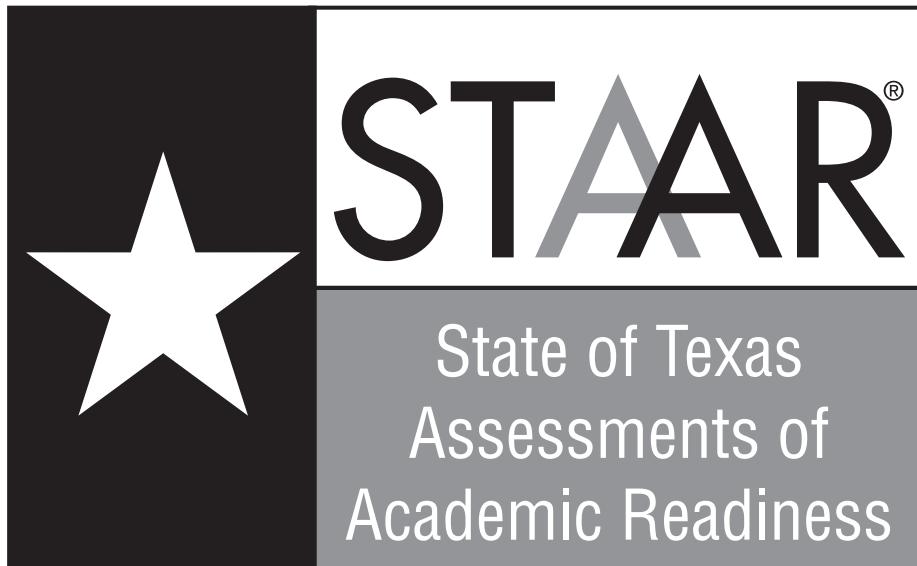


Texas STAAR 2021 U.S. History

**Exam Materials
Pages 2 - 41**

**Answer Key Materials
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U.S. History

Administered May 2021

RELEASED

DIRECTIONS

Read each question carefully. Determine the best answer to the question from the four answer choices provided. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

1 Read the list and answer the question that follows.

- Growth of social media
- Increased use of cell phones
- Election of first African American president

Which time period is represented by this information?

- A** 1970s
 - B** 1980s
 - C** 1990s
 - D** 2000s
-

2 Which action did Congress take to help protect native plants and animals from extinction?

- F** Passed the Endangered Species Act
- G** Constructed the Hoover Dam
- H** Passed the Community Reinvestment Act
- J** Established the Department of Energy

- 3 Study the table and answer the question that follows.

Workers, Aged 10–14, in the United States: 1870–1930
(thousands)

Year	Workers Aged 10–14	Workers Aged 10–14 as % of Workforce
1890	1,504	6.50
1910	1,622	4.34
1930	667	1.37

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Which reason contributed to the trend shown in this table?

- A The number of factories using assembly lines decreased.
- B A progressive movement worked to stop the use of child labor.
- C A political movement worked to lower taxes for businesses.
- D The number of people joining labor unions decreased.

4 Study the photograph and answer the question that follows.

World's First Skyscraper,
Chicago, Illinois, 1884



Source: Library of Congress, Prints and
Photographs Division

Which development made it possible to construct this type of building?

- F** The invention of a new process for manufacturing steel
- G** The government's focus on educating engineers
- H** The manufacturing of glass that blocks ultraviolet sun rays
- J** The importation of stronger kinds of wood

5 Read the list and answer the question that follows.

- Suffrage for African American men
- Suffrage for women
- Suffrage for 18-year-old men and women

How were these rights formally obtained?

- A** By granting citizenship to immigrants
 - B** By passing antitrust legislation
 - C** By ratifying constitutional amendments
 - D** By engaging in an international conflict
-

6 What was one result of the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s?

- F** State governments took over the responsibility of protecting minority rights.
 - G** The federal government was no longer responsible for protecting natural resources.
 - H** State governments could no longer control their budgets.
 - J** The federal government provided aid to people suffering from unemployment.
-

7 Which statement describes one of the MOST important reasons why the United States annexed the Kingdom of Hawaii?

- A** The islands offered excellent locations for tropical resorts.
- B** The local residents needed help to prevent the spread of poverty and disease.
- C** The location was strategically valuable to both military and business leaders.
- D** The local rulers wanted financial assistance to rebuild after a natural disaster.

- 8** Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

"Do Everything"

An all-round movement can only be carried forward by all-round advocates. . . . Our WCTU *is a school*. . . . Here we try our wings that . . . we may calmly take our places and prove to the world that what it needed most was two heads in counsel as well as "two beside the hearth." When that day comes, the nation shall no longer miss as now the influence of half its wisdom, more than half its purity and nearly all its gentleness, in courts of justice and halls of legislation. Then shall one code of morals—and that the highest—govern both men and women; then shall the Sabbath be respected, the rights of the poor be recognized, the liquor traffic banished, and the home protected from all its foes.

—A Handbook for the World's White Ribboners, 1895

How did the White Ribboners contribute to U.S. society during the late 1800s?

- F** By supporting the movement to end Reconstruction and Jim Crow
- G** By establishing labor unions for women and children
- H** By winning the right to vote for African Americans and immigrants
- J** By leading efforts to achieve prohibition and women's suffrage

- 9** Study the table and answer the question that follows.

Agreements within the Geneva Accords, 1954

Agreement 1	The French government and the North Vietnamese forces agreed to a cease-fire and a temporary division of Vietnam along the 17th parallel.
Agreement 2	Neither North Vietnam nor South Vietnam would join alliances with outside parties, and general elections to unify the country were scheduled for 1956.

Why was the United States concerned about Agreement 2?

- A** Officials believed the election would lead to a civil war and revolution.
 - B** Congress members feared foreign policy decisions would lead to criticism at home.
 - C** The administration opposed the creation of regional alliances.
 - D** Leaders feared communist officials would win the election and take over the country.
-

- 10** Which action BEST prepares a responsible citizen to vote?

- F** Staying informed about issues affecting the country and communities
- G** Defending the country through military service if the need arises
- H** Getting a high-paying job with health care and retirement benefits
- J** Participating on a grand jury on a regular basis

11 Study the photograph and answer the question that follows.

Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Mao Zedong
Shakes Hands with U.S. President Richard Nixon,
February 29, 1971



Source: NARA

What was one of President Nixon's goals for the meeting shown in this photograph?

- A** To negotiate the withdrawal of U.S. and Chinese soldiers from Korea
 - B** To create a military alliance with China against the Soviet Union
 - C** To create an agreement limiting Chinese and Soviet development of nuclear weapons
 - D** To normalize relations between the United States and China
-

12 What has been one effect of population growth on the physical environment?

- F** Increased supplies of underground water
- G** Increased damage to coastal ecosystems
- H** Decreased greenhouse gas emissions
- J** Decreased air pollution levels

13 Which statement describes how the GI Bill affected the United States during the 1950s?

- A** The act allowed members of minority groups to join the armed forces because it desegregated the military.
 - B** The financial regulations in the act protected the deposits of bank customers.
 - C** The educational benefits included in the act helped provide training to military veterans.
 - D** The act provided employment opportunities for women because it made discrimination in the workplace illegal.
-

14 Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

In the 1896 case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court decided that the Equal Protection Clause allowed state governments to apply the “separate but equal” provision to public facilities.

What was one way the decision described in this passage affected the United States in the first half of the twentieth century?

- F** Minorities were not allowed to attend schools with whites.
 - G** Poll taxes in federal elections were ruled unconstitutional.
 - H** Affirmative action programs were ruled unconstitutional.
 - J** Minorities were not allowed to join the military.
-

15 Which U.S. action was the MOST direct and immediate response to the Soviet blockade of West Berlin?

- A** Airlifting supplies to people in West Berlin
- B** Creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- C** Withdrawing military forces from West Berlin
- D** Providing financial support to help rebuild European nations

16 Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

Evidence for “productivity miracles” arising from the computer and from information technology (IT) in general appears to be all around us . . . The New York Stock Exchange handles electronically a volume of transactions that was inconceivable in the pre-computer age. Businesses nowadays can compute and communicate far faster than they could, say, a decade or two ago.

—Alan S. Blinder and Richard E. Quant, *“The Computer and the Economy,”* The Atlantic, December 1997

How has use of the technology described in this excerpt impacted the United States?

- F** By increasing the number of workers in the agricultural sector
- G** By increasing the amount of time used to manufacture goods
- H** By increasing the efficiency of workers and businesses
- J** By increasing the health and safety risks faced by industrial workers

17 What effect did the sinking of the *Lusitania* have on World War I?

- A** Germany joined the Central Powers.
- B** U.S. public opinion shifted against Germany.
- C** Germany refused to join the League of Nations.
- D** U.S. leaders proposed a military alliance with Germany.

- 18** These photographs show a group of Chiricahua Apache students on their first day of school at the Carlisle Indian School and the same students four months later, 1886–1887.



Source: National Museum of the American Indian

These photographs provide evidence that one goal of the Carlisle Indian School was to —

- F** restore U.S. citizenship to American Indians
- G** encourage the study of American Indian religious practices
- H** protect American Indians from nativist policies
- J** assimilate American Indians into U.S. culture

-
- 19** Read the list and answer the question that follows.

U.S. Responses to the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001

- Obtained a pledge of support from NATO and the United Nations
- Passed the USA PATRIOT Act to improve counter-terrorism efforts
- _____?

Which response correctly replaces the question mark on this list?

- A** Imposed economic sanctions on Israel
- B** Provided humanitarian support to Iran
- C** Conducted military operations in Afghanistan
- D** Declared war against Pakistan

- 20** Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

In the opinion of the Government of the United States the coming of Chinese laborers to this country endangers the good order of certain localities. . . . Therefore, Be it enacted . . . That . . . the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States be . . . suspended. . . .

—*Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882*

Which factor prompted the passage of this legislation?

