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Social Studies

HiSET® Exam Free Practice Test FPT – 6A

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Social Studies

Directions

Time – 35 minutes

25 Questions

This is a test of your skills in analyzing social studies information. Read each question and decide which of the four alternatives best answers the question. Then mark your choice on your answer sheet. Sometimes several questions are based on the same material. You should carefully read this material and then answer the questions.

Work as quickly as you can without becoming careless. Do not spend too much time on any question that is difficult for you to answer. Instead, skip it and return to it later if you have time. Try to answer every question even if you have to guess.

Mark all your answers on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question.

If you decide to change one of your answers, be sure to erase the first mark completely.

Be sure that the number of the question you are answering matches the number of the row of answer choices you are marking on your answer sheet. The answer sheet may contain more rows than you need.

1

Which of the following questions about a state's budget would be most difficult to answer?

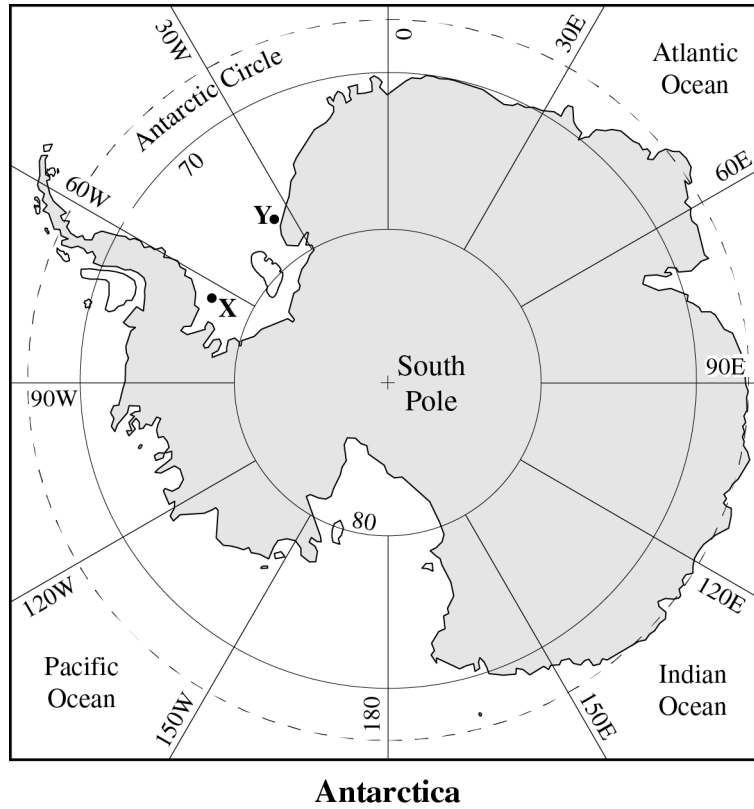
- A. Did the state provide enough money for education this year?
- B. Did education receive the greatest proportion of the state's budget this year?
- C. Was the amount of money provided for education this year greater than it was last year?
- D. How much money did the state provide for education this year?

2

Three of the following statements about the Vietnam War are based on direct evidence. Which statement is based primarily on circumstantial evidence or inference?

- A. In 1968, more than 500,000 American soldiers were in Vietnam.
- B. In 1965, President Johnson ordered U.S. combat units into battle in Vietnam, and U.S. military involvement ended in 1973.
- C. Lack of military success in Vietnam led to President Johnson's decision not to run for reelection in 1968.
- D. President Eisenhower sent military advisers to Vietnam in the 1950s.

Consider the following map of Antarctica.



