



Social Studies

Free Half-Length Practice Test – FPT9



Language
English

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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 options 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.

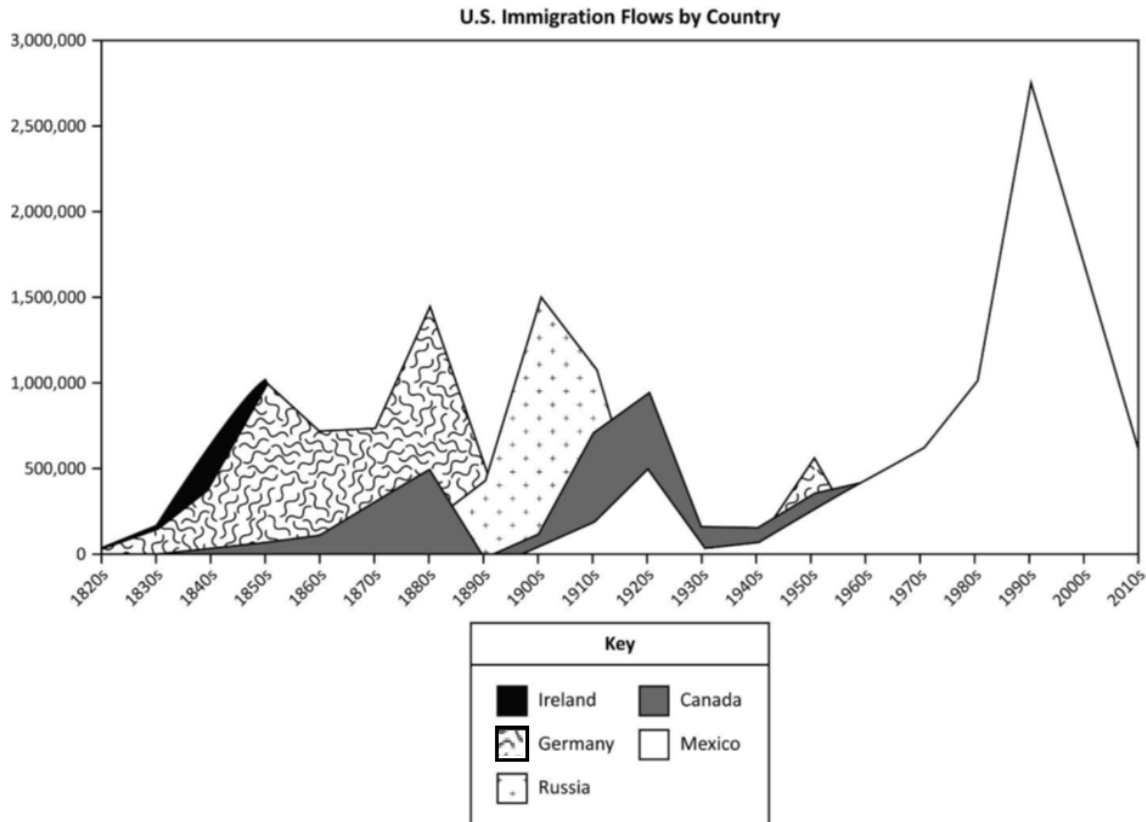
If you decide to change one of your answers, be sure to erase the first mark completely.

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.

Questions 1 through 5 refer to the following information.

Immigration to the United States

Since its founding, the United States has been a nation of immigrants. The graph shows the number of immigrants from five different countries to the United States from the 1820s to the 2010s.



1 _____

Exactly when was the highest peak of German immigration into the United States?

- A. 1840s
- B. 1850s
- C. 1880s
- D. 1950s

2 _____

Where did the largest group of immigrants to the United States come from around the beginning of the 1900s?

- A. Russia
- B. Mexico
- C. Germany
- D. Ireland

3 _____

Approximately how much did Mexican immigration to the United States decline between the 1990s and the 2010s?

- A. 0.5 million
- B. 1 million
- C. 1.5 million
- D. 2 million

4 _____

In the late 1860s and 1870s, Canadians from Eastern Canada came to the U.S. to work in the burgeoning manufacturing sector.

When did the second wave of Canadian immigration to the U.S. reach its peak?

- A. 1900s
- B. 1910s
- C. 1920s
- D. 1930s

5 _____

The first Russian revolution against the rule of the Russian tsar occurred in 1905, causing unrest and instability in Russia.

Approximately how many Russians immigrated to the United States at that time?

- A. 500,000
- B. 750,000
- C. 1.5 million
- D. 2.8 million

Questions 6 through 11 refer to the following information.

This joint resolution of Congress gave the president authority to increase U.S. involvement in the war between North and South Vietnam.