- F** Denial of labor union membership for unskilled workers
- G** Increased nativism and anti-immigrant attitudes
- H** Wage increases for workers in manufacturing positions
- J** Increased U.S. involvement in foreign wars and conflicts

-
- 21** How did the United States respond to the launch of *Sputnik I* in 1957 by the Soviet Union?

- A** By increasing health care benefits and pensions for the military
 - B** By implementing the Marshall Plan
 - C** By increasing funding for math and science education
 - D** By joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
-

- 22** How did the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine affect the role of the United States in the world?

- F** By establishing military alliances with Asian nations
- G** By proclaiming a policy of isolationism
- H** By creating a plan to stop the spread of communism
- J** By announcing a willingness to intervene in the affairs of Western Hemisphere nations

23 Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

New Orleans is surrounded by water—Lake Pontchartrain, the Mississippi River, and the nearby Gulf of Mexico. Resting an average of six feet (two meters) below 1, the city's safety has long depended on one of the world's most extensive 2.

—Brian Handwerk, *National Geographic News*, September 2, 2005

Which pair of phrases correctly completes this quote?

- A**
- 1) the earth's surface
 - 2) highway systems

- C**
- 1) sea level
 - 2) levee systems

- B**
- 1) fault lines
 - 2) earthquake alarm systems

- D**
- 1) high tide
 - 2) canal systems

24 How does the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) continue to affect U.S. citizens?

- F** By regulating loans made to investors who buy stocks on margin
- G** By changing interest rates to prevent people from paying higher prices for goods
- H** By providing financial assistance to elderly people who are retired
- J** By protecting the savings of bank customers during an economic crisis

25 Study the photograph and answer the question that follows.

At the Bus Station in Durham, North Carolina, 1940

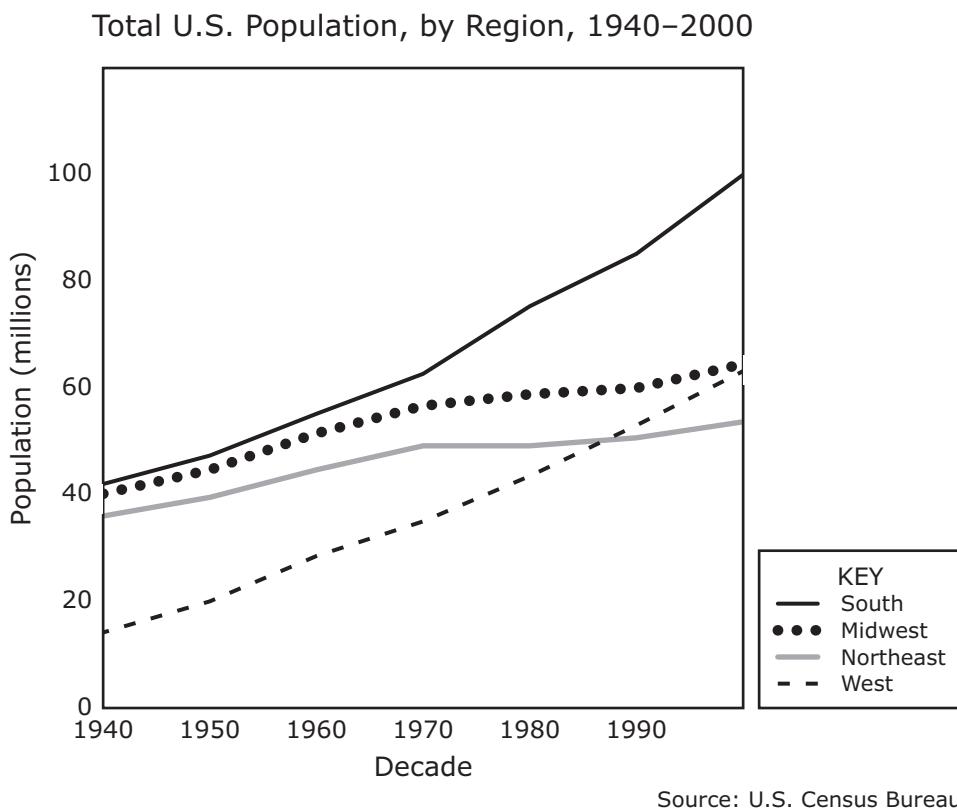


Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

What did the federal government do to address the social injustice shown in this photograph?

- A** Enforced the *Wisconsin v. Yoder* decision protecting First Amendment rights
- B** Established the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to promote voting rights
- C** Passed civil rights legislation banning segregation in public places
- D** Issued an executive order prohibiting limits on interstate migration

26 Study the graph and answer the question that follows.



What were two reasons for the population patterns shown on this graph?

- F** More passenger trains and better subway systems in the Sun Belt
- G** More government regulation and fewer natural disasters in the Sun Belt
- H** More job opportunities and lower cost of living in the Sun Belt
- J** More cultural diversity and better funding for public education in the Sun Belt

27 Study the cartoon and answer the question that follows.

"Look before you eat—and see
if you can discover any unadulterated food."



Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

How did the concerns depicted in this cartoon affect the food industry?

- A** The food industry increased the cost of products in order to pay for chemical additives.
- B** The federal government regulated the food industry in order to protect the health of the public.
- C** The food industry imported more goods from Europe in order to offer customers more choices.
- D** The federal government passed antitrust legislation in order to increase competition in the food industry.

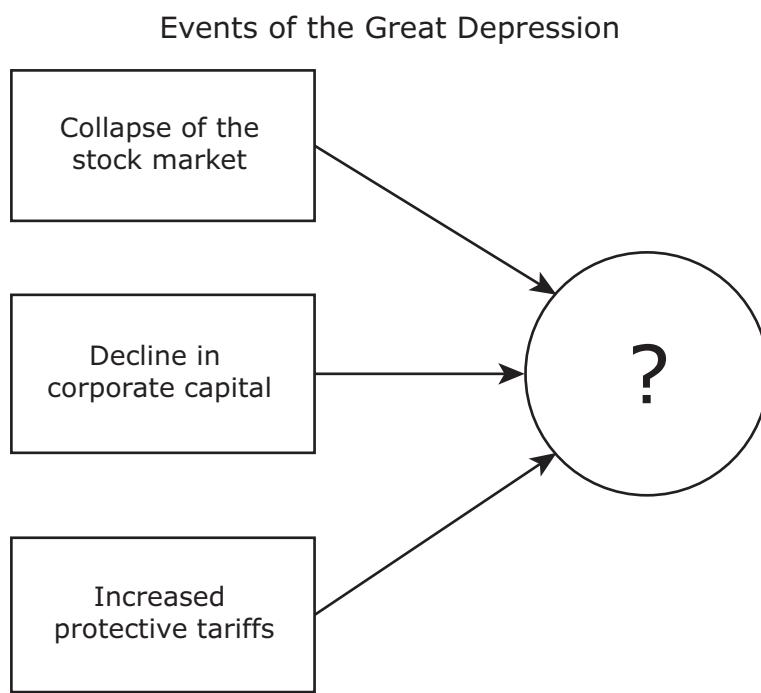
28 Which statement describes how the Transcontinental Railroad affected the United States during the late 1800s?

- F** The railroad contributed to the rapid settlement and growth of towns in the West.
 - G** The railroad caused a rapid decline in agriculture and mining in the West.
 - H** The railroad contributed to population growth and increased sharecropping in the East.
 - J** The railroad prompted Congress to buy land and create national parks in the East.
-

29 In the 1960s which action of the Black Panthers was MOST DIFFERENT from the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

- A** Writing a ten-point platform that demanded decent housing
- B** Using armed patrols to protect neighborhoods
- C** Operating the Free Breakfast for Children Program
- D** Creating “survival” programs that included medical and legal aid

30 Study the diagram and answer the question that follows.



Which phrase correctly replaces the question mark in this diagram?

- F** Increase in minimum wage
- G** Growth of immigration
- H** Increase in unemployment
- J** Growth in consumer spending

31 Why was President Ronald Reagan criticized for the Iran-Contra Affair?

- A** His administration supported a revolution against an elected leader in Iran.
- B** His policies involved the sharing of nuclear technology with Iran.
- C** His policies threatened petroleum trade agreements with Iran.
- D** His administration violated an embargo by selling weapons to Iran.

32 Study the poster and answer the question that follows.



Source: NARA

What was the purpose of this World War II poster?

- F** To persuade women to purchase food ration coupons
- G** To encourage families to put more money into bank savings accounts
- H** To encourage citizens to help pay for the costs of the war
- J** To persuade women to pay for the release of prisoners of war

33 Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

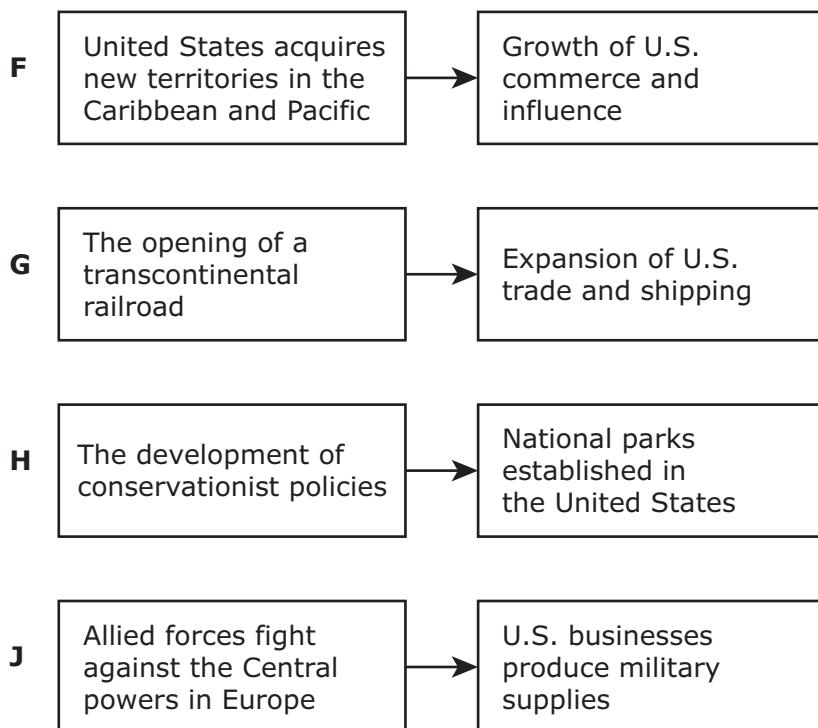
U.S. TV studios send a lot of their shows to Russia. . . . We're not just talking . . . dubbed over in another language. . . . These are . . . remakes in which characters and storylines have been adapted to reflect local . . . sensibilities.

