

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

GRADE 8

INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL TEST SOCIAL STUDIES

BOOKLET 1 OBJECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

JUNE 2003

Student Name _____

School Name _____

Print your name and the name of your school on the lines above.

The test has three parts. Parts I and II are in this test booklet; Part III is in Booklet 2.

Part I contains 45 multiple-choice questions. Record your answers to these questions on the separate answer sheet. Use only a No. 2 pencil on your answer sheet.

Part II consists of several short-answer questions. Write your answers to Part II in this test booklet.

You will have $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to answer the questions in Booklet 1.

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Part I

DIRECTIONS

There are 45 questions on Part I of the test. Each question is followed by four choices, numbered 1–4. Read each question carefully. Decide which choice is the correct answer. On the separate answer sheet, mark your answer in the row of circles for each question by filling in the circle that has the same number as the answer you have chosen. Use a pencil to mark the answer sheet.

Read the sample question below:

Sample Question

Which city is the capital of the United States?

- (1) Boston
- (2) Washington, D.C.
- (3) New York City
- (4) Philadelphia

The correct answer is **Washington, D.C.**, which is choice number **2**. On your answer sheet, look at the box showing the row of answer circles for the sample question. Since choice number **2** is the correct answer for the sample question, the circle with the number **2** has been filled in.

Answer all of the questions in Part I in the same way. Fill in only one circle for each question. Be sure to erase completely any answer you want to change. You may not know the answers to some of the questions, but do the best you can on each one.

When you have finished Part I, go on to Part II.

Part I

Answer all questions in this part.

Directions (1–45): For each statement or question, write on the separate answer sheet the *number* of the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question.

1 Land surrounded on three sides by water is called

- (1) a peninsula
- (2) a strait
- (3) an island
- (4) an isthmus

2 Which source of information is an example of a primary source?

- (1) encyclopedia
- (2) dictionary
- (3) thesaurus
- (4) journal entry

3 Where were the Maya and Aztec empires located?

- (1) Canada
- (2) Central America
- (3) southeastern United States
- (4) southwestern Europe

4 The longhouse was a type of dwelling used by the

- (1) Seminoles
- (2) Iroquois (Haudenosaunee)
- (3) Nez Perce
- (4) Pueblos

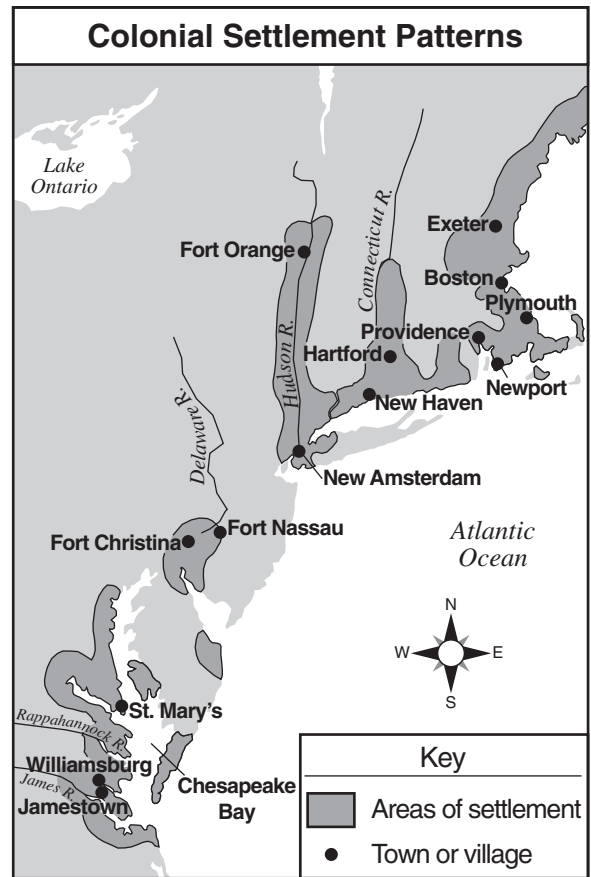
5 Which development led to the other three?

- (1) Native American Indian populations were destroyed by disease.
- (2) New types of foods were shared by Europeans and Americans.
- (3) European nations sent explorers to the Americas.
- (4) Africans were brought to the Americas as slaves.

