Social Studies Quiz

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which note describes the playground’s location relative to another place?
   A. The playground is two blocks north of the library.
   B. The playground is at 42° north and 71° west.
   C. The playground’s mailing address is 17 Park Street.
   D. The playground is 100 feet above sea level.
   Correct answer: A. The playground is two blocks north of the library.
   Relative location tells where one place is in relation to another. The library gives a person a landmark to start from.

2. At a bicycle shop, which purchase pays for a service?
   A. Buying a pump for the tires
   B. Buying a bell for the handlebars
   C. Having a mechanic adjust the gears
   D. Buying a basket for the rear rack
   Correct answer: C. Having a mechanic adjust the gears
   A service is work someone does for another person. The gear adjustment is work by the mechanic, while the bell, pump, and basket are goods.

3. A fictional school archive has a band photo from 1937, a play program from 1926, a sports schedule from 1952, and a library catalog from 1948. Which record goes first on an oldest-to-newest timeline?
   A. The band photo
   B. The play program
   C. The library catalog
   D. The sports schedule
   Correct answer: B. The play program
   The play program dates to 1926. The other records came later, in 1937, 1948, and 1952.

4. In Boston’s description of its city services, which department handles lighting projects on city streets?
   A. Elections
   B. Parks and Recreation
   C. Public Library
   D. Public Works
   Correct answer: D. Public Works
   Boston’s Department of Public Works includes the Street Lighting Division, which oversees projects involving the lights on city streets.

5. A U.S. store buys finished notebooks from a company overseas and brings them into the United States for sale. What are the notebooks from the U.S. perspective?

A. Exports
B. Imports
C. Domestically made goods
D. Employee wages

Correct answer: B. Imports
Imports are goods brought in from another country. Goods sent abroad from the United States are U.S. exports.

6. The U.S. Census Bureau distinguishes volunteering through an organization from helping a neighbor directly. Which fictional example is formal volunteering?

A. Sorting donations on an unpaid shift for a food bank
B. Getting paid to pack boxes for a food bank
C. Carrying groceries in for a neighbor as a favor
D. Dropping off canned food at a collection bin

Correct answer: A. Sorting donations on an unpaid shift for a food bank
The food-bank shift is unpaid help organized by a group. Helping a neighbor directly is informal helping, and donating goods is a separate way to contribute.

7. A fictional state map includes a small inset that zooms in on the streets around the downtown library. Which question would that inset be best suited to answer?

A. Which highways cross the entire state?
B. Which counties touch the state’s western border?
C. How long is the state from north to south?
D. Which two streets meet at the library’s corner?

Correct answer: D. Which two streets meet at the library’s corner?
An inset can enlarge a small area so readers can see details such as street intersections. For the other questions, readers need the statewide view.

8. A fictional 1920 newspaper notice announces a shop’s new home delivery service and tells readers how to place an order. What was the notice most likely meant to do?

A. Compare the delivery times of local shops
B. Record when earlier deliveries arrived
C. Encourage readers to buy from the shop
D. Tell readers how to apply for a delivery job

Correct answer: C. Encourage readers to buy from the shop
The notice tells customers about a service and gives them a way to order. Those details suggest the shop wanted to attract buyers.

9. Which item is physical capital for a bakery because the bakery uses it repeatedly to make bread?

A. Its dough mixer
B. A bag of flour
C. A baker’s mixing skill
D. A loaf ready to sell

Correct answer: A. Its dough mixer
Physical capital includes equipment used repeatedly in production. The bakery can use the same mixer for many batches, while each batch uses up ingredients.

10. On a fictional topographic map, the elevation changes by the same amount from one contour line to the next. The lines are closer together on the north side of a hill than on the south. How do the slopes compare?

A. The line spacing gives too little information to compare the slopes.
B. The south side is steeper.
C. The two sides are equally steep.
D. The north side is steeper.

Correct answer: D. The north side is steeper.
Closer contour lines mean the elevation changes by the same amount over a shorter distance. That makes the north side steeper.

11. A fictional town council agenda lists a proposal to keep a park open later every day. The approved minutes say the council voted to try later hours on weekends only. What did the council approve?

A. Permanent later hours on weekends
B. A trial of later hours every day
C. A trial of later hours on weekends
D. Keeping the usual hours with no trial

Correct answer: C. A trial of later hours on weekends
The agenda tells readers what was up for discussion. The approved minutes record the action taken, which was a weekend trial.

12. A fictional town had 1,000 residents in 2000. After its borders expanded, it had 1,300 residents in 2020, including 1,050 inside the old borders. How did the population inside the original area change?

A. It grew by 250.
B. It grew by 50.
C. It grew by 300.
D. It fell by 50.

Correct answer: B. It grew by 50.
Compare the counts for the same area. The old boundaries contained 1,000 residents in 2000 and 1,050 in 2020, an increase of 50.

13. A fictional school club budgeted $18 for paper and $24 for signs. It actually paid $14 for paper and $31 for signs. How did the total compare with the budget?

A. $11 over budget
B. $3 under budget
C. $7 over budget
D. $3 over budget

Correct answer: D. $3 over budget
The club planned to spend $42 and actually spent $45. The $7 extra on signs was partly offset by the $4 saved on paper.

14. In a fictional town archive, a ferry log records passengers completing a crossing on June 20. A June 22 newspaper says the ribbon was cut the day before. Which conclusion do the records support?

A. Passengers crossed before the ribbon was cut.
B. The ferry first carried passengers on June 20.
C. The ribbon was cut on the day the newspaper appeared.
D. The ferry carried passengers only after the ceremony.

Correct answer: A. Passengers crossed before the ribbon was cut.
The log places a passenger trip on June 20. The newspaper places the ribbon cutting on June 21. The two records give the order of those events without establishing the date of the first trip.

15. All 18 members of a fictional school’s bike club favor putting a bike rack by the gym. Which next step would give the school council the strongest evidence about what students across the school prefer?

A. Ask only students who pass the gym during lunch.
B. Ask the bike club to vote a second time by secret ballot.
C. Ask randomly selected students from every grade the same question.
D. Ask the captains of teams that practice in the gym.

Correct answer: C. Ask randomly selected students from every grade the same question.
Randomly selecting students from every grade gives the council a wider, less selective view. The original result describes the bike club’s preference.