

Student Name: _____

Ohio Achievement Tests



Social Studies Student Test Booklet May 2009

This test was originally administered to students in May 2009.

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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 all 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.
7. When you finish the test, you may not go back to any other section of the Student Test Booklet.

Item 1 has not been slated for public release in 2009.



2. A list of several ways citizens can influence their government is shown.

Selected Ways Citizens Influence Government

- Participating in Public Protests
- Voting for Candidates for Office
- Circulating and Signing Petitions
- Writing to Elected Leaders

Under which government system can citizens participate in all the ways described above?

- A. dictatorship
- B. feudal monarchy
- C. absolute monarchy
- D. representative democracy
3. An increase in the gasoline tax would benefit which private sector industry?
- A. trucking
- B. shipping
- C. home heating
- D. electric automobile

Item 4 has not been slated for public release in 2009.

5. During the development of European colonies in North America, distinct regions developed: the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies and the Southern Colonies.

What is one reason different religious denominations and sects developed freely in the Middle Colonies?

- A. People in the Middle Colonies were uninterested in religious issues.
- B. The Middle Colonies accepted immigrants from different countries and cultures.
- C. People in the Middle Colonies continued the policies of religious freedom they had in Europe.
- D. The Middle Colonies adopted the religious practices found in the New England Colonies.

6. Under the Articles of Confederation, the United States national government was weaker than each of the state governments.

In your **Answer Document**, identify one weakness of the national government and explain why this weakness was a problem for the nation. (2 points)

7. The veto is an example of which principle in the United States Constitution?

- A. federalism
- B. bicameralism
- C. advice and consent
- D. checks and balances

Item 8 has not been slated for public release in 2009.

9. Which person held the most political power under the feudal system in Europe?
- A. monk
 - B. noble
 - C. page
 - D. serf

Item 10 has not been slated for public release in 2009.

11. In your **Answer Document**, identify two ideas from the Enlightenment that influenced the Declaration of Independence.

Then, explain the influence of each idea. (4 points)

12. The French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese languages have many similarities.

From which ancient language did these modern languages develop?

- A. Latin
- B. Greek
- C. Arabic
- D. Chinese

On the May 2009 Grade 8 Social Studies Achievement Test, items 13–18 are field-test items, which are not released.

Items 19–22 have not been slated for public release in 2009.



Item 24 has not been slated
for public release in 2009.

23. Which historical region of the United States contained the present-day states of Ohio and Indiana?
- A. New Spain
 - B. Oregon Country
 - C. Louisiana Territory
 - D. Northwest Territory

25. When European nations explored and conquered American Indian civilizations in the 1500s, they were looking for sources of gold and silver.

Which European country became wealthy from the gold and silver found in the Americas?

- A. Italy
- B. Spain
- C. France
- D. Sweden

26. Read the passages below from two types of sources about traveling on the Oregon Trail.

Saturday, April 23rd — Still in camp, it rained hard all night, and blew a hurricane almost. All the tents were blown down, and some wagons capsized. Evening — It has been raining hard all day; everything is wet and muddy. One of the oxen missing; the boys have been hunting him all day. Dreary times, wet and muddy, and crowded in the tent, cold and wet and uncomfortable in the wagon.

—from the diary of
Amelia Stewart Knight

The Oregon pioneers followed the trail that had been traced by explorers and the fur trappers. By the 1840s it became known as the Oregon Trail. The wagon caravans began their journey from towns along the Missouri River. . . . The settlers traveled in large groups. The big covered wagons were drawn by mules or oxen. The journey, about 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers), was long and took about six months.

—from a middle
school history textbook

In your **Answer Document**, compare the type of information about the Oregon Trail provided by each source. (2 points)



Items 27–32 have not been slated for public release
in 2009.



33. Which ancient civilization was greatly influenced by the religious ideas of India?
- A. Rome
 - B. Egypt
 - C. China
 - D. Greece

Items 34–36 have not been slated for public release in 2009.

37. Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance.

What did this legislation provide?

- A. a plan for slavery in new settlements
- B. a plan for voting rights for all men in new states
- C. a plan for the exploration of Washington and Oregon
- D. a plan for the orderly settlement of new territory

Item 38 has not been slated for public release in 2009.



39. Which important contribution to the advancement of civilization was developed in ancient Egypt between 3000 B.C. and 2500 B.C.?
- A. a system for smelting iron
 - B. a system for using horse-drawn chariots in warfare
 - C. a system for electing government officials
 - D. a system of written communication

Items 40–41 have not been slated for public release in 2009.



42. What was a significant economic impact of the Crusades on European society?
- A. The demand for goods from Muslim territories decreased throughout Europe.
 - B. Many areas of Europe adopted the use of printed money from the Middle East.
 - C. Merchants helped establish new trade routes between Europe and the Middle East.
 - D. Gold brought back from the Holy Land eliminated poverty in many parts of Europe.



43. Which concern of the colonists in North America led to the American Revolution?
- A. opposition to British tax policies
 - B. desire for greater religious freedom
 - C. fear of attacks by American Indians
 - D. increasing immigration from countries other than Britain

Item 44 has not been slated for public release in 2009.

