2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	Social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube were launched in the mid-2000s. Cell phone use began to increase significantly in the 2000s. Barack Obama was elected president in 2008. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to categorize information.
	Option A is incorrect	Social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube were not launched until the 2000s. Cell phone use did not increase significantly until the 2000s. The first African American president, Barack Obama, was elected to the presidency in 2008.
	Option B is incorrect	Social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube were not launched until the 2000s. Cell phone use did not increase significantly until the 2000s. The first African American president, Barack Obama, was elected to the presidency in 2008.
	Option C is incorrect	Social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube were not launched until the 2000s. Cell phone use did not increase significantly until the 2000s. The first African American president, Barack Obama, was elected to the presidency in 2008.

Item#	Rationale	
2	Option F is correct	Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973 to protect plants and animals. The purpose of the act is to protect species that are in danger of extinction and help the ecosystems upon which they depend recover. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option G is incorrect	Congress authorized the construction of the Hoover Dam to supply power and water to the southwestern United States.
	Option H is incorrect	Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act to require financial institutions to meet the needs of people in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.
	Option J is incorrect	Congress established the Department of Energy to govern the nation’s nuclear weapons program and supervise domestic energy production.

Item#	Rationale	
3	Option B is correct	The table shows that child labor in the United States decreased from 1890 to 1930. The decrease was due to reformers campaigning to stop the use of child labor. Progressives used the results of investigations, photographic evidence of terrible work conditions, and lobbying to persuade federal and state governments to pass laws restricting child labor. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The number of factories using assembly lines increased, rather than decreased, during this period.
	Option C is incorrect	Reformers of the Progressive movement campaigned to increase rather than decrease taxes paid by businesses during this period.
	Option D is incorrect	The number of people joining labor unions increased, rather than decreased, as workers organized to improve conditions during this period.

Item#	Rationale	
4	Option F is correct	The Bessemer steel process was introduced in the 1850s. This process strengthened steel and lowered its cost. The stronger materials and decreased costs made the construction of skyscrapers possible. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option G is incorrect	The Bessemer steel process made the construction of skyscrapers possible. At this time the government did not have a focus on educating engineers.
	Option H is incorrect	The Bessemer steel process made the construction of skyscrapers possible. The technology to manufacture glass that blocks ultraviolet rays had not yet been invented.
	Option J is incorrect	Skyscrapers like the one in this image were built on metal frames, not wooden frames. The Bessemer steel process made the construction of skyscrapers possible.

Item#	Rationale	
5	Option C is correct	Suffrage for the groups in the list was obtained by ratifying constitutional amendments. The Fifteenth Amendment granted suffrage to African American men. The Nineteenth Amendment granted suffrage to women. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment lowered the voting age to 18. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to categorize information.
	Option A is incorrect	Suffrage was achieved by ratifying constitutional amendments, not by granting citizenship to immigrants.
	Option B is incorrect	Suffrage was achieved by ratifying constitutional amendments, not by passing antitrust legislation.
	Option D is incorrect	Suffrage was achieved by ratifying constitutional amendments, not by engaging in international conflicts.

Item#	Rationale	
6	Option J is correct	The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was one of the first New Deal programs created to relieve unemployment. The federal government provided food, housing, and cash to young men who worked on national conservation projects. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option F is incorrect	The CCC addressed unemployment during the Great Depression. It did not influence state governments to protect minority rights.
	Option G is incorrect	The CCC addressed unemployment during the Great Depression by putting young men to work in national parks. It did not take away the federal government's responsibility for protecting natural resources.
	Option H is incorrect	The CCC addressed unemployment during the Great Depression. It did not cause state governments to lose control of budgets.

Item#	Rationale	
7	Option C is correct	The United States desired Hawaii for its natural resources as well as for its strategic location in the Pacific Ocean. Annexation of the islands would establish a place to harbor and resupply ships. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship as shown.
	Option A is incorrect	Hawaii would become a resort destination later in the twentieth century. It was not a popular vacation resort area in 1898.
	Option B is incorrect	The United States did not annex Hawaii in order to provide aid to the local residents, but to take advantage of its strategic location.
	Option D is incorrect	The United states did not annex Hawaii to provide financial assistance after a natural disaster, but to take advantage of its strategic location.

Item#	Rationale	
8	Option J is correct	The White Ribboners were people who supported the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). The symbol for the WCTU was a white ribbon, tied in a bow, that symbolized the organization's purity of purpose. The WCTU was devoted to social reform. Its members campaigned against alcohol and in favor of giving women the right to vote. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The WCTU focused on prohibition and women's suffrage, not ending Reconstruction and Jim Crow
	Option G is incorrect	The WCTU focused on prohibition and women's suffrage, not establishing labor unions.
	Option H is incorrect	The WCTU focused on winning the right to vote for women, not for African Americans and immigrants.