—Tim Newcomb, Time Magazine, October 2013

Which concept is BEST described by this excerpt?

- A** Cultural diffusion
- B** Nativism
- C** Social Darwinism
- D** Containment

34 Which diagram shows a cause-and-effect relationship related to the Spanish-American War?



35 Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

In 1966, Congress authorized the federal government to set safety standards for new cars. By 1968, seat belts, padded dashboards, and other safety features were mandatory equipment.

—“*America on the Move*” Exhibit, National Museum of American History, www.amhistory.si.edu (accessed August 29, 2017)

What was one intended effect of this government action?

- A** To reduce the use of gasoline by consumers
- B** To reduce traffic on interstate highways
- C** To improve the life expectancy of consumers
- D** To increase the use of railroads

36 Study the cartoon and answer the question that follows.



Why was the bill in this cartoon important to President Franklin D. Roosevelt?

- F** He wanted to strengthen the congressional power of impeachment.
- G** He wanted to strengthen federal judicial authority over state governments.
- H** He wanted to remove congressional leaders from office.
- J** He wanted to weaken the power of the judicial branch over the executive.

37 What was the MAIN reason tanks were introduced during World War I?

- A** To locate and remove land mines from the battlefield
- B** To transport military supplies to the front lines
- C** To overcome trench defenses and end stalemates
- D** To monitor enemy troop movements

- 38** Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 allowed investigators to obtain books, records, papers, documents and other items sought "in connection with" a terror investigation.

Argument For Section 215	Argument Against Section 215
Increased investigative authority is needed to avert a future terrorist attack.	If investigators have these broad powers, the _____?_____ will be ignored.

Which phrase correctly replaces the question mark in this table?

- F** right to privacy
- G** right to bear arms
- H** right to a speedy trial
- J** right to an attorney

39 Study the photograph and answer the question that follows.



Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez saved the lives of fellow soldiers while under heavy enemy attack and after sustaining wounds while assisting on a team extraction in Vietnam on May 2, 1968.

In recognition of the actions described above, Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was —

- A** given an early honorable discharge from U.S. military service
- B** awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor
- C** made an honorary member of the United Nations
- D** awarded the Legion of Honor ribbon

40 Read the list and answer the question that follows.

- African Americans migrated from the rural South to the urban North.
- Literacy rates among African Americans increased.
- National organizations dedicated to African American civil rights were created.

The developments on this list contributed to what development of the 1920s and 1930s?

- F** African American painters of the Hudson River School focused on the beauty of nature.
- G** African American architects created the Neoclassical style based on Roman and Greek models.
- H** African American artists and writers celebrated their culture in a movement called the Harlem Renaissance.
- J** African American musicians developed rock and roll music based on African rhythms and beats.

41 What were two economic effects of World War II on the home front?

A

- Increased number of women working in industrial jobs
- Increased income tax rates

B

- Increased number of labor union strikes
- Increased production of consumer goods

C

- Decreased size of the national debt
- Decreased efforts to recycle metal for the military

D

- Decreased government funding for nuclear weapons research
- Decreased sale of government savings bonds

42 Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

The United States is the world's best hope, but if you fetter her in the . . . quarrels of other nations, if you tangle her in the intrigues of Europe, you will destroy her powerful good, and endanger her very existence. Leave her to march freely through the centuries to come, as in the years that have gone. Strong, generous, and confident, she has nobly served mankind.

—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, 1919

Why did Senator Lodge express this opinion about the Treaty of Versailles?

- F** He wanted to prevent the spread of the global flu epidemic.
 - G** He wanted to protect secret U.S. nuclear technology.
 - H** He wanted the United States to join an international league.
 - J** He wanted to protect U.S. sovereignty in international relations.
-

43 What is one way the Civil Rights Movement impacted the United States?

- A** By increasing diversity in the workplace
- B** By leading to the creation of a national health care system
- C** By increasing the globalization of the economy
- D** By leading to the passage of antitrust laws

44 Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

—Declaration of Independence

What is the meaning of unalienable rights?

- F** Rights that change over time
- G** Rights that cannot be taken away or denied
- H** Rights that only governments can provide
- J** Rights that cannot be defined and protected

45 Study the image and answer the question that follows.

"Welcome to the Land of Freedom"—
An Ocean Steamer Passing the Statue of Liberty, 1887



Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

Why were people like those shown in this image hopeful about their future?

- A** Nativism and Social Darwinism were expanding in American cities.
- B** The U.S. social security system provided financial and medical benefits.
- C** There were many jobs and business opportunities in America.
- D** American cities had large and comfortable tenement apartment buildings.

- 46** Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

In a unanimous decision, the Court held that the Equal Protection Clause required that Sweatt be admitted to the university. . . .

—“*Sweatt v. Painter*,” www.oyez.org
(accessed November 29, 2017)

How did the decision in this 1950 case benefit minorities?

- F** By setting a precedent for *Brown v. Board of Education*
- G** By reinforcing the decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- H** By giving state governments the power to create school programs
- J** By allowing for the creation of religious schools

-
- 47** Read the list and answer the question that follows.

Selected Achievements of Marcus Garvey

- Founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association
- Established the Black Star Line steamship corporation
- Established the weekly newspaper Negro World for people of African descent

How did Marcus Garvey MOST impact African Americans in the early 1900s?

- A** By desegregating schools and urban neighborhoods
- B** By urging blacks to accept low-paying jobs and social inequality
- C** By promoting black cultural pride and economic independence
- D** By supporting the use of violence to overthrow government and win reforms

- 48** Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

"Veto of the War Powers Resolution"

House Joint Resolution 542 [The War Powers Act] would attempt to take away, by a mere legislative act, authorities which the President has properly exercised under the Constitution for almost 200 years. One of its provisions would automatically cut off certain authorities after sixty days unless the Congress extended them.

—President Richard Nixon, October 24, 1973

Why did Congress override the veto described in this excerpt?

- F** Congress wanted to expand its power to provide funding to the military.
- G** Congress wanted to limit the president's power to send U.S. troops into armed conflicts.
- H** Congress wanted to regain control over its treaty-making powers.
- J** Congress wanted to give the president the power to make battlefield decisions.

49 Study the photograph and answer the question that follows.

Cars Wait in Long Lines at Gas Pump, 1979



Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

How did the U.S. government work to change this situation?

- A** By encouraging the development of alternative forms of fuel
- B** By increasing the speed limit on interstate highways
- C** By decreasing funding for electrical power stations
- D** By discouraging exploration for fossil fuels

- 50** Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

The Republic of Korea, and the freedom seeking people of North Korea . . . seek for themselves a united, self-governing and sovereign country, independent of foreign control and support and with membership in the United Nations. In their desire for unity and independence, they are supported by the United Nations. The United States has a deep interest in the continuing progress of the Korean people toward these objectives.

—President Harry S. Truman, special message to Congress, June 7, 1949

What was the PRIMARY goal of the foreign policy described in this excerpt?

- F** To increase U.S. colonization of Asia
- G** To prevent the spread of communist influence in Asia
- H** To end trade sanctions against Asian countries
- J** To protect U.S. soldiers stationed in Asian countries

-
- 51** During the late 1960s, Mexican American students in Los Angeles participated in the Chicano movement by organizing school walkouts. What was the PRIMARY goal of these walkouts?

- A** To end the use of poll taxes for voting
- B** To raise awareness of insufficient educational opportunities
- C** To protest the rising cost of college education
- D** To support the passage of a minimum wage law

52 Study the cartoon and answer the question that follows.



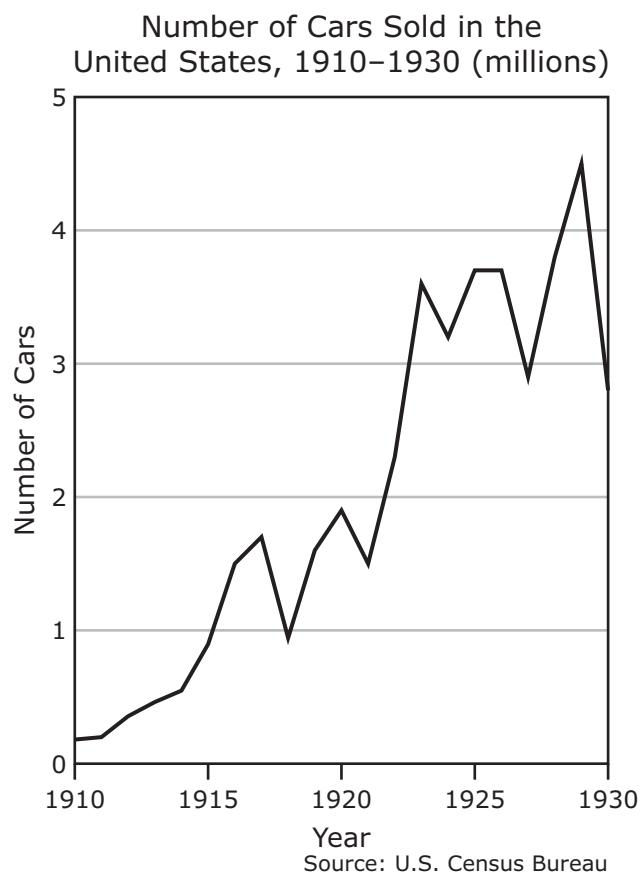
What was the PRIMARY objective of the actions represented in this 1945 cartoon?

