

Student Name: _____

Ohio Achievement Tests



Social Studies Student Test Booklet

May 2008

This test was originally administered to students in May 2008.

Not all items from the May 2008 administration will be released in this document. According to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3301.07.11:4(b) . . . not less than forty percent of the questions on the test that are used to compute a student's score shall be a public record. The department (of education) shall determine which questions will be needed for reuse on a future test and those questions shall not be public records and shall be redacted from the test prior to its release as public record.

This publicly released material is appropriate for use by Ohio teachers in instructional settings. This test is aligned with Ohio's Academic Content Standards for Social Studies.

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Directions:

Today you will be taking the Ohio Grade 8 Social Studies Achievement 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.

Item 1 has not been slated for public release in 2008.

2. In the 1500s, Spain and Portugal led European countries in exploring the Western Hemisphere.

What was an important result of this exploration?

- A. Italy was prevented from claiming land in the New World.
- B. Spain and Portugal established colonies in the Americas.
- C. European nations lost interest in trading with Asia.
- D. The Spice Islands were discovered.

Items 3–4 have not been slated for public release in 2008.



5. As a consequence of the American Civil War, people in the South experienced many changes in their way of life. One result of these changes was the passage of Black Codes in many southern states.

What was the purpose of the Black Codes?

- A. to establish legal slavery in the West
 - B. to force former slaves to return to Africa
 - C. to prevent African-Americans from moving west
 - D. to keep African-Americans in an inferior position
6. In your **Answer Document**, describe two actions taken by colonial patriots to protest the authority of the British government in the years leading up to the American Revolution. (2 points)

Items 7–9 have not been slated for public release in 2008.



10. In 1877, United States troops fought a war with the Nez Perce Indian nation. After many weeks of warfare, the Nez Perce chief, Joseph, made the statement below.

“Our chiefs are killed. ... He who led the young men is dead. ... My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food; no one knows where they are—perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children and see how many of them I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs, I am tired; my heart is sick and sad.”

Based on the feelings he expressed, what did Chief Joseph do after making this speech?

- A. He followed the young men into battle against white soldiers.
- B. He surrendered to the commander of the cavalry that pursued him.
- C. He asked chiefs of other nations to join him in an attack against the cavalry.
- D. He said that American Indians were wrong to want to live on the land of their forefathers.

11. Ancient Chinese and Mesopotamian civilizations developed in fertile river valleys.

In your **Answer Document**, identify and describe two political, cultural or economic characteristics common to ancient Chinese and ancient Mesopotamian civilizations. (4 points)

12. During the 19th century, why were the largest cities in the United States all located beside rivers, lakes or oceans?
- A. People used these bodies of water for sanitation.
 - B. These bodies of water created mild, humid climates.
 - C. Large cities needed huge supplies of fresh drinking water.
 - D. These bodies of water supported transportation and commerce.

Items 13–16 have not been slated for public release in 2008.

17. What did Frederick Douglass help to accomplish?
- A. the abolition of slavery
 - B. the regulation of child labor
 - C. the creation of public schools
 - D. the unionization of railroad workers

Items 18–19 have not been slated for public release in 2008.



20. What is one benefit of international trade?
- A. Governments can ensure that unemployment stays low.
 - B. Workers can remain in the same job throughout their working lives.
 - C. Businesses can focus on providing limited products to customers.
 - D. Nations can specialize in goods and services that they produce most efficiently.

Items 21–22 have not been slated for public release in 2008.

On the May 2008 Grade 8 Social Studies Achievement Test, items 23–28 are field-test items, which are not released.

Item 29 has not been slated for public release in 2008.



30. Read the quotation below.

The . . . speedy removal (of the Indians) . . . will place a dense and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters. . . . What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms . . . occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization, and religion?

—President Andrew Jackson, 1830

Which of these statements reflects Andrew Jackson's attitude about American Indians and their lands?

- A. He believed that American Indians could not take care of themselves.
- B. He thought that American Indians might adapt to life on farms and in cities.
- C. He believed that white settlers could make better use of the land than American Indians.
- D. He thought that American Indians would be happier when they were removed to new lands.

Items 31–34 have not been slated for public release in 2008.

35. When working on a group presentation, what should the members of the group do first?
- A. create art for the presentation
 - B. assign tasks and responsibilities
 - C. rehearse the presentation several times
 - D. gather information from a variety of sources
36. To raise revenue, the United States government has decided to impose a new tariff on coffee imported from Brazil.
- What is a possible consequence involved in this economic decision?
- A. Coffee farms increase damage to the rain forest in Brazil.
 - B. The popularity of coffee increases in the United States.
 - C. Coffee farms increase the standard of living in Brazil.
 - D. The price of coffee increases in the United States.

Item 37 has not been slated for public release
in 2008.



38. Kathryn is doing research for a paper on leaders of the American Civil War. She must choose appropriate sources in order to write a paper that has plenty of supporting details.

A list of sources is shown.

- diaries from Civil War generals
- letters from Civil War generals to their wives
- a history textbook
- maps showing major Civil War battles
- newspaper articles about the progression of the Civil War
- photographs of Civil War battles

Choose from the list two sources that Kathryn could use to find supporting details for her project.

Then, in your **Answer Document**, explain why those two sources would be appropriate to use for her project. (2 points)

39. Which phrase describes all four factors listed below?

- War
- Trade
- Writing systems
- Transportation systems

- A. factors that weaken democracy
- B. factors that discourage entrepreneurship
- C. factors that help lessen poverty and unemployment
- D. factors that spread goods and ideas from place to place

Item 40 has not been slated for public release in 2008.



41. Which form of government typically maintains its power through force and fear?
- A. monarchy
 - B. dictatorship
 - C. direct democracy
 - D. representative democracy
42. How did contact with European explorers in the 1500s affect the Aztecs?
- A. Many Aztecs converted to the religion of Spain.
 - B. Many Aztecs learned to grow corn and potatoes for food.
 - C. The Aztecs developed strong monarchies modeled on those in Europe.
 - D. The Aztecs increased in numbers because of new medicines.
43. Why do many citizens choose to join political parties?
- A. to elect a Supreme Court justice
 - B. to exercise their right to vote in general elections
 - C. to organize their efforts to achieve common goals
 - D. to maintain the balance of power among the branches of government

Item 44 has not been slated for public release
in 2008.

