AP U.S. History Practice

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Archaeologists at Cahokia found earthen mounds, a large plaza, and evidence of numerous nearby villages. What kind of community do these findings describe?

A. A major Indigenous population center
B. A Spanish mission and its farms
C. A French colonial trading post
D. A short-term hunting camp with no nearby settlements

Correct answer: A. A major Indigenous population center
Cahokia was a large settlement of the Mississippian culture. The built spaces and surrounding villages provide evidence of an extensive Indigenous population center before European colonization.

2. In 1620, passengers aboard the Mayflower agreed to form a government for their new settlement. Which document records that agreement?

A. The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
B. The Virginia Company's first charter
C. The Mayflower Compact
D. The Massachusetts Body of Liberties

Correct answer: C. The Mayflower Compact
The Mayflower Compact records the signers' agreement to organize a civil government and follow the laws made under that agreement.

3. In a fictional scenario under the Articles of Confederation, a large state sends five delegates to Congress and a smaller state sends two. How do their states' votes count on a question before Congress?

A. The large state has five votes and the smaller state has two.
B. Each state has one vote.
C. Each state has two votes.
D. Only the more populous state can vote.

Correct answer: B. Each state has one vote.
Article V gave each state one vote in Congress. The number of delegates a state sent did not give it additional votes.

4. Which connection did the Erie Canal make when it opened in 1825, giving shippers an inland route between the Great Lakes and eastern markets?

A. Lake Ontario to the St. Lawrence River
B. Lake Erie to the Ohio River
C. Lake Michigan to the Illinois River
D. Lake Erie to the Hudson River

Correct answer: D. Lake Erie to the Hudson River
The canal crossed New York between Lake Erie at Buffalo and the Hudson River. The Hudson gave boats access to the port of New York and its coastal trade.

5. Before the Seventeenth Amendment, state legislatures formally chose U.S. senators. What method did the amendment establish?

A. Appointment by each state's governor for every regular term
B. Direct election by the voters of each state
C. Selection by the U.S. House of Representatives
D. Election by the Electoral College

Correct answer: B. Direct election by the voters of each state
The Seventeenth Amendment changed regular Senate elections from a choice by state legislatures to a direct vote by the people of each state.

6. A timeline shows Pueblo communities forcing Spanish authorities out of New Mexico in 1680 and Spanish rule returning in 1692. Which interpretation fits both entries?

A. The Pueblo Revolt ended Spanish rule in the region for about twelve years.
B. The Pueblo Revolt permanently ended Spanish rule in the region.
C. The Spanish governed the region continuously throughout the period.
D. Spanish colonial rule began in the region only after 1692.

Correct answer: A. The Pueblo Revolt ended Spanish rule in the region for about twelve years.
The Pueblo Revolt drove Spanish authorities out of New Mexico in 1680. The return of Spanish rule in 1692 shows that the revolt interrupted colonial rule for about twelve years.

7. In nineteenth-century Lowell, Massachusetts, many women who worked in textile mills lived in boardinghouses run and supervised by textile corporations. What does this arrangement show about the relationship between work and home?

A. Mill owners handed responsibility for both housing and production to city officials.
B. Workers' families collectively set the regulations for the mills.
C. Boardinghouses operated as privately owned weaving workshops for the workers.
D. Employers could supervise parts of workers' daily lives outside the mills.

Correct answer: D. Employers could supervise parts of workers' daily lives outside the mills.
Lowell's corporations supervised many employees in boardinghouses as well as in the mills. The housing arrangements extended company oversight beyond the working day.

8. A Mexican property owner lived in territory transferred to the United States under the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. What choice did Article VIII give residents in that situation?

A. They could remain where they lived only by surrendering their land to the United States.
B. They could keep their property only by leaving the transferred territory immediately.
C. They could remain where they lived or move to Mexico while keeping or disposing of their property.
D. They could stay in the transferred territory only while a state legislature reviewed their property claims.

Correct answer: C. They could remain where they lived or move to Mexico while keeping or disposing of their property.
Article VIII allowed Mexican residents of the transferred territory to stay or move to Mexico. It provided for keeping or disposing of their property, regardless of which residence they chose.

9. The 1887 Dawes Act assigns different sizes of land allotment to individuals based on age and household status. Which shift in federal policy does this provision illustrate?