Item#	Rationale	
9	Option D is correct	Vietnamese nationalists under the leadership of communist Ho Chi Minh had been fighting the French for independence. The 1954 Geneva Accords spelled out the terms under which the French would withdraw from North Vietnam. The country was divided into communist North Vietnam and noncommunist South Vietnam. The United States was worried that if national elections were held in Vietnam the communists would win the election by intimidating voters or by using other undemocratic methods. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw inferences and conclusions.
	Option A is incorrect	U.S. officials did not believe the election would lead to civil war, but to unification under communism.
	Option B is incorrect	Congress was not involved in writing the Geneva Accords of 1954.
	Option C is incorrect	The administration was not opposed to regional alliances. It helped organize the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) in 1954 to protect the region against communist expansionism.

Item#	Rationale	
10	Option F is correct	Responsible citizens stay informed about political issues so they are prepared to vote on those issues or to vote for candidates who hold views similar to their own. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option G is incorrect	Defending the country through military service does not provide information needed to make informed decisions.
	Option H is incorrect	Getting a high-paying job with benefits does not provide information needed to make informed decisions.
	Option J is incorrect	Participating in a grand jury does not provide information needed to make informed decisions.

Item#	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	President Nixon met with Chairman Mao to improve diplomatic relations between the United States and Communist China. The two sides agreed to discuss their differences and respect each other's influence in Asia. The president hoped that improving relations with China would pressure the Soviet Union into making concessions to the United States and also assist in resolving the Vietnam War. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	President Nixon did not try to negotiate for the withdrawal of soldiers from Korea.
	Option B is incorrect	President Nixon did not try to create a military alliance with China.
	Option C is incorrect	President Nixon did create an agreement with the Soviet Union to limit the development of nuclear weapons through the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). China did not participate in this agreement.

Item#	Rationale	
12	Option G is correct	Population growth leads to increased development of industry and housing, which has damaged ecosystems on the coasts. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option F is incorrect	Population growth tends to decrease, rather than increase, water supplies.
	Option H is incorrect	Population growth tends to increase, rather than decrease, greenhouse gas emissions.
	Option J is incorrect	Population growth tends to increase, rather than decrease, air pollution levels.

Item#	Rationale	
13	Option C is correct	The GI Bill, or the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, provided grants for school and college tuition to military veterans. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to establish a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	The military was desegregated through Executive Order 9981, not the GI Bill.
	Option B is incorrect	The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) protects bank deposits, not the GI Bill.
	Option D is incorrect	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 addressed workplace discrimination, not the GI Bill.

Item#	Rationale	
14	Option F is correct	The Supreme Court ruled that the "separate but equal" provision meant that states could have separate schools for white and minority students. In theory, the schools were supposed to be equal in every way. In reality, the schools established for minority students lacked staff, supplies, and funds. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw inferences and conclusions.
	Option G is incorrect	The Twenty-Fourth Amendment made poll taxes illegal, not the 1896 Supreme Court decision.
	Option H is incorrect	The 1896 Supreme Court decision upheld separate public facilities. It did not rule that affirmative actions programs were unconstitutional.
	Option J is incorrect	The 1896 Supreme Court decision upheld separate public facilities. It did not prevent minorities from joining the military.

Item#	Rationale	
15	Option A is correct	The Soviet blockade of West Berlin began on June 24, 1948. Two days later, on June 26, 1948, the United States and the United Kingdom began airlifting food and fuel to West Berlin from Allied airbases in West Germany. The Berlin Airlift lasted until the Soviets lifted the blockade in 1949. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to summarize.
	Option B is incorrect	The blockade began on June 24, 1948. The airlift, the most immediate and direct response to the blockade, began on June 26, 1948. Although NATO was created in April of 1949 to provide collective security from the Soviet Union, the alliance had been proposed before the blockade was initiated.
	Option C is incorrect	The Soviet Union began the blockade of West Berlin to force the Allies to withdraw. The United States did not withdraw military forces from West Berlin; it resupplied them through the Berlin Airlift.
	Option D is incorrect	After World War II, financial support to European nations was provided by the Marshall Plan. That plan was signed, and distribution of aid began before the Berlin blockade of West Berlin was put in place.

Item#	Rationale	
16	Option H is correct	Technology has increased the speed of communication and computing. This allows workers and businesses to do more in less time and at lower costs. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The technology described results in the need for fewer rather than more workers in any sector of the economy.
	Option G is incorrect	The technology described results in less time rather than more time needed to manufacture goods.
	Option J is incorrect	The technology described results in fewer rather than more health and safety risks.

Item#	Rationale	
17	Option B is correct	The *Lusitania* was a British passenger ship sunk by a German submarine during World War I. More than a thousand people were killed, including 128 U.S. citizens. This tragedy caused U.S. public opinion to shift against Germany. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to establish a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	Germany formed the Central Powers alliance with Austria-Hungary before the sinking of the *Lusitania*.
	Option C is incorrect	The League of Nations did not exist during World War I. It was organized after the war ended.
	Option D is incorrect	When neutrality could no longer be maintained, the United States allied with Britain and France, not with Germany.

