

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option B is correct	As a member of a U.S. special forces team, Master Sergeant Benavidez earned the Medal of Honor when he encountered North Vietnamese troops and risked his own life to help his fellow soldiers. For this item, the student analyzes a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Master Sergeant Benavidez did risk his life, he did not risk his career to leave the United States to train foreign troops. Furthermore, this is not a way to earn the Medal of Honor.
	Option C is incorrect	Master Sergeant Benavidez, like other soldiers, willingly served his country in Vietnam. He did not risk his reputation to serve, nor is this a reason to earn the Medal of Honor.
	Option D is incorrect	Although some soldiers did support antiwar demonstrations, Master Sergeant Benavidez did not risk his command to do so, nor did this lead to his earning the Medal of Honor.

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2	Option D is correct	In the excerpt, Addams argues that women have unique knowledge and expertise to offer in the process of running cities. This belief challenged the traditional gender roles of the time. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Addams argues in the excerpt that women have unique knowledge and expertise to offer in the process of running cities, during her lifetime she was not associated with supporting traditional gender roles.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Addams acknowledges in the excerpt that managing cities is like running corporations, her work focused on advocating for women to have more input in city governments, not for governments to be redesigned based on business models.
	Option C is incorrect	Addams's advocacy for women's participation in city government is evidence of her interest in accomplishing reform through the political process, not by bypassing the political process.

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3	Option "Structures such as buildings [and] roads . . . absorb and [release] the sun's heat more than natural landscapes" is correct	<p>This statement explains that the structures created in urban development, such as buildings and roads, absorb and release the sun's heat more than natural landscapes do, affecting the physical environment.</p> <p>For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.</p>
	Option "daytime temperatures in urban areas are about 1–7°F higher than temperatures in outlying areas" is correct	<p>This statement explains that urban development affects the physical environment by creating heat islands, which have increased daytime temperatures. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.</p>
	Option "These pockets of heat are referred to as 'heat islands.' " is incorrect	<p>While this statement describes heat islands, which are caused by urban development, it does not explain the effect that heat islands have on the physical environment.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale
3	<p>Option “These pockets of heat are referred to as ‘heat islands.’ ” is incorrect</p> <p>While this statement describes heat islands, which are caused by urban development, it does not explain the effect that heat islands have on the physical environment.</p>
	<p>Option “Heat islands are usually measured by the temperature difference between cities relative to the surrounding areas” is incorrect</p> <p>While this statement describes how heat islands are measured, it does not explain the impact of urban development on the physical environment.</p>
	<p>Option “In general, temperatures are different at the surface of the earth and in the atmospheric air, higher above the city” is incorrect</p> <p>While this statement makes a generalization about the differences between temperatures in urban areas, it does not explain the impact of urban development on the physical environment.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
4	Option B is correct	The power of Congress to levy taxes and distribute funds that are “necessary for the general welfare” allowed for the passage of the Social Security Act. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The Social Security Act was written to provide for the general welfare and not to allow state legislatures to regulate interstate commerce—a power granted to the federal government.
	Option C is incorrect	The Social Security Act created a new federal administrative program that did not shift the responsibilities between the branches of the federal government.
	Option D is incorrect	The Social Security Act neither challenged nor conflicted with the power of Congress to limit the size of the federal government.

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Item Position	Rationale	
5	Option D is correct	Southern Democrats were intensely opposed to the Civil Rights Act because they believed it would change the then-current situation by guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens. Such a change in social order threatened the power of many southern Democrats, who believed that a system built on the concept of African American inferiority was one that should be protected by law. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Southern Democrats did not promote racial integration; rather, they wanted to prevent integration.
	Option B is incorrect	Southern Democrats opposed efforts to achieve equality and increase legal rights for African Americans.
	Option C is incorrect	The Civil Rights Act gave the federal government a greater role in implementing equality for African American citizens; southern Democrats did not oppose giving states power to implement civil rights laws.

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Item Position	Rationale	
6	Option B is correct	Both President William McKinley and Sanford B. Dole argued to annex Hawai'i because they felt that the United States would benefit from military bases in the region.
	Option D is correct	Sanford B. Dole thought the United States would benefit by gaining natural resources from Hawai'i.
	Option A is incorrect	The annexation of Hawai'i would not contribute to an isolationist policy; therefore, McKinley and Dole did not use that as a reason for its annexation.
	Option C is incorrect	Hawai'i did not have substantial mineral resources, and the United States had lumber resources in the continental United States. This would not have been used by McKinley and Dole as an argument.
	Option E is incorrect	Hawai'i's location would not allow the United States to protect Latin America from European forces. Furthermore, this was not a reason used by McKinley and Dole for the annexation of Hawai'i.

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Item Position	Rationale	
7	Option D is correct	China sent thousands of troops to support North Korea's military operations against forces from the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations.
	Option A is incorrect	China, not Taiwan, sent troops to fight against forces from the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations.
	Option B is incorrect	China, not North Vietnam, sent troops to fight against forces from the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations.
	Option C is incorrect	China, not the Soviet Union, sent troops to fight against forces from the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations.