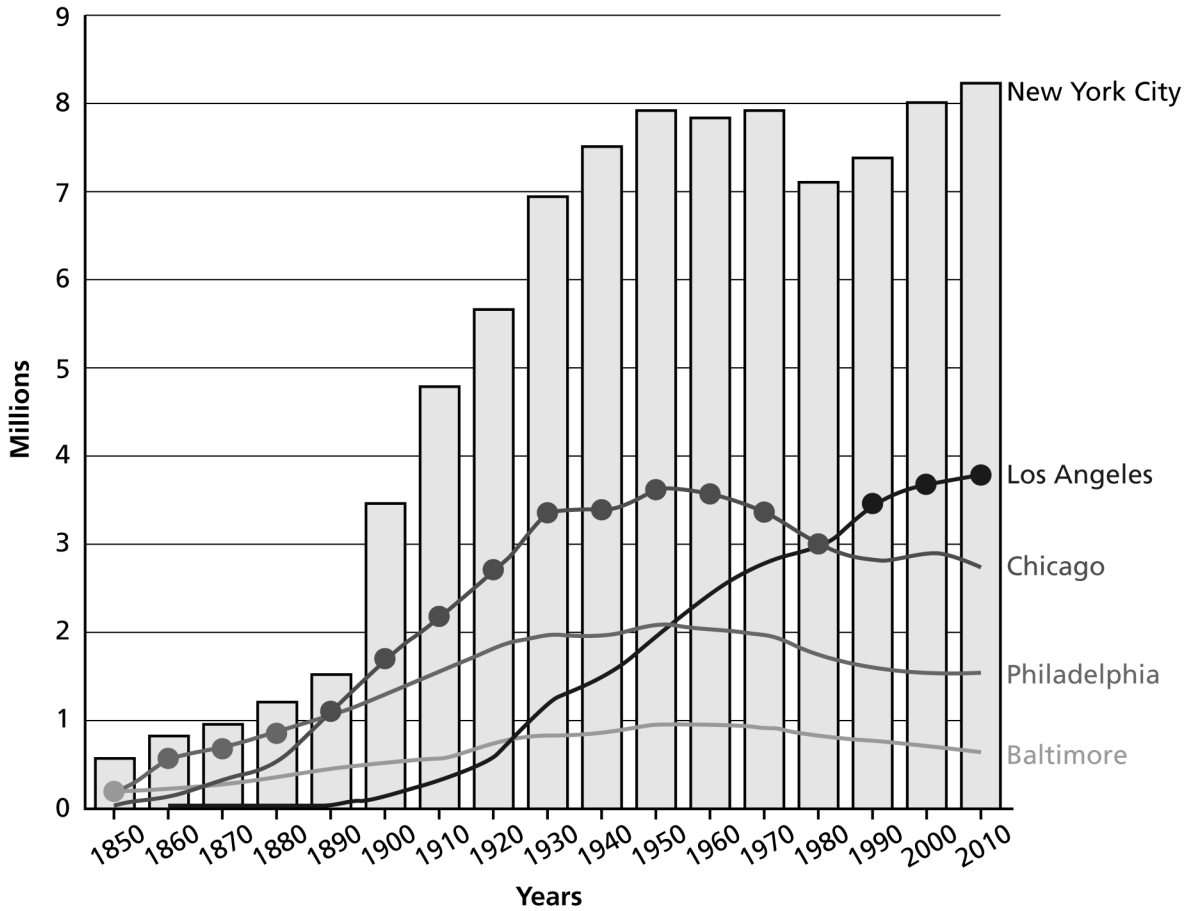
The horizontal line in the middle of each circle below represents Earth's equator. Which of these diagrams indicates the perspective used to draw the map?

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

Questions 4 – 11 refer to the following information.

The following graph shows the populations of five U.S. cities based on census data from 1850 to 2010. New York City was the most populous city throughout this time period, and its population is represented by the bars on the graph. Each of the other four cities was the second most populous city at some time between 1850 and 2010. The dots on the graph indicate the second most populous city at the time of each census.

New York City and the Cities Which Have Been the Second Most Populous U.S. Cities From 1850 – 2010



4

From 1900 to 2000, which of these cities grew at the fastest rate?

- A. Los Angeles
- B. Chicago
- C. Philadelphia
- D. Baltimore

5

During which of these time periods was Chicago the second most populous city in the United States?

- A. 1850 – 1940
- B. 1870 – 1980
- C. 1890 – 1980
- D. 1910 – 1990

6

Which of these characteristics of large cities best explains population growth of cities?

- A. Cities have a wide range of leisure activities available.
- B. Cities have well-developed mass transit systems.
- C. Cities provide many housing options.
- D. Cities are centers of economic production.

7

Which of these cities is farthest from an ocean?