- F** To stop Japan from cutting off supply lines into China
- G** To prevent Japan from invading China for natural resources
- H** To force Japan to accept terms of unconditional surrender
- J** To punish Japan for its treatment of soldiers at Bataan

53 Which action opposed the civil rights advances that the Reconstruction amendments had promised?

- A** The temperance movement
- B** The passage of Jim Crow laws
- C** The passage of antitrust legislation
- D** The conservation movement

54 Study the graph and answer the question that follows.



Which reason BEST explains the change in the number of cars sold between 1910 and 1925?

- F** Cars became more available because of the passage of antitrust laws.
- G** Cars became more affordable because of the removal of wartime price controls.
- H** Cars became more affordable because of the introduction of the assembly line.
- J** Cars became more available because of the removal of tariffs after a global conflict.

- 55** Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

Hence arises the maxim that everyone is the best and the sole judge of his own private interest, and that society has no right to control a man's actions, unless they are prejudicial to the common weal [good] or unless the common weal [good] demands his co-operation. This doctrine is universally admitted in the United States.

—*Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America*

Which U.S. government action is MOST CLOSELY based on this idea?

- A** The federal government passes laws to protect individual liberties.
 - B** The Supreme Court votes to approve the appointment of presidential cabinet members.
 - C** The Electoral College votes to approve the winner of congressional elections.
 - D** The federal government passes laws to regulate businesses.
-

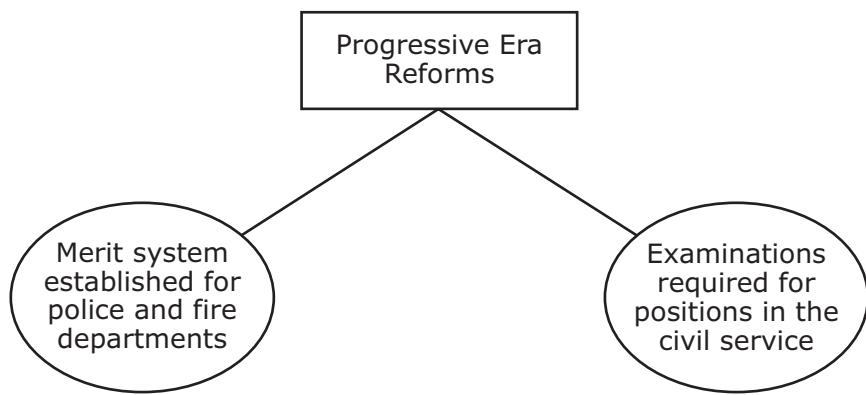
- 56** Which question is associated with the passage of the Espionage and Sedition Acts during World War I?

- F** Should industries be allowed to prohibit workers from joining unions?
 - G** Can the government require citizens to purchase war bonds?
 - H** At what age should citizens be required to enlist in a branch of the military?
 - J** Can the government limit the constitutional rights of citizens during wartime?
-

- 57** What was one way the role of women in society changed during the 1920s?

- A** They were granted the right to attend public schools.
- B** They were allowed to own property.
- C** They were allowed increased participation in the political process.
- D** They were granted the right to serve in military combat units.

58 Study the diagram and answer the question that follows.



Which factor contributed MOST to these changes?

- F** The rising costs of national defense
- G** Threats posed by immigrant radicals
- H** Abuses of the spoils system by political machines
- J** The inefficiency of large corporations

- 59** Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

“Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to
Samuel M. Walton”

This visit is not about Sam Walton’s wealth. He has earned his money, and that’s his business. He’s been generous with his fortune, and that is in the great tradition of America’s commitment to this concept that I call a Thousand Points of Light. . . . You see—you know this, but many around the country might not—you see, he had hit upon a combination that was to form the basis of the strategy of today’s Wal-Mart Stores, smalltown markets for name-brand merchandise sold at a discount.

—President George H. W. Bush, March 17, 1992

How did Sam Walton benefit the U.S. economy?

- A** By providing jobs in rural areas across the country
- B** By inventing new technologies that helped create the internet
- C** By building jewelry shops that sold luxury goods
- D** By investing his money in the space technology industry

-
- 60** Why did the government implement a draft during the Vietnam War?

- F** To monitor ethnic groups for espionage activities
- G** To fund the war by authorizing the sale of government bonds
- H** To regulate freedom of expression at antiwar demonstrations
- J** To provide the military with additional manpower

61 Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

Other industrialists, including John D. Rockefeller, merged the operations of many large companies to form a trust. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Trust came to monopolize 90% of the industry. . . .

—“*The Industrial Revolution in the United States*,” Library of Congress, www.loc.gov (accessed August 25, 2017)

What was one DIRECT effect of the business practice discussed in this excerpt?

- A** Employees were prevented from buying stock.
- B** There was decreased competition among producers.
- C** Consumers were denied access to goods.
- D** There was a lack of employment opportunities for immigrants.

62 Read the list and answer the question that follows.

- Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
- National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)

How have these groups influenced U.S. culture?

- F** By supporting government funding of the arts and sciences
- G** By supporting increased environmental protections
- H** By supporting the implementation of social reforms
- J** By supporting the development of free trade practices

63 Read the list and answer the question that follows.

Reasons for the Great Depression

- Collapse of the stock market
- Loss of consumer confidence
- _____?

Which reason correctly replaces the question mark on this list?

- A** Decrease in interest rates
 - B** Failure of banks
 - C** Outsourcing of manufacturing jobs
 - D** Outbreak of a global war
-

64 How has the free enterprise system contributed to technological innovation?

- F** Companies have reduced their production of goods.
 - G** Companies have limited the number of employees they hire.
 - H** Companies have established industry-wide pricing policies.
 - J** Companies have competed to make better products.
-

65 What was one effect of rock and roll music on U.S. society during the 1950s?

- A** Fewer musicians gave live musical performances.
- B** People were exposed to more diverse musical styles.
- C** Music stores sold fewer musical instruments.
- D** Many religious groups actively supported the new musical culture.

66 Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked. . . .

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, address to Congress,
December 8, 1941

Which statement correctly summarizes the reason for this speech?

- F** Axis violations of international law caused the United States to hold criminal trials.
 - G** German expansion in Western Europe caused the United States to assist France.
 - H** Japanese aggression in the Pacific caused the United States to declare war.
 - J** Allied defeats on the battlefield caused the United States to develop new weapons.
-

67 Why were vaccination programs developed during the twentieth century?

- A** To assist doctors in diagnosing injuries
 - B** To assist farmers in irrigating crops
 - C** To protect agricultural products from insects
 - D** To prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases
-

68 Which action was a goal of President Barack Obama's administration?

- F** Introducing reforms to health care insurance
- G** Easing restrictions for gun ownership
- H** Reducing regulations for offshore drilling
- J** Requiring women to register for the draft

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.



Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Process Student Expectation	Correct Answer
1	1	Readiness	H.2(A)	H.28(B)	D
2	2	Supporting	H.14(B)	H.28(B)	F
3	1	Readiness	H.5(A)	H.28(A)	B
4	4	Readiness	H.26(A)	H.28(A)	F
5	3	Readiness	H.22(A)	H.28(B)	C
6	3	Readiness	H.18(A)	H.29(B)	J
7	1	Supporting	H.4(B)	H.28(B)	C
8	2	Supporting	H.25(D)	H.28(A)	J
9	1	Readiness	H.8(D)	H.28(B)	D
10	3	Supporting	H.22(C)	H.28(B)	F
11	1	Supporting	H.10(A)	H.28(A)	D
12	2	Readiness	H.14(A)	H.28(B)	G
13	4	Readiness	H.17(B)	H.29(B)	C
14	3	Readiness	H.20(A)	H.28(B)	F
15	1	Readiness	H.8(A)	H.28(B)	A
16	4	Supporting	H.26(C)	H.28(A)	H
17	1	Readiness	H.4(C)	H.28(B)	B
18	2	Supporting	H.25(B)	H.28(B)	J
19	1	Readiness	H.11(A)	H.28(B)	C
20	2	Readiness	H.13(B)	H.28(A)	G
21	4	Supporting	H.17(C)	H.28(B)	C
22	1	Readiness	H.4(A)	H.28(B)	J
23	2	Readiness	H.12(A)	H.28(B)	C
24	4	Supporting	H.16(E)	H.29(B)	J
25	1	Readiness	H.9(G)	H.28(A)	C
26	2	Readiness	H.13(A)	H.30(B)	H
27	4	Readiness	H.15(B)	H.28(A)	B
28	4	Supporting	H.15(A)	H.28(B)	F
29	1	Supporting	H.9(E)	H.28(B)	B
30	4	Readiness	H.16(C)	H.28(B)	H
31	1	Readiness	H.10(C)	H.29(B)	D
32	1	Supporting	H.7(F)	H.28(A)	H
33	2	Supporting	H.24(C)	H.28(B)	A
34	4	Readiness	H.15(D)	H.28(B)	F
35	4	Readiness	H.27(A)	H.28(A)	C
36	3	Readiness	H.19(B)	H.28(A)	J
37	1	Supporting	H.4(E)	H.28(B)	C
38	3	Supporting	H.18(D)	H.28(B)	F
39	3	Supporting	H.23(B)	H.28(A)	B
40	2	Supporting	H.24(A)	H.28(B)	H
41	4	Readiness	H.17(A)	H.28(B)	A
42	1	Readiness	H.4(F)	H.28(A)	J
43	1	Readiness	H.9(I)	H.28(B)	A
44	1	Supporting	H.1(A)	H.29(B)	G
45	1	Readiness	H.3(C)	H.28(A)	C
46	1	Supporting	H.9(J)	H.28(A)	F
47	1	Supporting	H.6(B)	H.28(B)	C
48	3	Supporting	H.19(A)	H.28(A)	G
49	4	Readiness	H.17(E)	H.28(A)	A
50	1	Readiness	H.8(C)	H.28(A)	G
51	2	Readiness	H.25(A)	H.28(B)	B
52	1	Readiness	H.7(D)	H.28(A)	H
53	1	Readiness	H.9(B)	H.28(B)	B
54	4	Supporting	H.16(A)	H.28(A)	H
55	3	Supporting	H.21(A)	H.28(A)	A
56	3	Readiness	H.18(B)	H.28(B)	J
57	1	Readiness	H.6(A)	H.28(B)	C
58	1	Readiness	H.3(A)	H.28(B)	H
59	1	Supporting	H.11(D)	H.28(A)	A
60	1	Readiness	H.8(F)	H.28(B)	J
61	1	Readiness	H.3(B)	H.28(A)	B
62	2	Readiness	H.25(C)	H.28(B)	H
63	4	Readiness	H.16(B)	H.28(B)	B
64	4	Supporting	H.27(B)	H.28(B)	J
65	2	Readiness	H.24(B)	H.28(B)	B
66	1	Readiness	H.7(A)	H.28(A)	H
67	4	Supporting	H.26(B)	H.29(B)	D
68	1	Supporting	H.11(B)	H.28(B)	F

