

## GED Social Studies Practice Test 1

### 1. Which of the following expresses a fact rather than an opinion?

- a. States have different requirements about who is eligible to vote
- b. The voting age should be changed from 18-21 years of age.
- c. Every state should institute a “voter-motor” program in which people can register to vote at the same time that they are registering their motor vehicle.
- d. The government should allow noncitizens to vote.
- e. Voting should be considered a privilege not a right

### 2. Which of the following is NOT a purpose of “Voter Registration Application” form?

- a. notifying the government that you have changed your name.
- b. registering with a political party
- c. applying for U.S. citizenship
- d. registering to vote in an upcoming local election
- e. indicating that you have moved and will be voting in another district

### 3. Which of the following is NOT a cause of acid rain?

- a. human activity
- b. natural phenomena
- c. volcanoes
- d. lakes and streams
- e. traffic

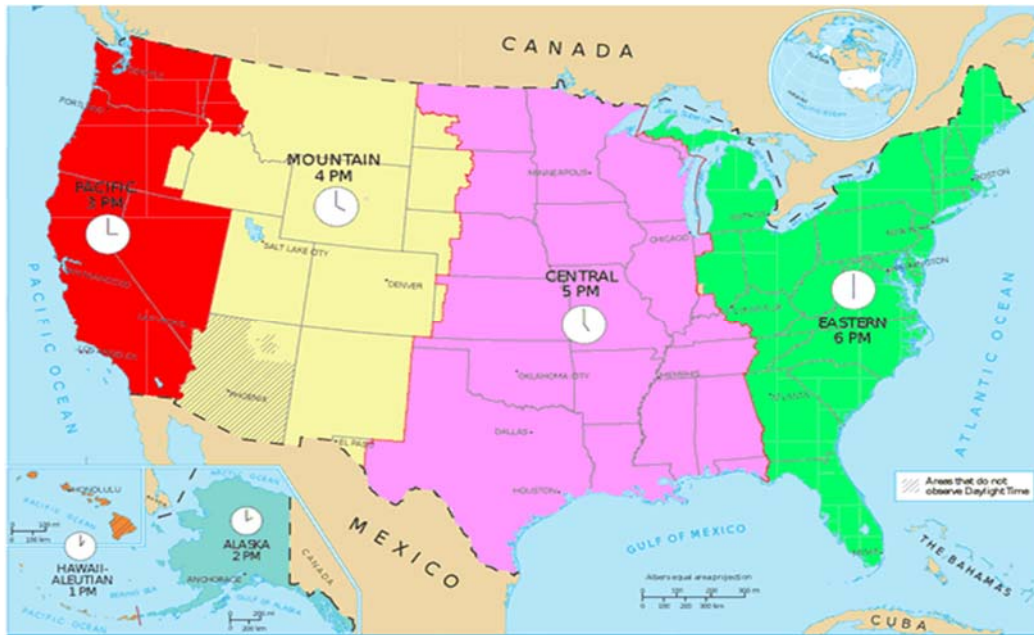
**4. Which of the following natural resources is least likely to be affected by acid rain?**

- a. animal life
- b. plant life
- c. coal reserves
- d. water
- e. forest

**5. In past presidential elections, television networks have made predictions about which candidate is likely to win BEFORE the polls closed throughout all of the nation's time zones. Which of the following statements explains why this would anger some voters?**

- a. The polls close later in New York than in Chicago
- b. Voters in the Central time zone want to know who won in the eastern states
- c. Polls in the Pacific Time zone open earlier if voters want their votes to be counted
- d. Polls close one hour later in the Mountain Time zone than in the Central Time zone
- e. Predictions based on voting in Eastern Time zones influence those who have not yet voted in the more western time zones

**Time Zones across the Continental United States. Use the map to answer 6-8.**



**6. As Pablo travels, he is moving west. He can expect to**

- a. change time zones
- b. move into an earlier time zone for every 15 degrees latitude he travels
- c. experience motion sickness
- d. move into an earlier time zone for every 15 degrees of longitude he travels

**7. What time is it in Portland, Oregon when it is midnight in Orlando, Florida?**

- a. 1:00 am
- b. 12:00 pm
- c. 9:00 am
- d. 9:00 pm
- e. 10:00 pm

**8. According to the map, what time is it in Oklahoma City when it is 10:00 am in Seattle?**

- a. 3:00 pm
- b. 1:00 pm
- c. 12:00 pm
- d. 10:00 am
- e. 2:00 pm

**9. By 1878, the Standard Oil Company, owned by John D. Rockefeller, had bought out most of its business rivals and controlled 90% of the petroleum refineries in the United States. Which of the following was a likely effect of Standard Oil's business practices?**

