

**GRADE 8**  
**Social Studies**

**Administered May 2017**

**RELEASED**



# SOCIAL STUDIES

## DIRECTIONS

Read each question carefully. Determine the best answer to the question from the four answer choices provided. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

1

- Life
- Liberty
- Pursuit of happiness

This list includes rights that are considered —

- A** transferable
- B** legislated
- C** unalienable
- D** inherited

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2 How did mercantilist policies create tension between Great Britain and the colonies?

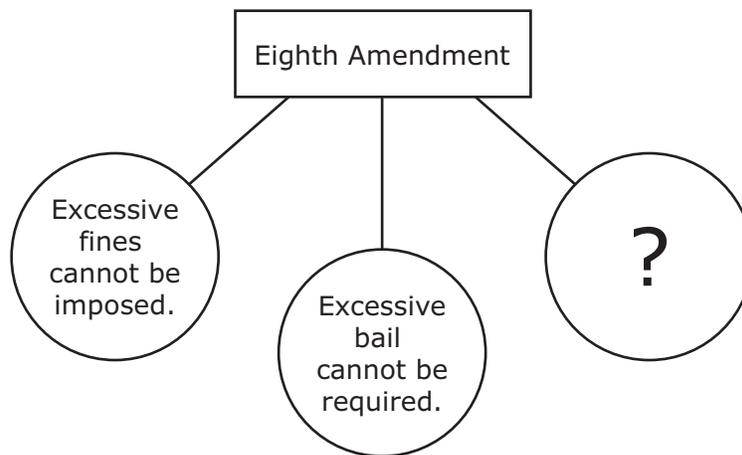
- F** By introducing indentured servitude to the middle colonies
- G** By requiring colonists to enlist in the military
- H** By limiting the amount of farmland each colonist could have
- J** By preventing colonists from trading with most other foreign countries

3 Which factor encouraged more immigrants to settle in northern states than southern states during the mid-nineteenth century?

- A Northern states had lower population densities.
- B Citizenship requirements in southern states were not as strict.
- C Southern states had smaller industrial sectors.
- D Governments in northern states were less corrupt.

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4

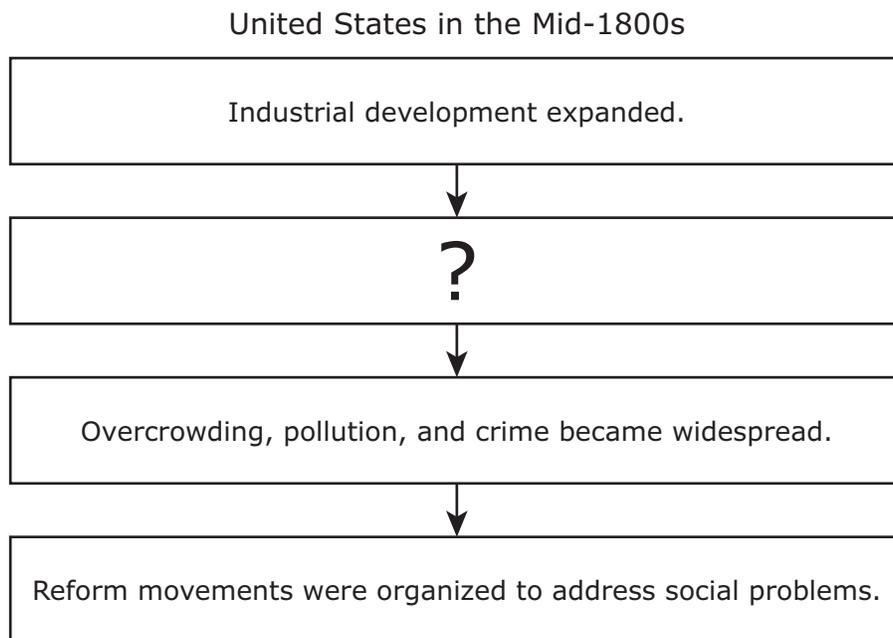


Which sentence completes this diagram?

- F People cannot be forced to be witnesses against themselves.
- G Cruel and unusual punishment cannot be inflicted.
- H Warrants cannot be issued unless probable cause is established.
- J A defendant cannot be denied a speedy and public trial.