Item#	Rationale	
18	Option J is correct	The photograph on the left shows the Apache students in the dress and hairstyle of their culture. The photograph on the right taken four months later shows the students with hairstyle and dress acceptable to mainstream U.S. culture. The photographs provide evidence that one goal of the school was to assimilate American Indians into U.S. culture. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	U.S. citizenship had not been granted to American Indians, and so could not be restored. American Indians were awarded U.S. citizenship in 1924.
	Option G is incorrect	The photographs provide no information about religious practices allowed or studied at the Carlisle Indian School.
	Option H is incorrect	The goal of the Carlisle Indian School was assimilation of American Indians into the wider culture. It did not protect traditional American Indian culture.

Item#	Rationale	
19	Option C is correct	After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States began a military campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan. The Taliban was the faction that ruled Afghanistan and provided sanctuary for the terrorists who were responsible for the attacks. For this question the student uses critical-thinking skills to categorize information.
	Option A is incorrect	Israel is an ally of the United States and was not involved in the terrorist attacks. The United States did not place economic sanctions on Israel.
	Option B is incorrect	Providing humanitarian support to Iran was not part of the U.S. response to the terrorist attacks.
	Option D is incorrect	The United States did not declare war against Pakistan. The Pakistani government provided support to the United States in the days after the September 11 attack.

Item#	Rationale	
20	Option G is correct	Nativism is the policy of protecting the interests of native-born persons against those of immigrants. Many American workers were prejudiced against Chinese immigrants and feared the Chinese workers would take their jobs. For these and other reasons, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The legislation did not address concerns about labor union membership rules.
	Option H is incorrect	The legislation was not caused by wage increases for factory workers.
	Option J is incorrect	The United States was not involved in foreign wars and conflicts in the early 1880s.

Item#	Rationale	
21	Option C is correct	The launch of Sputnik surprised the U.S. public and made it seem that the United States had fallen behind the Soviet Union in the development of space technology. To better prepare scientists and engineers, Congress increased funding for math and science education. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option A is incorrect	Health care benefits and pensions for the military would not have addressed the perception that the United States had fallen behind the Soviet Union in the development of space technology.
	Option B is incorrect	The Marshall Plan was implemented in 1948 long before the launch of Sputnik. The plan provided aid to rebuild Europe after World War II.
	Option D is incorrect	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was organized in 1949 long before the launch of Sputnik. The organization provided collective security against the Soviet Union.

Item#	Rationale	
22	Option J is correct	With the Roosevelt Corollary of 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt declared his intention to intervene in the affairs of nations in the Western Hemisphere to ensure stability. The Corollary was used to justify U.S. intervention in Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic over the next several decades. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option F is incorrect	The Roosevelt Corollary and the Monroe Doctrine were concerned with Central and South America in the Western Hemisphere, not Asia.
	Option G is incorrect	The Roosevelt Corollary declared the president's intent to intervene in Latin American nations rather than remain isolated.
	Option H is incorrect	The Roosevelt Corollary was not a plan to stop the spread of communism in the Western Hemisphere. The Roosevelt Corollary was issued in 1904. Concern over the spread of communism developed after the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Item#	Rationale	
23	Option C is correct	New Orleans is a city that lies below sea level. The city depends on a system of levees or walls to prevent lake and sea water from flooding the city. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	New Orleans is not below the earth's surface.
	Option B is incorrect	Fault lines are breaks in the earth's surface and are associated with earthquakes. New Orleans is not in a region that has frequent earthquakes.
	Option D is incorrect	New Orleans is six feet below sea level, not six feet below high tide.

Item#	Rationale	
24	Option J is correct	The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was created in 1933 as part of the New Deal. The purpose of the agency is to promote confidence in the U.S. financial system by insuring the deposits of bank customers. The agency reports that since its start, no depositor has lost a single cent of insured funds as a result of a bank failure. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option F is incorrect	The FDIC does not regulate loans; it insures deposits.
	Option G is incorrect	The FDIC does not change interest rates; it insures deposits.
	Option H is incorrect	The FDIC does not provide financial assistance; it insures deposits.

Item#	Rationale	
25	Option C is correct	The photograph shows that the waiting rooms at bus stations in North Carolina were segregated in 1940. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to outlaw segregation in places of public accommodation, such as bus stations. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	*Wisconsin* v. *Yoder* was a Supreme Court decision regarding religion and education, not segregation.
	Option B is incorrect	The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded by students in Chicago, not by the federal government.
	Option D is incorrect	The social injustice shown in this photograph is the segregation of waiting rooms, not interstate migration.

Item#	Rationale	
26	Option H is correct	The graph shows that the population of the South and the West increased more than the populations of the Midwest and Northeast. Together the South and West create a region referred to as the Sun Belt. More people migrated to the Sun Belt because of job opportunities and the lower cost of living. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The states of the Sun Belt have fewer passenger trains and subway systems compared to the Midwest and Northeast.
	Option G is incorrect	The amount of government regulation and the number of natural disasters vary across all four regions of the country. The South and West do not consistently offer more regulation or fewer natural disasters than other regions of the country.
	Option J is incorrect	The amount of cultural diversity and funding for public schools varies across all four regions of the country. The South and West do not consistently offer greater cultural diversity or better funding for public schools than other regions of the country.