- a. The company set limits on its prices
- b. The company increased oil prices
- c. Competition in the oil market flourished
- d. Standard Oil increased its efforts to attract needed customers
- e. The federal government offered a subsidy to make the company more competitive abroad

**10. When European settlers arrived on the North American continent at the end of the fifteenth century, they encountered diverse Native American cultures; as many as 900,000 inhabitants with over 300 different languages. These people, whose ancestors crossed the land bridge from Asia in what may be considered the first North American immigration, were virtually destroyed by the subsequent immigration that created the United States. This tragedy is the direct result of treaties, written and broken by foreign governments, or warfare, and of forced assimilation.**

***Source: The Library of Congress, American Memory***

**What does the author of this passage believe?**

- a. The U.S. government was faithful to its treaties with Native Americans
- b. Native Americans made up a homogenous group
- c. The European settlers were responsible for the decimation of Native people
- d. Native cultures were unsophisticated
- e. The Europeans benefited from contact with Native cultures.

**11. The railroad changed the way Americans viewed time. Before, most people used the sun to set their clocks. Because the sun appears to move across the sky from east to west, a city a little to the east of a neighboring town marked noon a few minutes earlier. In the early days of the railroad, each city and each railroad had its own time. The main terminal in Buffalo, New York, had four clocks-one for each railroad using the train station and one on "Buffalo time." In 1883, an association of railroad managers ended the confusion with Standard Railway Time. They divided the nation into time zones, and every community within a time zone was on the same time. An Indianapolis newspaper noted, "The sun is no longer the boss. People-55 million people- must now eat, sleep, and work, as well as travel by railroad time." In 1918, Standard Railway Time became federal law.**

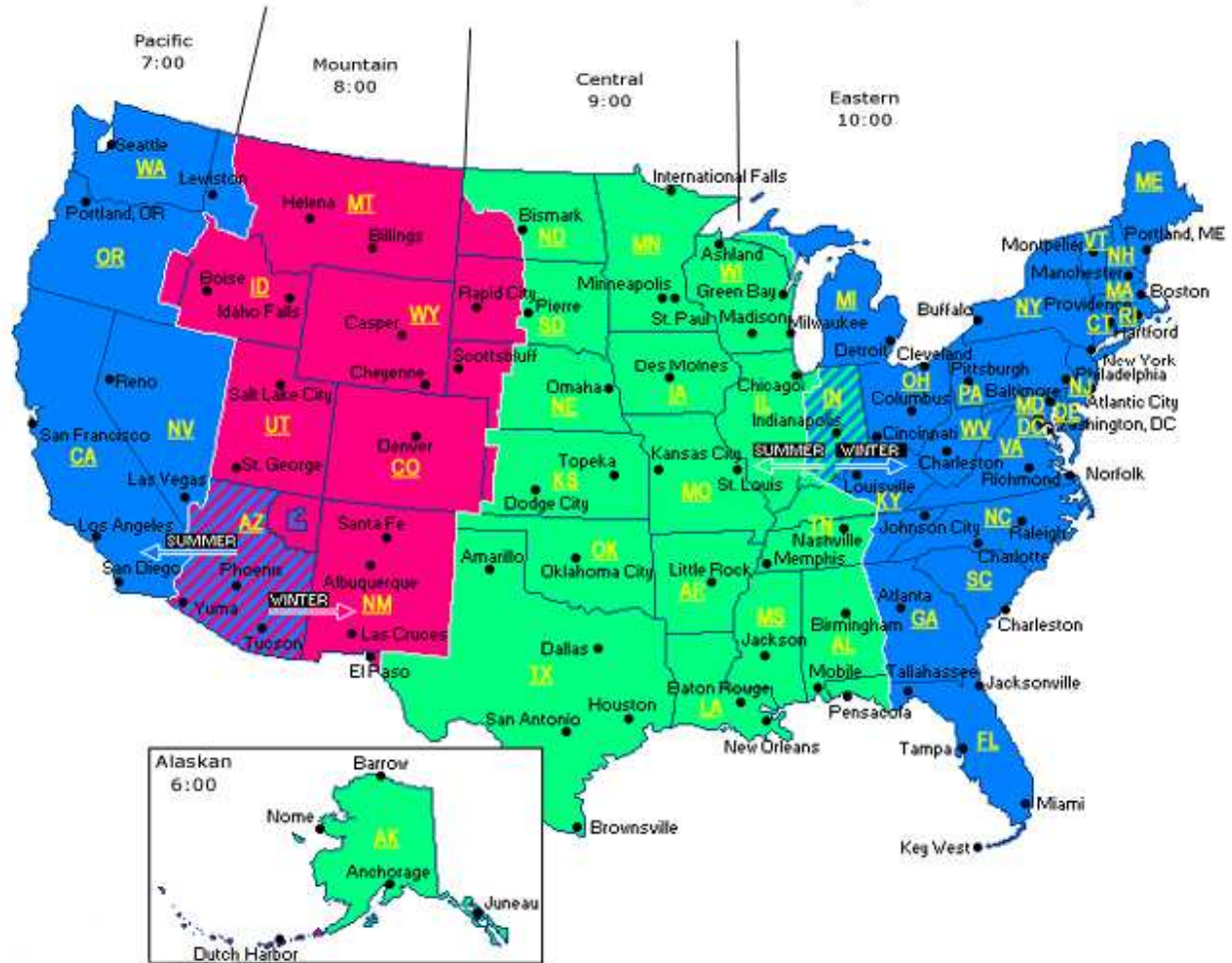
**Which of the following was NOT an effect of the establishment of Standard Railway Time?**

