



FP1

# HiSET™ Social Studies

## Practice Test



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## Directions

This is a test of your skills in analyzing social studies information. Read each question and decide which of the four alternatives best answers the question. Then mark your choice on your answer sheet. Sometimes several questions are based on the same material. You should carefully read this material, then answer the questions.

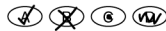
Work as quickly as you can without becoming careless. Don't spend too much time on any question that is difficult for you to answer. Instead, skip it and return to it later if you have time. Try to answer every question even if you have to guess.

Mark all your answers on the answer sheet. Give only one answer to each question and make every mark heavy and dark, as in this example.

Correct



Incorrect



If you decide to change one of your answers, be sure to erase the first mark completely.

Be sure that the number of the question you are answering matches the number of the row of answer choices you are marking on your answer sheet.

**Social Studies**  
**Time—35 minutes**  
**25 Questions**

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE →**

**Directions:** Questions 1 through 7 are based on the information below.

**The 1930s and 1940s were turbulent years in United States history. This passage considers the impact of the Great Depression and Second World War on the United States economy.**

During the administrations of Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt, poverty was widespread. The Great Depression had dealt a severe blow to the economic well-being of the nation. For example, the gross national product (GNP), the total value of all goods and services produced in a year, had dropped from \$103 billion in 1929 to \$55 billion in 1933.

Full recovery from this depression did not come until the Second World War, when United States industry went into high gear, producing war materials. To enable the Allied armies to win the war in both Europe and the Pacific, technological miracles were achieved. Employment rose as factories worked around the clock. High wages and government-controlled prices helped create a tremendous growth in family incomes. Because of the emphasis on production of heavy goods and machinery, much of the money people earned went into savings. Measured in dollars of constant purchasing power, or what economists call “real income,” average yearly take-home pay of families rose by about \$800 from 1941 to 1946, an increase of about \$160 per year.

Dire predictions about mass unemployment after the war proved wrong. In the peacetime economy, industry flourished as price controls were removed and manufacturers scrambled to meet the huge demand for consumer goods. There were recessions during the twenty years after the war, but they were minor economic ripples compared with previous national depressions.

**1 According to the passage, which of the following was primarily responsible for the end of the Great Depression?**

- A Federal antipoverty programs
- B Technological progress
- C Government controls over prices and wages
- D The development of a war economy

**2 Which of the following would be the best example of the type of consumer goods that were in demand when the Second World War ended?**

- A Automobiles
- B Better highways
- C Commercial airplanes
- D Railroad passenger cars

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE →**

- 3** The United States economy during the Second World War could be most accurately described as a
- A free-market economy.
  - B managed economy.
  - C barter economy.
  - D monopolistic economy.
- 4** Judging from the way GNP statistics are used in this passage, it can be concluded that one of the primary purposes of the GNP figures is to analyze
- A population trends.
  - B employment trends.
  - C economic trends.
  - D the effects of government regulations on business.
- 5** According to the passage, the \$800 increase in real income enjoyed by the average family between 1941 and 1946 was primarily the result of
- A inflation.
  - B government subsidies.
  - C decreases in taxes.
  - D rising wages and government-controlled prices.
- 6** Which of the following would be the best example of a “technological miracle” achieved during the Second World War?
- A The use of advertising to sell huge numbers of war bonds
  - B The development of a rationing system for distributing goods
  - C The invention of radar
  - D The implementation of price controls
- 7** Based on information in the passage, it could be concluded that an important factor in the growth of the United States economy in the middle of the twentieth century was
- A inflation.
  - B the rise of consumer spending after the war.
  - C a change in the ownership of many businesses.
  - D the development of economic indicators, such as the GNP.

**Directions:** Questions 8 through 13 are based on the following information.

Under the provisions of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, states were given the power to pass right-to-work laws restricting the union shop. A union shop is a workplace where all workers must belong to the union. Although organized labor worked to get Congress to repeal this section of the act, by 2012 many states had passed such laws. Two points of view from the debate that followed the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act are presented below.

#### **Newspaper X**

The union shop is necessary and just and should not be banned. Open shops create labor-management friction that leads to dissatisfaction and wildcat strikes. Unions provide workers with a channel through which they can voice grievances and collectively bargain for wages, working conditions, and hours. Since union agreements generally apply to all workers, why should some get a free ride by receiving union benefits without paying union dues?

Section 14(b) should also be repealed in the interest of regulating interstate commerce. No state should be allowed to enact laws that would give it a commercial advantage over another state. Why shouldn't government act to strengthen labor? It aids business by providing protective tariffs, subsidies, tax advantages, and research.