Item#	Rationale	
27	Option B is correct	The political cartoon shows a man examining food using many scientific instruments. During the Progressive Era, investigative journalists called muckrakers exposed many unsafe and unsanitary practices in the food industry. The federal government responded by passing legislation, such as the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, to protect the public. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The food industry did not increase the cost of products to pay for chemical additives. Rather, the food industry added chemical additives to lower the costs of products.
	Option C is incorrect	The political cartoon shows a man examining food for safety. Importing more goods from Europe would not have addressed this concern because the imported goods would also have to be examined for safety.
	Option D is incorrect	Antitrust legislation increased competition in the food industry as well as other industries. Such laws were an effort to protect the free market and did not address the issues of food safety illustrated in this cartoon.

Item#	Rationale	
28	Option F is correct	The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. The railroad allowed people and goods to travel more easily across the United States. This contributed to the rapid settlement and growth of towns in the West. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option G is incorrect	The railroad caused agriculture and mining in the West to grow, rather than decline.
	Option H is incorrect	The Transcontinental Railroad made it much easier for people in the East to relocate to the West. This contributed to population growth in the West, not the East.
	Option J is incorrect	The Transcontinental Railroad was not a reason for creation of the national park system.

Item#	Rationale	
29	Option B is correct	Dr. King championed a nonviolent approach to civil disobedience. He did not support the use of armed patrols. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to compare and contrast.
	Option A is incorrect	Both Dr. King and the Black Panthers supported decent housing for all.
	Option C is incorrect	Both Dr. King and the Black Panthers believed all people should have access to adequate food.
	Option D is incorrect	Both Dr. King and the Black Panthers believed people should have access to medical care and legal aid.

Item#	Rationale	
30	Option H is correct	The diagram shows events of the Great Depression. The collapse of the stock market, a decline in corporate capital, and increased protective tariffs all contributed to an increase in unemployment. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option F is incorrect	Wages paid to workers decreased, rather than increased, during the Great Depression.
	Option G is incorrect	Immigration decreased, rather than increased, during the Great Depression.
	Option J is incorrect	Consumer spending decreased, rather than increased, during the Great Depression.

Item#	Rationale	
31	Option D is correct	The Iran-Contra Affair involved a complicated mix of foreign policy actions approved by President Reagan. The president wanted to send money to anti-communist militia groups in Nicaragua, called the Contras. Congress passed a law banning this funding. The president then authorized a covert operation to sell weapons to Iran. This money was given to the Contras. However, the arms sales violated a trade embargo against Iran. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option A is incorrect	The Iran-Contra Affair did not involve U.S. support for a revolution in Iran.
	Option B is incorrect	The Iran-Contra Affair did not involve the sharing of nuclear technology with Iran.
	Option C is incorrect	The Iran-Contra Affair did not involve petroleum trade agreements with Iran.

Item#	Rationale	
32	Option H is correct	The poster shows two clawed hands labeled with the German and Japanese flags that are threatening a mother and child. The message is that citizens can counter this threat by helping to pay for the costs of the war by buying victory bonds. Victory bonds were loans made to the United States government. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The poster encouraged citizens to buy victory bonds, not purchase ration coupons.
	Option G is incorrect	The poster encouraged citizens to buy victory bonds, not put more money into savings accounts.
	Option J is incorrect	The poster encouraged citizens to buy victory bonds, not pay for the release of prisoners of war.

Item#	Rationale	
33	Option A is correct	The excerpt describes TV programs from the United States being remade for Russian audiences. This transfer shows cultural diffusion, or the spread of U.S. culture to Russia. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to find the main idea.
	Option B is incorrect	Nativism is the policy of protecting the interests of native-born persons against those of immigrants. This excerpt is about exporting movies, not about protecting the interests of any group of people.
	Option C is incorrect	Social Darwinism is the theory that some people in society are more powerful because they are more fit or innately better. This excerpt is about exporting movies, not about explaining Social Darwinism.
	Option D is incorrect	Containment is the policy of blocking or preventing the spread of communism. This excerpt is about exporting movies, not about fighting communism.

Item#	Rationale	
34	Option F is correct	The Spanish-American War of 1898 was a conflict between Spain and the United States. The war ended colonial Spanish rule in the Americas and resulted in U.S. acquisition of Guam, Cuba, and the Philippines. These new territories led to the growth of U.S. commerce and influence. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option G is incorrect	The Transcontinental Railroad was completed in 1869, decades before the Spanish-American War.
	Option H is incorrect	Conservationist policies and the establishment of national parks were domestic issues unrelated to the Spanish-American War.
	Option J is incorrect	The fight between Allied forces and the Central Powers was part of World War I, not the Spanish-American War.