6 What was the main purpose of the Mayflower Compact?

- (1) to establish freedom of religion in the colony
- (2) to ensure obedience to the king of England
- (3) to provide a new chance for debtors and criminals
- (4) to create a government that would benefit the colony

Base your answer to question 7 on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Melvin Schwartz and John R. O'Connor, *Exploring American History*, Globe Book Company, Inc. (adapted)

7 The information on this map suggests that early colonists

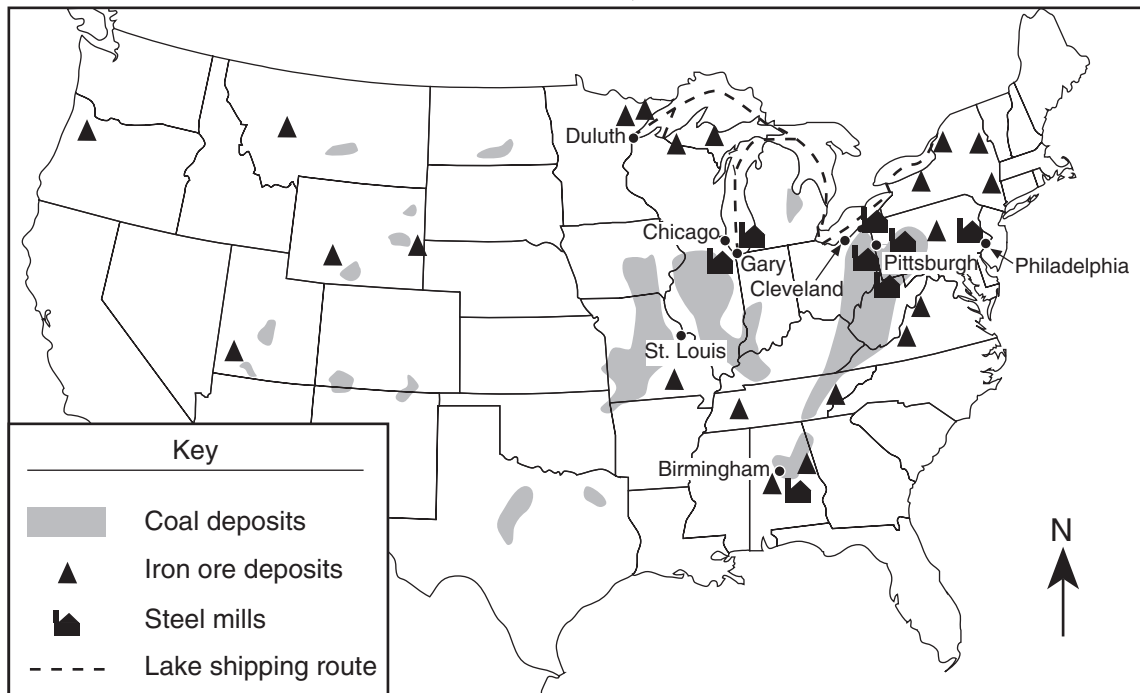
- (1) were unable to achieve political unity
- (2) located towns and villages within a few miles of each other
- (3) built their settlements near bodies of water
- (4) encountered difficulties with Native American Indians

- 8 What were the most profitable ways of making a living in New France?
- (1) fishing and fur trading
 - (2) mining for gold and silver
 - (3) commercial farming of tobacco and rice
 - (4) milling and manufacturing
- 9 The main purpose of the Navigation Acts passed by England was to
- (1) limit the size of ships in English waters
 - (2) ensure that England benefited from colonial trade
 - (3) train sailors for the British navy
 - (4) limit manufacturing in colonial America
- 10 What was the primary purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
- (1) to persuade England to end slavery in America
 - (2) to list reasons the colonies should be free from England
 - (3) to provide a plan for financing the American Revolution
 - (4) to convince the king to grant colonists more land
- 11 Colonial boycotts of British goods before the Revolutionary War were effective measures because they
- (1) reduced the profits of British merchants
 - (2) lowered the prices of imported products
 - (3) left British troops short of supplies in the colonies
 - (4) allowed the Americans to start their own factories
- 12 The New York State Constitution, adopted in 1777, was important because it
- (1) inspired the writing of the Declaration of Independence
 - (2) maintained British influence in the State
 - (3) served as a model for the Constitution of the United States
 - (4) gave all adult males the right to vote
- 13 Delegates at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 agreed to the Three-Fifths Compromise as a way to
- (1) limit the power of the president
 - (2) provide legal rights for women
 - (3) settle differences over representation in Congress
 - (4) establish term lengths for senators
- 14 The Preamble of the United States Constitution says that the power to govern originates with the
- (1) states
 - (2) president
 - (3) Supreme Court
 - (4) people
- 15 During the struggle over ratification of the Constitution, Federalists and Antifederalists disagreed mainly over the
- (1) wisdom of maintaining friendship with England
 - (2) need for the continuation of slavery
 - (3) election of George Washington as the first president
 - (4) division of power between the national government and the states
- 16 Which statement illustrates the system of checks and balances at work?
- (1) The president sends American troops on a peacekeeping mission to Europe.
 - (2) Congress passes a law regulating the sale of handguns.
 - (3) The Senate refuses to approve the president's choice for a Supreme Court justice.
 - (4) The governor of New York discusses policy with the president.
- 17 President Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark into the newly acquired Louisiana Territory primarily to
- (1) explore and map the region
 - (2) search for gold and other valuable mineral deposits
 - (3) improve relations with Native American Indians
 - (4) force British and Spanish settlers out of the territory