- A. Los Angeles
- B. Chicago
- C. Philadelphia
- D. Baltimore

8

Based on the information in the graph for 1960 through 2010, which of these cities would be predicted to have the greatest total population decline from 1960 to 2020 ?

- A. Los Angeles
- B. Chicago
- C. Philadelphia
- D. Baltimore

9

Which of these cities is located the farthest west?

- A. Los Angeles
- B. Chicago
- C. Philadelphia
- D. Baltimore

10

Which statement about the population of New York City at each census from 1910 to 2010 is true?

- A. It increased with every census.
- B. It decreased from one census to the next as often as it increased.
- C. It was at least double that of the second largest city.
- D. It was at least triple that of the second largest city.

11

Which of these statements about the U.S. census is NOT true?

- A. It is mandated by the Constitution.
 - B. Data is collected every 5 years.
 - C. The information collected about individuals is considered confidential.
 - D. The data are used to determine the number of seats in the House of Representatives allocated to each state.
-

Questions 12 and 13 refer to the following information.

The following three statements were true for a small country in a recent year:

1. Total income for the population: 24 billion U.S. dollars
2. Per capita income: 7,000 U.S. dollars
3. 90% of the total income was received by 5% of the population

12

Which of the following is the most appropriate interpretation of the per capita income information?

- A. Each person living in the country had an income of \$7,000.
- B. Most of the people in the country had incomes greater than \$7,000.
- C. Half the people in the country had incomes greater than \$7,000 and half had incomes less than \$7,000.
- D. If each person in the country had the same income, they would each have had an income of \$7,000.

13

Which of the following conclusions about incomes in the country is best supported by these statements?

- A. The total income is evenly distributed among the population.
 - B. 95% of the population have relatively low incomes.
 - C. 25% of the population have relatively high incomes.
 - D. 5% of the population have incomes less than \$7,000.
-

NO TEST MATERIAL ON THIS PAGE

Questions 14 – 20 refer to the following information.

Many citizens are concerned about the relatively low percentage of registered voters who actually cast a ballot in official elections. To increase participation, some government officials are proposing that voting by mail be permitted. The following are two letters to the editor of a newspaper concerning this proposal.

Letter I

In recent elections, voter turnout in our state has been sparse. Even though the polls are open for twelve hours, eligible voters don't show up. One proposed solution is to allow voting by mail. In one state where ballots were mailed to each voter, participation in a general election soared from an average of about 20 percent to approximately 75 percent. When an issue is passed or defeated with a 20 percent voter turnout, officials don't know if the outcome reflects the people's true opinions or just their indifference. When it is passed or defeated by 75 percent of the eligible voters, their will is clear. Voting by mail also decreases costs. In one state, costs declined from \$2.22 per vote in a conventional election to \$0.76 per vote in an election by mail. Mail elections would also make voting easier for older people and people with disabilities. In general, voting by mail is a good way to increase voter participation.

Letter II

Voting by mail is a step in the wrong direction. Equal representation under the law was a hard-won privilege. A person who doesn't bother going to the polls doesn't deserve to vote. Voting by mail will bypass safeguards that are in effect at voting places. Currently, election workers at the polls ensure the integrity of the voting process. Precautions are taken to make sure that each person casts only one vote. If voting is done by mail, will the ballot pass through many hands? If it does, how will a ballot remain confidential? Decisions made by voting involve people's money and lives—matters that are too important to jeopardize merely for the sake of convenience.

14

What is the primary purpose of both letters?

- A. To describe a growing political problem
- B. To persuade others to share the author's point of view
- C. To provide data regarding trends in voter participation
- D. To praise the principles on which our electoral system is based

15

Letter I supports the argument for mail-in ballots with

- A. a nationwide study.
- B. an opinion poll of voters.
- C. examples of how the system worked elsewhere.
- D. testimony from an expert witness.

16

Which of the following statements best summarizes the opinions expressed in Letter II about voting by mail?

- A. It will be successful only for a short time.
- B. It will never appeal to truly patriotic people.
- C. It will become too expensive to maintain.
- D. It will be more easily subject to corruption.

17

Which of the following statements from the letters is NOT a statement of opinion?

