6th Grade Social Studies Test

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Test

Practice Test

Name: ___________________________       Date: ___________________________

Instructions:

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1. The influence of the Portuguese can still be seen today. Which area on the map is the only area in North and South America that was controlled by Portugal?
A. area A
B. area B
C. area C
D. area D

2. Some businesses sell mostly goods. Other businesses sell mainly services. You look in the Yellow Pages of a telephone book and find the following business headings.

Which heading would list businesses that are mostly selling goods?

A. Pre-School Day Care Centers
B. Air Conditioning Systems – Cleaning
C. Aircraft Schools
D. Automobile Dealers – New Cars

3. The mestizo race was created in Mexico, Central America, and South America through the

A. conquest of the Aztecs by the Mayans.
B. migration of ancient peoples from Asia.
C. importation of African slaves to the West Indies.
D. intermarriage of Spanish settlers and native peoples.

4. The government of most democracies is divided into three branches: the executive, legislative, and judicial. Which pair matches a branch of the government with its correct responsibility?

A. judicial branch – deciding what laws mean
B. legislative branch – deciding whether people are guilty
C. judicial branch – passing laws
D. legislative branch – carrying out laws
5. Why did Asians travel to North America many years before Europeans did?

A. They were looking for better land to farm.
B. They wanted to claim new lands for their empire.
C. They were looking for a climate with more rainfall.
D. They followed large animals which they needed for survival.

6. Which geographical feature divides European Russia from Asian Russia?

A. the Alps
B. the Urals
C. the Andes
D. the Pyrenees

7. Why might a country’s government decide to place high taxes on imported goods?

A. to promote their sale
B. to encourage people to buy goods produced in their own country
C. to generate more exports
D. to help the economy of the country from which the goods came

8. Which products did the people of medieval England exchange for goods from the East?

A. woolen fabrics
B. spices
C. silks
D. perfumes
9. Which has the greatest influence on ocean tides?
   A. wind  
   B. the Moon  
   C. rainfall  
   D. the Sun

10. In which way is voting in Australia different from voting in the United States?
   A. The age at which Australians begin voting is 18.  
   B. The Australian voters decide who will serve in the Senate.  
   C. Any Australian over the age of 18 who does not vote may be fined.  
   D. The Australian voters decide who will serve in the House of Representatives.

11. A capitalist economy is very different from a communist economic system or a socialist economic system. Which of the following is found in a capitalist economy?
   A. free labor  
   B. free enterprise  
   C. government control of industry  
   D. government control of agriculture

12. On which continent are the Andes Mountains, the longest mountain range in the world, located?
   A. Asia  
   B. Europe  
   C. North America  
   D. South America
13. Why did the Mayan civilization of Central America disappear?

A. The cause is not known.  
B. The people starved to death.  
C. Disease spread throughout the Mayan cities.  
D. The Spanish military destroyed the civilization.

14. Which of the following events occurred as a result of European exploration of the Americas in the 1400s and the 1500s?

A. the discovery and use of the Northwest Passage to Asia  
B. the invention of the astrolabe, which improved navigation  
C. the destruction of the Aztec, Mayan, and Incan civilizations  
D. the discovery that only the Atlantic Ocean separated Asia from Europe

15. How does the climate of Italy, located on the Mediterranean, compare to the climate of the United Kingdom, located on the Atlantic?

A. Italy has colder winters and shorter summers.  
B. Italy has much more rainfall over the year.  
C. Italy has a shorter growing season with longer winters.  
D. Italy has warmer winters and drier summers.

16. In the United Kingdom, the prime minister and the cabinet are part of which branch of government?

A. judiciary  
B. executive  
C. legislative  
D. parliament
Use the map below to answer question 17.

17. Which type of weather would you expect to find in Darwin in January?

A. hot and humid
B. mild and sunny
C. warm and rainy
D. cold and rainy
18. Which best explains why European diseases like smallpox had such a devastating effect on Native Americans?

A. The climate in the Americas was warmer, so disease spread faster.
B. The Native Americans did not have medicine to treat the diseases.
C. Native Americans had not developed any resistance to the new diseases from Europe.
D. The Aztecs’ land was swampy and bred insects.

19. Based on the economic theory of supply and demand, which of the following statements is correct?

A. When the supply of a product goes up, its price will go up.
B. When the supply of a product goes up, demand for it goes up.
C. When the supply of a product goes up, its price will go down.
D. When the supply of a product goes down, demand for it goes down.

20. Pre-Columbian America refers to the Americas before the arrival of Europeans. Which of the following statements best describes Pre-Columbian America?

A. The Americas were controlled by five or six major Native American groups.
B. There were very few people living here and Native American groups had little contact with each other.
C. The Americas were peopled basically by only one culture group and most Native Americans were similar.
D. There were many different Native Americans groups and there was much interaction between groups.
Use the list of countries below to answer question 21.

Australia

Russia

Cuba

United States

21. Which statement **best** describes the governments of **all** of these countries?

A. The countries all have new leaders.
B. The countries all have leaders elected by the people.
C. The countries all have different types of government.
D. The countries all have very similar constitutions.

22. Why did the framers of the United States Constitution believe it was important to include laws that separated church and state?

A. They wanted to discourage citizens from practicing religion.
B. They wanted the government to be more important than religion.
C. They wanted to make sure all citizens were allowed to practice the religion of their choice.
D. They wanted to make sure that the church and the state were equally powerful.

23. Which of these countries is currently an example of a constitutional monarchy?

A. Italy
B. France
C. Indonesia
D. Great Britain
24. How has the European Economic Community/European Union been a benefit to the countries that have joined it?

A. The use of tariffs has increased trade.
B. Trade with the United States has increased.
C. More people now make full use of their country’s resources.
D. The exchange of goods among the members has become easier.

25. In the 1500s, to which area in the New World would a conquistador most likely be sent?

A. the area now called Canada
B. the area now called the Southern colonies
C. the area called the Middle Atlantic colonies.
D. the area now called Central America.

Use the list below to answer question 26.

• the development of machine guns and use of barbed wire
• the use of improved submarines or U-boats to sink enemy shipping
• the invention of the tank to cross trenches
• the first use of airplanes as weapons

26. The development and use of these weapons are most closely associated with which of the following?

A. the French Revolution.
B. World War I.
C. the Russian Revolution.
D. World War II.
27. Which of the following was a major problem caused by the Industrial Revolution?

   A. lack of raw materials
   B. overcrowded schools
   C. poor working conditions
   D. increased farm development

28. Which of the following is not a reason that little European exploration took place before the 1400s?

   A. People thought the Earth was flat and sailors would fall off the edge.
   B. There was almost no interest in, or need for, foreign trade.
   C. Ocean maps were not accurate or detailed enough to be of much use.
   D. Ships could only sail in the direction the wind was blowing, not against the wind.
Study the painting below to answer question 29

29. Leonardo da Vinci was the artist who painted the *Mona Lisa* above and the famous painting of *The Last Supper*. He was also an inventor who drew designs for a flying machine and a parachute. His renewed interest in the cultures of Greece and Rome and his use of scientific thinking made him a leader in the

A. Reformation.
B. Roman Empire.
C. Renaissance.
D. Aztec Empire.
30. Which invention had the greatest effect on the Industrial Revolution?

A. telegraph  
B. cotton gin  
C. steam engine  
D. spinning jenny