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Social Studies

HiSET® Exam Free Practice Test FPT2

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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 and then answer the questions.

Work as quickly as you can without becoming careless. Do not 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.

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

1. Which of the following would be most directly affected by large population shifts between states?
 - A. United States House of Representatives
 - B. United States Supreme Court
 - C. President’s Cabinet
 - D. United States Senate

2. Which of the following facts about a country would best indicate that it was becoming highly industrialized?
 - A. The country recently increased its size to 3,615 square miles.
 - B. Its population has increased by five million in the last ten years.
 - C. The proportion of the population living in its cities is decreasing.
 - D. Coal, oil, and gas have become its major sources of energy.

3. Eight of the ten social studies teachers in a school support Candidate X. On the basis of this information, which of the following conclusions is most reasonable?
 - A. The majority of social studies teachers in most schools favor Candidate X.
 - B. The majority of teachers in most schools favor Candidate X.
 - C. The majority of teachers in this school favor Candidate X.
 - D. The majority of social studies teachers in this school favor Candidate X.

4. Which of the following are examples of the United States constitutional process of checks and balances?
 - I. The president vetoes an act of Congress.
 - II. The United States Senate rejects a presidential appointment.
 - III. The United States Supreme Court declares an act of Congress to be unconstitutional.
 - A. I and II only
 - B. I and III only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

Questions 5 to 7 refer to the information below.

Four propaganda techniques that attempt to persuade listeners to adopt a point of view are:

- **Testimonial**
Creates the impression that well-known people would support your point of view.
- **Plain Folks**
Creates the impression that common, ordinary people would support your point of view.
- **Fear Appeal**
Creates the impression that negative consequences would occur if your point of view was not supported.
- **Success Appeal**
Creates the impression that the quality of people’s lives would be improved if your point of view was supported.

At a school board meeting, residents of the school district were debating whether a new technology laboratory for the high school should be constructed. The statements made by three speakers follow. For each speaker, decide which of the propaganda techniques is most clearly being used.

5. Speaker 1:

“I’m sure you all read Dr. Weaver’s editorial in Sunday’s paper. She is leading a campaign to provide more laboratory time for science classes at the university. Clearly, it is the opinion of an award-winning scientist that lab work is essential to science education.”

- A. Testimonial
- B. Plain folks
- C. Fear appeal
- D. Success appeal

6. Speaker 2:

“Things are different now than they used to be. Science is moving too fast. If our district doesn’t hurry and catch up, then the future is just going to pass our children by.”

- A. Testimonial
- B. Plain folks
- C. Fear appeal
- D. Success appeal

7. Speaker 3:

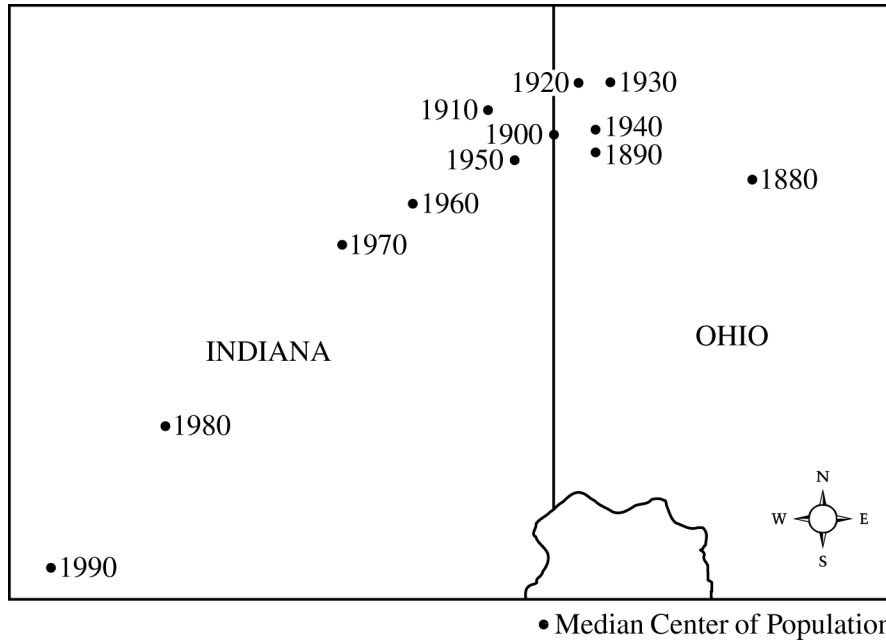
“We all know that companies want to hire well-trained people. The new lab will enable our graduates to qualify for jobs with the new technology companies in our state.”