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Item Position	Rationale
8	<p>Option B is correct In <i>Loving v. Virginia</i>, the Supreme Court ruled that Virginia's interracial marriage law was unconstitutional because it violated the equal protection and due process clauses in the Fourteenth Amendment. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.</p> <p>Option A is incorrect In <i>Loving v. Virginia</i>, the Supreme Court ruled that Virginia's interracial marriage law was unconstitutional because it violated the equal protection and due process clauses in the Fourteenth Amendment, not because it violated the principle of federalism in the Tenth Amendment.</p> <p>Option C is incorrect In <i>Loving v. Virginia</i>, the Supreme Court ruled that Virginia's interracial marriage law was unconstitutional because it violated the equal protection and due process clauses in the Fourteenth Amendment, not because it violated the right to a jury trial in the Sixth Amendment.</p> <p>Option D is incorrect In <i>Loving v. Virginia</i>, the Supreme Court ruled that Virginia's interracial marriage law was unconstitutional because it violated the equal protection and due process clauses in the Fourteenth Amendment, not because it violated the right to free exercise of religion in the First Amendment.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
9	Part A: Option C is correct	The Cato Institute expresses doubt about the implementation of governmental policies to address climate change. The excerpt explains that lawmakers have presented different approaches to reduce pollutants; however, there are no proven strategies to accomplish this goal. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Part A: Option A is incorrect	Although there have been different legislative proposals to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the Cato Institute states that there is a lack of proven methods that can be used to combat climate change.
	Part A: Option B is incorrect	Although the excerpt expresses concern about global warming, the Cato Institute states that "there is ample time" to address climate change.
	Part A: Option D is incorrect	Although the Cato Institute expresses skepticism about the implementation of government policies to address climate change, it makes no claim regarding the ultimate impact of climate change on the natural environment.

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Item Position	Rationale	
9	Part B: Option B is correct	This phrase directly supports the Cato Institute's skepticism about the government's ability to effectively address climate change. The phrase suggests that finding a solution to climate change requires the correct approach from lawmakers. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Part B: Option A is incorrect	This phrase acknowledges the Cato Institute's agreement with scientific consensus regarding climate change. The phrase does not directly support the Cato Institute's skepticism about the government's ability to effectively address climate change.
	Part B: Option C is incorrect	This phrase supports the Cato Institute's belief that people have proposed many ways to address global warming. The phrase does not directly support the Cato Institute's skepticism about the government's ability to effectively address climate change.
	Part B: Option D is incorrect	This phrase supports the Cato Institute's position that there is still time to address climate change. The phrase does not directly support the Cato Institute's skepticism about the government's ability to effectively address climate change.

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Item Position	Rationale	
10	Option A is correct	Charles Lindbergh made the first successful nonstop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. This flight demonstrated to many Americans that air travel was a safe form of travel for the future.
	Option B is incorrect	While Charles Lindbergh did lobby Congress, and encourage the public to lobby Congress, for the America First movement and to stay out of World War II, he did not advocate for Congress to fund commercial airlines.
	Option C is incorrect	Charles Lindbergh did not demonstrate aerial maneuvers for the military, as he was not a high-level adviser to the U.S. Army Air Corps.
	Option D is incorrect	Charles Lindbergh showed that air travel was safe. He was not responsible for the commercialization of air travel, nor did he create the first commercial airline company.

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Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	In the excerpt, Rep. Wadsworth expresses his concern that the Social Security Act would increase the role of the federal government in people's lives, making them more dependent on the government for support. For this item, the student analyzes a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	U.S. businesses being unable to hire new employees does not reflect Rep. Wadsworth's fear that the Social Security Act would lead to an increased role of the federal government in people's lives.
	Option B is incorrect	This statement does not reflect Rep. Wadsworth's prediction that the Social Security Act would increase the role of the federal government. Also, the Social Security Act did not favor one type of employment over another.
	Option C is incorrect	In the excerpt, Rep. Wadsworth predicts that the Social Security Act would fundamentally change the role of the federal government in people's lives, but he does not mention citizens experiencing unexpected wage losses.

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Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option B is correct	The United States maintained a policy of isolationism and neutrality when World War I began. U.S. neutrality toward countries at war allowed U.S. businesses and banks to benefit economically from the war. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	While the United States engaged in a policy of expansionism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this policy was not associated with the outbreak of World War I or the benefits presented in the chart.
	Option C is incorrect	While the United States built up its military in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, militarism was not associated with the benefits presented in the chart.
	Option D is incorrect	Nationalism is not associated with the benefits presented in the chart.

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Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option A is correct	Higher tariffs during the early 1930s affected the U.S. economy by decreasing the number of products exported overseas.
	Option B is incorrect	Higher tariffs during the early 1930s resulted in decreased economic activity and a decrease, not an increase, in the consumption of goods.
	Option C is incorrect	Higher tariffs during the early 1930s resulted in decreased economic activity and an increase, not a decrease, in the number of mortgage loans in default.
	Option D is incorrect	Higher tariffs during the early 1930s resulted in a decrease, not an increase, in the amount of goods imported.

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Item Position	Rationale
14	<p>Score 2 points for correct answers that address both:</p> <p><u>Production:</u> The assembly line enabled goods to be mass-produced at a level that was unprecedented. The assembly line made factory work less skilled as workers would spend their entire shifts completing the same task. Standardized and interchangeable parts were produced.</p> <p><u>Sale:</u> Goods were now more affordable to more citizens. The process increased the overall standard of living through the availability of goods. More goods were available for sale and consumption. New businesses were created, as products could be made more easily and more cheaply.</p>
Score 1 point:	Response provides only half of the correct details.
Score 0 points:	Does not provide a response, or the response is incorrect or irrelevant.

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Item Position	Rationale
15	<p>Option B is correct</p> <p>The Chinese Exclusion Act led to a drastic reduction in Chinese immigration. This decrease in available labor led to criticism of the loss of Chinese workers in the manufacturing industry, as referenced in the excerpt. For this item, the student analyzes a primary source to answer a historical question.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>While the Chinese Exclusion Act reduced the number of Chinese workers available to work, it did not prohibit companies from hiring non-Chinese workers.</p>
	<p>Option C is incorrect</p> <p>While tariffs helped boost the production and consumption of domestic goods, the Chinese Exclusion Act did not result in less desire for tariffs on Chinese goods.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>While the Chinese Exclusion Act prohibited Chinese immigrants from entering the United States, it did not prohibit the trading of Chinese goods.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
16	Option A is correct	The power of impeachment was put in place to provide a check on the other branches.
	Option B is incorrect	The power to appoint a president was not given to the legislature; it is controlled through the Electoral College.
	Option C is incorrect	One power of the judiciary and the Supreme Court is to rule on the constitutionality of laws.
	Option D is incorrect	The reason for impeachment was not to use it as a political tool; rather, it was put in place to provide a check on the other branches.