- 5 The completion of the Erie Canal played a key role in which development?
- A New York City becoming a vital commercial center with the country's busiest seaport
  - B New Orleans becoming a leader in manufacturing and overseas trade
  - C Washington, D.C., becoming the cultural and political center of the nation
  - D Boston becoming one of the country's largest transportation hubs
- 

6



Which sentence best completes this diagram?

- F Cities grew rapidly.
- G Demand for artisans increased.
- H Farms experienced a shortage of labor.
- J Government regulation of factories increased.

- 7** The Whiskey Rebellion challenged the idea that —
- A** the federal government had the power to pass and enforce tax laws
  - B** a national military was needed for dealing with foreign threats
  - C** the federal government could raise tariffs to protect industries
  - D** a national court system was needed for resolving disputes between states
- 

- 8** Why did the Siege of Vicksburg affect the balance of power during the Civil War?
- F** Several important Confederate generals were killed.
  - G** Union troops were pushed back across the Ohio River.
  - H** The Confederate territory was divided in half.
  - J** Severe casualties were inflicted on Union forces.

- Lord Baltimore organized the colony of Maryland in 1633.
- Thomas Hooker founded the colony of Connecticut in 1636.
- Roger Williams established the colony of Rhode Island in 1644.

The colonies in this list were founded primarily to offer settlers a greater degree of —

- A** freedom from debts
  - B** religious freedom
  - C** economic freedom
  - D** freedom of speech
- 

- 10** Which argument would a Federalist make to support ratification of the Constitution?
- F** The Constitution will enable states to nullify laws that are harmful to citizens.
  - G** A strong federal government will be more stable than a loose confederation of states.
  - H** The Constitution will allow states to establish banks to stabilize the national economy.
  - J** A republican system of government will better represent large states.

**11** What was the primary question surrounding the 1832 Nullification Crisis?

- A** Can the federal government regulate interstate commerce?
  - B** Can a state regulate a federal agency?
  - C** Can a state overturn a federal law?
  - D** Can the federal government levy taxes on states?
- 

**12**

I see no reason why Indians who can give satisfactory proof of having by their own labor supported their families for a number of years, and who are willing to detach themselves from their tribal relations, should not be admitted to the benefit of the homestead act. . . .

—President Rutherford B. Hayes, first annual message, 1877

In this excerpt, President Hayes proposes a change in federal policy toward American Indians. Legislation based on this new policy did which of the following?

- F** Promoted individual land ownership among American Indians
- G** Forced white settlers to leave reservation lands
- H** Ended federal oversight of tribal governments
- J** Granted American Indians the right to attend public schools

**13** One environmental consequence of the large-scale cultivation of cotton in the South was —

- A** widespread soil exhaustion caused by decades of farming
  - B** drought caused by overuse of river water to irrigate farmland
  - C** air pollution caused by the use of cotton gins
  - D** widespread water contamination caused by fertilizer runoff
- 

**14** John Hancock was one of the Founding Fathers committed to liberty. How did he demonstrate this commitment?

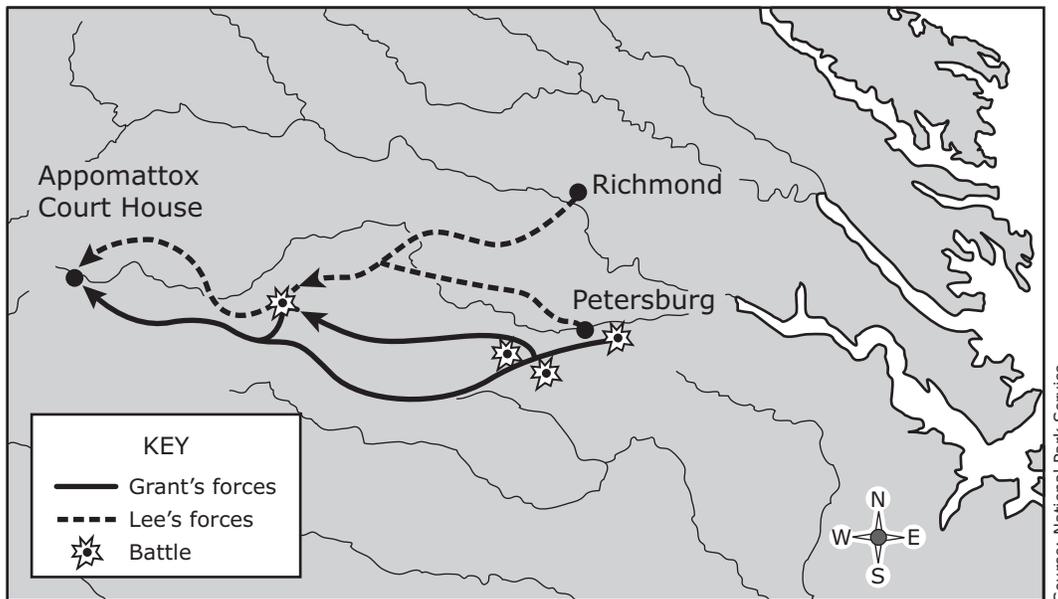
- F** By writing the Articles of Confederation
- G** By serving as commander in chief of the Continental army
- H** By organizing Committees of Correspondence
- J** By signing the Declaration of Independence