- 18 The cotton gin advanced the growth of the textile industry because it
- (1) reduced the time needed to plant cotton seeds
 - (2) improved the process of weaving cotton cloth
 - (3) made it possible for unskilled slaves to cultivate cotton
 - (4) provided a faster method of separating seeds from cotton fiber
- 19 In the 1840s, Seneca Falls, New York became the center of the movement for
- (1) women's rights
 - (2) temperance reform
 - (3) labor union organization
 - (4) states' rights
- 20 During the first half of the 19th century, the abolition movement worked to
- (1) end slavery
 - (2) promote the civil service system
 - (3) establish free public schools
 - (4) limit consumption of alcoholic beverages
- 21 Which situation led directly to the War with Mexico (1846–1848)?
- (1) settlement of the Oregon Territory
 - (2) annexation of Texas
 - (3) discovery of gold in California
 - (4) removal of Native American Indians from their lands
- 22 An issue that divided the North and South and led to the Civil War was the
- (1) length of the term of the president
 - (2) use of judicial review by the Supreme Court
 - (3) balance of power between the states and the federal government
 - (4) application of the impeachment process
- 23 After Reconstruction, white Southerners regained control of Southern state governments by
- (1) ending the Black Codes
 - (2) limiting voting rights of African Americans
 - (3) forcing most African Americans to move to the North
 - (4) limiting the sharecropping system to whites, only
- 24 During the 1800s, Irish immigrants faced discrimination mainly because of their
- (1) religious beliefs
 - (2) upper-class backgrounds
 - (3) conservative political views
 - (4) reluctance to learn the English language
- 25 The separate but equal principle established by the decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) led to the
- (1) start of the Civil War
 - (2) end of the Reconstruction period
 - (3) spread of racially segregated public facilities
 - (4) integration of white and African-American military regiments
- 26 Which literary work exposed the evils of slavery?
- (1) *Common Sense*
 - (2) *The Jungle*
 - (3) *The Grapes of Wrath*
 - (4) *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- 27 Most people purchase shares of stock in a corporation in order to
- (1) influence corporate decisionmaking
 - (2) share in corporate profits
 - (3) improve working conditions for the corporation's employees
 - (4) determine the products the corporation sells

Base your answers to questions 28 and 29 on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Location of Steel Mills, Around 1900



Source: *America: The People and the Dream*, Scott Foresman and Co. (adapted)

- 28 Based on the map, which conclusion can be made about steel mills in 1900?
- (1) To avoid air pollution, most steel mills were built in rural areas.
 - (2) Most steel mills were located in the south-east.
 - (3) Steel mills were usually built near coal and iron ore deposits.
 - (4) New York was a major coal-producing state.

- 29 The most likely reason that steel mills were built in Gary, Indiana is because the city is located
- (1) close to the Atlantic Ocean
 - (2) near the Great Plains
 - (3) near the border with Canada
 - (4) on a lake shipping route

- 30 “. . . You furnish the pictures; I’ll furnish the war.”
— William Randolph Hearst
(to war correspondent Frederic Remington)

Which cause of the Spanish-American War is most clearly shown by this statement?