The mass media have always been antilabor; they have consistently failed to point out that the per-capita income in the right-to-work states is far below the national average.

#### **Newspaper Y**

If workers cannot be barred from jobs because of race or religion, they should not be barred because they do not wish to join a union. Conscientious objectors are not forced into the army; why should independent jobholders be forced into unions?

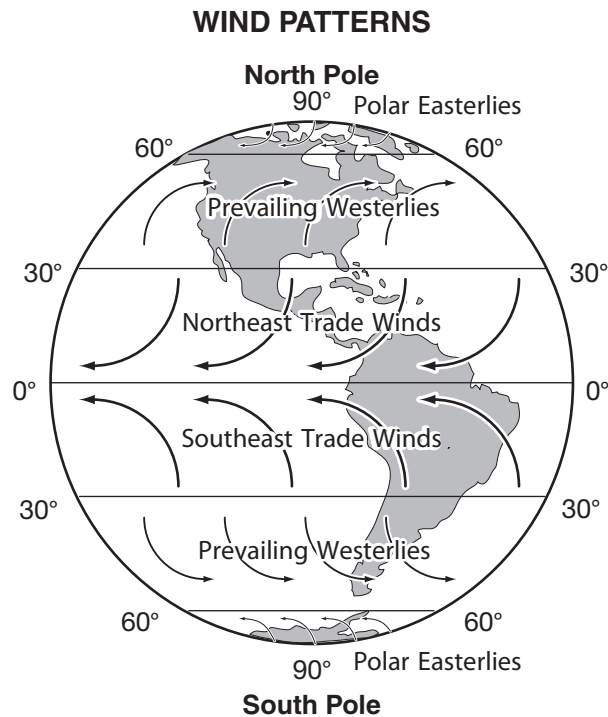
Right-to-work laws do not give states unfair advantages. Raw materials, transportation, and markets are of prime importance in attracting industry.

The right of the states to forbid the union shop is a valuable check on the use of union power. We feel that instead of being allowed more freedom, unions should be subject to more government control.

- 8** Which of the following would have been the likely result of the repeal of Section 14(b)?
- A An improvement in labor-management relations
  - B Less frequent strikes
  - C A decrease in union power
  - D An increase in union power
- 9** The views expressed by Newspaper X were probably most similar to those of
- A a lobbyist for a business organization.
  - B the president of a large corporation.
  - C an official of a large union.
  - D the governor of a right-to-work state.
- 10** Which of the following did Newspaper X claim as a disadvantage of open shops?
- A Workers were more likely to quit their jobs.
  - B Strikes tended to be of long duration.
  - C Workers often went on strike without warning.
  - D Workers gave notice before going on strike.
- 11** Newspaper Y apparently supported
- A barring nonunion members from joining unions.
  - B the abolition of labor unions.
  - C the repeal of Section 14(b).
  - D limiting the power of labor unions.
- 12** Newspaper Y considered the right-to-work laws to be similar in intent to laws that
- A provide federal aid to education.
  - B regulate immigration.
  - C protect citizens' civil rights.
  - D deal with the nation's defense.
- 13** At the time of the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, unions were exempt from some of the laws that regulated big businesses. Which of the two newspapers providing written editorials would probably have favored more regulation of unions?
- A Newspaper X only
  - B Newspaper Y only
  - C Newspaper X and Newspaper Y
  - D Neither Newspaper X nor Newspaper Y



**Directions:** Use the wind-patterns map below to help answer questions 14 and 15.



**14** Wind patterns are determined primarily by areas of pressure. If winds tend to move from high-pressure areas to low-pressure areas, which of the following most likely describes the usual pressure conditions at the South Pole and latitude 60° South?

- A Pole: low pressure  
60° South: high pressure
- B Pole: low pressure  
60° South: low pressure
- C Pole: high pressure  
60° South: high pressure
- D Pole: high pressure  
60° South: low pressure

**15** Which of the following most accurately describes the direction of the winds between 30°N and 60°N?

- A Northeast
- B Southeast
- C Northwest
- D Southwest

**Directions:** Questions 16 and 17 are based on the advertisement below.



- 16** This ad attempts to sell Spring aftershave by emphasizing its
- A effectiveness.
  - B popularity.
  - C value.
  - D appealing fragrance.
- 17** On the basis of this ad, which of the following conclusions is the most reasonable?
- A Some men prefer Spring to other aftershave products.
  - B Seventy percent of all men use Spring.
  - C Three out of ten men prefer no aftershave product.
  - D All men use aftershave products.

