



TEST ASSESSING
SECONDARY COMPLETION™

TASC PQR Social Studies Test Practice Items

SOCIAL STUDIES

TASC Social Studies Test Practice Items

Use these items to practice for the TASC Social Studies subtest. Once you reach the end of the test, check your responses against the answer key provided. Take the time to read the information preceding the answers to understand what you'll need to know and be able to do to prepare yourself to pass the TASC test. In the following multiple-choice questions, please circle the correct answer.

Good luck preparing for the TASC test!

Read the information in the table. Then answer the questions.

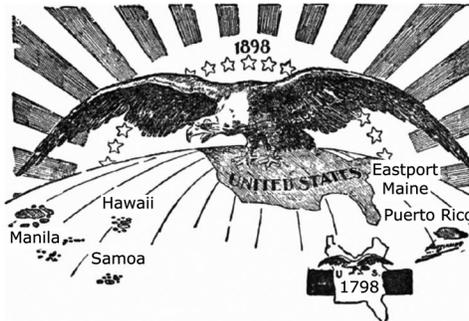
Organization	Functions
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	a military alliance of European and North American democracies established after World War II to strengthen international ties between the member nations
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	a group of mostly Arab oil-exporting nations established to determine oil exporting policies and establish oil prices
European Union (EU)	an economic and political organization of European nations established to promote common economic and political policies
World Trade Organization (WTO)	a global organization established to create and manage rules of trade between nations

1. Which organization was formed to prevent a common threat?
 - A. NATO
 - B. OPEC
 - C. EU
 - D. WTO

2. Which title best fits the table?
 - A. International Defense Organizations
 - B. International Economic Organizations
 - C. Examples of Ways Nations Cooperate
 - D. Examples of Ways Nations Combat Poverty

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Look at the political cartoon. Then answer the questions.



Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.

3. The United States acquired some of the island territories shown in the cartoon as a result of a
- A. war with Spain.
 - B. treaty with France.
 - C. treaty with Mexico.
 - D. war with Great Britain.
4. With which statement would the cartoonist most likely agree?
- A. The United States should be cautious when acquiring new territories.
 - B. The United States should only add territories that improve the American economy.
 - C. The United States should only add territories when the native population needs assistance.
 - D. The United States should continue to acquire territories in order to increase American influence.

5. Read the information in the box. Then answer the question.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

— 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Which phrase describes why the 10th Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution?

- A. to restrict state power over the people
 - B. to limit the power of the federal government
 - C. to allow citizens to participate in a direct democracy during local elections
 - D. to allow states to invalidate federal laws that they felt were unconstitutional
6. Read the excerpt. Then answer the question.

When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty. There is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive [branches authority to act].

— Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, 1748

Which principle of the U.S. government is described by this excerpt?

- A. individual rights
- B. popular sovereignty
- C. separation of powers
- D. separation of church and state

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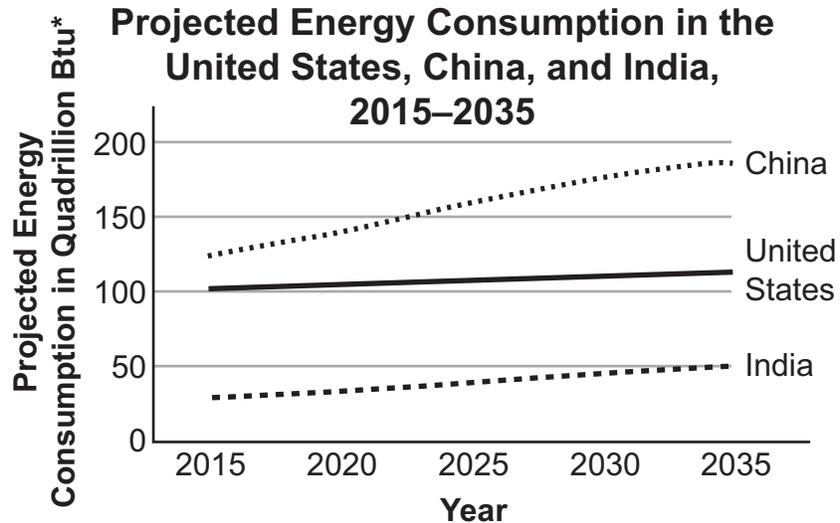
7. Read the list in the box. Then answer the question.

- ethnic conflicts
- militarism
- colonialism
- imperialism
- secret alliances

Which title best fits the list in the box?

- A. Causes of World War I
 - B. Causes of the Cold War
 - C. Causes of the Revolutionary War
 - D. Causes of the Russian Revolution
8. Which phrase best defines the economic term *profit*?
- A. the financial gain an employee earns in overtime, benefits, and bonuses
 - B. the financial gain an individual earns from interest on bank loans, bonds, or savings accounts
 - C. the financial gain a business receives through sales of products or services before expenses are subtracted
 - D. the financial gain an entrepreneur makes selling products or services after paying the costs of production

9. Look at the graph. Then answer the question.



*British thermal unit

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Outlook 2011*

Which statement explains how the changing demand for energy in China and India will most likely affect consumers in the United States?

- A. Consumers in the United States will see prices for goods increase because the demand for energy will rise.
- B. Consumers in the United States will have higher energy costs because the demand for energy will decrease.
- C. Consumers in the United States will have lower energy costs because new energy resources will be created to meet the rising need.
- D. Consumers in the United States will see prices for goods decrease because suppliers will need to use less energy to produce goods.