Item#	Rationale	
35	Option C is correct	In 1966, Congress passed the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act which established mandatory federal safety standards for motor vehicles. The act was intended to prevent deaths and improve the life expectancy of consumers. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act did not establish fuel consumption guidelines for vehicles.
	Option B is incorrect	The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act did not limit the number of vehicles allowed on interstate highways.
	Option D is incorrect	The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act addressed the safety of motor vehicles; it did not apply to railroads.

Item#	Rationale	
36	Option J is correct	This cartoon comments on a conflict between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled some New Deal programs unconstitutional. In an effort to protect other New Deal programs, President Roosevelt proposed a bill that would increase the number of Supreme Court justices. The bill was important to Roosevelt because it would have allowed him to appoint judges who would not overturn his policies. The judicial branch's power over the executive branch would have been weakened. Members of Congress argued over the proposed bill. It was never passed into law. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	Impeachment is the process by which Congress may bring charges of misconduct against a government official. The bill depicted in this cartoon was about the number of Supreme Court justices, not about the impeachment power of Congress.
	Option G is incorrect	The bill depicted in this cartoon was about the number of Supreme Court justices, not about federal authority over the states.
	Option H is incorrect	The bill depicted in this cartoon addressed the number of Supreme Court justices. It was not an attempt to remove congressional leaders from office.

Item#	Rationale	
37	Option C is correct	During WWI, fighting on the European front reached a stalemate. Armies dug defensive trenches and created obstacles with barbed wire and machine guns. Tanks were introduced to go over and through trenches and end the stalemate, or inability to advance against the enemy. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to find the main idea.
	Option A is incorrect	Tanks were not introduced to locate and remove land mines.
	Option B is incorrect	Tanks were for combat, not for the transportation of supplies.
	Option D is incorrect	Tanks were for combat, not for monitoring troop movements.

Item#	Rationale	
38	Option F is correct	Opponents of Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act feared that increased investigative authority would violate privacy rights by weakening Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. To protect Americans against terrorism, the law expanded investigators' authority to conduct searches, monitor communications, and collect business records. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option G is incorrect	Opponents of this section of the act were concerned about the right to privacy, not gun ownership.
	Option H is incorrect	Opponents of this section of the act were concerned about the right to privacy, not the accused's right to a trial.
	Option J is incorrect	Opponents of this section of the act were concerned about the right to privacy, not the accused's right to have a lawyer.

Item#	Rationale	
39	Option B is correct	Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War. The Congressional Medal of Honor is awarded by Congress to a member of the armed forces for bravery in combat. Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was wounded several times saving the lives of fellow soldiers while under enemy attack. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was not given an early discharge from U.S. military service. He remained in the army until his retirement in 1972.
	Option C is incorrect	Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was not made an honorary member of the United Nations.
	Option D is incorrect	Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was not awarded the Legion of Honor ribbon.

Item#	Rationale	
40	Option H is correct	The Harlem Renaissance developed in the 1920s and 1930s in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City as a celebration of African American culture. Harlem was a popular destination for African Americans who left the South. Moving to the North gave African Americans greater opportunities to learn to read and write. Civil rights organization such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) were created. These organizations published magazines featuring the work of African American writers. Together these factors provided audiences and opportunities for the artists of the Harlem Renaissance. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option F is incorrect	The Hudson River School was an artistic movement of the 1800s, not the 1920s and 1930s.
	Option G is incorrect	The Neoclassical style of architecture began in the mid-1700s, not the 1920s and 1930s.
	Option J is incorrect	Rock and roll music developed during the late 1950s and 1960s, not the 1920s and 1930s.

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Item#	Rationale	
41	Option A is correct	World War II had a great impact on the U.S. economy. As men were drafted into the armed forces, more women worked in industrial jobs. To help pay for the war, Congress passed a Revenue Act in 1942 that increased income tax rates. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make generalizations.
	Option B is incorrect	The number of strikes and the production of consumer goods decreased rather than increased during World War II.
	Option C is incorrect	The size of the national debt and efforts to recycle metal increased rather than decreased during World War II.
	Option D is incorrect	Government funding of nuclear weapons research and the sale of government savings bonds increased rather than decreased during World War II.

Item#	Rationale	
42	Option J is correct	The Treaty of Versailles was one of several peace treaties signed at the end of World War I. It included provisions establishing an international peacekeeping organization known as the League of Nations. Senator Lodge was objecting to the requirement that the United States join the League of Nations because members were to assist one another if attacked. In Senator Lodge's opinion, this obligation would decrease U.S. sovereignty and prevent the United States from deciding how to participate in international relations. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The treaty did not address the global flu epidemic.
	Option G is incorrect	Nuclear technology did not exist in 1919, so it was not addressed in the treaty.
	Option H is incorrect	Senator Lodge did not want the United States to join an international league. He was objecting to the requirement that nations join.