A. Dividing reservation land held in common into parcels allotted to individuals
B. Replacing individual holdings with land held in common by tribal communities
C. Transferring private farmland to tribal governments through national elections
D. Leaving reservation land undivided and withdrawing federal authority over allotment

Correct answer: A. Dividing reservation land held in common into parcels allotted to individuals
The act authorized the federal government to allot parts of reservation lands to individual Native Americans. That policy broke up land previously held in common by members of a tribe.

10. In a fictional 1908 case, a business ships food from one state to another under a label that misrepresents what is in the package. Which federal reform most directly addresses that conduct?

A. The 1913 Federal Reserve Act
B. The 1887 Interstate Commerce Act
C. The 1890 Sherman Antitrust Act
D. The 1906 Food and Drugs Act

Correct answer: D. The 1906 Food and Drugs Act
The 1906 law prohibited interstate shipment of adulterated or misbranded foods and drugs. The shipment and misleading label are the details that connect the case to that law.

11. The Library of Congress preserves accounts of daily life recorded in California migrant labor camps in 1940. A historian wants to know how common a particular hardship was among all farmworkers in the state. How should the historian use these recordings?

A. Assume that the conditions described in the interviews applied only to farmworkers outside the camps.

B. Count the mentions in the recordings and treat the result as the statewide rate for all farmworkers.

C. Use them to understand participants' experiences and seek broader records to estimate how widespread the hardship was.

D. Use the recording dates to determine the percentage of workers who faced the hardship.

Correct answer: C. Use them to understand participants' experiences and seek broader records to estimate how widespread the hardship was.

The recordings preserve accounts from people at selected migrant camps. Their accounts document reported experiences, while estimating a statewide rate requires evidence that covers a broader population.

12. A draft museum label says states alone financed construction of the Interstate Highway System because state agencies oversaw projects. Which finding about the 1956 highway law most directly challenges that claim?

A. The system was meant to connect cities across state lines.

B. The standard federal share of eligible Interstate construction costs was 90%.

C. State highway agencies had built some roads before 1956.

D. The law called for uniform design standards on Interstate highways.

Correct answer: B. The standard federal share of eligible Interstate construction costs was 90%.

The federal government generally paid 90% of eligible Interstate construction costs. That funding rule directly addresses which government paid, separate from who oversaw the work.

13. A student compares the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act with the earlier national-origins quota system. Which statement best describes the change in how prospective immigrants could qualify?

A. The law transferred the power to select immigrants from the federal government to individual state governments.

B. The law retained the national-origins formula and ended preferences for immigrants with family ties.

C. The law made the length of an applicant's prior U.S. residence the sole basis for receiving an immigrant visa.

D. The law replaced the national-origins quota formula with a system that gave preferences for family ties and certain skills.

Correct answer: D. The law replaced the national-origins quota formula with a system that gave preferences for family ties and certain skills.

The 1965 act ended the national-origins quota formula. Family relationships and certain occupational qualifications became important bases for preference under the revised system.

14. A display claims the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 ended federal involvement in programs serving Native American tribes. Which correction follows from the law's contracting provisions?

A. Tribal organizations could take on program administration through contracts with federal agencies.

B. Tribal organizations could advise federal administrators but could never administer the programs themselves.

C. State governments gained sole authority to administer all programs serving tribes.

D. The law required programs to close whenever a tribal organization assumed local responsibility.

Correct answer: A. Tribal organizations could take on program administration through contracts with federal agencies.

The 1975 law authorized federal agencies to contract with tribal organizations to operate eligible programs. This gave tribal organizations a greater role in administration while preserving a federal role through the contracts.

15. A historian reads Title II of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, which addresses discrimination in state and local government services. What additional evidence would best test whether a particular city actually improved access to a municipal recreation center after the law passed?

A. The congressional vote count and a list of members who cosponsored the bill

B. A second copy of the enacted federal law from a different archive

C. Dated accessibility inspections of the center and records showing which changes were completed

D. A national newspaper editorial predicting how city governments might respond

Correct answer: C. Dated accessibility inspections of the center and records showing which changes were completed

The statute establishes what the law required. Inspections and completion records would show conditions at the specific center and which changes the city put in place.