**15** Which of these was a primary reason Chinese immigrants came to the United States in the early 1850s?

- A** To seek gold
- B** To purchase inexpensive farmland
- C** To avoid a plague
- D** To escape religious persecution

**16**

Virginia, Spring 1865



Source: National Park Service

What was the result of the events shown on the map above?

- F** General Lee's troops received necessary reinforcements.
- G** General Grant's supply lines were completely cut off.
- H** General Lee surrendered to General Grant.
- J** General Grant and General Lee combined forces.

- Passing laws to aid a religious institution
- Requiring individuals to attend religious services
- Punishing individuals for their religious beliefs
- Levying taxes to support religious institutions

Which amendment prohibits federal and state governments from carrying out these actions?

- A** The First Amendment
  - B** The Second Amendment
  - C** The Fifth Amendment
  - D** The Tenth Amendment
- 

**18** How did advancements in industrial technologies affect businesses during the late nineteenth century?

- F** By making handcrafted goods more affordable
- G** By improving production methods and increasing competition
- H** By forcing producers to manufacture multiple products
- J** By causing an increase in wages for factory workers

Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1850–1870

Year	Foreign-Born Population (millions)	Percent of Total Population
1850	2.2	9.7%
1860	4.1	13.2%
1870	5.6	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

One result of the trend shown in this table was the —

- A** expansion of available labor
  - B** creation of specialized trade guilds
  - C** decrease in educational opportunities for women
  - D** increase in production costs for manufacturers
- 

**20** Why is the Battle of Saratoga considered a turning point in the Revolutionary War?

- F** The British victory extended the fighting for another year.
- G** The American defeat led many soldiers to desert the Continental army.
- H** The British defeat marked the beginning of a steady decline in British military superiority.
- J** The American victory convinced France to ally with the United States.

In the . . . republic of America, the power surrendered by the people is first divided between two distinct governments, and then the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments. Hence a double security arises to the rights of the people. The different governments will control each other, at the same time that each will be controlled by itself.

—*Federalist No. 51*

What assurance did this argument give to those who opposed ratifying the Constitution?

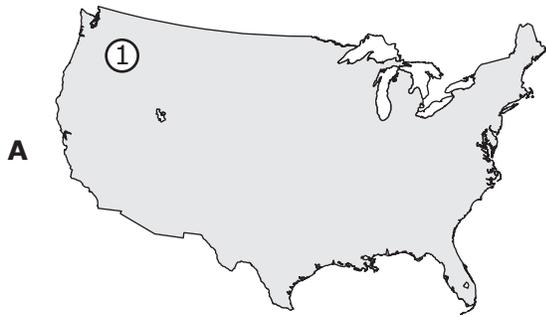
- A** The amendment process would allow state governments to nullify federal law.
- B** Making the federal government superior to state governments would ensure greater stability.
- C** The rights of citizens would be better protected by having both federal and state levels of government.
- D** Giving greater power to the federal government would allow it to assist states in times of crisis.

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**22** Which of the following contributed most to the expansion of the transatlantic slave trade during the 1700s?