Transcript of Tonkin Gulf Resolution

Eighty-eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the seventh day of January, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four

Joint Resolution

To promote the maintenance of international peace and security in Southeast Asia.

Whereas naval units of the Communist regime in Vietnam, in violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, have deliberately and repeatedly attacked United States naval vessels lawfully present in international waters, and have thereby created a serious threat to international peace; and

Whereas these attackers are part of deliberate and systematic campaign of aggression that the Communist regime in North Vietnam has been waging against its neighbors and the nations joined with them in the collective defense of their freedom; and

Whereas the United States is assisting the peoples of Southeast Asia to protect their freedom and has no territorial, military or political ambitions in that area, but desires only that these people should be left in peace to work out their destinies in their own way:
Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.

Section 2. The United States regards as vital to its national interest and to world peace the maintenance of international peace and security in Southeast Asia. Consonant with the Constitution of the United States and the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with its obligations under the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty, the United States is, therefore, prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary

steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member or protocol state of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom.

Section 3. This resolution shall expire when the President shall determine that the peace and security of the area is reasonably assured by international conditions created by action of the United Nations or otherwise, except that it may be terminated earlier by concurrent resolution of the Congress.

6 _____

The Tonkin Gulf Resolution is best understood as part of which of the following?

- A.** The First World War
- B.** The Second World War
- C.** The Cold War
- D.** The War on Terrorism

7 _____

The resolution is historically significant because it

- A.** promoted peace and security in international waters off the coast of Vietnam.
- B.** gave the president authorization to use military force without a declaration of war.
- C.** established timelines and an exit strategy for U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
- D.** gave Congress the authority to end the war by a vote of both houses.

8 _____

The passage of this resolution affected which constitutional principle?

- A.** Federalism
- B.** Limited government
- C.** Separation of powers
- D.** Republicanism

9 _____

Which summary describes legislation passed by Congress after misuse of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution?

- A. Every bill that has passed the House of Representatives and the Senate will be presented to the president for his approval and signature.
- B. The president's powers as commander in chief are exercised only in three possible situations: a declaration of war, specific authorization from Congress, or a national emergency created by an attack upon the United States.
- C. If an emergency occurs and there is no opportunity for the executive branch to seek legislative authority, the president may take action for the public good, even in the absence of law.
- D. The president has the power to sell, exchange, transfer, or lend equipment to any country to help it defend itself against an enemy.

10 _____

Where is the Gulf of Tonkin located?

- A. Bounded by Japan to the east, China to the west, and Vietnam to the south.
- B. Off the southern tip of Vietnam and bounded by Cambodia to the west.
- C. Off the west coast of Vietnam and bounded by Cambodia and Thailand to the north.
- D. Off the east coast of Vietnam and bounded by China to the north.

11 _____

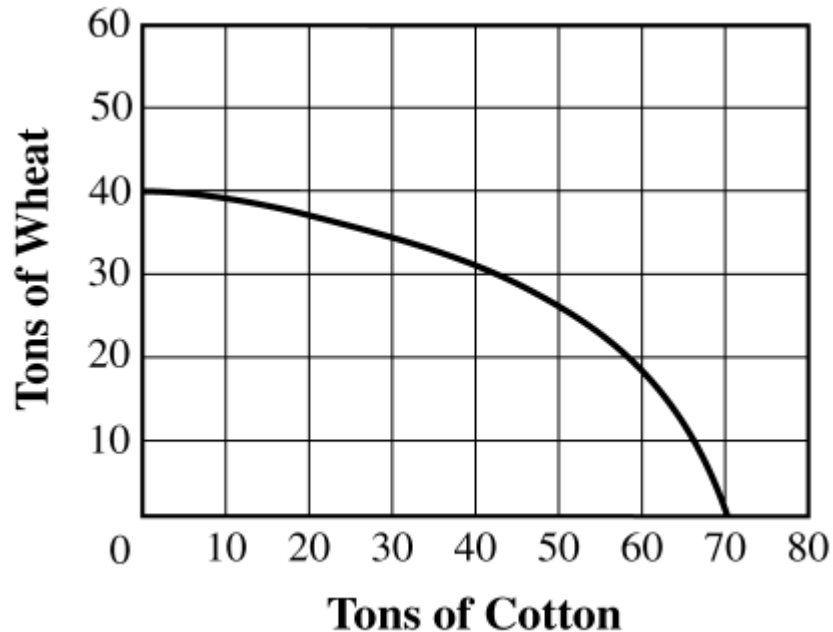
Congress was concerned about the situation in Vietnam because the United States wanted to

- A. promote the formation of a free trade zone in Southeast Asia.
- B. limit the number of United Nations humanitarian forces sent to the region.
- C. support independence movements of former European colonies.
- D. prevent communism from spreading to the neighboring countries of Laos and Cambodia.

