swept through provincial capitals, and Kabul fell on 15 August 2021 as President Ashraf Ghani fled. Chaotic scenes at Kabul airport, including Afghans falling from departing U.S. aircraft, came to symbolize the end of America's 20-year war.

28. B — A Martinique-born psychiatrist who joined the Algerian National Liberation Front, Fanon argued that colonial domination dehumanized both colonizer and colonized and that violent struggle could be psychologically liberating for the oppressed when channeled into a national project. The book, with its preface by Jean-Paul Sartre, became a foundational text of anti-colonial movements and later of postcolonial theory in universities worldwide.

29. C — On 6 December 1992, tens of thousands of Hindu nationalist *kar sevaks* organized by the Vishva Hindu Parishad, RSS, and BJP destroyed the 16th-century Babri Mosque, which they claimed stood on the birthplace of the Hindu deity Ram. The demolition triggered widespread Hindu-Muslim riots in cities such as Mumbai that killed roughly 2,000 people, accelerated the rise of the BJP, and culminated in a 2019 Indian Supreme Court ruling awarding the site to Hindu groups.

30. A — Taking power amid the anti-communist mass killings of 1965–66, Suharto built a military-backed regime that crushed political opposition while welcoming foreign investment and pursuing export-led industrialization that produced decades of rapid growth. The "New Order" enjoyed strong U.S. backing as an anti-communist bulwark, but its dependence on patronage and authoritarian repression eventually collapsed during the 1997–98 Asian Financial Crisis.

31. B — Stretching roughly 430 km from the Atlantic Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean, the Pyrenees rise to over 3,400 m at Aneto and have long separated the cultures and politics of the Iberian Peninsula

from those of France. The microstate of Andorra sits in the heart of the range, and the relative isolation of Pyrenean valleys helped preserve languages such as Basque and Catalan.

32. D — Stretching from the Black Sea east to the Caspian, the Greater and Lesser Caucasus ranges rise to over 5,600 m at Mount Elbrus, separating southern Russia from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. The region has been fought over by Russian, Persian, and Ottoman empires for centuries and remains a flashpoint of conflict, from the Chechen wars to the recurring war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

33. C — Lying about 430 meters below sea level along the Jordan Rift Valley, the Dead Sea has roughly ten times the salinity of ordinary ocean water, allowing bathers to float effortlessly and preventing fish from surviving in it. Heavy diversion of the Jordan River for irrigation has caused the lake to shrink by about a third since the 1960s, threatening regional ecosystems and the tourism economy.

34. A — Covering about 68,800 square kilometers across Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya, Lake Victoria is the world's largest tropical lake and the principal source of the White Nile, which begins at Jinja in Uganda. Population growth, overfishing, and pollution have devastated its ecology — including the collapse of many native cichlid species after the introduction of the invasive Nile perch in the 1950s.

35. B — Running roughly 1,200 km from the Ligurian Alps to the toe of the Italian boot, the Apennines form the geological spine of the peninsula and continue underwater into Sicily, while the much higher Alps form a continuous barrier across the northern frontier with France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia. The Po Valley between Alps and Apennines is Italy's most densely populated and economically productive region.