- A. Letter I: One proposed solution is to allow voting by mail.
- B. Letter I: In general, voting by mail is a good way to increase voter participation.
- C. Letter II: Voting by mail is a step in the wrong direction.
- D. Letter II: Decisions made by voting involve people's money and lives—matters that are too important to jeopardize merely for the sake of convenience.

18

Both Letter I and Letter II are concerned with aspects of voter

- A. privacy.
- B. honesty.
- C. education.
- D. representation.

19

Letter II suggests that each voter should

- A. make an effort to cast a vote in person.
- B. try different voting procedures.
- C. discuss his or her vote with others before voting.
- D. be open-minded about voting methods.

20

Which of the following is NOT one of the points Letter I makes in favor of allowing voting by mail?

- A. It is less expensive than the usual method.
 - B. Majority participation is more likely.
 - C. The confidentiality of every vote is assured.
 - D. Special populations can vote more easily.
-

Questions 21 – 25 refer to the following information.

The 1930s and 1940s were turbulent years in United States history. This passage considers the impact of the Great Depression and Second World War on the United States economy.

The United States Economy in the 1930s and 1940s

During the administrations of Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt, poverty was widespread. The Great Depression had dealt a severe blow to the economic well-being of the nation. For example, the gross national product (GNP), the total value of all goods and services produced in a year, had dropped from \$103 billion in
Line 1929 to \$55 billion in 1933.

5 Full recovery from this depression did not come until the Second World War, when United States industry went into high gear, producing war materials. To enable the Allied armies to win the war in both Europe and the Pacific, technological miracles were achieved. Employment rose as factories worked around the clock. High wages and government-controlled prices helped create a tremendous growth in family incomes. Because of the emphasis on production of heavy goods and machinery, much of the money people earned went into
10 savings. Measured in dollars of constant purchasing power, or what economists call “real income,” average yearly take-home pay of families rose by about \$800 from 1941 to 1946, an increase of about \$160 per year.

Dire predictions about mass unemployment after the war proved wrong. In the peacetime economy, industry flourished as price controls were removed and manufacturers scrambled to meet the huge demand for consumer goods. There were recessions during the twenty years after the war, but they were minor economic
15 ripples compared with previous national depressions.

21

Which of the following would be the best example of a “technological miracle” achieved during the Second World War?

- A. The use of advertising to sell huge numbers of war bonds
- B. The development of a rationing system for distributing goods
- C. The invention of radar
- D. The implementation of price controls

22

According to the passage, the \$800 increase in real income enjoyed by the average family between 1941 and 1946 was primarily the result of

- A. inflation.
- B. government subsidies.
- C. decreases in taxes.
- D. rising wages and government-controlled prices.

23

Which of the following would be the best example of the type of consumer goods that were in demand when the Second World War ended?

- A. Automobiles
- B. Better highways
- C. Commercial airplanes
- D. Railroad passenger cars

24

According to the passage, which of the following was primarily responsible for the end of the Great Depression?

- A. Federal antipoverty programs
- B. Technological progress
- C. Government controls over prices and wages
- D. The development of a war economy

25

Based on information in the passage, it could be concluded that an important factor in the growth of the United States economy in the middle of the twentieth century was

- A. inflation.
 - B. the rise of consumer spending after the war.
 - C. a change in the ownership of many businesses.
 - D. the development of economic indicators, such as the GNP.
-



Answer Key

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
1	A	II. Civics/Government	Medium
2	C	I. History	Medium
3	B	IV. Geography	Medium
4	A	I. History	Easy
5	C	I. History	Medium
6	D	I. History	Medium
7	B	IV. Geography	Easy
8	B	I. History	Medium
9	A	IV. Geography	Easy
10	C	I. History	Medium
11	B	II. Civics/Government	Medium
12	D	III. Economics	Medium
13	B	III. Economics	Medium
14	B	II. Civics/Government	Medium
15	C	II. Civics/Government	Medium
16	D	II. Civics/Government	Medium
17	A	II. Civics/Government	Medium
18	D	II. Civics/Government	Medium
19	A	II. Civics/Government	Medium
20	C	II. Civics/Government	Medium
21	C	I. History	Medium
22	D	III. Economics	Medium
23	A	I. History	Medium
24	D	I. History	Medium
25	B	I. History	Medium