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Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option "Increased political power for women": Nineteenth Amendment	The Nineteenth Amendment contributed to the development of civil rights in the United States by allowing women the right to vote. This in turn increased political power for women by giving them a voice in their government. For this item, the student analyzes a set of primary sources to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option "Increased political participation for men": Fifteenth Amendment	The Fifteenth Amendment contributed to the development of civil rights in the United States by allowing all male citizens to vote, regardless of race. This in turn increased political participation for men by giving those who had been disenfranchised from voting the right to have a say in the government. For this item, the student analyzes a set of primary sources to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option "Met goals of the suffragist movement": Nineteenth Amendment	The Nineteenth Amendment contributed to the development of civil rights in the United States by allowing women the right to vote. This in turn met the goals of the suffragist movement, which were to achieve voting rights for women by means of an amendment to the Constitution. For this item, the student analyzes a set of primary sources to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option "Met goals of the abolitionist movement": Fifteenth Amendment	The Fifteenth Amendment contributed to the development of civil rights in the United States by allowing all male citizens to vote, regardless of race. This in turn met the goals of the abolitionist movement, who had been struggling for decades against slavery and racial discrimination in the United States. For this item, the student analyzes a set of primary sources to acquire information to answer a historical question.

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Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option B is correct	In 1944, Congress passed the G.I. Bill, which increased military service members' access to home loans and higher education. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	Although Congress passed laws establishing programs for people with disabilities, the diagram refers to the G.I. Bill, which increased the number of college degrees earned and the number of home loans granted during the 1950s.
	Option C is incorrect	Social security programs, which began in the 1930s, work to reduce poverty among the elderly. They were not associated with the 1950s increase in the number of college degrees earned or the number of home loans granted.
	Option D is incorrect	Legislation aimed at limiting the power of labor union leaders was not associated with increasing the number of college degrees earned or the number of home loans granted during the 1950s.

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Item Position	Rationale	
19	Option B is correct	Mass-production techniques reduced manufacturing costs, leading to wider availability of lower-priced consumer goods during the late nineteenth century.
	Option D is correct	Manufacturers used more efficient processes, such as timing the work of their employees and prescribing specific movements, to speed up production and maximize output during the late nineteenth century.
	Option A is incorrect	Women made up an increasingly larger rather than a smaller portion of the workforce during the late nineteenth century because of industrialization.
	Option C is incorrect	Cloth production in mills was fueled by the use of steam power, not water power, during the late nineteenth century.
	Option E is incorrect	Factory owners expanded production during the late nineteenth century because of a steady supply of labor, not a shortage of available labor.

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Item Position	Rationale	
20	Option C is correct	<i>Wesberry v. Sanders</i> demonstrates how citizens can use legal action to challenge and secure equal participation in the political process. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option A is incorrect	In <i>Wesberry v. Sanders</i> , citizens used litigation in the court system, not lobbying, to achieve change.
	Option B is incorrect	In <i>Wesberry v. Sanders</i> , citizens used litigation in the court system, not amending the Constitution, to achieve change.
	Option D is incorrect	The Supreme Court's ruling in <i>Wesberry v. Sanders</i> occurred in 1964, well after the start of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

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Item Position	Rationale	
21	Image 3, "Grow It Yourself: Plan a Farm Garden Now," is correct	This image shows a poster reading "Grow It Yourself: Plan a Farm Garden Now." These gardens, known as Victory Gardens, were planted by civilians at private residences and on public lands in the United States to support the war effort during World War II. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Image 4, "Scrap Metals," is correct	This photograph shows children at a barrel labeled "Scrap Metals." During World War II, scrap drives were a popular way for civilians to contribute to the war effort. By recycling unused or unwanted metal, the government could build ships, airplanes, and other equipment needed to fight the war. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Image 5, "Buy War Bonds," is correct	This image shows a poster reading "Buy War Bonds." During World War II, the United States issued war bonds that helped the government raise about \$185 billion. Bonds were bought by over 84 million Americans on the home front. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Image 1, "United We Are Strong, United We Will Win," is incorrect	This image shows artillery gun barrels decorated with the flags of the Allies, all firing in unison. The flags of countries other than the United States are visible, indicating that this image depicts worldwide coordination that did not directly affect civilians on the home front.

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21	Image 2, from the Crimean Conference at the palace in Yalta, is incorrect This photograph shows the Yalta Conference, where three World War II allies (U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet premier Joseph Stalin) met to discuss how to treat the Axis powers postwar. This conference did not directly affect civilians on the home front, as it occurred in the Crimea.
	Image 6, Navajo Code Talkers, is incorrect This photograph shows the Navajo Code Talkers, who were U.S. Marines of Navajo descent who developed and used a special code based on their native language to transmit sensitive military information while fighting the Japanese in the Pacific Theater during World War II. These actions took place outside the U.S. home front.

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Item Position	Rationale	
22	Option B is correct	The laissez-faire approach has contributed to the economic success of the United States by allowing businesses to adjust to market forces with limited government intervention.
	Option A is incorrect	Collecting federal income taxes is a form of government involvement in the economy; it is not a laissez-faire approach to U.S. economic success.
	Option C is incorrect	Raising tariff levels to protect domestic industry is a form of government intervention in the economy; it is not a laissez-faire approach to U.S. economic success.
	Option D is incorrect	Businesses complying with federal law is a form of government intervention in the economy; it is not a laissez-faire approach to U.S. economic success.

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Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option B is correct	The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad made migrating westward easier and facilitated the establishment of western settlements. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	U.S. citizenship was formally granted to American Indians in 1924 and did not contribute to increased western settlement.
	Option C is incorrect	Immigration quotas were often used to reduce the number of immigrants arriving in the United States during the 1800s and into the 1900s.
	Option D is incorrect	Sharecropping was introduced in the South, not in the West, after the Civil War and did not contribute to increased western settlement.