Questions 12 through 15 refer to the following information.

The Production Possibilities of One Farm

This production-possibilities curve shows the combinations of agricultural goods that a large farm can produce with the available factors of production.



12 _____

Which question is best answered by the shape of the production possibilities graph?

- A. How much should the farm charge for the goods that are produced?
- B. What is the opportunity cost of producing one good over another?
- C. Where should the farm sell the goods that are produced?
- D. How should the farm produce the goods?

13 _____

Based on this graph, which production point would be unattainable for this farm?

- A. 40 tons of wheat and 0 tons of cotton
- B. 30 tons of wheat and 30 tons of cotton
- C. 20 tons of wheat and 70 tons of cotton
- D. 10 tons of wheat and 60 tons of cotton

14 _____

Which scenario would cause this production-possibilities curve to shift outward at all points?

- A. A new technology is developed that makes harvesting crops more efficient.
- B. Widespread flooding destroys many of the crops that were about to be harvested.
- C. More economic opportunities become available in industrial centers.
- D. A severe drought makes irrigation of the fields difficult.

15 _____

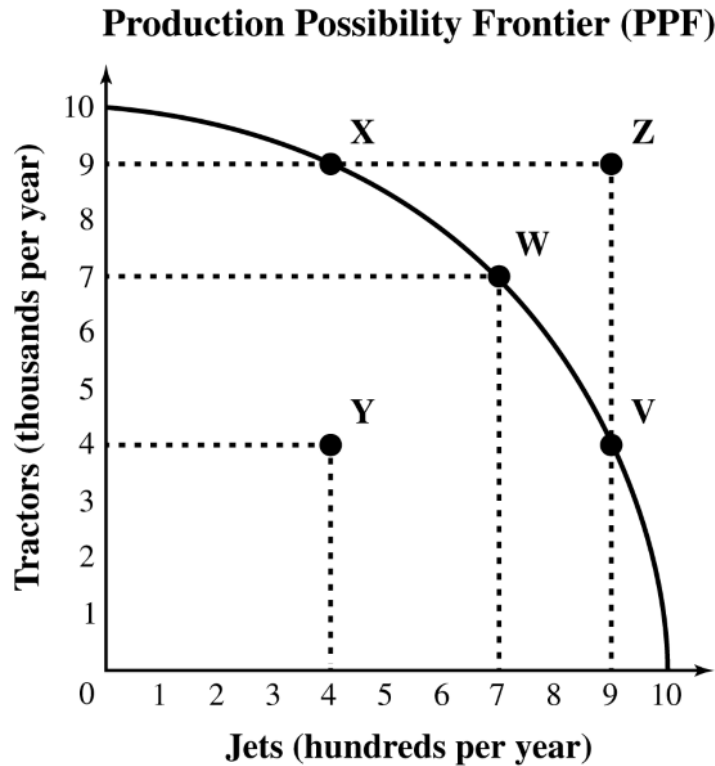
Which economic concept is best illustrated by this graph?

- A. Monopoly.
- B. Supply
- C. Opportunity cost
- D. Trade barriers

Questions 16 and 17 refer to the following information.

Output Possibilities for One Country

The information below describes the output possibilities for one country.



The curve of this hypothetical PPF illustrates the current maximum possible output combinations for a country that produces only tractors and jets. Points falling directly on the curve represent the country's resources being used fully and efficiently. Any point inside the curve is attainable, although not as desirable as points on the curve. Any point outside the curve is not attainable given the country's current availability of resources and technology. Every move from one point on the PPF curve to another entails a trade-off, sacrificing a certain amount of one good to produce a certain amount of another good.

16 _____

Which point on this PPF graph indicates an attainable output that does not fully utilize the country's resources?

- A. V
- B. X
- C. Y
- D. Z

17 _____

Which point on this PPF graph represents a currently unattainable output level for this country?

- A. V
- B. X
- C. Y
- D. Z

Questions 18 through 25 refer to the following information.

The passage provides information about Chinese inventions and trade.

Early Chinese Inventions

China is unique among ancient civilizations. Separated from Egypt, Mesopotamia, and India by mountain ranges, deserts, and thousands of miles, the ancient Chinese believed themselves to be the only example of an advanced civilization. While other ancient societies were trading with and learning from each other, isolated China developed its own culture and technology, focusing on regional trade. When trade between the East and the West began in earnest, Chinese inventions greatly influenced western cultures and had a significant impact on world events.