Item#	Rationale	
43	Option A is correct	The Civil Rights Movement broke down barriers and expanded political, social, and economic opportunities for women and minorities. One result of these changes is increased diversity in the workplace. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to establish a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option B is incorrect	The United States has not created a national health care system.
	Option C is incorrect	Globalization of the economy has increased because of changes in technology, not because of the Civil Rights Movement.
	Option D is incorrect	Congress passed the first antitrust law in 1890, before emergence of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Item#	Rationale	
44	Option G is correct	Unalienable rights are rights that are held by all people and cannot be taken away or denied. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option F is incorrect	Unalienable rights do not change over time.
	Option H is incorrect	Unalienable rights are not provided by governments.
	Option J is incorrect	Unalienable rights can be defined and protected.

Item#	Rationale	
45	Option C is correct	The image shows immigrants coming to the United States in the late 1800s. One reason that immigrants were hopeful is that the United States offered many jobs and business opportunities. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Nativism is the policy of protecting the interests of native-born persons against those of immigrants. Social Darwinism is the idea that certain people become powerful in society because they are innately better. Expansion of these ideas would not have created hope among immigrants.
	Option B is incorrect	Social Security did not exist in the late 1800s. It was established in 1935.
	Option D is incorrect	Tenement apartment buildings were not large and comfortable, but crowded and unsafe.

Item#	Rationale	
46	Option F is correct	In *Sweatt v. Painter*, the Supreme Court ruled that a separate law school would be grossly unequal to the University of Texas Law School. This decision set a precedent for the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling that struck down the policy of "separate but equal" and led to the integration of public schools. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option G is incorrect	Instead of reinforcing the Plessy decision that separate but equal facilities were acceptable, the decision in *Sweatt v. Painter* weakened it.
	Option H is incorrect	The U.S. Constitution gives states the power to create school programs.
	Option J is incorrect	The U.S. Constitution allows for the creation of religious schools.

Item#	Rationale	
47	Option C is correct	The Universal Negro Improvement Association was dedicated to racial pride, economic self-sufficiency, and the formation of an independent black nation in Africa. The Black Star Line was a steamship corporation that shipped goods among black people around the world to foster a global black economy and transported black emigrants to Africa. The newspaper Negro World featured stories of black heroes and the accomplishments of African culture. Marcus Garvey promoted black cultural pride and economic independence through these achievements. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to find the main idea.
	Option A is incorrect	Schools and urban neighborhoods were not desegregated in the early 1900s.
	Option B is incorrect	Marcus Garvey promoted black cultural pride and economic independence, not the acceptance of low-paying jobs and social inequality.
	Option D is incorrect	Marcus Garvey did not support the use of violence or the overthrow of government to win reforms.

Item#	Rationale	
48	Option G is correct	Congress was concerned that the president was sending troops to Vietnam without congressional approval. Congress passed the War Powers Act to provide a set of procedures for both the president and Congress to follow when deployment of U.S. troops could lead to armed conflict. President Nixon vetoed the act because he thought it limited the presidential authority over the military that was granted by the U.S. Constitution. Congress overrode the veto in order to limit the president's power to send U.S. troops into armed conflicts without congressional approval. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	Congress had no need to expand the power to provide military funding because it already had that power under the U.S. Constitution.
	Option H is incorrect	The U.S. Constitution assigned the power to make treaties to the executive branch. Congress was not seeking to regain a power it never had.
	Option J is incorrect	The president has the power to make battlefield decisions as commander-in-chief. Congress had no desire or need to give the president a power he already had.

Item#	Rationale	
49	Option A is correct	The photograph shows long lines at gas pumps due to a decline in the oil supply and a fear of gasoline shortages. The U.S. government encouraged the development of alternative forms of fuel, such as solar and wind power, to decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect	Cars traveling at faster speeds consume more fuel. The government decreased the speed limit on interstate highways.
	Option C is incorrect	Decreasing funding for electric power stations would worsen an energy crisis rather than improve it.
	Option D is incorrect	The government encouraged exploration to find more sources of fossil fuels that could not be restricted by foreign powers.

Item#	Rationale	
50	Option G is correct	After World War II, the Korean Peninsula was divided in two with a communist government in North Korea and an anti-communist government in South Korea. President Truman supported the goal of a unified Korea free from communist control. He wanted to prevent the spread of communism from North Korea to South Korea. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The goal was to prevent the spread of communism in Asia, not create colonies in Asia.
	Option H is incorrect	The goal was to prevent the spread of communism in Asia, not end trade sanctions.
	Option J is incorrect	The goal was to prevent the spread of communism in Asia, not protect U.S. soldiers stationed in Asian countries.

Item#	Rationale	
51	Option B is correct	School walkouts were protests against unequal conditions in Los Angeles public schools. Students protested the lack of appreciation for Mexican American culture and history. They also protested the lack of advanced classes to prepare for college. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option A is incorrect	The students were protesting educational inequities, not poll taxes.
	Option C is incorrect	The students were protesting conditions in Los Angeles public schools, not the rising cost of college education.
	Option D is incorrect	The students were protesting educational inequities. They were not acting in support of a minimum wage law.