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24	Option B is correct	President Roosevelt justified his proposal to increase the size of the Supreme Court by claiming that the current court obstructed the work of the other branches. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information about the United States.
	Option A is incorrect	President Roosevelt justified his proposal to increase the size of the Supreme Court by claiming that the current court obstructed the work of the other branches, not that it interfered with the work of local governments.
	Option C is incorrect	President Roosevelt justified his proposal to increase the size of the Supreme Court by claiming that the current court obstructed the work of the other branches, not that it was too youthful in its legal experience.
	Option D is incorrect	President Roosevelt justified his proposal to increase the size of the Supreme Court by claiming that the current court obstructed the work of the other branches, not that it was too efficient in its daily legal work.

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Item Position	Rationale
25	<p>Option C is correct</p> <p>The United States supported the government of South Vietnam with the goal of containing the spread of communism. The United States took a firm stance against allies of the Soviet Union. As a result, the U.S. government entered a conflict to prevent North Vietnam from overthrowing the South Vietnamese government.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>Although economic prosperity would help the South Vietnamese government resist communism, South Vietnam was not a significant economic partner of the United States until U.S. troops entered the conflict.</p>
	<p>Option B is incorrect</p> <p>Although halting the spread of infectious disease in South Vietnam would have helped the government there resist the spread of communism, this was not the primary motive for the U.S. government's support of the government of South Vietnam.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>Although the spread of democracy would have been welcomed by the United States, the primary goal of the U.S. government's involvement in South Vietnam was to prevent the spread of communism.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale
26	<p>Option C is correct</p> <p>The United States' enactment of Prohibition reflected a monumental shift in how Americans viewed the role of government. Echoing the ideals of the Progressive Era, Prohibition, as brought about by the Eighteenth Amendment, gave the U.S. government the ability to take a more active role in the everyday lives of its citizens. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>The Eighteenth Amendment was designed to stop alcohol production and consumption in the United States, not to support foreign alcohol manufacturers.</p>
	<p>Option B is incorrect</p> <p>The Eighteenth Amendment was designed to stop alcohol production and consumption in the United States, not to increase participation in religious organizations.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>The Eighteenth Amendment was not directly connected to the hardships of World War I; rather, it was designed to allow the government to take a more active role in the everyday lives of citizens.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
27	Option C is correct	To replace men being drafted into World War I, companies turned to women as a new labor force.
	Option D is correct	As part of the Great Migration, African Americans fled poverty in the South to seek jobs and opportunities in northern cities during World War I.
	Option A is incorrect	Industrial production increased as companies created materials needed by the U.S. military.
	Option B is incorrect	Wages in most industries increased as the National War Labor Board negotiated between labor and management, because the increased war production meant that workers were needed.
	Option E is incorrect	Mexicans were migrating to the United States because of the Mexican Revolution, but they were not repatriated to Mexico in response to job competition until the Great Depression.

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Item Position	Rationale
28	<p>Option C is correct</p> <p>According to the excerpt, Rachel Carson played a significant role in the modern environmental movement. Her book called attention to the use of harmful pesticides and subsequently led to a federal investigation and corrective actions. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>The excerpt indicates that the author's work encouraged the federal government to review its pesticide policy and that this ultimately led to a DDT ban. The excerpt does not indicate whether or how companies that polluted waterways were penalized using taxes.</p>
	<p>Option B is incorrect</p> <p>Although one pesticide was banned, there is no information in the excerpt to suggest that the banning of DDT resulted in lower yields for farmers.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>After the publishing of this book, the federal government increased its oversight of the pesticide industry, including oversight of production and of the outcomes associated with the use of chemicals.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option B is correct	Having to stay in designated areas on buses even if seats in the white section were vacant was one result of Jim Crow transportation laws.
	Option A is incorrect	Having to pay twice the amount for bus fare that white people traveling the same route had to pay was not a result of Jim Crow transportation laws, since African Americans normally paid the same fare as whites for transportation.
	Option C is incorrect	Having to board buses before white people were allowed to enter was not a result of Jim Crow transportation laws, since African Americans could board public transportation at any time. African Americans often had to enter from the rear door on vehicles with more than one access point.
	Option D is incorrect	Having to create bus routes separate from those for white people was not a result of Jim Crow transportation laws, since bus routes were the same for African Americans and white people.

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Item Position	Rationale	
30	Drop-Down 1: Option "social acceptance" is correct	Following World War II, some African Americans settled overseas because of the social acceptance they found in European countries, in contrast to the atmosphere of resentment, intimidation, and racism they experienced in the United States.
	Drop-Down 1: Option "cost of living" is incorrect	Following World War II, the cost of living in European countries was not a reason why some African Americans settled overseas.
	Drop-Down 1: Option "government support" is incorrect	Following World War II, government support in European countries was not a reason why some African Americans settled overseas.

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Item Position	Rationale
30	<p>Drop-Down 2: Option “an opportunity for cultural exchange” is correct</p> <p>The opening of restaurants that served the regional cuisines of African Americans led to a diffusion of American culture in Europe.</p>
	<p>Drop-Down 2: Option “foreign governments adopting segregation” is incorrect</p> <p>Foreign governments did not adopt segregationist policies after African Americans opened restaurants that served their regional cuisines.</p>
	<p>Drop-Down 2: Option “the loss of their citizenship” is incorrect</p> <p>African Americans did not lose their citizenship after opening restaurants that served their regional cuisines.</p>
	<p>Drop-Down 2: Option “an opportunity for cultural exchange” is correct</p> <p>The opening of restaurants that served the regional cuisines of African Americans led to a diffusion of American culture in Europe.</p>

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Item Position	Rationale	
31	Option C is correct	Martin Luther King Jr. supported nonviolent tactics, such as boycotts and sit-ins, and was opposed to the Black Panthers' use of militancy.
	Option A is incorrect	Martin Luther King Jr. did not approve of the idea of black power, because he believed it supported violence and separatism.
	Option B is incorrect	Martin Luther King Jr. believed that nonviolent protest would build an integrated community between people of all races.
	Option D is incorrect	Both Martin Luther King Jr. and the Black Panthers advocated for anti-poverty measures rooted in socialist ideals.