- (1) imperialism
- (2) militarism
- (3) political ambition
- (4) yellow journalism

- 31 During the Progressive Era, many states began to use primary elections to allow voters to
- (1) remove elected officials from their offices
 - (2) petition their elected representatives to pass laws
 - (3) choose party candidates for elected offices
 - (4) express their views on proposed new laws

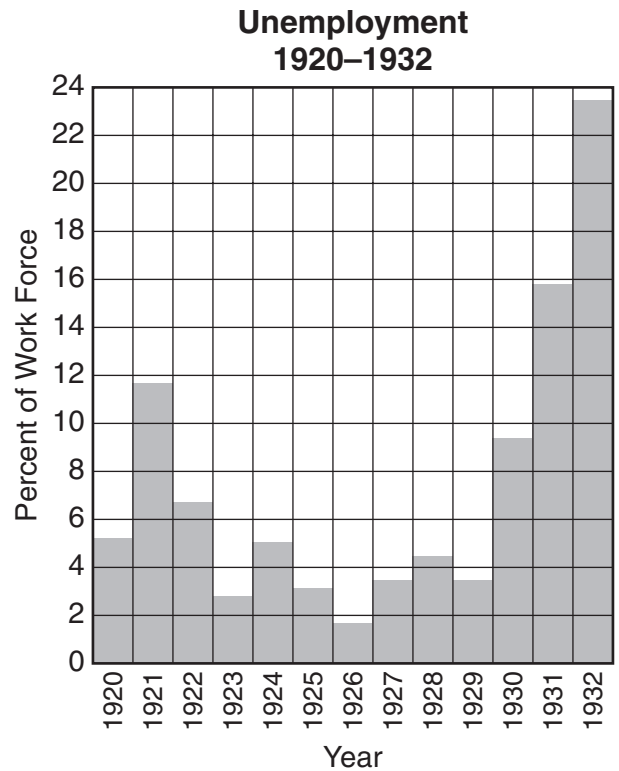
Base your answer to question 32 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Harvard College Library (adapted)

- 32 The cartoonist pictures President Theodore Roosevelt's approach to governing as
- (1) blending several different political ideas
 - (2) favoring conservative views over other approaches
 - (3) stirring up outdated practices
 - (4) supporting the interests of the wealthy
-
- 33 Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Bessie Smith made significant contributions to the Harlem Renaissance in the field of
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (1) music | (3) poetry |
| (2) painting | (4) sculpture |
- 34 Imperialism was a cause of World War I mainly because it
- (1) encouraged nations to establish trade relations
 - (2) created conflicts between nations over colonies
 - (3) supported military dictators throughout Europe
 - (4) discouraged participation in the League of Nations

Base your answer to question 35 on the graph below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States, Bureau of the Census (adapted)

- 35 Which event was a factor related to the rapid change in unemployment after 1929?
- (1) passage of the Espionage and Sedition Acts
 - (2) United States refusal to join the League of Nations
 - (3) increase in immigration
 - (4) stock market crash
-
- 36 During World War II, the number of American women working outside the home increased greatly because
- (1) large numbers of men entered military service
 - (2) high prices created a need for two family incomes
 - (3) laws ending child labor created openings for women
 - (4) government regulations forced industries to adopt hiring quotas

37 The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan were associated with efforts by the United States to

- (1) end the testing of nuclear weapons
- (2) contain the spread of communism
- (3) strengthen its isolationist policy
- (4) punish war criminals

38 In the struggle for African-American civil rights, Rosa Parks is most closely associated with the

- (1) March on Washington, D.C.
- (2) voter registration drives in Mississippi
- (3) bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama
- (4) sit-in demonstrations in North Carolina

39 Which event was a result of the other three?

- (1) World War II
- (2) signing of the Treaty of Versailles
- (3) rise of dictatorships in Europe
- (4) failure of the League of Nations

40 **“Finally, a . . . Winner”**

This newspaper headline announced the conclusion of a controversial presidential election in

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (1) 1800 | (3) 1900 |
| (2) 1860 | (4) 2000 |

41 Affirmative action programs were designed to

- (1) provide equal opportunities for minorities
- (2) expand voting rights for women
- (3) honor treaties with Native American Indians
- (4) provide bilingual education

Base your answer to question 42 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Bob Englehart, *Hartford Courant*

42 The cartoonist responded to the 1997 increase in the minimum wage by suggesting that it is

- (1) likely to end the gap between the rich and the poor
- (2) inadequate to keep up with changes in the cost of living
- (3) a ladder to escape poverty
- (4) the solution to the welfare system

43 **“Unemployment Levels Reach New High”**
“Farmers Flee Dust Bowl”
“Hundreds Line Up at Soup Kitchens”