- A. Testimonial
- B. Plain folks
- C. Fear appeal
- D. Success appeal

Questions 8 to 11 refer to the information below.

The median center of a country's population is located at the intersection of two median lines. The north-south line is constructed so that half of the country's population lives east and half lives west of it. Likewise, the east-west line divides the country so that half of the population lives north and half lives south.

The map below shows the median centers of the United States population based on census data from 1880 through 1990. Starting in 1960, the populations of Alaska and Hawaii were also used to determine the median center.



8. Between 1910 and 1930, which region of the United States probably had the greatest increase in population?
- A. Northeast
 - B. Southeast
 - C. Northwest
 - D. Southwest

9. Which of the following most likely accounts for the population shift between 1880 and 1910 ?
- A. An increase in population in the East
 - B. Lower birth rates in the East
 - C. People moving to the West
 - D. Economic problems in the West

10. The latitude and longitude lines that intersect to define the median center are not given on the map. If they were provided, which of the following locations would be closest to the 1990 median center?

- A. 39°N 86°W
- B. 39°N 86°E
- C. 39°S 86°W
- D. 39°S 86°E

11. Between 1880 and 1990, the center of population shifted less than 200 miles. Which of the following could explain the slow rate of movement?

- A. During this time period, there was very little population growth.
- B. During this time period, the borders of the United States changed very little.
- C. During this time period, just as many people moved from the East to the West as moved from the West to the East.
- D. During this time period, population growth was relatively similar throughout the country.

Questions 12 to 17 refer to the information below.

The following are excerpts from a public hearing in the city of Springdale.

Chairperson Smith:

We are here tonight to discuss a request for an exception to the zoning classification of the Riverwoods area. Jones Industries has asked that they be permitted to build a canning factory in the area. First, we will hear from their representative.

Representative of Jones Industries:

Members of the council and citizens of Springdale, I am here tonight to ask you to consider the advantages that will come to Springdale if you permit Jones Industries to build a new canning factory in the Riverwoods area. First, there will be approximately four hundred new jobs for Springdale citizens. If at all possible, local construction companies will be employed to build the factory. Also, area farmers will not have to ship their produce to distant canneries. The site on the riverbank is the only one that will provide us with the water we need as well as access to both the interstate highway and the railroad. I ask you to consider all of these factors and give your approval to our request.

Citizen Lee:

I am opposed to this plant being built in the Riverwoods area. It is a residential zone, and we wish to keep it that way. Just remember how clean Stevensville was before Jones Industries built a plant there!

Citizen Brown:

I agree with Lee. I do not like the idea of a factory in our neighborhood. It would be a great danger to our children; the rush-hour traffic would be terrible. We need to keep our area safe for our children. Also, we must keep our property values high!

Citizen Martinez:

I urge all of you to consider the great benefits that will come to Springdale if this factory is built. The site we are talking about now is empty because funds for home building are scarce. We must make the most of our land in these hard times. Our current zoning laws are out of touch with the times.

Chairperson Smith:

I wish to thank all of you for expressing your opinions here tonight. The council will decide this issue at our next meeting.

12. What is implied by the fact that Citizen Martinez believes that the current zoning laws are “out of touch with the times”?
- A. Martinez believes that there should be no zoning laws.
 - B. Martinez believes that new zoning laws should be written.
 - C. Martinez believes that zoning laws are passed to help special interest groups.
 - D. Martinez believes that the zoning laws are quite adequate to solve current problems.
13. As revealed in the hearing, zoning ordinances are usually enacted by
- A. the federal government.
 - B. state governments.
 - C. local governments.
 - D. state and local governments working together.
14. Which of the following statements is most clearly NOT an emotional appeal?
- A. Jones Industries: “The site on the riverbank is the only one that will provide us with the water we need. . . .”
 - B. Citizen Lee: “Just remember how clean Stevensville was before Jones Industries built a plant there!”
 - C. Citizen Brown: “We need to keep our area safe for our children.”
 - D. Citizen Martinez: “We must make the most of our land in these hard times.”
15. NIMBY is an acronym for the phrase “Not In My Back Yard,” which refers to people’s resistance to changes that may affect their personal environment. Which of the following statements most clearly reflects a NIMBY attitude on the part of the speaker?
- A. Chairperson Smith: “We are here tonight to discuss a request for an exception to the zoning classification of the Riverwoods area.”
 - B. Jones Industries: “Also, area farmers will not have to ship their produce to distant canneries.”
 - C. Citizen Brown: “Also, we must keep our property values high!”
 - D. Citizen Martinez: “The site we are talking about now is empty because funds for home building are scarce.”
16. Which of the following is the most likely reason that the Jones Industries representative is concerned about access to the interstate highway and the railroad?
- A. Advertising on highways and railroads is essential to large companies.
 - B. The company would have to ship its goods out of the city.
 - C. There would be many visitors to the canning factory.
 - D. Construction costs will be greater in such an area.
17. Jones Industries wants to build a factory in the Riverwoods area for reasons that can best be categorized as
- A. economic and geographic.
 - B. social and political.
 - C. geographic and social.
 - D. political and economic.

