

NY Regents U.S. History/Government Samples

- 1) Base your answer(s) to the following question(s) on the statements below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Speaker A: We favor the Virginia Plan, in which representation is based on population. States with more people should have more representation.

Speaker B: Slaves should be counted because they are an important part of our state populations, and Congress should not be able to stop us from importing slaves to work on our plantations.

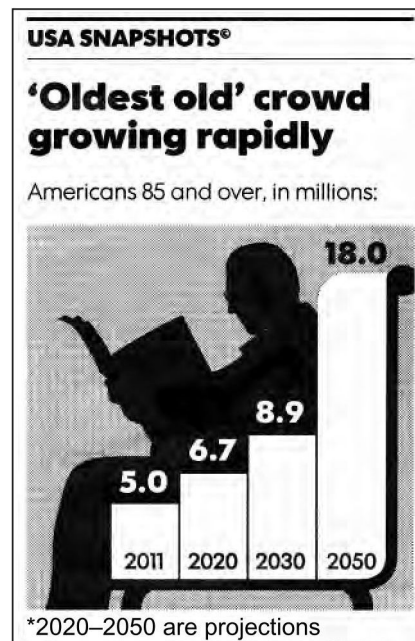
Speaker C: We delegates from the small states insist upon a legislature in which each state receives equal representation.

Speaker D: Congress should tax imports so that foreign goods will not be cheaper than our manufactured products.

The conflict between the statements of speakers A and C was resolved by

- A. creating a two-house legislature
 - B. delegating most governing power to the states
 - C. maintaining a balance in Congress between the slave states and the free states
 - D. passing a group of constitutional amendments to protect individual rights
- 2) The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 is often viewed as the beginning of the
- A. temperance movement
 - B. women's rights movement
 - C. antislavery movement
 - D. Native American Indian movement

- 3) Base your answer to the following question on the chart below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: *USA Today*, February 4, 2013
(adapted)

Which government programs will be most directly affected by the trend shown on this chart?

- A. defense spending
 - B. immigration reform
 - C. Head Start and school construction
 - D. Medicare and Social Security
- 4) During World War II, the federal government used rationing to
- A. hold down prices of military weapons
 - B. increase educational benefits for veterans
 - C. increase imports of scarce products
 - D. provide more resources for the military

5) One similarity in the Supreme Court decisions in *Gideon v. Wainwright* and *Miranda v. Arizona* is that both decisions

- A. expanded the rights of the accused
- B. improved the ability of the police to gather evidence
- C. lengthened sentences for violent felony offenses
- D. set limits on the use of the death penalty

6) Membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) illustrates the United States commitment to a policy of

- A. collective security
- B. neutrality
- C. isolation
- D. economic independence

7) President John F. Kennedy's most significant foreign policy failure involved the

- A. invasion at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba
- B. development of the Peace Corps
- C. signing of a nuclear test-ban treaty
- D. sending of troops to Berlin

8) One important result of the Red Scare of the 1920's and the McCarthy Era of the 1950's was the realization that

- A. large numbers of Soviet agents had infiltrated high levels of the Federal Government
- B. fear of subversion can lead to the erosion of constitutional liberties
- C. communism gains influence in times of economic prosperity
- D. loyalty oaths by government employees prevent espionage

9) Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Ed Stein, *Rocky Mountain News*, September 2, 2004 (adapted)

Which statement best describes the point of view of the cartoonist?

- A. Outsourcing of jobs has hurt American workers.
- B. Americans receive most of their news from television.
- C. United States presidents now seek support throughout the world.
- D. Low unemployment rates have forced United States companies to expand overseas.

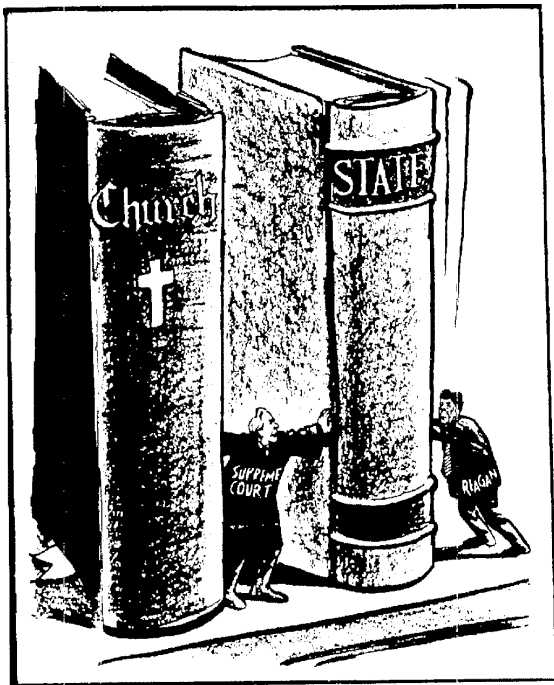
10) Which development resulted from the construction of the interstate highway system?

- A. increased suburbanization
- B. reduced air pollution
- C. decreased fuel consumption
- D. growth of long-distance passenger train service

11) Prior to its military involvement in both the War of 1812 and World War I, the United States attempted to maintain a policy of

- A. neutrality
- B. internationalism
- C. collective security
- D. détente

- 12) Base your answer to the following question on the accompanying cartoon and on your knowledge of social studies.