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Item Position	Rationale
32	<p>Option C is correct</p> <p>During the Vietnam War, there was an increase of media coverage from the battlefield. The coverage of the Tet Offensive led to weakened support for U.S. participation in Vietnam, as the public saw the horrors of war through their televisions. The public saw for themselves that the enemy had plenty of fight left, contrary to the information presented by the U.S. military and government officials. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>Media coverage of the Tet Offensive did not increase Allied approval of using atomic weapons in Vietnam. The United States and its allies believed that using nuclear weapons would provoke China into a nuclear response and would increase nuclear proliferation in the region.</p>
	<p>Option B is incorrect</p> <p>Media coverage of the Tet Offensive did not lead to weakened international support for North Vietnam. As the communist aggressor in the conflict, North Vietnam continued to receive support for its cause from China, and the Soviet Union.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>Media coverage of the Tet Offensive did not increase demands for South Vietnam to sign an alliance with China. China was allied with communist North Vietnam against South Vietnam.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option B is correct	President Truman used an executive order to desegregate the military, despite facing opposition. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	The president does not have the power to issue an order to the Supreme Court.
	Option C is incorrect	The Labor Provision of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination in union membership based on race, but that act was passed well after President Truman's time in office ended.
	Option D is incorrect	Thurgood Marshall was confirmed as the first African American Supreme Court justice in 1967, well after President Truman's time in office ended.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option B is correct	Protests against various forms of discrimination contributed to the attempt to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s, as new feminists promoted overturning aspects of gender discrimination. For this item the student analyzes information by identifying cause-and-effect relationships.
	Option A is incorrect	Protests against various forms of discrimination contributed to the attempt to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s. Women's roles in investigating the Watergate scandal did not contribute significantly.
	Option C is incorrect	Protests against various forms of discrimination contributed to the attempt to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s. Women's efforts to combat propaganda during the Cold War did not contribute significantly.
	Option D is incorrect	Protests against various forms of discrimination contributed to the attempt to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s. Women's acceptance of senior management positions in large corporations did not contribute significantly.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
35	<p>Option A is correct</p> <p>Eisenhower's statement refers to his experience during the liberation of Holocaust survivors held in concentration camps. Eisenhower's firsthand account helped expose the crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.</p>
	<p>Option B is incorrect</p> <p>Although many Japanese Americans were interned in the 1940s, Eisenhower was not referring to the treatment of Japanese Americans held in concentration camps.</p>
	<p>Option C is incorrect</p> <p>Although American soldiers were held as prisoners of war by the Axis powers, Eisenhower was not referring to atrocities committed against American soldiers.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>Although thousands of soldiers from the Bataan Death March suffered through starvation and cruelty, Eisenhower was not referring to the liberation of Bataan Death March survivors held in prisoner-of-war camps.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
36	<p>Option “public demonstrations” is correct During the Vietnam War, U.S. citizens marched by the thousands. Students were a big portion of the public demonstrations, since many acted from a common belief that the Vietnam War was wrong.</p>
	<p>Option “burning draft cards” is correct During the Vietnam War, college students tried to organize a national burn-your-draft-card movement, including a protest in New York’s Central Park where more than 150 draft cards were burned.</p>
	<p>Option “lunch counter sit-ins” is incorrect Lunch counter sit-ins were primarily used during the Civil Rights Movement, not during the Vietnam War, as an act of protest.</p>
	<p>Option “voter registration drives” is incorrect Voter registration drives were primarily used during the Civil Rights Movement, not during the Vietnam War, to register African Americans who had never voted before.</p>
	<p>Option “public transportation boycotts” is incorrect Public transportation boycotts were primarily used during the Civil Rights Movement, not during the Vietnam War, as an act of protest.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
37	<p>Option D is correct</p> <p>As a result of the Dust Bowl, federal programs, such as the Soil Erosion Service and the Prairie States Forestry Project, were established to promote and support soil conservation and end the Dust Bowl. For this item, the student analyzes a map to acquire information to answer a historical question.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>Dust Bowl farmers could grow almost nothing, so government reduction of crop prices would have financially destroyed farmers. The government did not eliminate federal farm subsidies.</p>
	<p>Option B is incorrect</p> <p>The lack of trees and the planting of cash crops contributed to the Dust Bowl conditions. The government did not provide tax incentives to replace trees.</p>
	<p>Option C is incorrect</p> <p>Cattle grazing and replacing native grasses with cash crops contributed to the Dust Bowl. The government did not remove land restrictions to expand cattle grazing.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
38	Option D is correct	Organized protests and bus boycotts were characteristics of the Civil Rights Movement.
	Option A is incorrect	Organized protests and bus boycotts are activities characteristic of the Civil Rights Movement. The Reconstruction era predates the invention and public use of buses.
	Option B is incorrect	Organized protests and bus boycotts are activities characteristic of the Civil Rights Movement, not the Roaring 20s. The Harlem Renaissance, economic prosperity, and Prohibition restrictions are characteristics of the Roaring 20s.
	Option C is incorrect	Organized protests and bus boycotts are activities characteristic of the Civil Rights Movement, not the Great Depression. Bank failures, increased unemployment rates, and increased poverty rates are characteristics of the Great Depression.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
39	Option A is correct	The excerpt states that the Met Lab scientists believed that the atomic bomb would cause long-term changes in international relations, including an inevitable arms race. For this item, the student analyzes a primary source to acquire information about the United States.
	Option B is incorrect	There was not agreement among scientists about the atomic bomb. The scientists who created the Franck Report argued in favor of restraining the use of the bomb, but scientists on the Scientific Panel argued that the bomb should be used on Japan.
	Option C is incorrect	The Franck Report correctly predicted that using the atomic bomb on Japan would cause an arms race, not that a demonstration of the atomic bomb would guarantee an alliance with the Soviet Union.
	Option D is incorrect	The scientists at the Met Lab and the scientists of the Scientific Committee disagreed over whether to demonstrate or use the atomic bomb first, but neither group supported testing on small Japanese communities.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
40	<p>Option C is correct</p> <p>Both the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and the Chicano Mural Movement of the 1960s and 1970s generated cultural pride. During the Harlem Renaissance, there was an increase in music, art, literature, and other cultural contributions from African Americans. Similarly, during the Chicano Mural Movement, artists represented Mexican American culture and identity through their artwork.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>Passing anti-lynching legislation was not a goal of either the Harlem Renaissance or the Chicano Mural Movement.</p>
	<p>Option B is incorrect</p> <p>Although labor concerns were represented in the art painted during the Chicano Mural Movement, neither the Chicano Mural Movement nor the Harlem Renaissance secured rights for migrant farm workers.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>Although the Harlem Renaissance and the Chicano Mural Movement focused on the achievements of minority groups, neither worked to achieve voting rights for women.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
41	Option B is correct	On June 25, 1941, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, "banning discriminatory employment practices by federal agencies and unions engaged in war-related work." For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a photograph to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	No legislation barred women from factory employment during World War II. Women were essential members of the wartime workforce.
	Option C is incorrect	The Selective Service Act was enacted in 1940 and addressed military manpower, not factory employment.
	Option D is incorrect	Segregation in public accommodations was outlawed by legislation in the 1960s.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