- F** A lack of skilled labor in the American colonies
- G** Demand for slaves in the American colonies that produced cash crops
- H** A lack of protective tariffs in the American colonies
- J** Demand for slaves in the industrialized American colonies

**23** Which numbered area did the United States acquire in 1846 after negotiations with Great Britain?



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**24** The organization of the first U.S. political parties resulted in large part from disagreements over which issue?

- F** The purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France
- G** The election of George Washington to a second term as president
- H** The establishment of the First Bank of the United States
- J** The attack on the Port of Tripoli in North Africa

The Great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign Nations is in extending our commercial relations to have with them as little *political* connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements let them be fulfilled, with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

Which of the following is the source of this statement on foreign policy?

- A George Washington's Farewell Address
  - B The Monroe Doctrine
  - C Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address
  - D *The Federalist Papers*
- 

- Poll taxes
- Literacy tests
- Grandfather clauses

The measures in this list are examples of ways southern states weakened the effects of the —

- F Compromise of 1850
  - G Fifteenth Amendment
  - H Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
  - J *Dred Scott v. Sandford* decision
- 

27 Which reason did the United States give for declaring war against Mexico in 1846?

- A To overturn a corrupt Mexican government
- B To defend U.S. territory from Mexican aggression
- C To end a Mexican slave rebellion
- D To respond to attacks on U.S. merchant ships by Mexican pirates

## Union Tactics During the Civil War

- Enforcement of an embargo on Confederate goods
- Enforcement of a naval blockade of Confederate ports

Why were these tactics effective?

- F** Confederate states were unable to collect tariffs on manufactured goods.
  - G** Union forces were able to use the blockade to gain international support.
  - H** Confederate states were unable to use agricultural exports as a source of revenue.
  - J** Union forces were able to earn money for supplies by selling confiscated bales of cotton.
- 

**29** How did the provisions of the Northwest Ordinance affect U.S. expansion?

- A** By funding a transportation network in uninhabited regions
- B** By establishing a process for territories to govern themselves
- C** By promoting the growth of southern plantation economies
- D** By creating a national bank to loan money to land investors

Freedmen’s Bureau

- Provided food, shelter, and clothing
- Negotiated and enforced labor contracts
- \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Which of the following best completes this list?

- F** Established schools
- G** Certified applications for political office
- H** Granted small-business loans
- J** Provided funds for farming supplies

- The Mayflower Compact
- The charter establishing the Virginia House of Burgesses
- The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

Which factor most contributed to the creation of the documents in this list?

- A** The opportunity for trade with American Indians
- B** The distance of the colonies from Great Britain
- C** The doctrine of the Church of England
- D** The economic system of mercantilism

**32** Why were southern delegates to the Constitutional Convention willing to accept the Three-Fifths Compromise?

- F** It increased the political influence of the South.
  - G** It allowed indentured servants in the South to become citizens.
  - H** It decreased the federal tax on property in the South.
  - J** It allowed the South to expand its industrial output.
- 

**33** In *Marbury v. Madison*, the Supreme Court first stated the principle that —

- A** only the courts may regulate interstate commerce
  - B** the president may veto federal legislation
  - C** the courts may declare a federal law unconstitutional
  - D** only the president may issue an executive order
- 

**34**

It is but fifteen years since the first line . . . was constructed in this country and at the present time there are not less than 50,000 miles in successful operation on this continent, having over 1,400 stations, and employing upwards of 10,000 operators and clerks. The number of messages passing over all the lines in this country annually is estimated at upwards of 5,000,000, producing a revenue of \$2,000,000. . . .

—Atlantic Monthly, *March 1860*

The invention discussed in this article led directly to —

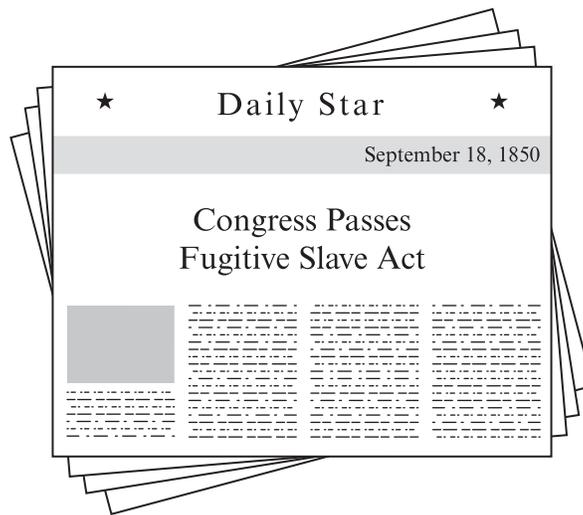
- F** the expansion of educational opportunities for women
- G** rapid communication of information to distant locations
- H** the increased ability of people to work at night
- J** rapid population growth in the western territories

