

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ohio Achievement Tests



## Social Studies Student Test Booklet Half-Length Practice Tests

The Ohio Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

**Directions:**

Today you will be taking the Ohio Grade 8 Social Studies Practice Test. Three different types of questions appear on this test: multiple choice, short answer and extended response.

There are several important things to remember:

1. Read each question carefully. Think about what is being asked. Look carefully at graphs or diagrams because they will help you understand the question.
2. For short-answer and extended-response questions, use a pencil to write your answers neatly and clearly in the space provided in the answer document. Any answers you write in the Student Test Booklet will not be scored.
3. Short-answer questions are worth two points. Extended-response questions are worth four points. Point values are printed near each question in your Student Test Booklet. The amount of space provided for your answers is the same for two- and four-point questions.
4. For multiple-choice questions, shade in the circle next to your choice in the answer document for the test question. Mark only one choice for each question. Darken completely the circles on the answer document. If you change an answer, make sure that you erase your old answer completely.
5. Do not spend too much time on one question. Go on to the next question and return to the question skipped after answering the remaining questions.
6. Check over your work when you are finished.

1. According to Article I of the United States Constitution, after Congress passes a bill, how does that bill usually become a law?
  - A. The states ratify it.
  - B. The courts uphold it.
  - C. The president signs it.
  - D. The cabinet approves it.
  
2. Which belief do Jews and Muslims share?
  - A. Mecca is a holy city.
  - B. There is only one God.
  - C. Jesus is the son of God.
  - D. There are many paths to truth.
  
3. You have been chosen to lead a discussion with a small group of classmates.

In your **Answer Document**, describe two strategies or techniques you would use to lead the group discussion in a constructive way. (2 points)

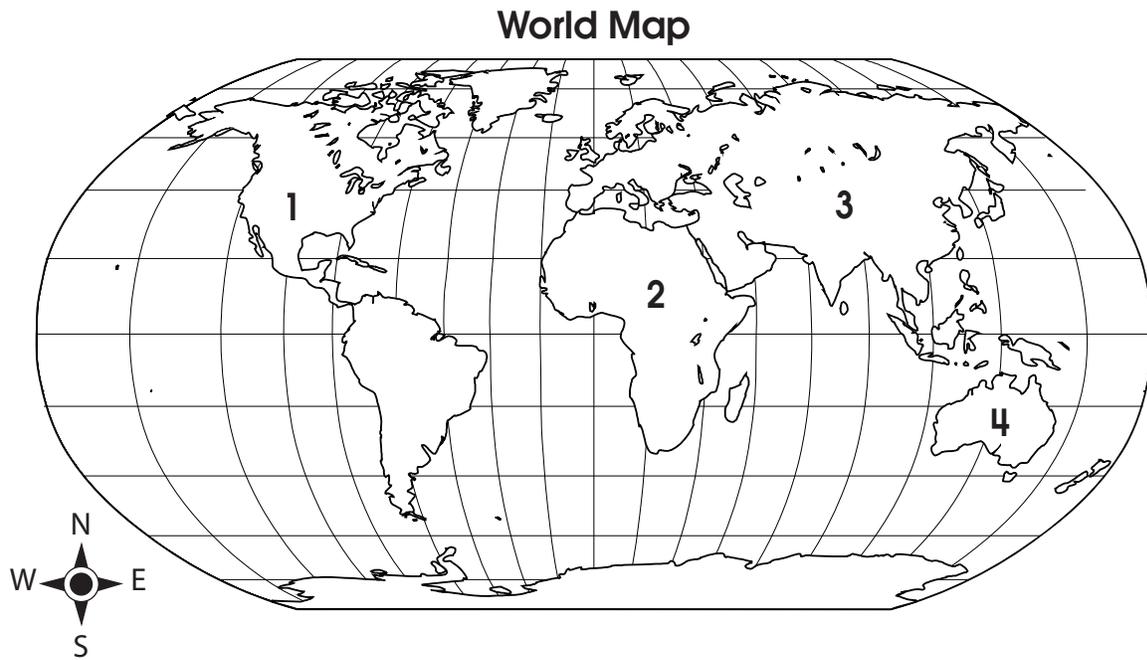
4. The Boston Massacre took place in 1770 in the British colony of Massachusetts.

Which description of this event is written from the point of view of the Sons of Liberty?

- A. Conflict between British soldiers and Boston residents resulted in five deaths.
- B. Unprovoked British soldiers fired into a defenseless crowd, taking five innocent lives.
- C. British soldiers were surrounded by unruly colonists and fired their muskets in self-defense.
- D. A mob of angry Bostonians unlawfully confronted British soldiers, resulting in several deaths.