42	Option A is correct As a result of Sandra Day O'Connor's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court, other women, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Amy Coney Barrett, followed O'Connor as Supreme Court justices. For this item, the student analyzes a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect As a Supreme Court justice, Sandra Day O'Connor was not elected to her position; rather, she was appointed by the president with the consent of the Senate. Furthermore, men continued to dominate politics and to hold many public offices.
	Option C is incorrect The treatment of women in business did not change after the appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court. Women continue to struggle under the glass ceiling in the corporate world.
	Option D is incorrect Sandra Day O'Connor's accomplishments speak more to the normalization of women in the public sphere, particularly in the judicial system, than to exposing the mistreatment of women in their traditional roles.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
43	Option C is correct	Electric lighting allowed laborers to continue their work without being limited to daylight hours, which led to an increase in production.
	Option A is incorrect	Electric lighting allowed more geographic regions to expand production, as long as producers had access to the proper technology and infrastructure.
	Option B is incorrect	Producers needed to manage costs both before and after the development of electric lighting. The implementation of electric lighting in industrial workplaces did not minimize the need for cost management by producers.
	Option D is incorrect	Electric lighting increased energy costs for manufacturers.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
44	Option "A president resigns while in office, and the vice president becomes president" is correct	Under the Twenty-Fifth Amendment, the vice president becomes president when a sitting president resigns.
	Option "A president dies while in office, and the vice president becomes president" is correct	Under the Twenty-Fifth Amendment, the vice president becomes president when a sitting president dies.
	Option "A president fails to win the popular vote, and the president still wins the election" Is incorrect	A president winning an election after failing to win the popular vote is not addressed by the Twenty-Fifth Amendment.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
44	Option "A president fails to win a second term, and a new president is inaugurated" is incorrect	A new president being inaugurated when a sitting president fails to win reelection is not addressed by the Twenty-Fifth Amendment.
	Option "A president wins a second and final term, and the president remains in office" is incorrect	A president being reelected to and serving a second term is not addressed by the Twenty-Fifth Amendment.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
45	Option A is correct	Executive Order 11246 created new economic opportunities for women and minority groups by preventing businesses and organizations paid by the U.S. government from discriminating based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin, ensuring that groups previously discriminated against received equal opportunities for employment. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect	The executive order set a new policy; although the excerpt does not mention revenue, fines for violating the policy could only be assessed after the policy was created.
	Option C is incorrect	Although some private businesses contribute money to political campaigns, Executive Order 11246 does not directly influence political contributions.
	Option D is incorrect	By creating more economic possibilities for women and minority groups, this executive order suggests that more resources were being used to combat harassment and discrimination.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
46	Option D is correct President Johnson's Great Society program led to the creation of the Office of Economic Opportunity. This federal office funded vocational training programs and youth programs (Job Corps), as well as establishing the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and Head Start programs.
	Option A is incorrect The programs attributed to the Great Society included social welfare legislation but did not include the closing of national monuments; rather, five national monuments were added during President Johnson's administration.
	Option B is incorrect While many of the Great Society programs primarily focused on urban areas, some programs focused on the development of depressed rural regions, especially through antipoverty actions and job training. However, these programs were not designed to expand rural community centers.
	Option C is incorrect Defense spending increased during Johnson's administration because of the Vietnam War; ultimately, defense spending took precedence over President Johnson's Great Society programs.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
47	Part A: Option B is correct	The <i>Brown</i> ruling overturned segregation in public schools, which in turn led to the discontinuance of legalized segregation in public schools across the United States. It also overturned a previous Supreme Court case, <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> , that had supported the legality of "separate but equal" segregation. For this item, the student analyzes a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Part A: Option A is incorrect	As a result of <i>Brown</i> , African Americans attained greater rights, including the end of segregation in public schools. The ruling did not lead to an increase in segregation.
	Part A: Option C is incorrect	While the <i>Brown</i> ruling outlawed segregation in public schools, it did not result in automatic racial equality for all American citizens.
	Part A: Option D is incorrect	The ruling in this case did not prevent other minority groups from protesting for fair and equal rights. As a result of the <i>Brown</i> decision, many other groups gained additional rights.
	Part B: Option C is correct	Ruling that the principles of segregation were illegal and did not have a place in public education made legislation that implemented segregationist policies illegal as well. For this item, the student analyzes a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Part B: Option A is incorrect	This quote communicates how the Supreme Court came to consider the legal question "Should schools be segregated?" This quote does not communicate that segregation in schools was determined to be unlawful.
	Part B: Option B is incorrect	This quote from the excerpt references the impact of discrimination as it applies to education.
	Part B: Option D is incorrect	This quote communicates that the contents of the decision clearly show that segregation violates citizens' right to due process.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
48	<p>Option B is correct</p> <p>These actions are associated with Germany's foreign policy when Adolf Hitler was the Nazi leader. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>Benito Mussolini was the fascist leader of Italy, and although Italy was an ally of Germany during World War II, these were actions associated with the German government.</p>
	<p>Option C is incorrect</p> <p>Francisco Franco was the nationalist leader of Spain; these actions were made instead by the German government, of which Adolf Hitler was the leader.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>Joseph Stalin was the communist leader of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union opposed the Axis powers, which included Germany, and the U.S.S.R. was a member of the Allies during World War II.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
49	Option C is correct	The Homestead Act was enacted to encourage the westward migration of settlers. For this item, the student analyzes a primary source to acquire information about the United States.
	Option A is incorrect	The Homestead Act provided land for settlers, not land grants for universities.
	Option B is incorrect	The Homestead Act provided settlers with land that was often part of the ancestral lands of American Indian nations, prompting conflict between settlers and American Indians.
	Option D is incorrect	The Homestead Act provided land for many settlers who were recent immigrants, but it did not expedite the naturalization process for them.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
50	Option A is correct	The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, led to the passage of the Patriot Act. Under this act, the federal government increased surveillance in an effort to prevent future acts of terrorism. For this item, the student uses critical-thinking skills to analyze information and apply chronology.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the bombing of the U.S.S. <i>Cole</i> was an act of terrorism carried out by the same organization that committed the attacks on September 11, 2001, it did not lead to the passage of the Patriot Act.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was an act of domestic terrorism, it did not lead to the passage of the Patriot Act.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, was an act of terrorism, it did not lead to the passage of the Patriot Act.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
51 Option “Loss of votes for major party nominees” is correct	One effect associated with Ralph Nader’s candidacy in 2000 was that he received 2.74% of the popular vote. Some believe that the third-party candidacy took votes from the Democratic candidate and that this swayed the outcome of the election. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills by analyzing information to draw a conclusion.
Option “Greater voter oversight of campaign spending” is incorrect	Ralph Nader’s candidacy for president in 2000 did not cause greater oversight of campaign spending, nor did his involvement lead to changes in campaign spending and oversight.