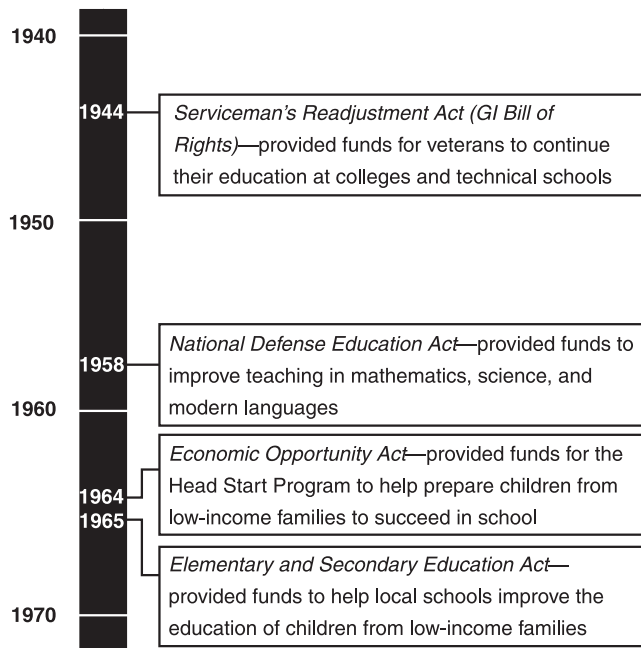
- 18** Consider the statement below.

The worst crime being committed today is the treatment of victims by the court system.

This statement is best classified as

- A an observation.
  - B an opinion.
  - C an established fact.
  - D a scientific conclusion.
- 19** Which of the following questions about a state's budget would be most difficult to answer?
- A Did the state provide enough money for education this year?
  - B Did education receive the greatest proportion of the state's budget this year?
  - C Was the amount of money provided for education this year greater than it was last year?
  - D How much money did the state provide for education this year?
- 20** Three of the following statements about the Vietnam War are based on direct evidence. Which statement is based primarily on circumstantial evidence or inference?
- A In 1968, more than 500,000 American soldiers were in Vietnam.
  - B In 1965, President Johnson ordered U.S. combat units into battle in Vietnam, and U.S. military involvement ended in 1973.
  - C Lack of military success in Vietnam led to President Johnson's decision not to run for reelection in 1968.
  - D President Eisenhower sent military advisers to Vietnam in the 1950s.

**Directions:** As part of a report about education in the United States after the Second World War, a journalist included the time line below. Use this time line to help answer questions 21 through 25.



- 21 Which of the following titles would best represent the theme of this time line?**
- A Federal Education Legislation: 1944–1965
  - B Defense and Economic Legislation: 1944–1965
  - C Effects of Education on Social Change: 1944–1965
  - D Effects of Education on the Economy: 1944–1965
- 22 Concern about national security was the most likely motive for the act passed in**
- A 1944.
  - B 1958.
  - C 1964.
  - D 1965.

- 23 The two acts that seem most concerned with social inequities are those passed in**
- A 1944 and 1958.
  - B 1944 and 1965.
  - C 1958 and 1964.
  - D 1964 and 1965.

- 24 Which of the following world events was probably the primary reason for the 1958 act?**
- A 1956: The Soviet Union sent troops to Hungary.
  - B 1957: Power generated from atomic energy first used in the United States.
  - C 1957: International Atomic Energy Agency established.
  - D 1957: The Soviet Union launched the world's first artificial satellite.

- 25 Consider the two statements below.**

- I. From 1944 to 1965, the only educational programs to receive financial support from the United States government were those for elementary and secondary students.
  - II. From 1944 to 1965, the United States government provided more financial support for national security than for education.

**Which of these statements, if either, does this time line support?**

- A I only
- B II only
- C Both I and II
- D Neither I nor II



## Social Studies Practice Test

### Answer Key

Question Number	Correct Answer
1	D
2	A
3	B
4	C
5	D
6	C
7	B
8	D
9	C
10	C
11	D
12	C
13	B
14	D
15	A
16	B
17	A
18	B
19	A
20	C
21	A
22	B
23	D
24	D
25	D

### **Are You Ready to Take the HiSET Social Studies Test?**

You can estimate how well prepared you are for the real test in the following way. First, count how many questions you answered correctly on this practice test. Do not include any questions that you did not answer or that you answered incorrectly. Then find the number of questions you answered correctly in the table below to see an estimate of how well prepared you are.

<b>Number of questions you answered correctly</b>	<b>How prepared you are</b>
0 to 10	Not yet prepared
11 to 13	Somewhat prepared
14 to 15	Adequately prepared
16 to 25	Well prepared