- a. Trains began to run on time
- b. Four time zones were created in the United States
- c. All railroad companies in the same cities used the same time
- d. The sun no longer determined the time
- e. Towns and cities in the same time zone all hit noon at exactly the same instant

**12. On what assumption was the establishment of standard time zones based?**

- a. The government regulates too many aspects of people's lives
- b. The public interest is best served if each city uses the real time as determined by the sun
- c. The public interest is best served if everyone in a city and all its public transport carriers use the same time
- d. Imposing an artificial system of time zone boundaries is wrong because it violates the laws of nature
- e. The public interest is best served if trains run on time

### United States Time Zone Map



13. Which statement is supported by the information on the map?

- a. Time zones are determined by scientists, not the government
- b. Some states have more than one time zone
- c. Excluding Alaska and Hawaii, there are only three time zones in the United States
- d. People traveling from one time zone to another always lose an hour
- e. The boundaries of time zones never change

**14. In which time zone in the United States would the coming of the New Year first be celebrated?**

- a. Eastern Time
  - b. Central Time
  - c. Mountain Time
  - d. Pacific Time
  - e. Alaska-Hawaii Time
- 

**The Constitution provides for changing times with a process for amendment, or change. Today, the Constitution includes 26 amendments. The first ten amendments, called the Bill of Rights, are outlined below. (for questions 15-16)**

## **Bill of Rights**

**First Amendment: Religious and political freedom**

**Second Amendment: The right to bear arms**

**Fourth Amendment: Protection against unreasonable search and seizure**

**Fifth Amendment: The right of accused persons to due process of the law**

**Sixth Amendment: The right to a speedy trial**

**Seventh Amendment: The right to a jury trial in civil cases**

**Eighth Amendment: Protection against cruel and unusual punishment**

**Ninth Amendment: The rights of the people to powers that may not be spelled out in the Constitution**

**Tenth Amendment: The rights of the people and the states to powers not otherwise given to the federal government, states, or people**

**15. Which two amendments provide for changes over time in the circumstances and realities of American life?**

- a. The First and Second Amendments
- b. The Fifth and Sixth Amendments
- c. The Third and Fourth Amendments
- d. The Ninth and Tenth Amendments
- e. The Seventh and Eighth Amendments

**16. A family that was forced by the U.S Army to provide housing and food for a group of soldiers could appeal to the courts based on which amendment to the Constitution?**

- a. The Second Amendment
- b. The Third Amendment
- c. The Sixth Amendment
- d. The Ninth Amendment
- e. The Tenth Amendment

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### **World War I-Chronology of Key Dates and Events** (for questions 17-18)

**June 1914:** Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife are assassinated by Serbian students.

**July:** Blaming the Serbian government for the assassination, Austria declares war on Serbia; Russia, joined by France, mobilizes to support Austria.

**August 1-3:** Germany declares war on Russia and France and invades neutral Belgium. Britain demands that Germany withdraw from Belgium.