Item#	Rationale	
52	Option H is correct	This World War II political cartoon shows two lightning bolts striking Japan, which represent the Soviet declaration of war against Japan and the U.S. dropping of atomic bombs on Japan. The Soviet Union and the United States were allies that intended to force Japan to accept an unconditional surrender. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	Japan was on the defensive in 1945 and no longer threatened supply lines into China.
	Option G is incorrect	Japan was on the defensive in 1945 and no longer threatening to invade China.
	Option J is incorrect	The primary purpose of the declaration of war and use of the atomic bomb was to force Japan to surrender unconditionally.

Item#	Rationale	
53	Option B is correct	The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution granted rights to African Americans. To prevent African Americans from exercising those rights, states passed Jim Crow laws. These laws included segregation of schools and public places as well as barriers to voting such as literacy tests and poll taxes. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option A is incorrect	The goal of the temperance movement was to reduce alcohol consumption, not oppose civil rights advances.
	Option C is incorrect	The goal of antitrust legislation was to prevent monopolies and promote competition, not oppose civil rights advances.
	Option D is incorrect	The goal of the conservation movement was to protect and preserve natural resources, not oppose civil rights advances.

Item#	Rationale	
54	Option H is correct	Henry Ford introduced the assembly line to manufacture cars in 1913. The assembly line reduced the time it took to build a car, which reduced the cost to manufacture cars. Cars became more affordable and millions of cars were sold between 1910 and 1925. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	Antitrust laws were passed to prevent monopolies. However, there were no monopolies in car manufacturing in the 1910s and 1920s.
	Option G is incorrect	Wartime price controls kept prices artificially low. When removed, prices were allowed to rise. This would make cars and other products less affordable, not more affordable.
	Option J is incorrect	The United States continued to keep tariffs high after World War I.

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Item#	Rationale	
55	Option A is correct	In this excerpt Alexis de Tocqueville described the values of individualism and liberty. The federal government passes laws to protect the freedoms of individuals. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect	The Supreme Court does not vote to approve the appointment of presidential cabinet members, the Senate does. The approval of presidential appointments is not an example of individualism or liberty.
	Option C is incorrect	The Electoral College is involved in presidential, not congressional, elections. Actions of the Electoral College are not an example of individualism or liberty.
	Option D is incorrect	Government regulation of business is related to consumer protection and worker safety, not individualism and liberty.

Item#	Rationale	
56	Option J is correct	Congress passed the Espionage Act in 1917, which gave the federal government the power to prosecute anyone who interfered with or attempted to undermine the war effort. People who spoke out against the draft faced fines and jail terms. Congress passed the Sedition Act in 1918, which made it a federal crime to speak badly of the government. Together these acts targeted those individuals who tried to interfere with the draft and who publicly criticized the government. The passage of these acts led people to question whether the government could limit the constitutional rights of citizens during wartime. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw inferences.
	Option F is incorrect	The Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed to protect national security during wartime, not address the rights of workers to join unions.
	Option G is incorrect	The Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed to protect national security during wartime, not require citizens to purchase war bonds.
	Option H is incorrect	The Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed to protect national security during wartime, not determine the age of military enlistment.

Item#	Rationale	
57	Option C is correct	The Nineteenth Amendment, ratified in 1920, gave women in the United States the right to vote. Voting increased the participation of women in the political process. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option A is incorrect	Women in the United States had the right to attend public schools before the 1920s.
	Option B is incorrect	Women in the United States had the right to own property before the 1920s.
	Option D is incorrect	Women in the United States did not gain the right to serve in military combat units until 2013.

Item#	Rationale	
58	Option H is correct	The spoils system refers to the practice of giving civil service jobs to supporters, friends, and relatives. Political machines were political party organizations that used questionable means to control a local or state government. They abused the spoils system by rewarding supporters with government jobs regardless of whether they were qualified. Progressive reform laws addressed that abuse by establishing the merit system of awarding civil service jobs based on applicants' qualifications and performance on tests. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option F is incorrect	The merit system and civil service examinations were established in response to abuses by political machines, not national defense costs.
	Option G is incorrect	The merit system and civil service examinations were established in response to abuses by political machines, not radical threats.
	Option J is incorrect	The merit system and civil service examinations were established in response to abuses by political machines, not corporate inefficiencies.

Item#	Rationale	
59	Option A is correct	Sam Walton established the Wal-Mart Stores to bring discount merchandise to people in small towns. The success of the stores has led to thousands of jobs in rural areas across the country. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect	Sam Walton did not invent new technologies that helped create the internet.
	Option C is incorrect	Sam Walton did not build jewelry shops that sold luxury goods.
	Option D is incorrect	Sam Walton did not invest his money in the space technology industry.