Questions 18 to 23 refer to the information below.

The statements below were obtained by a historian from one individual.

Statement 1: We were never really on any kind of relief. My older brother worked on the WPA (Works Progress Administration) but that wasn't relief. Maybe they didn't do too much work, but it was a job. It was discouraging to try to find a job. Everybody was laying off. Nobody was hiring.

Statement 2: We kids made pretty good money a couple of springs by pulling people out of the mud. The bottom of the road would just go out, and the cars would sink down to the axle. Then we would hitch up our team and pull them out. If you got a dollar for that, it was pretty good money.

Statement 3: He kept on saying, "Prosperity is just around the corner." But they were merely promises. In fact, things kept getting worse. People were getting pretty disgusted with him. He got a lot of credit for the way he handled U.S. food distribution in foreign countries, but he couldn't make it as president. And, of course, Congress was dead.

Statement 4: You would have to find something to entertain yourself that wouldn't cost too much. Family get-togethers, picnics, and in the winter, games and puzzles were common. Sometimes when we would get a foot of snow, neighbors would all hitch up their horses to bobsleds, and everyone would follow until there was a path to town.

18. Which of the following is the common focus of the four statements?
- A. The difficulty of finding a good job
 - B. Childhood experiences in a rural area
 - C. Experiences associated with the Great Depression
 - D. Reasons people become dissatisfied with government
19. To evaluate whether a dollar was "pretty good money" at that time (statement 2), which of the following questions would be most useful to ask?
- A. How much could a dollar buy?
 - B. How generous were people in paying for favors?
 - C. How many horses were in the teams used to pull the cars out of the mud?
 - D. How much money was in circulation in the economy?
20. Which of the following best summarizes the speaker's opinion of the president discussed in statement 3 ?
- A. He was a good president who was especially effective in foreign affairs.
 - B. He was a good president, but Congress failed to pass his programs.
 - C. Even though he had been effective in other governmental roles, he was an ineffective president.
 - D. He was an ineffective president because he lacked experience in government and administration.

21. Which of the following most likely represents what is meant by the sentence “And, of course, Congress was dead.” (statement 3) ?

- A. Congress had been adjourned because of a lack of operating funds.
- B. Most members of Congress were ready to retire.
- C. Most members of Congress had little legislative experience.
- D. Congress lacked ideas to solve major problems.

22. Which of the following activities would be the best way to determine how accurately the four statements represent conditions of the period?

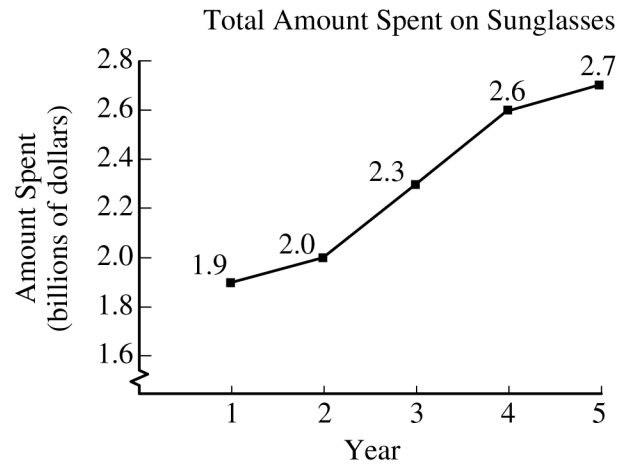
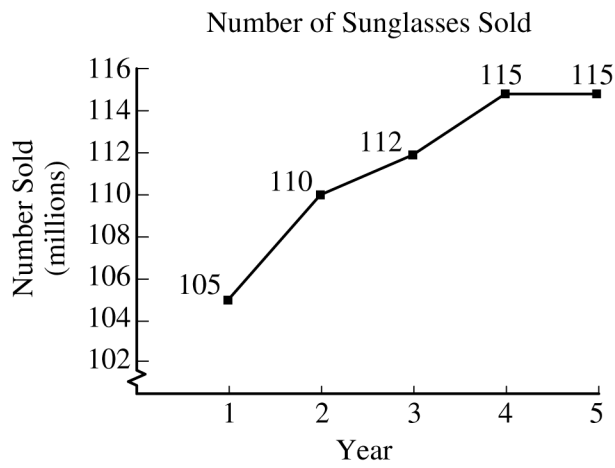
- A. Examine local newspapers and national magazines of the time period
- B. Read a novel written at that time
- C. Determine how well educated the speaker is
- D. View a movie set in the time period