**35** Which of these is a grievance from the Declaration of Independence?

- A** Colonists born in America were prohibited from holding elected office.
- B** Colonists were forced to quarter troops in their homes.
- C** Colonists were not eligible to become officers in the British army.
- D** Colonists were required to serve a year in their colony's militia.

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**36**



Which of these directly resulted from the event announced in this headline?

- F** The abolitionist movement gained momentum in the North.
- G** Members of the U.S. Senate sought to end Black Codes in the southern states.
- H** The federal government allowed the expansion of slavery into all new western territories.
- J** Abolitionists moved to the South to avoid living under the new law.

Our enemies continued to harass us in the fall of 1845. . . . They commenced burning houses, grain stacks, [and] driving off cattle. . . . The persecution became so general that for the sake of peace, \_\_\_\_\_?

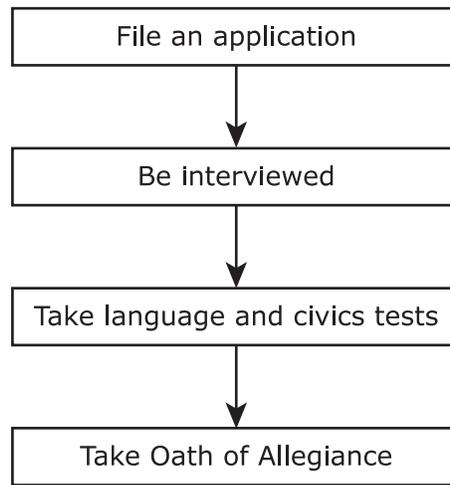
—Diary entry by a Mormon, 1846

Which phrase correctly completes the excerpt?

- A** we joined the local congregation
  - B** we agreed to leave
  - C** we asked the federal government for aid
  - D** we sued our tormenters
- 

**38** Why was it difficult for Congress to fulfill its duties under the Articles of Confederation?

- F** Any congressional action required executive approval.
- G** Congress lacked the power to declare war.
- H** Most congressional decisions required the approval of at least nine states.
- J** Congress lacked the power to regulate foreign trade.



This diagram shows some of the steps in becoming a —

- A** registered voter in the United States
- B** member of the U.S. armed forces
- C** candidate for elected office in the United States
- D** naturalized U.S. citizen

- Establishment of the South’s first state-funded public school system
- Implementation of a more equitable taxation system
- Prohibition of racial discrimination in public transportation and accommodations

These reforms were instituted by —

- F** governors during the colonial era
- G** Reconstruction governments after the Civil War
- H** Patriots during the American Revolution
- J** revivalists after the Second Great Awakening

41 What was one result of industrialization in the United States during the mid-1800s?

- A Sectional differences increased.
- B The federal government prohibited immigration.
- C Job opportunities decreased.
- D Fewer public lands were devoted to transportation.

42

Continental United States



The names on this map best reflect which of the following?

- F Family names of early pioneers in the West
- G The impact of American Indian culture on southwestern states
- H The influence of Spanish colonial heritage on the United States
- J Religious beliefs brought by immigrants to the United States

- 43** The economies of the new western states were very different from those of the northeastern states in the mid-1800s. One major difference was that western states —
- A** relied on subsistence farming
  - B** used natural harbors for shipping
  - C** focused on mining and agriculture
  - D** traded freely with other nations
- 

**44**

Reasons for European Exploration

- To find new sea routes to India and China
- To find gold, silver, and other treasure
- \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Which reason best completes this list?

- F** To spread democratic ideals
- G** To improve efficiency in manufacturing
- H** To locate potential military allies
- J** To claim new territory









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