Bill Mauldin
Chicago Sun-Times
News America Syndicate

What is the main idea of the cartoon?

- A. Different branches of the Federal Government have disagreed about important constitutional issues.
- B. The wishes of the President should not have been opposed by the United States Supreme Court.
- C. The Federal Government operates without any real checks and balances.
- D. Issues related to the church-state relationship no longer create controversy in the United States.
- 13) When Andrew Carnegie stated, "The man who dies rich, dies disgraced," he was supporting
- A. consumer credit
- B. charitable giving
- C. Social Darwinism
- D. antitrust legislation

- 14) Which heading would be most appropriate for the outline below?

- I. _____
- A. Congress passes the Alien and Sedition Acts.
- B. President Abraham Lincoln suspends habeas corpus.
- C. President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders internment of Japanese Americans.
- D. Senator Joseph McCarthy begins hearings on identifying Communists.

- A. Changes in Economic Policy
- B. Federalism and the Constitution
- C. Checks and Balances at Work
- D. Threats to Civil Liberties

- 15) A significant compromise reached at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was the agreement to

- A. exclude slaves from census counts
- B. forbid tariffs on imports
- C. establish a bicameral legislature
- D. limit the number of terms a president could serve

- 16) The expression "due process of law" refers to

- A. the right of the Supreme Court to examine the constitutionality of laws
- B. the power of the police to arrest anyone who looks suspicious
- C. the procedure in Congress by which a bill becomes a law
- D. the protection given citizens against unfair actions by the government

- 17) “Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve, he shall sign it, but if not, he shall return it. . . .”

— Article 1, section 7
United States Constitution

This passage best reflects the concept of

- A. judicial review
 - B. checks and balances
 - C. joint resolution
 - D. congressional power of the purse
- 18) • Congress proposes an amendment legalizing an income tax.
• The Supreme Court rules that the income tax is unconstitutional.

These events illustrate the use of

- A. delegated powers
 - B. checks and balances
 - C. judicial legislation
 - D. the unwritten constitution
- 19) **“House Chooses Jefferson”**
“Corrupt Bargain? Clay Sides with Adams”
“Bush Wins Florida—Wins Election”
- Which is the most accurate conclusion that can be drawn from these headlines?
- A. Candidates who make promises they cannot keep are seldom elected.
 - B. Congress has had no role in deciding close elections in United States history.
 - C. Democratic candidates have won most disputed elections in the last 100 years.
 - D. Several controversial elections have occurred in United States history.

- 20) Which foreign policy concept influenced the decision of the United States to become militarily involved in Southeast Asia in the 1950s and 1960s?

- A. appeasement
- B. détente
- C. peaceful coexistence
- D. domino theory

- 21) The years between the end of the American Revolution and the ratification of the Constitution are sometimes called the “critical period” because

- A. the western territories were left ungoverned
- B. the United States fought a war with France
- C. Spain refused to sell Florida to the United States
- D. the central government failed to solve many economic problems

- 22) Technological developments often bring about significant changes in American culture. Some technological developments and the aspects of American culture they have changed are listed.

*Technological Developments—Aspects
of American Culture*

Cotton gin—Slavery

Railroad—Markets

Elevator—Cities

Steel plow—Farming on the Great Plains

Automobile—Middle-class lifestyle

Television—Political campaigns

Computer—Education

Choose *three* of the technological developments listed. For *each* one chosen, discuss *two* ways in which the technological development changed the aspect of American culture with which it is paired.

23) Document 2

An act to provide for an exchange of lands with the Indians residing in any of the states or territories, and for their removal west of the river Mississippi.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall and may be lawful for the President of the United States to cause so much of any territory belonging to the United States, west of the river Mississippi, not included in any state or organized territory, and to which the Indian title has been extinguished [revoked], as he [the president] may judge necessary, to be divided into a suitable number of districts, for the reception of such tribes or nations of Indians as may choose to exchange the lands where they now reside, and remove there; and to cause each of said districts to be so described by natural or artificial marks, as to be easily distinguished from every other...

—Indian Removal Act of 1830

Based on this document, state one way that the Indian Removal Act of 1830 would affect many Native American Indians.

- 24) *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824), *United States v. E. C. Knight Co.* (1895), and *Schechter Poultry Corporation v. United States* (1935) are all Supreme Court cases dealing with
- A. presidential power during wartime
 - B. federal authority to regulate interstate commerce
 - C. protection of students' religious freedom
 - D. government regulation of passenger transportation
- 25) Which term most accurately describes United States foreign policy during the Cold War?
- A. containment
 - B. nonalignment
 - C. Big Stick
 - D. Open Door

- 26) Base your answer(s) to the following question(s) on the headlines below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: *New York Evening Journal*, May 12, 1898 (adapted)

The purpose of these headlines was to build public support for

- A. efforts to defend the Panama Canal
 - B. the annexation of Cuba
 - C. an end to the policy of imperialism
 - D. the war against Spain
- 27) In the second half of the 20th century, federal efforts to reduce air and water pollution included
- A. imposing limits on the number of imported automobiles
 - B. increasing domestic coal production
 - C. placing limits on factory emissions
 - D. encouraging United States corporations to move operations overseas
- 28) To prevent tyranny, the authors of the Constitution drew on Montesquieu's concept of
- A. religious liberty
 - B. universal suffrage
 - C. separation of powers
 - D. supremacy of the nobility