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	Social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube were launched in the mid-2000s. Cell phone use began to increase significantly in the 2000s. Barack Obama was elected president in 2008. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to categorize information.
	Option A is incorrect	Social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube were not launched until the 2000s. Cell phone use did not increase significantly until the 2000s. The first African American president, Barack Obama, was elected to the presidency in 2008.
	Option B is incorrect	Social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube were not launched until the 2000s. Cell phone use did not increase significantly until the 2000s. The first African American president, Barack Obama, was elected to the presidency in 2008.
	Option C is incorrect	Social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube were not launched until the 2000s. Cell phone use did not increase significantly until the 2000s. The first African American president, Barack Obama, was elected to the presidency in 2008.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
2	Option F is correct	Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973 to protect plants and animals. The purpose of the act is to protect species that are in danger of extinction and help the ecosystems upon which they depend recover. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option G is incorrect	Congress authorized the construction of the Hoover Dam to supply power and water to the southwestern United States.
	Option H is incorrect	Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act to require financial institutions to meet the needs of people in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.
	Option J is incorrect	Congress established the Department of Energy to govern the nation's nuclear weapons program and supervise domestic energy production.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
3	Option B is correct	The table shows that child labor in the United States decreased from 1890 to 1930. The decrease was due to reformers campaigning to stop the use of child labor. Progressives used the results of investigations, photographic evidence of terrible work conditions, and lobbying to persuade federal and state governments to pass laws restricting child labor. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The number of factories using assembly lines increased, rather than decreased, during this period.
	Option C is incorrect	Reformers of the Progressive movement campaigned to increase rather than decrease taxes paid by businesses during this period.
	Option D is incorrect	The number of people joining labor unions increased, rather than decreased, as workers organized to improve conditions during this period.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
4	Option F is correct	The Bessemer steel process was introduced in the 1850s. This process strengthened steel and lowered its cost. The stronger materials and decreased costs made the construction of skyscrapers possible. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option G is incorrect	The Bessemer steel process made the construction of skyscrapers possible. At this time the government did not have a focus on educating engineers.
	Option H is incorrect	The Bessemer steel process made the construction of skyscrapers possible. The technology to manufacture glass that blocks ultraviolet rays had not yet been invented.
	Option J is incorrect	Skyscrapers like the one in this image were built on metal frames, not wooden frames. The Bessemer steel process made the construction of skyscrapers possible.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
5	Option C is correct	Suffrage for the groups in the list was obtained by ratifying constitutional amendments. The Fifteenth Amendment granted suffrage to African American men. The Nineteenth Amendment granted suffrage to women. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment lowered the voting age to 18. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to categorize information.
	Option A is incorrect	Suffrage was achieved by ratifying constitutional amendments, not by granting citizenship to immigrants.
	Option B is incorrect	Suffrage was achieved by ratifying constitutional amendments, not by passing antitrust legislation.
	Option D is incorrect	Suffrage was achieved by ratifying constitutional amendments, not by engaging in international conflicts.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
6	Option J is correct	The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was one of the first New Deal programs created to relieve unemployment. The federal government provided food, housing, and cash to young men who worked on national conservation projects. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option F is incorrect	The CCC addressed unemployment during the Great Depression. It did not influence state governments to protect minority rights.
	Option G is incorrect	The CCC addressed unemployment during the Great Depression by putting young men to work in national parks. It did not take away the federal government's responsibility for protecting natural resources.
	Option H is incorrect	The CCC addressed unemployment during the Great Depression. It did not cause state governments to lose control of budgets.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
7	Option C is correct	The United States desired Hawaii for its natural resources as well as for its strategic location in the Pacific Ocean. Annexation of the islands would establish a place to harbor and resupply ships. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship as shown.
	Option A is incorrect	Hawaii would become a resort destination later in the twentieth century. It was not a popular vacation resort area in 1898.
	Option B is incorrect	The United States did not annex Hawaii in order to provide aid to the local residents, but to take advantage of its strategic location.
	Option D is incorrect	The United states did not annex Hawaii to provide financial assistance after a natural disaster, but to take advantage of its strategic location.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
8	Option J is correct	The White Ribboners were people who supported the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). The symbol for the WCTU was a white ribbon, tied in a bow, that symbolized the organization's purity of purpose. The WCTU was devoted to social reform. Its members campaigned against alcohol and in favor of giving women the right to vote. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The WCTU focused on prohibition and women's suffrage, not ending Reconstruction and Jim Crow
	Option G is incorrect	The WCTU focused on prohibition and women's suffrage, not establishing labor unions.
	Option H is incorrect	The WCTU focused on winning the right to vote for women, not for African Americans and immigrants.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
9	Option D is correct	Vietnamese nationalists under the leadership of communist Ho Chi Minh had been fighting the French for independence. The 1954 Geneva Accords spelled out the terms under which the French would withdraw from North Vietnam. The country was divided into communist North Vietnam and noncommunist South Vietnam. The United States was worried that if national elections were held in Vietnam the communists would win the election by intimidating voters or by using other undemocratic methods. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw inferences and conclusions.
	Option A is incorrect	U.S. officials did not believe the election would lead to civil war, but to unification under communism.
	Option B is incorrect	Congress was not involved in writing the Geneva Accords of 1954.
	Option C is incorrect	The administration was not opposed to regional alliances. It helped organize the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) in 1954 to protect the region against communist expansionism.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
10	Option F is correct	Responsible citizens stay informed about political issues so they are prepared to vote on those issues or to vote for candidates who hold views similar to their own. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option G is incorrect	Defending the country through military service does not provide information needed to make informed decisions.
	Option H is incorrect	Getting a high-paying job with benefits does not provide information needed to make informed decisions.
	Option J is incorrect	Participating in a grand jury does not provide information needed to make informed decisions.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
11	Option D is correct	President Nixon met with Chairman Mao to improve diplomatic relations between the United States and Communist China. The two sides agreed to discuss their differences and respect each other's influence in Asia. The president hoped that improving relations with China would pressure the Soviet Union into making concessions to the United States and also assist in resolving the Vietnam War. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	President Nixon did not try to negotiate for the withdrawal of soldiers from Korea.
	Option B is incorrect	President Nixon did not try to create a military alliance with China.
	Option C is incorrect	President Nixon did create an agreement with the Soviet Union to limit the development of nuclear weapons through the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). China did not participate in this agreement.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
12	Option G is correct	Population growth leads to increased development of industry and housing, which has damaged ecosystems on the coasts. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option F is incorrect	Population growth tends to decrease, rather than increase, water supplies.
	Option H is incorrect	Population growth tends to increase, rather than decrease, greenhouse gas emissions.
	Option J is incorrect	Population growth tends to increase, rather than decrease, air pollution levels.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
13	Option C is correct	The GI Bill, or the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, provided grants for school and college tuition to military veterans. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to establish a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	The military was desegregated through Executive Order 9981, not the GI Bill.
	Option B is incorrect	The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) protects bank deposits, not the GI Bill.
	Option D is incorrect	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 addressed workplace discrimination, not the GI Bill.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
14	Option F is correct	The Supreme Court ruled that the “separate but equal” provision meant that states could have separate schools for white and minority students. In theory, the schools were supposed to be equal in every way. In reality, the schools established for minority students lacked staff, supplies, and funds. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw inferences and conclusions.
	Option G is incorrect	The Twenty-Fourth Amendment made poll taxes illegal, not the 1896 Supreme Court decision.
	Option H is incorrect	The 1896 Supreme Court decision upheld separate public facilities. It did not rule that affirmative actions programs were unconstitutional.
	Option J is incorrect	The 1896 Supreme Court decision upheld separate public facilities. It did not prevent minorities from joining the military.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
15	Option A is correct	The Soviet blockade of West Berlin began on June 24, 1948. Two days later, on June 26, 1948, the United States and the United Kingdom began airlifting food and fuel to West Berlin from Allied airbases in West Germany. The Berlin Airlift lasted until the Soviets lifted the blockade in 1949. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to summarize.
	Option B is incorrect	The blockade began on June 24, 1948. The airlift, the most immediate and direct response to the blockade, began on June 26, 1948. Although NATO was created in April of 1949 to provide collective security from the Soviet Union, the alliance had been proposed before the blockade was initiated.
	Option C is incorrect	The Soviet Union began the blockade of West Berlin to force the Allies to withdraw. The United States did not withdraw military forces from West Berlin; it resupplied them through the Berlin Airlift.
	Option D is incorrect	After World War II, financial support to European nations was provided by the Marshall Plan. That plan was signed, and distribution of aid began before the Berlin blockade of West Berlin was put in place.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
16	Option H is correct	Technology has increased the speed of communication and computing. This allows workers and businesses to do more in less time and at lower costs. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The technology described results in the need for fewer rather than more workers in any sector of the economy.
	Option G is incorrect	The technology described results in less time rather than more time needed to manufacture goods.
	Option J is incorrect	The technology described results in fewer rather than more health and safety risks.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
17	Option B is correct	The <i>Lusitania</i> was a British passenger ship sunk by a German submarine during World War I. More than a thousand people were killed, including 128 U.S. citizens. This tragedy caused U.S. public opinion to shift against Germany. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to establish a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option A is incorrect	Germany formed the Central Powers alliance with Austria-Hungary before the sinking of the <i>Lusitania</i> .
	Option C is incorrect	The League of Nations did not exist during World War I. It was organized after the war ended.
	Option D is incorrect	When neutrality could no longer be maintained, the United States allied with Britain and France, not with Germany.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