Trade between the East and the West developed slowly. A series of trade routes known as the Silk Road enabled merchants to travel overland from the Middle East to China. As the name suggests, silk was a major good desired by Western merchants. The Chinese developed a way to produce silk using the cocoon of the silkworm as early as 2700 B.C.E. The Chinese invented elaborate looms for weaving the silk fibers into cloth. Silk cloth was a rare luxury, and, as such, it became an important trade good and status symbol. In order to maintain its monopoly on the silk trade, Chinese officials closely guarded the secrets to making the cloth. In fact, sharing knowledge about the production of silk with a foreigner was a crime punishable by death.

As Western merchants, such as Marco Polo, traveled along the Silk Road, they learned about Chinese culture and technology. Perhaps the most famous example of Chinese technology is the compass. Early versions of the compass allowed Chinese sailors to determine the direction in which to sail. During a time when navigation normally relied on observing the stars, the compass provided an important tool that allowed travelers to navigate even when the stars were obscured by clouds. This improved ability to navigate allowed China to trade throughout Southeast Asia. It also helped Chinese merchants travel overland. After Western merchants adopted this technology, the improved ability to navigate helped start an era of exploration and discovery.

Gunpowder was also invented in China, where it was used in fireworks for celebrations. However, there is evidence that the Chinese also used gunpowder as a weapon. In fact, there is an early Chinese illustration of a cannon that predates any evidence of a European cannon by more than a century.

Another invention that had a significant impact in Europe involved printing. Block printing had developed independently in the West and in the East. In the East, block printing was used to print Buddhist texts. This involved carving out an entire page in a single block that would then be inked and pressed. Chinese printers invented movable type, a new method that allowed them to use a bank of smaller carved characters. They could then

place the characters in a larger form to create a page. The same characters could be used to create an entirely new text simply by rearranging them. This made printing much more efficient. Johannes Gutenberg developed the first European printing press using movable type, but he was undoubtedly influenced by knowledge of the Chinese version of the press that had been invented almost four centuries earlier. Movable type printing made it easier, and therefore cheaper, to produce printed texts.

18 _____

Based on the passage, which invention provided the strongest economic motivation for European merchants to begin trading with China?

- A.** Silk
- B.** Movable type
- C.** Compass
- D.** Gunpowder

19 _____

Which technology could also have been included in this passage about Chinese inventions?

- A.** Concrete
- B.** Telescope
- C.** Algebra
- D.** Papermaking

20 _____

What do geographers call the spread of technology from China to other regions?

- A.** Physical modification
- B.** Social adaptation
- C.** Internal migration
- D.** Cultural diffusion

21 _____

Which factor was the main cause of ancient China's isolation?

- A.** Government policies
- B.** Cultural differences
- C.** Geographic obstacles
- D.** Economic independence

22 _____

Which development in Europe contributed to the growth of trade between Europe and China?

- A.** A falling population
- B.** A rising standard of living
- C.** Declining economic competition
- D.** Increasing international conflict

23 _____

How did Chinese officials seek to maximize the benefits of the silk trade?

- A.** By controlling the supply
- B.** By regulating the demand
- C.** By promoting competition
- D.** By encouraging innovation

24 _____

How did developments in printing mostly likely affect European society?

- A.** By increasing demand for foreign goods
- B.** By promoting migration among nations
- C.** By leading to higher literacy rates
- D.** By contributing to the invention of new technologies

25 _____

In 2014, UNESCO made the Silk Road a United Nations World Heritage site.

This decision most likely reflects the desire of the United Nations to honor the

- A.** many resources that were used for economic development of the area.
- B.** unique nature of the Chinese civilization that developed in the area.
- C.** impact of the technological and cultural exchanges that occurred along the routes.
- D.** technologies that China developed as a result of the trade along the routes.