23. Which of the following pieces of information best indicates what time period was being discussed?

- A. Family get-togethers were popular pastimes.
- B. Both horses and cars were being used for transportation.
- C. People were unhappy with the president.
- D. The president was promising greater prosperity.

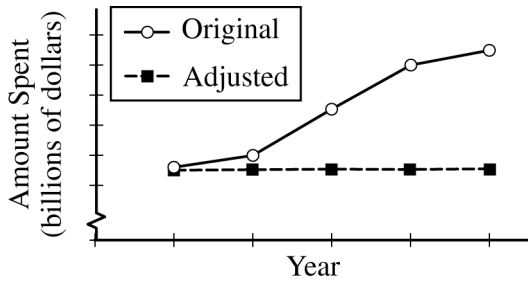
Questions 24 and 25 refer to the information below.

The graphs below provide information about the sales of sunglasses during a recent five-year period.

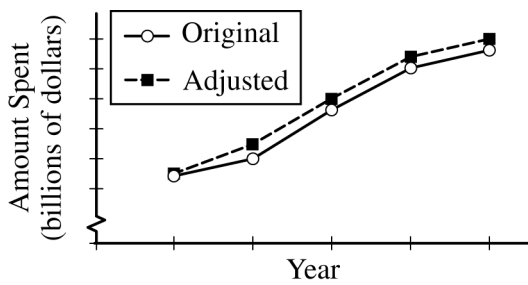


24. During the period, the inflation rate was slightly less than the rate of increase in the price of sunglasses. Assume the total amount spent had been adjusted to reflect the changes in the purchasing power of the dollar. Which of the following best illustrates how the adjusted graph would appear relative to the original graph?

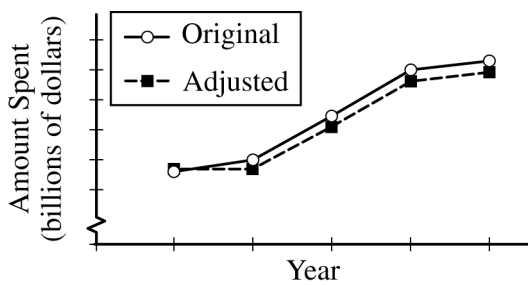
A.



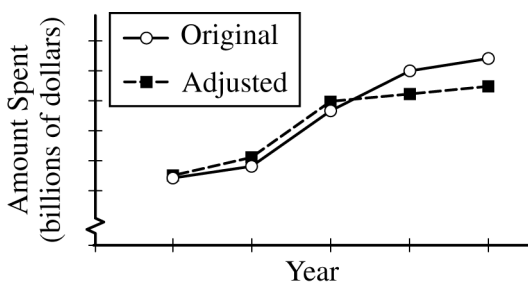
B.



C.



D.



25. Given the information in the graphs, which of the following two quantities, if either, can be estimated?

- I. The average price of sunglasses in year 1
- II. The number of people who bought more than one pair of sunglasses in year 5

- A. Only I can be estimated.
- B. Only II can be estimated.
- C. Both I and II can be estimated.
- D. Neither I nor II can be estimated.



Social Studies Practice Test

Answer Key

Question Number	Correct Answer	Question Difficulty	Question Type
1	A	Medium	Civics/Government
2	D	Easy	Economics
3	D	Easy	Civics/Government
4	D	Difficult	Civics/Government
5	A	Medium	Civics/Government
6	C	Easy	Civics/Government
7	D	Medium	Civics/Government
8	A	Easy	Geography
9	C	Easy	Geography
10	A	Difficult	Geography
11	D	Difficult	Geography
12	B	Medium	Civics/Government
13	C	Medium	Civics/Government
14	A	Medium	Civics/Government
15	C	Medium	Civics/Government
16	B	Medium	Economics
17	A	Medium	Economics
18	C	Medium	History
19	A	Medium	History
20	C	Medium	History
21	D	Medium	History
22	A	Medium	History
23	B	Medium	History
24	C	Difficult	Economics
25	A	Difficult	Economics

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