18	Option J is correct	The photograph on the left shows the Apache students in the dress and hairstyle of their culture. The photograph on the right taken four months later shows the students with hairstyle and dress acceptable to mainstream U.S. culture. The photographs provide evidence that one goal of the school was to assimilate American Indians into U.S. culture. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	U.S. citizenship had not been granted to American Indians, and so could not be restored. American Indians were awarded U.S. citizenship in 1924.
	Option G is incorrect	The photographs provide no information about religious practices allowed or studied at the Carlisle Indian School.
	Option H is incorrect	The goal of the Carlisle Indian School was assimilation of American Indians into the wider culture. It did not protect traditional American Indian culture.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
19	Option C is correct	After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States began a military campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan. The Taliban was the faction that ruled Afghanistan and provided sanctuary for the terrorists who were responsible for the attacks. For this question the student uses critical-thinking skills to categorize information.
	Option A is incorrect	Israel is an ally of the United States and was not involved in the terrorist attacks. The United States did not place economic sanctions on Israel.
	Option B is incorrect	Providing humanitarian support to Iran was not part of the U.S. response to the terrorist attacks.
	Option D is incorrect	The United States did not declare war against Pakistan. The Pakistani government provided support to the United States in the days after the September 11 attack.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
20	Option G is correct	Nativism is the policy of protecting the interests of native-born persons against those of immigrants. Many American workers were prejudiced against Chinese immigrants and feared the Chinese workers would take their jobs. For these and other reasons, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The legislation did not address concerns about labor union membership rules.
	Option H is incorrect	The legislation was not caused by wage increases for factory workers.
	Option J is incorrect	The United States was not involved in foreign wars and conflicts in the early 1880s.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
21	Option C is correct	The launch of Sputnik surprised the U.S. public and made it seem that the United States had fallen behind the Soviet Union in the development of space technology. To better prepare scientists and engineers, Congress increased funding for math and science education. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option A is incorrect	Health care benefits and pensions for the military would not have addressed the perception that the United States had fallen behind the Soviet Union in the development of space technology.
	Option B is incorrect	The Marshall Plan was implemented in 1948 long before the launch of Sputnik. The plan provided aid to rebuild Europe after World War II.
	Option D is incorrect	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was organized in 1949 long before the launch of Sputnik. The organization provided collective security against the Soviet Union.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
22	Option J is correct	With the Roosevelt Corollary of 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt declared his intention to intervene in the affairs of nations in the Western Hemisphere to ensure stability. The Corollary was used to justify U.S. intervention in Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic over the next several decades. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option F is incorrect	The Roosevelt Corollary and the Monroe Doctrine were concerned with Central and South America in the Western Hemisphere, not Asia.
	Option G is incorrect	The Roosevelt Corollary declared the president's intent to intervene in Latin American nations rather than remain isolated.
	Option H is incorrect	The Roosevelt Corollary was not a plan to stop the spread of communism in the Western Hemisphere. The Roosevelt Corollary was issued in 1904. Concern over the spread of communism developed after the Russian Revolution of 1917.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
23	Option C is correct	New Orleans is a city that lies below sea level. The city depends on a system of levees or walls to prevent lake and sea water from flooding the city. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	New Orleans is not below the earth's surface.
	Option B is incorrect	Fault lines are breaks in the earth's surface and are associated with earthquakes. New Orleans is not in a region that has frequent earthquakes.
	Option D is incorrect	New Orleans is six feet below sea level, not six feet below high tide.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
24	Option J is correct	The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was created in 1933 as part of the New Deal. The purpose of the agency is to promote confidence in the U.S. financial system by insuring the deposits of bank customers. The agency reports that since its start, no depositor has lost a single cent of insured funds as a result of a bank failure. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option F is incorrect	The FDIC does not regulate loans; it insures deposits.
	Option G is incorrect	The FDIC does not change interest rates; it insures deposits.
	Option H is incorrect	The FDIC does not provide financial assistance; it insures deposits.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
25	Option C is correct	The photograph shows that the waiting rooms at bus stations in North Carolina were segregated in 1940. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to outlaw segregation in places of public accommodation, such as bus stations. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	<i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i> was a Supreme Court decision regarding religion and education, not segregation.
	Option B is incorrect	The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded by students in Chicago, not by the federal government.
	Option D is incorrect	The social injustice shown in this photograph is the segregation of waiting rooms, not interstate migration.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
26	Option H is correct	The graph shows that the population of the South and the West increased more than the populations of the Midwest and Northeast. Together the South and West create a region referred to as the Sun Belt. More people migrated to the Sun Belt because of job opportunities and the lower cost of living. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The states of the Sun Belt have fewer passenger trains and subway systems compared to the Midwest and Northeast.
	Option G is incorrect	The amount of government regulation and the number of natural disasters vary across all four regions of the country. The South and West do not consistently offer more regulation or fewer natural disasters than other regions of the country.
	Option J is incorrect	The amount of cultural diversity and funding for public schools varies across all four regions of the country. The South and West do not consistently offer greater cultural diversity or better funding for public schools than other regions of the country.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
27	Option B is correct	The political cartoon shows a man examining food using many scientific instruments. During the Progressive Era, investigative journalists called muckrakers exposed many unsafe and unsanitary practices in the food industry. The federal government responded by passing legislation, such as the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, to protect the public. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The food industry did not increase the cost of products to pay for chemical additives. Rather, the food industry added chemical additives to lower the costs of products.
	Option C is incorrect	The political cartoon shows a man examining food for safety. Importing more goods from Europe would not have addressed this concern because the imported goods would also have to be examined for safety.
	Option D is incorrect	Antitrust legislation increased competition in the food industry as well as other industries. Such laws were an effort to protect the free market and did not address the issues of food safety illustrated in this cartoon.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
28	Option F is correct	The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. The railroad allowed people and goods to travel more easily across the United States. This contributed to the rapid settlement and growth of towns in the West. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option G is incorrect	The railroad caused agriculture and mining in the West to grow, rather than decline.
	Option H is incorrect	The Transcontinental Railroad made it much easier for people in the East to relocate to the West. This contributed to population growth in the West, not the East.
	Option J is incorrect	The Transcontinental Railroad was not a reason for creation of the national park system.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
29	Option B is correct	Dr. King championed a nonviolent approach to civil disobedience. He did not support the use of armed patrols. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to compare and contrast.
	Option A is incorrect	Both Dr. King and the Black Panthers supported decent housing for all.
	Option C is incorrect	Both Dr. King and the Black Panthers believed all people should have access to adequate food.
	Option D is incorrect	Both Dr. King and the Black Panthers believed people should have access to medical care and legal aid.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
30	Option H is correct	The diagram shows events of the Great Depression. The collapse of the stock market, a decline in corporate capital, and increased protective tariffs all contributed to an increase in unemployment. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option F is incorrect	Wages paid to workers decreased, rather than increased, during the Great Depression.
	Option G is incorrect	Immigration decreased, rather than increased, during the Great Depression.
	Option J is incorrect	Consumer spending decreased, rather than increased, during the Great Depression.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
31	Option D is correct	The Iran-Contra Affair involved a complicated mix of foreign policy actions approved by President Reagan. The president wanted to send money to anti-communist militia groups in Nicaragua, called the Contras. Congress passed a law banning this funding. The president then authorized a covert operation to sell weapons to Iran. This money was given to the Contras. However, the arms sales violated a trade embargo against Iran. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option A is incorrect	The Iran-Contra Affair did not involve U.S. support for a revolution in Iran.
	Option B is incorrect	The Iran-Contra Affair did not involve the sharing of nuclear technology with Iran.
	Option C is incorrect	The Iran-Contra Affair did not involve petroleum trade agreements with Iran.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
32	Option H is correct	The poster shows two clawed hands labeled with the German and Japanese flags that are threatening a mother and child. The message is that citizens can counter this threat by helping to pay for the costs of the war by buying victory bonds. Victory bonds were loans made to the United States government. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The poster encouraged citizens to buy victory bonds, not purchase ration coupons.
	Option G is incorrect	The poster encouraged citizens to buy victory bonds, not put more money into savings accounts.
	Option J is incorrect	The poster encouraged citizens to buy victory bonds, not pay for the release of prisoners of war.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
33	Option A is correct	The excerpt describes TV programs from the United States being remade for Russian audiences. This transfer shows cultural diffusion, or the spread of U.S. culture to Russia. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to find the main idea.
	Option B is incorrect	Nativism is the policy of protecting the interests of native-born persons against those of immigrants. This excerpt is about exporting movies, not about protecting the interests of any group of people.
	Option C is incorrect	Social Darwinism is the theory that some people in society are more powerful because they are more fit or innately better. This excerpt is about exporting movies, not about explaining Social Darwinism.
	Option D is incorrect	Containment is the policy of blocking or preventing the spread of communism. This excerpt is about exporting movies, not about fighting communism.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
34	Option F is correct	The Spanish-American War of 1898 was a conflict between Spain and the United States. The war ended colonial Spanish rule in the Americas and resulted in U.S. acquisition of Guam, Cuba, and the Philippines. These new territories led to the growth of U.S. commerce and influence. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option G is incorrect	The Transcontinental Railroad was completed in 1869, decades before the Spanish-American War.
	Option H is incorrect	Conservationist policies and the establishment of national parks were domestic issues unrelated to the Spanish-American War.
	Option J is incorrect	The fight between Allied forces and the Central Powers was part of World War I, not the Spanish-American War.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
35	Option C is correct	In 1966, Congress passed the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act which established mandatory federal safety standards for motor vehicles. The act was intended to prevent deaths and improve the life expectancy of consumers. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act did not establish fuel consumption guidelines for vehicles.