HiSET Answer Key and Rationales

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
1	C	I. History	Easy
Rationale			
Option C is correct because the graph shows that it was during the 1880s that the greatest number of Germans immigrated to the United States (about 1.4 million).			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
2	A	I. History	Medium
Rationale			
Option A is correct because the graph shows that around the beginning of the 1900s, more than 1.5 million Russians immigrated to the United States. This number is higher than the number of immigrants from Canada and Mexico (each well under 500,000).			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
3	D	I. History	Medium
Rationale			
Option D is correct because the graph shows that in the 1990s Mexican immigration to the U.S was between 2.5 million and 3 million, but it declined to between 0.5 million and 1 million by the 2010s. Therefore, Mexican immigration declined by about 2 million during this period.			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
4	C	I. History	Medium
Rationale			
Option C is correct because the graph shows that Canadian immigration to the U.S. (after the initial wave in the 1860s-1870s) was highest in the 1920s (just under 1 million).			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
5	C	I. History	Easy
Rationale			
Option C is correct because the graph shows that approximately 1.5 million Russians immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s.			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
6	C	I. History	Medium
Rationale			
Option C is correct because the Tonkin Gulf Resolution (1964) occurred during the Cold War, a long period of tension between communist and non-communist nations after World War II. The United States became involved in Vietnam mainly to stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
7	B	II. Civics/Government	Medium
Rationale			
Option B is correct because the Tonkin Gulf Resolution allowed the president to take military action in Vietnam without Congress formally declaring war. This greatly expanded presidential power during wartime.			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
8	C	II. Civics/Government	Medium
Rationale			
Option C is correct because the Constitution divides war powers between Congress and the president. By allowing the president to decide when and how to use military force, the Tonkin Gulf Resolution shifted power away from Congress, affecting the balance between branches.			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
9	B	I. History	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option B is correct because this summarizes the War Powers Resolution of 1973, passed after the Vietnam War. Congress wanted to limit the president’s ability to involve the U.S. in war without approval, due to concerns over misuse of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
10	D	IV. Geography	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option D is correct because the Gulf of Tonkin is located between northern Vietnam and southern China, along Vietnam’s east coast. This is where the naval incidents occurred that led to the resolution.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
11	D	I. History	Easy
Rationale			
<p>Option D is correct because this reflects the domino theory, which suggests that if one country became communist, nearby countries would follow. Preventing communist expansion was a main goal of U.S. Cold War foreign policy.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
12	B	III. Economics	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option B is correct because the shape of a production possibilities curve (PPC) shows how resources must be reallocated to produce more of one good and less of another. As production shifts along the curve, the graph illustrates opportunity cost—what must be given up to gain more of another product.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
13	C	III. Economics	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option C is correct because an unattainable point lies outside the PPC, meaning the farm does not have enough resources or technology to produce that combination. Producing 20 tons of wheat and 70 tons of cotton exceeds what the farm can make given its current limits.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
14	A	III. Economics	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option A is correct because an outward shift of the PPC means the farm can produce more of both goods, which happens when productivity improves. New technology increases efficiency, allowing greater output with the same resources.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
15	C	III. Economics	Hard
Rationale			
<p>Option C is correct because a production possibilities graph visually demonstrates opportunity cost, showing that choosing to produce more of one good requires giving up some amount of another good.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
16	C	III. Economics	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option C is correct because point Y lies inside the curve. As the passage indicates, any point lying inside the curve represents an attainable output level but is not “as desirable” as points lying on the curve, which represent output when resources are fully utilized.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
17	D	III. Economics	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option D is correct because point Z lies outside the curve. As the passage indicates, any point lying outside the curve represents an unattainable output level.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
18	A	I. History	Easy
Rationale			
<p>Option A is correct because the passage repeatedly emphasizes that silk was a rare luxury good, highly desired by Western merchants and a powerful status symbol. The Silk Road itself is named after silk, underscoring its economic importance as the main motivation for long-distance trade.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
19	D	I. History	Hard
Rationale			
<p>Option D is correct because papermaking was invented in ancient China and later spread to the Middle East and Europe, much like the other inventions discussed in the passage (silk, compass, gunpowder, printing).</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
20	D	IV. Geography	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option D is correct because cultural diffusion refers to the spread of ideas, technology, and culture between societies. The passage describes how Chinese inventions such as silk, the compass, and printing spread to Europe via trade routes.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
21	C	IV. Geography	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option C is correct because the passage states that China was separated from other civilizations by mountain ranges, deserts, and great distances, which limited contact and encouraged isolation.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
22	B	I. History	Hard
Rationale			
<p>Option B is correct because as European standards of living rose, more people could afford luxury goods like silk. Greater wealth increased demand for trade goods, encouraging long-distance trade.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
23	A	III. Economics	Easy
Rationale			
<p>Option A is correct because the passage states that Chinese officials closely guarded the secret of silk production and punished those who shared it. This allowed China to maintain a monopoly, keeping silk rare and valuable.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
24	C	I. History	Medium
Rationale			
<p>Option C is correct because movable type made books cheaper and more available, allowing more people to learn to read. Increased access to printed materials led to higher literacy and broader education.</p>			

Sequence Number	Correct Response	Content Category	Question Difficulty
25	C	I. History	Hard
Rationale			
<p>Option C is correct because the Silk Road is significant not just for trade goods, but for the exchange of ideas, technologies, and cultures between East and West. UNESCO World Heritage sites typically recognize global historical significance.</p>			