10. Read the list in the box. Then answer the question.

- hot, dry climate
- low precipitation
- deserts created by mountains and winds
- large amounts of oil and natural gas

Which geographic region is described by the list in the box?

- A. Middle East
- B. Great Plains
- C. Southeast Asia
- D. Amazon River Basin

11. Read the information in the table. Then answer the question.

Some European Colonies in North America, 1600s

European Country	Location of Colonies	Primary Goals
France	present-day Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to find a water route to Asia • to make a profit from fur trading
Great Britain	east coast of North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to find a water route to Asia • to make a profit from producing agricultural goods, fishing, ship building, and lumber • to search for gold and silver
Spain	southwestern region of North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to search for gold and silver • to set up Catholic missions

Based on the information in the table, what was the main reason European countries established colonies in North America in the 1600s?

- A. to spread democratic ideals
- B. to control trade routes to Asia
- C. to convert native populations to Christianity
- D. to gain control of valuable natural resources



TASC Social Studies Test Practice Items

12. In the United States, eligible voters cast ballots in a number of different types of elections. Match the type of election with the description of a voter participating in it by dragging the description to the appropriate drop area.

A man votes for a slate of candidates who will represent his political party in an upcoming election.

Drop Area 1
"General"

A woman votes on whether to remove a public official from office.

Drop Area 2
"Initiative"

A man votes on a proposed law that was suggested by voters in a voter petition drive.

Drop Area 3
"Primary"

A woman votes for candidates to fill a variety of public offices.

Drop Area 4
"Recall"

Answer Key

After taking these practice items, you can check your answers with the following answer key. For your added benefit, answers come with explanations to help you understand why they're right. If you do well on the practice test, then you know you may be prepared to take the official TASC Readiness Test. If you struggle on the practice test, then you know you may still have more work to do to get prepared.

1. This table lists some examples of international organizations and their functions. The use of tables allows you to demonstrate your Social Studies knowledge and skills.

This item requires you to use a table to retrieve information about an international organization whose formation has had significant impact on events in world and United States history.

Answer: A

Explanation for Correct Response:

While all answer choices are organizations listed in the table, only answer choice A was formed in response to a common threat.

2. This item requires you to use information in a table to summarize the governmental concept of how nations interact.

Answer: C

Explanation for Correct Response:

While all answer choices are related to some of the organizations listed in the table, only answer choice C summarizes all of the information in the table.

3. The first item in this set requires you to analyze the political cartoon and use historical knowledge about the Spanish-American War to recognize a cause-and-effect relationship.

Answer: A

Explanation for Correct Response:

All answer choices are ways the United States historically acquired territory, but only answer choice A is related to the cartoon.

4. In the second item in this set, you will use your analysis of the cartoon to determine the point of view of the cartoonist and to select a statement most consistent with that viewpoint.

Answer: D

Explanation for Correct Response:

All answer choices are plausible opinions about United States expansionist policy during the given time period, but only answer choice D conveys the central idea of the cartoon.

5. This item requires you to go beyond reading and identifying by requiring you to make an inference based on your knowledge of historical events surrounding the creation of the United States Constitution.

Answer: B

Explanation for Correct Response:

Only answer choice B correctly describes the purpose of the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

6. Item 6 relates to this excerpt from an influential Enlightenment philosopher, who had a significant influence on the Founders of the United States. You will have the opportunity to integrate the information provided with prior content knowledge of basic government principles.

This item requires you to analyze the excerpt and determine its central idea. You must distill the basic principle of the United States government described in the source.

Answer: C

Explanation for Correct Response:

While all answer choices are principles of the United States government, only answer choice C is described in the excerpt.

7. This item requires you to determine a title for a graphic organizer by applying historical knowledge of the events leading to World War I. You must analyze the graphic organizer's components to determine common characteristics.

Answer: A

Explanation for Correct Response:

While all answer choices are related to some of the entries on the list, only answer choice A shows how all entries on the list are related.

8. This item asks you to recall the definition of an economics term. The item may be more challenging than some items requiring you to recall knowledge, as all answer choices are related to ways income or revenue is earned.

Answer: D

Explanation for Correct Response:

Only answer choice D provides the correct definition of the economic term profit.

9. This item requires you to analyze a line graph of projected energy use for three countries and integrate prior economic knowledge with the information presented to make a prediction about a long-term effect.

Answer: A

Explanation for Correct Response:

Only answer choice A accurately predicts the effects of increasing energy consumption on consumers in the United States.

10. This item requires you to associate some geographic features with the appropriate region to demonstrate knowledge of physical characteristics and the division of Earth's surfaces into regions. You will need to classify the answer choices by matching a region to its physical characteristics.

Answer: A

Explanation for Correct Response:

While all answer choices are related to some of the features in the list, only answer choice A is a geographic region that possess all the features in the list.

11. This item requires you to analyze a chart containing information about early European colonies in North America and to recognize the relationship between the goals of the colonial powers and the importance of natural resources. In your analysis, you will need to make judgments about the various goals presented in order to make the generalization.

Answer: D

Explanation for Correct Response:

While many of the answer choices are reasons for colonization contained in the chart, only answer choice D is a reason all the countries in the chart sought new colonies.

12. The correct answers are:

A man votes for a slate of candidates who will represent his political party in an upcoming election.
– PRIMARY

A woman votes on whether to remove a public official from office. – RECALL

A man votes on a proposed law that was suggested by voters in a voter petition drive. – INITIATIVE

A woman votes for candidates to fill a variety of public offices. – GENERAL



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