	Option B is incorrect	The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act did not limit the number of vehicles allowed on interstate highways.
	Option D is incorrect	The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act addressed the safety of motor vehicles; it did not apply to railroads.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
36	Option J is correct	This cartoon comments on a conflict between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled some New Deal programs unconstitutional. In an effort to protect other New Deal programs, President Roosevelt proposed a bill that would increase the number of Supreme Court justices. The bill was important to Roosevelt because it would have allowed him to appoint judges who would not overturn his policies. The judicial branch's power over the executive branch would have been weakened. Members of Congress argued over the proposed bill. It was never passed into law. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	Impeachment is the process by which Congress may bring charges of misconduct against a government official. The bill depicted in this cartoon was about the number of Supreme Court justices, not about the impeachment power of Congress.
	Option G is incorrect	The bill depicted in this cartoon was about the number of Supreme Court justices, not about federal authority over the states.
	Option H is incorrect	The bill depicted in this cartoon addressed the number of Supreme Court justices. It was not an attempt to remove congressional leaders from office.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
37	Option C is correct	During WWI, fighting on the European front reached a stalemate. Armies dug defensive trenches and created obstacles with barbed wire and machine guns. Tanks were introduced to go over and through trenches and end the stalemate, or inability to advance against the enemy. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to find the main idea.
	Option A is incorrect	Tanks were not introduced to locate and remove land mines.
	Option B is incorrect	Tanks were for combat, not for the transportation of supplies.
	Option D is incorrect	Tanks were for combat, not for monitoring troop movements.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
38	Option F is correct	Opponents of Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act feared that increased investigative authority would violate privacy rights by weakening Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. To protect Americans against terrorism, the law expanded investigators' authority to conduct searches, monitor communications, and collect business records. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option G is incorrect	Opponents of this section of the act were concerned about the right to privacy, not gun ownership.
	Option H is incorrect	Opponents of this section of the act were concerned about the right to privacy, not the accused's right to a trial.
	Option J is incorrect	Opponents of this section of the act were concerned about the right to privacy, not the accused's right to have a lawyer.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
39	Option B is correct	Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War. The Congressional Medal of Honor is awarded by Congress to a member of the armed forces for bravery in combat. Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was wounded several times saving the lives of fellow soldiers while under enemy attack. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was not given an early discharge from U.S. military service. He remained in the army until his retirement in 1972.
	Option C is incorrect	Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was not made an honorary member of the United Nations.
	Option D is incorrect	Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was not awarded the Legion of Honor ribbon.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
40	Option H is correct	The Harlem Renaissance developed in the 1920s and 1930s in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City as a celebration of African American culture. Harlem was a popular destination for African Americans who left the South. Moving to the North gave African Americans greater opportunities to learn to read and write. Civil rights organization such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) were created. These organizations published magazines featuring the work of African American writers. Together these factors provided audiences and opportunities for the artists of the Harlem Renaissance. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option F is incorrect	The Hudson River School was an artistic movement of the 1800s, not the 1920s and 1930s.
	Option G is incorrect	The Neoclassical style of architecture began in the mid-1700s, not the 1920s and 1930s.
	Option J is incorrect	Rock and roll music developed during the late 1950s and 1960s, not the 1920s and 1930s.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
41	Option A is correct	World War II had a great impact on the U.S. economy. As men were drafted into the armed forces, more women worked in industrial jobs. To help pay for the war, Congress passed a Revenue Act in 1942 that increased income tax rates. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make generalizations.
	Option B is incorrect	The number of strikes and the production of consumer goods decreased rather than increased during World War II.
	Option C is incorrect	The size of the national debt and efforts to recycle metal increased rather than decreased during World War II.
	Option D is incorrect	Government funding of nuclear weapons research and the sale of government savings bonds increased rather than decreased during World War II.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
42	Option J is correct	The Treaty of Versailles was one of several peace treaties signed at the end of World War I. It included provisions establishing an international peacekeeping organization known as the League of Nations. Senator Lodge was objecting to the requirement that the United States join the League of Nations because members were to assist one another if attacked. In Senator Lodge's opinion, this obligation would decrease U.S. sovereignty and prevent the United States from deciding how to participate in international relations. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The treaty did not address the global flu epidemic.
	Option G is incorrect	Nuclear technology did not exist in 1919, so it was not addressed in the treaty.
	Option H is incorrect	Senator Lodge did not want the United States to join an international league. He was objecting to the requirement that nations join.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
43	Option A is correct	The Civil Rights Movement broke down barriers and expanded political, social, and economic opportunities for women and minorities. One result of these changes is increased diversity in the workplace. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to establish a cause-and-effect relationship.
	Option B is incorrect	The United States has not created a national health care system.
	Option C is incorrect	Globalization of the economy has increased because of changes in technology, not because of the Civil Rights Movement.
	Option D is incorrect	Congress passed the first antitrust law in 1890, before emergence of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
44	Option G is correct	Unalienable rights are rights that are held by all people and cannot be taken away or denied. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option F is incorrect	Unalienable rights do not change over time.
	Option H is incorrect	Unalienable rights are not provided by governments.
	Option J is incorrect	Unalienable rights can be defined and protected.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
45	Option C is correct	The image shows immigrants coming to the United States in the late 1800s. One reason that immigrants were hopeful is that the United States offered many jobs and business opportunities. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Nativism is the policy of protecting the interests of native-born persons against those of immigrants. Social Darwinism is the idea that certain people become powerful in society because they are innately better. Expansion of these ideas would not have created hope among immigrants.
	Option B is incorrect	Social Security did not exist in the late 1800s. It was established in 1935.
	Option D is incorrect	Tenement apartment buildings were not large and comfortable, but crowded and unsafe.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
46	Option F is correct	In <i>Sweatt v. Painter</i> , the Supreme Court ruled that a separate law school would be grossly unequal to the University of Texas Law School. This decision set a precedent for the <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> ruling that struck down the policy of "separate but equal" and led to the integration of public schools. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option G is incorrect	Instead of reinforcing the Plessy decision that separate but equal facilities were acceptable, the decision in <i>Sweatt v. Painter</i> weakened it.
	Option H is incorrect	The U.S. Constitution gives states the power to create school programs.
	Option J is incorrect	The U.S. Constitution allows for the creation of religious schools.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
47	Option C is correct	The Universal Negro Improvement Association was dedicated to racial pride, economic self-sufficiency, and the formation of an independent black nation in Africa. The Black Star Line was a steamship corporation that shipped goods among black people around the world to foster a global black economy and transported black emigrants to Africa. The newspaper Negro World featured stories of black heroes and the accomplishments of African culture. Marcus Garvey promoted black cultural pride and economic independence through these achievements. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to find the main idea.
	Option A is incorrect	Schools and urban neighborhoods were not desegregated in the early 1900s.
	Option B is incorrect	Marcus Garvey promoted black cultural pride and economic independence, not the acceptance of low-paying jobs and social inequality.
	Option D is incorrect	Marcus Garvey did not support the use of violence or the overthrow of government to win reforms.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
48	Option G is correct	Congress was concerned that the president was sending troops to Vietnam without congressional approval. Congress passed the War Powers Act to provide a set of procedures for both the president and Congress to follow when deployment of U.S. troops could lead to armed conflict. President Nixon vetoed the act because he thought it limited the presidential authority over the military that was granted by the U.S. Constitution. Congress overrode the veto in order to limit the president's power to send U.S. troops into armed conflicts without congressional approval. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	Congress had no need to expand the power to provide military funding because it already had that power under the U.S. Constitution.
	Option H is incorrect	The U.S. Constitution assigned the power to make treaties to the executive branch. Congress was not seeking to regain a power it never had.
	Option J is incorrect	The president has the power to make battlefield decisions as commander-in-chief. Congress had no desire or need to give the president a power he already had.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
49	Option A is correct	The photograph shows long lines at gas pumps due to a decline in the oil supply and a fear of gasoline shortages. The U.S. government encouraged the development of alternative forms of fuel, such as solar and wind power, to decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect	Cars traveling at faster speeds consume more fuel. The government decreased the speed limit on interstate highways.
	Option C is incorrect	Decreasing funding for electric power stations would worsen an energy crisis rather than improve it.
	Option D is incorrect	The government encouraged exploration to find more sources of fossil fuels that could not be restricted by foreign powers.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
50	Option G is correct	After World War II, the Korean Peninsula was divided in two with a communist government in North Korea and an anti-communist government in South Korea. President Truman supported the goal of a unified Korea free from communist control. He wanted to prevent the spread of communism from North Korea to South Korea. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The goal was to prevent the spread of communism in Asia, not create colonies in Asia.
	Option H is incorrect	The goal was to prevent the spread of communism in Asia, not end trade sanctions.
	Option J is incorrect	The goal was to prevent the spread of communism in Asia, not protect U.S. soldiers stationed in Asian countries.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
51	Option B is correct	School walkouts were protests against unequal conditions in Los Angeles public schools. Students protested the lack of appreciation for Mexican American culture and history. They also protested the lack of advanced classes to prepare for college. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option A is incorrect	The students were protesting educational inequities, not poll taxes.
	Option C is incorrect	The students were protesting conditions in Los Angeles public schools, not the rising cost of college education.
	Option D is incorrect	The students were protesting educational inequities. They were not acting in support of a minimum wage law.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
52	Option H is correct	This World War II political cartoon shows two lightning bolts striking Japan, which represent the Soviet declaration of war against Japan and the U.S. dropping of atomic bombs on Japan. The Soviet Union and the United States were allies that intended to force Japan to accept an unconditional surrender. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	Japan was on the defensive in 1945 and no longer threatened supply lines into China.