Option “Guaranteed vote recounts in swing states” is incorrect	The term “swing state” refers to any state that could be won by either of the two major parties and whose vote varies from election to election. Ralph Nader’s candidacy did not cause a recount in swing states in the 2000 election, nor did his candidacy lead to recounts in swing states in later elections.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
52	Option C is correct	The U.S. Congress passed the Interstate Commerce Act to regulate railroad prices and the actions of railroad companies. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	Although farmers attempted to work around the railroad companies, they did not charter their own railroads.
	Option B is incorrect	The Sherman Antitrust Act prohibited the single, dominating control of one corporation, or railroad, in markets where competition was suppressed, but it was not passed to regulate railroad prices.
	Option D is incorrect	Congress did not pass a law allowing railroad companies to sue farmers for exposing a company's rate structure.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
53	Option C is correct	The Berlin Airlift was done to counter Soviet efforts to take over West Berlin, an area controlled by the Allies, and to prevent starvation in West Berlin.
	Option A is incorrect	The United States' response to the Soviet Union's blockade was characterized by supply drops via airplanes, not the enactment of economic sanctions targeting the U.S.S.R.
	Option B is incorrect	The use of tanks to deliver supplies would have raised the possibility of military conflict; the United States' response to the Soviet Union's blockade was characterized by supply drops via airplanes.
	Option D is incorrect	The United States' response to the Soviet Union's blockade was characterized by supply drops via airplanes, not by the use of trade barriers that targeted the Soviet Union.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
54	Option D is correct	The United Farm Workers impacted U.S. society by organizing a nationwide boycott of grapes to guarantee greater protections and rights for migrant workers in agriculture. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a photograph to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The United Farm Workers organized boycotts to help people working in agriculture, including many immigrants. The organization's goal was not to prevent immigrants from working.
	Option B is incorrect	The United Farm Workers organized boycotts to help people working in agriculture. The organization did not introduce new agricultural techniques to the country.
	Option C is incorrect	The United Farm Workers organized boycotts to help people working in agriculture. Their goal was not to raise awareness about environmental issues.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
55	Option B is correct	Space exploration has resulted in the development of new industries, including extensive satellite technology used by civilians, GPS used for navigation, wireless internet, and cellular phones, which have created millions of jobs and helped improve the standard of living.
	Option A is incorrect	Innovations that eliminate certain jobs do not help improve the standard of living.
	Option C is incorrect	Automation technologies often lead to the loss of jobs and do not help improve the standard of living.
	Option D is incorrect	Although some companies have focused on sending people to space, commercial space travel does not improve the standard of living.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
56	Score 2 points for correct answers that include reference to any two geographic obstacles	<p>The tropical climate made for difficult working conditions.</p> <p>A large mosquito population carried deadly malaria and yellow fever.</p> <p>Workers were sparse in the area and were difficult to obtain and transport.</p> <p>Ships on the canal had to be lifted above sea level.</p> <p>Digging through the continental divide was difficult.</p>
	Score 1 point	Response provides only half of the correct details.
	Score 0 points	Does not provide a response, or the response is incorrect or irrelevant.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
57	Option C is correct	This film was created to support the Americanization movement. During this time, the government encouraged immigrant assimilation through several means, including promoting the benefits of learning English. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills by analyzing a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	This film was created to promote assimilation, not to educate immigrants about technology.
	Option B is incorrect	This film was created to encourage assimilation, not to promote the cultures of immigrants.
	Option D is incorrect	This film was created to promote assimilation, not to inspire the creativity of immigrants.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
58	<p>Option B is correct</p> <p>Following the end of the Civil War, entrepreneurial cattle ranchers recognized that owners of newly built railroads were eager to carry more freight from western agricultural lands to population centers in the East. As a result, ranchers and railroad owners entered business partnerships that allowed the cattle industry to experience a period of rapid growth.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>Although the United States traded with foreign markets throughout the 1800s, the United States did not trade in large amounts of cattle or beef. Long transit times and logistical difficulties made this impractical.</p>
	<p>Option C is incorrect</p> <p>Following the end of the Civil War, no widespread food shortages occurred in Northern cities that required the importation of western-raised beef.</p>
	<p>Option D is incorrect</p> <p>Immigrant groups did not willingly sell their homesteaded land to beef producers.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
59	<p>Option A is correct The emergence of the Soviet space program contributed to a federal commitment to improving science and technology education, evidenced by the enactment of the National Defense Education Act of 1958. For this item, the student analyzes a photograph to answer a historical question.</p> <p>Option B is incorrect The emergence of the Soviet space program led to a space race between the two powers that reflected growing Cold War tensions.</p> <p>Option C is incorrect The United States' prioritization of space exploration did not lead to reductions in defense spending.</p> <p>Option D is incorrect The 1950s was an era characterized both by domestic consumerism and by weapons manufacturing in response to the Cold War.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
60	Option C is correct	One criticism of NAFTA was that it contributed to the loss of U.S. jobs when many companies moved their manufacturing to Mexico to take advantage of lower labor costs and thus to increase their profits.
	Option A is incorrect	Lower labor costs in Mexico allowed U.S. companies to boost profits while decreasing, not increasing, consumer prices.
	Option B is incorrect	Lower labor costs in Mexico caused many U.S. companies to move their production there, increasing the number of imports coming into the United States.
	Option D is incorrect	Manufacturing was the most significant business sector affected by NAFTA, but the agreement did not exclude many business sectors in the United States.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
61	Option “I speak for administrative efficiency, for lightened tax burdens . . . for the omission of unnecessary interference of Government with business. . . .” is correct	President Harding believed that the United States government was overseeing the economy too closely. He supported a reduction in government oversight and a decrease in taxes to help the domestic economy grow after World War I. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option “. . . Opportunity is calling not alone for the restoration, but for a new era in production, transportation and trade. . . .” is correct	Harding’s domestic economic policies are demonstrated in this statement. By lowering taxes and limiting government interference, Harding hoped to boost the U.S. economy. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option “America is ready to encourage, eager to initiate, anxious to participate in any seemly program likely to lessen the probability of war. . . .” is incorrect	This statement reflects President Harding’s adoption of a foreign policy position, not his domestic economic policies following World War I.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
61	<p>Option “I wish for an America no less alert in guarding against dangers from within than it is watchful against enemies from without. . . .” is incorrect</p> <p>Although this statement suggests that a change is needed to safeguard the United States, it does not reflect Harding’s domestic economic policies.</p>
	<p>Option “. . . Believing in our higher standards, reared through constitutional liberty and maintained opportunity, we invite the world to the same heights.” is incorrect</p> <p>This call for constitutional liberty and opportunity throughout the world does not outline Harding’s domestic economic policies, which included lowering taxes and limiting government interference in business.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
62	Option C is correct	The excerpt shows that Muhammad Ali's anti-war stance gained attention but came at a high personal cost. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills by analyzing a secondary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The excerpt provides no support that Ali discouraged others from opposing the war, and it is more accurate to say that his actions helped strengthen the anti-war movement.
	Option B is incorrect	The excerpt shows that Ali was banned from the sport for his actions, so there were no events he could participate in.
	Option D is incorrect	The excerpt does not support that Ali encouraged other athletes to boycott their sport, nor did this happen.