Item#	Rationale	
60	Option J is correct	A draft is used to fill vacancies in the United States Armed Forces that have not been filled by volunteers.The government implemented a draft during the Vietnam War to provide the military with the additional manpower needed to send more U.S. soldiers to fight overseas. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to summarize.
	Option F is incorrect	A draft is not used to monitor groups suspected of spying on the United States.
	Option G is incorrect	A draft is not used to fund military activities.
	Option H is incorrect	A draft is not used to regulate freedom of expression.

Item#	Rationale	
61	Option B is correct	When businesses combined to form large trusts, they were able to dominate their industry. Their size gave them advantages, which allowed them to force their competitors to join them or drive their competitors out of business. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Most employees of large companies could not afford to buy stock, but the formation of monopolies did not prevent them from doing so.
	Option C is incorrect	Large companies continued to provide goods to consumers, although prices tended to increase.
	Option D is incorrect	Large companies employed many people, including immigrants.

Item#	Rationale	
62	Option H is correct	The groups on the list have all supported social reforms. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) worked to end segregation and racial discrimination. The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) worked to end child labor. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) worked to end segregation and racial discrimination. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) worked to end the abuse of alcohol and implement prohibition. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make generalizations.
	Option F is incorrect	All four of these groups significantly influenced U.S. culture by supporting social reforms. All four did not support government funding of the arts and sciences.
	Option G is incorrect	All four of these groups significantly influenced U.S. culture by supporting social reforms. All four did not support increased environmental protections.
	Option J is incorrect	All four of these groups significantly influenced U.S. culture by supporting social reforms. All four did not support the development of free trade practices.

Item#	Rationale	
63	Option B is correct	The Great Depression was a long and severe economic depression that began with the collapse of the stock market in 1929. Consumers lost confidence in their ability to pay for purchases. Banks failed as customers rushed to withdraw their money. Bank failures worsened the depression because people lost their personal savings and companies could not get loans to stay in business. These three factors contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to categorize.
	Option A is incorrect	High rather than low interest rates contributed to the Great Depression.
	Option C is incorrect	Outsourcing is a business practice in which a company hires another company or individual to perform work that had been done previously by the company's own employees. Outsourcing most commonly obtains goods or services from foreign or non-union suppliers. Outsourcing was not a common business practice in the late 1920s and early 1930s.
	Option D is incorrect	World War II was not a reason for the Great Depression. The war helped end the Great Depression.

Item#	Rationale	
64	Option J is correct	The free enterprise system allows companies to compete for customers. This competition has influenced companies to make better products in the hopes of attracting more customers away from competitors. The drive to make better products has contributed to technological innovation. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option F is incorrect	Reducing production does not contribute to technological innovation.
	Option G is incorrect	Limiting the number of employees does not contribute to technological innovation.
	Option H is incorrect	Industry-wide pricing policies would decrease incentives to invest in technological innovation.

Item#	Rationale	
65	Option B is correct	Rock and roll music combined several musical styles, such as gospel, blues, and jazz. People who listened to rock and roll music were exposed to more diverse musical styles as a result. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option A is incorrect	Musicians gave more live performances as a result of the popularity of rock and roll music.
	Option C is incorrect	Rock and roll music introduced new instruments, such as the electric guitar. Musical stores sold more instruments as a result of the popularity of rock and roll music.
	Option D is incorrect	Many religious groups warned their members against the dangers of rock and roll music.

Item#	Rationale	
66	Option H is correct	Japan had attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In this speech, given the day after the attack, President Roosevelt is requesting that Congress issue a declaration of war against Japan. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The speech was about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt is requesting a declaration of war, not requesting the trial of war criminals.
	Option G is incorrect	The speech was about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt is requesting a declaration of war, not requesting permission to aid France.
	Option J is incorrect	The speech was about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt is requesting a declaration of war, not requesting permission to develop new weapons.

Item#	Rationale	
67	Option D is correct	Vaccination programs were developed during the twentieth century to prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases. In the 1950s, Jonas Salk developed a vaccine to prevent polio. Vaccines to prevent mumps and the measles were developed in the 1960s. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option A is incorrect	Vaccination programs were developed to prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases, not to assist doctors in diagnosing injuries.
	Option B is incorrect	Vaccination programs were developed to prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases, not to assist farmers.
	Option C is incorrect	Vaccination programs were developed to prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases, not to protect agricultural products from insects.

Item#	Rationale	
68	Option F is correct	President Barack Obama pledged to introduce reforms to health care insurance. One goal of the Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010, was to make affordable health insurance available to more people. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to summarize.
	Option G is incorrect	President Obama wanted to increase gun control, not ease restrictions for gun ownership.
	Option H is incorrect	President Obama wanted to increase, not decrease, regulations for offshore drilling. In 2016, he announced a ban on oil drilling in large areas of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans.
	Option J is incorrect	Only in the final days of his presidency did President Obama endorse the idea of universal draft registration. The action was seen as a symbolic gesture rather than a goal. The Obama administration remained committed to an all-volunteer military force.