5. What was the basic structure of feudalism in western Europe in the 8th and 9th centuries?
- A. Nobles were given control of land in return for personal loyalty and specific services to the king.
  - B. Kings sought support from the growing urban middle class as a way to limit the power of the nobles.
  - C. The peasants who actually farmed the land gained political independence from the local nobility.
  - D. Salaried officials and paid soldiers served the king directly and enforced common laws throughout the kingdom.
6. In the past, the United States manufactured most of the products used by Americans. Now, many of these products are imported from other countries.
- What is one reason for this change?
- A. The United States government encourages Americans to buy foreign goods.
  - B. Foreign workers manufacture products that Americans can no longer make.
  - C. The United States economy has grown smaller in recent decades.
  - D. Foreign producers can make goods for less money than American producers.
7. In your **Answer Document**, identify and describe two characteristics of ancient Egyptian government. (4 points)

8. Look at the map.



Which number on the map shows the continent on which the Gobi Desert is located?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

9. In 1775, the colonists in America revolted against King George III and the British government. For a social studies project, Charles wants to write a historical narrative about the events of the American Revolution.

Which of these references would be a primary source that Charles could use?

- A. a biography of King George III
  - B. a movie about George Washington
  - C. an encyclopedia article about the British government
  - D. a letter written by an American colonist during the war
10. What were the natural resources and economic conditions that encouraged Southern planters to develop a slave economy in the South before the American Civil War?
- A. plentiful farmland and a greater need for labor
  - B. dense forests and northern demand for wood
  - C. available coal and industries needing heat
  - D. navigable rivers and good interior roads

11. The Spanish settled parts of North America in the 1500s and 1600s.

What effect did this settlement have on the American Indians?

- A. The American Indians set up a profitable fur trade with the Spanish.
- B. The American Indians prevented the Spanish from settling the best farm land.
- C. The American Indians converted many Spanish settlers to their native religion.
- D. The American Indians were forced by the Spanish to work on their farms and in their mines.

12. The Sons of Liberty were a group of American colonists who worked to change the political situation in the 1760s.

How did the Sons of Liberty work to repeal the Stamp Act?

- A. by taking military action against the British
- B. by forming alliances with the enemies of Britain
- C. by meeting with Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act
- D. by participating in public protests against the Stamp Act

13. The Dred Scott Decision in 1857 was an important milestone in the history of slavery.

In your **Answer Document**, explain how the Supreme Court's decision helped lead to the American Civil War. (2 points)

14. Elizabeth Cady Stanton said during a speech at the Seneca Falls Convention on July 19, 1848:

"But we are assembled to protest against a form of government existing without the consent of the governed — to declare our right to be free as man is free, to be represented in the government which we are taxed to support."

What did she want?

- A. an end to taxes
- B. women's right to vote
- C. the right to free assembly
- D. to get elected to government

15. Why did Andrew Jackson want to remove American Indians from their homeland in the 1830s?

- A. Jackson wanted to open up more land for white settlement.
- B. Jackson wanted to make himself wealthy by removing the American Indians.
- C. Jackson believed that the Constitution required the removal of the American Indians.
- D. Jackson believed that American Indian villages offered a safe haven for indentured servants.

16. Look at the outline about the early history of the United States.

**The Early History of the United States**

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ **1**
- A. St. Augustine
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ **2**
  - C. Jamestown
  - D. Plymouth
- II. English Colonies
- A. Establishment
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ **3**
  - C. Self-Government
  - D. Political Unrest
- III. \_\_\_\_\_ **4**
- A. Rebellion
  - B. Revolution
  - C. The Declaration of Independence
  - D. New Government

The phrase "First European Settlements" belongs in which blank?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

17. American settlers on the Western frontier often cleared land for farming by cutting down trees.

What was one result of this deforestation?

- A. prevention of air pollution
- B. conservation of soil moisture
- C. contamination of well water
- D. destruction of animal habitats

18. The city states of East Africa were trading gold with the Arab world around 700 A.D.

What enduring effect did this trade have on East Africa?

- A. the spread of the Islamic religion
- B. the decline of the Swahili language
- C. the development of strong central governments
- D. the migration of East African people to parts of Asia

19. During the 1700s, a group of European philosophers believed that reason could improve human society. The ideas of these Enlightenment thinkers influenced members of the Continental Congress.

Which Enlightenment idea influenced the Continental Congress to declare independence from Britain?

- A. Government powers should be spelled out in the law.
- B. Government organization should be divided into three parts.
- C. Government should protect the right of corporations to own property.
- D. Government should be seen as a contract between the people and their rulers.