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
63	<p>Option D is correct</p> <p>In response to cascading events resulting from the 2007–8 financial crisis, the U.S. government passed an \$800 billion stimulus bill. The goals of this financial stimulus package included saving and creating jobs, helping the unemployed, and providing direct financial aid to U.S. automobile manufacturers.</p>
	<p>Option A is incorrect</p> <p>Although the U.S. government used billions of dollars to purchase troubled mortgage-related assets from financial firms during the 2007–8 financial crisis, the government did not nationalize large corporations.</p>
	<p>Option B is incorrect</p> <p>The U.S. government took aggressive actions in response to the 2007–8 financial crisis. This approach was directly opposed to a laissez-faire economic policy.</p>
	<p>Option C is incorrect</p> <p>The U.S. government did not withdraw the country from regional trade agreements in the wake of the 2007–8 financial crisis. Having done so arguably would have created additional economic disruptions.</p>

STAAR Spring 2024 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
64	Option A is correct	Following Reconstruction, and then again in the early 20th century, the Ku Klux Klan used violence, in the form of lynchings, beatings, and burnings, to intimidate African Americans and to prevent them from participating in the political process.
	Option B is incorrect	The Ku Klux Klan supported discrimination based on religion, but it did not file lawsuits to do so. This organization most commonly used violence to intimidate African American voters.
	Option C is incorrect	The Ku Klux Klan's acts of violence were mainly directed at African Americans themselves, and the KKK was not known to use petitions to get what it wanted.
	Option D is incorrect	The Ku Klux Klan mostly relied on the use of violence, not local ordinances, to achieve its goals.