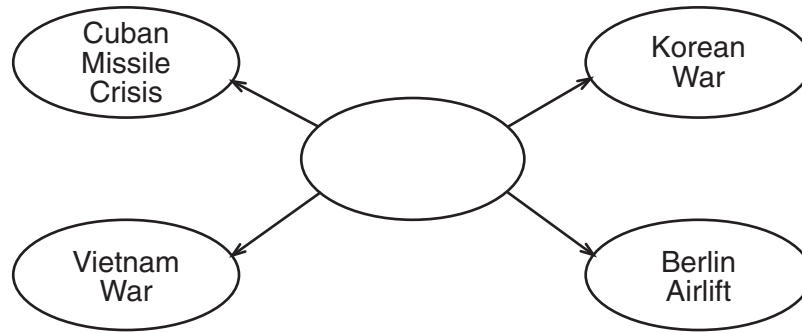
With which decade are these headlines most closely associated?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (1) 1900–1910 | (3) 1921–1930 |
| (2) 1911–1920 | (4) 1931–1940 |

44 The battles of Saratoga, Gettysburg, and Normandy were similar in that all three

- (1) caused wars to be longer
- (2) resulted in few casualties
- (3) were turning points in wars
- (4) were won by the side that eventually lost the war

Base your answer to question 45 on the web diagram below and on your knowledge of social studies.



45 Which label best completes this web diagram?

- (1) United States Domestic Policy (3) Monroe Doctrine
(2) Cold War Clashes (4) Tensions in Europe
-

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE ➞

Part II

Write your answers to the questions that follow in the spaces provided in this test booklet.

Directions: Base your answers to questions 1 through 3 on the chart below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Political Parties in the 1790s

	Federalist	Democratic-Republican
Political Beliefs	Favored government control by wealthy and educated citizens Favored a strong national government	Favored the selection of representatives by average citizens Favored a limited national government
Economic Beliefs	Supported government aid to business, finance, and trade Favored a national bank Supported protective tariffs	Supported no special favors to business; preferred farming Favored sound state banks Supported duty-free imports
Foreign Affairs	Favored British commercial ties and feared the French Favored Jay's Treaty	Sympathized with the French Revolution Opposed Jay's Treaty
Sources of Strength	Strong in New England and seacoast areas Manufacturing interests, bankers, and merchants	Strong in the south, southwest, and frontier areas Farmers, artisans, and skilled workers

Source: Henry Drewry & Thomas O'Connor, *America Is*, Merrill Publishing Co. (adapted)

- 1 Give **one** example of how the Federalists planned to encourage economic growth. [1]

Score

- 2 State **one** fact from the chart to support the argument that the Democratic-Republican Party encouraged more participation in government than the Federalist Party. [1]

Score

- 3 Why do different groups form political parties? [1]

Score

Base your answers to questions 4 through 6 on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Expansion of the United States—1803



4 Which European nation controlled Florida in 1803? [1]

Score

5 How did the United States obtain the area that is shown on the map with a question mark? [1]

Score

6 State **two** ways the land identified by the question mark benefited the United States. [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Base your answers to questions 7 through 9 on the letter below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Letter from a Child Written During the Great Depression

Warren, Ohio
Dec. 22, 1935

Dear President Roosevelt,

Please help us my mother is sick three year and was in the hospital three month and she came out but she is not better and my Father is peralised and can not work and we are poor and the Cumunity fun gives us six dollars an we are six people four children three boy 15, 13, 12, an one gril 10, and to parents. We have no one to give us a Christmas presents. and if you want to buy a Christmas present please buy us a stove to do our cooking and to make good bread.

Please excuse me for not writing it so well because the little girl 10 year old is writing.

Merry Christmas
[Anonymous]

Source: Robert McElvaine (ed.), *Down and Out in the Great Depression*, The University of North Carolina Press

7 In which year was this letter written? [1]

Score

8 State **two** problems facing this family. [2]

(1) _____

(2) _____

Score

Score

9 Name **one** New Deal program that helped people like those described in the letter. [1]

Score

Base your answers to questions 10 through 12 on the speech below and on your knowledge of social studies.

The Four Freedoms Speech

... In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear, which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world....

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
January 6, 1941

10 Identify the world leader who gave this speech. [1]

Score

11 Name a basic right referred to in this document that is specifically mentioned in the United States Bill of Rights. [1]

Score

12 At the time this speech was given, why was freedom a world issue? [1]

Score

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Part II Score _____