	Option G is incorrect	Japan was on the defensive in 1945 and no longer threatening to invade China.
	Option J is incorrect	The primary purpose of the declaration of war and use of the atomic bomb was to force Japan to surrender unconditionally.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
53	Option B is correct	The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution granted rights to African Americans. To prevent African Americans from exercising those rights, states passed Jim Crow laws. These laws included segregation of schools and public places as well as barriers to voting such as literacy tests and poll taxes. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option A is incorrect	The goal of the temperance movement was to reduce alcohol consumption, not oppose civil rights advances.
	Option C is incorrect	The goal of antitrust legislation was to prevent monopolies and promote competition, not oppose civil rights advances.
	Option D is incorrect	The goal of the conservation movement was to protect and preserve natural resources, not oppose civil rights advances.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
54	Option H is correct	Henry Ford introduced the assembly line to manufacture cars in 1913. The assembly line reduced the time it took to build a car, which reduced the cost to manufacture cars. Cars became more affordable and millions of cars were sold between 1910 and 1925. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	Antitrust laws were passed to prevent monopolies. However, there were no monopolies in car manufacturing in the 1910s and 1920s.
	Option G is incorrect	Wartime price controls kept prices artificially low. When removed, prices were allowed to rise. This would make cars and other products less affordable, not more affordable.
	Option J is incorrect	The United States continued to keep tariffs high after World War I.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
55	Option A is correct	In this excerpt Alexis de Tocqueville described the values of individualism and liberty. The federal government passes laws to protect the freedoms of individuals. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect	The Supreme Court does not vote to approve the appointment of presidential cabinet members, the Senate does. The approval of presidential appointments is not an example of individualism or liberty.
	Option C is incorrect	The Electoral College is involved in presidential, not congressional, elections. Actions of the Electoral College are not an example of individualism or liberty.
	Option D is incorrect	Government regulation of business is related to consumer protection and worker safety, not individualism and liberty.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
56	Option J is correct	Congress passed the Espionage Act in 1917, which gave the federal government the power to prosecute anyone who interfered with or attempted to undermine the war effort. People who spoke out against the draft faced fines and jail terms. Congress passed the Sedition Act in 1918, which made it a federal crime to speak badly of the government. Together these acts targeted those individuals who tried to interfere with the draft and who publicly criticized the government. The passage of these acts led people to question whether the government could limit the constitutional rights of citizens during wartime. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw inferences.
	Option F is incorrect	The Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed to protect national security during wartime, not address the rights of workers to join unions.
	Option G is incorrect	The Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed to protect national security during wartime, not require citizens to purchase war bonds.
	Option H is incorrect	The Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed to protect national security during wartime, not determine the age of military enlistment.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
57	Option C is correct	The Nineteenth Amendment, ratified in 1920, gave women in the United States the right to vote. Voting increased the participation of women in the political process. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option A is incorrect	Women in the United States had the right to attend public schools before the 1920s.
	Option B is incorrect	Women in the United States had the right to own property before the 1920s.
	Option D is incorrect	Women in the United States did not gain the right to serve in military combat units until 2013.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
58	Option H is correct	The spoils system refers to the practice of giving civil service jobs to supporters, friends, and relatives. Political machines were political party organizations that used questionable means to control a local or state government. They abused the spoils system by rewarding supporters with government jobs regardless of whether they were qualified. Progressive reform laws addressed that abuse by establishing the merit system of awarding civil service jobs based on applicants' qualifications and performance on tests. For this item the student uses critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option F is incorrect	The merit system and civil service examinations were established in response to abuses by political machines, not national defense costs.
	Option G is incorrect	The merit system and civil service examinations were established in response to abuses by political machines, not radical threats.
	Option J is incorrect	The merit system and civil service examinations were established in response to abuses by political machines, not corporate inefficiencies.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
59	Option A is correct	Sam Walton established the Wal-Mart Stores to bring discount merchandise to people in small towns. The success of the stores has led to thousands of jobs in rural areas across the country. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect	Sam Walton did not invent new technologies that helped create the internet.
	Option C is incorrect	Sam Walton did not build jewelry shops that sold luxury goods.
	Option D is incorrect	Sam Walton did not invest his money in the space technology industry.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item #	Rationale	
60	Option J is correct	A draft is used to fill vacancies in the United States Armed Forces that have not been filled by volunteers. The government implemented a draft during the Vietnam War to provide the military with the additional manpower needed to send more U.S. soldiers to fight overseas. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to summarize.
	Option F is incorrect	A draft is not used to monitor groups suspected of spying on the United States.
	Option G is incorrect	A draft is not used to fund military activities.
	Option H is incorrect	A draft is not used to regulate freedom of expression.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
61	Option B is correct	When businesses combined to form large trusts, they were able to dominate their industry. Their size gave them advantages, which allowed them to force their competitors to join them or drive their competitors out of business. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a secondary source and answer a historical question.
	Option A is incorrect	Most employees of large companies could not afford to buy stock, but the formation of monopolies did not prevent them from doing so.
	Option C is incorrect	Large companies continued to provide goods to consumers, although prices tended to increase.
	Option D is incorrect	Large companies employed many people, including immigrants.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
62	Option H is correct	The groups on the list have all supported social reforms. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) worked to end segregation and racial discrimination. The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) worked to end child labor. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) worked to end segregation and racial discrimination. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) worked to end the abuse of alcohol and implement prohibition. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make generalizations.
	Option F is incorrect	All four of these groups significantly influenced U.S. culture by supporting social reforms. All four did not support government funding of the arts and sciences.
	Option G is incorrect	All four of these groups significantly influenced U.S. culture by supporting social reforms. All four did not support increased environmental protections.
	Option J is incorrect	All four of these groups significantly influenced U.S. culture by supporting social reforms. All four did not support the development of free trade practices.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
63	Option B is correct	The Great Depression was a long and severe economic depression that began with the collapse of the stock market in 1929. Consumers lost confidence in their ability to pay for purchases. Banks failed as customers rushed to withdraw their money. Bank failures worsened the depression because people lost their personal savings and companies could not get loans to stay in business. These three factors contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to categorize.
	Option A is incorrect	High rather than low interest rates contributed to the Great Depression.
	Option C is incorrect	Outsourcing is a business practice in which a company hires another company or individual to perform work that had been done previously by the company's own employees. Outsourcing most commonly obtains goods or services from foreign or non-union suppliers. Outsourcing was not a common business practice in the late 1920s and early 1930s.
	Option D is incorrect	World War II was not a reason for the Great Depression. The war helped end the Great Depression.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
64	Option J is correct	The free enterprise system allows companies to compete for customers. This competition has influenced companies to make better products in the hopes of attracting more customers away from competitors. The drive to make better products has contributed to technological innovation. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to draw a conclusion.
	Option F is incorrect	Reducing production does not contribute to technological innovation.
	Option G is incorrect	Limiting the number of employees does not contribute to technological innovation.
	Option H is incorrect	Industry-wide pricing policies would decrease incentives to invest in technological innovation.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
65	Option B is correct	Rock and roll music combined several musical styles, such as gospel, blues, and jazz. People who listened to rock and roll music were exposed to more diverse musical styles as a result. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to make a generalization.
	Option A is incorrect	Musicians gave more live performances as a result of the popularity of rock and roll music.
	Option C is incorrect	Rock and roll music introduced new instruments, such as the electric guitar. Musical stores sold more instruments as a result of the popularity of rock and roll music.
	Option D is incorrect	Many religious groups warned their members against the dangers of rock and roll music.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
66	Option H is correct	Japan had attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In this speech, given the day after the attack, President Roosevelt is requesting that Congress issue a declaration of war against Japan. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source and answer a historical question.
	Option F is incorrect	The speech was about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt is requesting a declaration of war, not requesting the trial of war criminals.
	Option G is incorrect	The speech was about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt is requesting a declaration of war, not requesting permission to aid France.
	Option J is incorrect	The speech was about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt is requesting a declaration of war, not requesting permission to develop new weapons.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
67	Option D is correct	Vaccination programs were developed during the twentieth century to prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases. In the 1950s, Jonas Salk developed a vaccine to prevent polio. Vaccines to prevent mumps and the measles were developed in the 1960s. For this item the student uses knowledge of social studies terminology to answer the question.
	Option A is incorrect	Vaccination programs were developed to prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases, not to assist doctors in diagnosing injuries.
	Option B is incorrect	Vaccination programs were developed to prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases, not to assist farmers.
	Option C is incorrect	Vaccination programs were developed to prevent the outbreak of dangerous diseases, not to protect agricultural products from insects.

2021 STAAR U.S. History Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
68	Option F is correct	President Barack Obama pledged to introduce reforms to health care insurance. One goal of the Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010, was to make affordable health insurance available to more people. For this item the student applies critical-thinking skills to summarize.
	Option G is incorrect	President Obama wanted to increase gun control, not ease restrictions for gun ownership.
	Option H is incorrect	President Obama wanted to increase, not decrease, regulations for offshore drilling. In 2016, he announced a ban on oil drilling in large areas of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans.
	Option J is incorrect	Only in the final days of his presidency did President Obama endorse the idea of universal draft registration. The action was seen as a symbolic gesture rather than a goal. The Obama administration remained committed to an all-volunteer military force.