**August 4:** The Germans do not withdraw from Belgium, and the British declare war on Germany.

**August:** Russia marches on Prussia but is defeated by Germany at the Battle of Tannenberg.

**August 13:** Japan, through its formal alliance with Great Britain, declares war on Germany.



**October 29:** Turkey assists Germany in naval attack on Russia.

**November 2:** Russia declares war on Turkey.

**November 5:** Britain and France side with Russia to declare war on Turkey.

**September-December:** Germany initiates attacks on France and England (the attacks continue over the next two years)

**May 25 1915:** Italy enters the war on the side of Russia, Britain, and France.

**February-November 1916:** The Germans mount a continuing attack on France.

**May 31-June 1:** Germany and Britain engage in the war's only large-scale naval battle.

**November 28:** The Germans attack London for the time, by air.

**January-March 1917:** In a German U-Boat campaign, enemy and neutral ships, including some U.S. ships, are sunk on sight.

**April 6:** The United States declares war on Germany over the sinking of U.S. ships.

**October 1918:** The allies recover France and Belgium from German occupation.

**October:** The allies push Turkey back forcing Turkey into an armistice treaty.

**November:** The allies push the Germans back beyond their critical line of defense.

**November 9:** Kaiser Wilhelm III of Germany abdicates his rule.

**November 11:** An armistice is signed, bringing the war to an end.

**17. Which of the following groups were allies in World War I?**

- a. Russia, Turkey, and Prussia
- b. Russia, Britain, France, Italy, and the United States
- c. Germany, Turkey, and Belgium
- d. Japan, Germany, and Turkey
- e. Britain, Belgium, Italy, and Turkey

**18. Which statement best summarizes World War I?**

- a. A group of allies declares war on a small country, but the underdog ultimately wins.
- b. A large bloc of aligned nations move to seize an entire region, but they are stopped by a superpower nation.
- c. A flurry of unrelated wars among various countries eventually ends, but with no clear winners or losers.
- d. One country invades another, and a group of nations opposed to the invasion rally to thwart the invader's plans.
- e. A naval war between two small nations escalates into a ground and air war among several nations.

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**From 2000 B.C. until the twentieth century, a succession of dynasties ruled China. The word *China* comes from the Ch'in Dynasty (221-206 B.C.), which first unified the country by conquering warring land-owning feudal lords. King Cheng names himself Shih Huang-ti, or first emperor, and consolidated his empire by abolishing feudal rule, creating a centralized monarchy, establishing a system of laws and a common written language, and building roads and canals to the capital. Scholars speculate that construction of the Great Wall or *chang cheng*, meaning "long wall," began during the Ch'in Dynasty in order to protect China's northern border from invaders. Shih Huang-ti ruled with absolute power, imposing strict laws and heavy taxes and doling out harsh punishments. He also is reputed to have burned books on topics that he did not consider useful like agriculture or medicine. Shih Huang-ti died in 210 B.C. His son succeeded him, but soon peasants and former nobles revolted and overthrew the dynasty. The Han Dynasty replaced it, ruling China until 220 A.D.**

(for questions 19-20)

**19. Which of the following is NOT a contribution of the Ch'in Dynasty?**

- a. unification of territory
- b. feudal aristocracy
- c. road construction
- d. standardized written script
- e. regulations and penalties

**20. Which of the following conclusions can you make based on the passage?**

- a. The Ch'in Dynasty enjoyed a stable and long-lasting rule.
  - b. By abolishing feudalism, Ch'in Shih Huang-ti promoted democracy in China.
  - c. The Ch'in Dynasty was popular among peasants and displaced nobles.
  - d. Disunity and disorder marked the Ch'in Dynasty
  - e. The Ch'in Dynasty had long lasting influence
- 

**When people make economic decisions, they must often give up something; for example, they give up taking a vacation in order to save for a car. The value of the thing given up is called opportunity cost. In another example, Ana is trying to decide whether to take a part-time night job that \$200 a week or take courses for credit at the local community college. Her uncle will pay for her tuition and books if she decides to go to college. In addition, he will give her \$100 per week. (for questions 21-22)**

**21. What is Ana's opportunity cost of going to college?**

- a. \$100 per week
- b. college credits
- c. the \$200-per-week job
- d. payment for tuition and books
- e. working too slowly toward her degree

**22. Why does Ana's decision involve opportunity cost?**

- a. she doesn't want her uncle to pay her college costs.
- b. she wants both to work and go to school.
- c. her resources (her uncle's money) are endless, so she can choose to take classes.
- d. her resources (time and money) are limited, so she must make a choice.
- e. she would rather go to college than work at night.

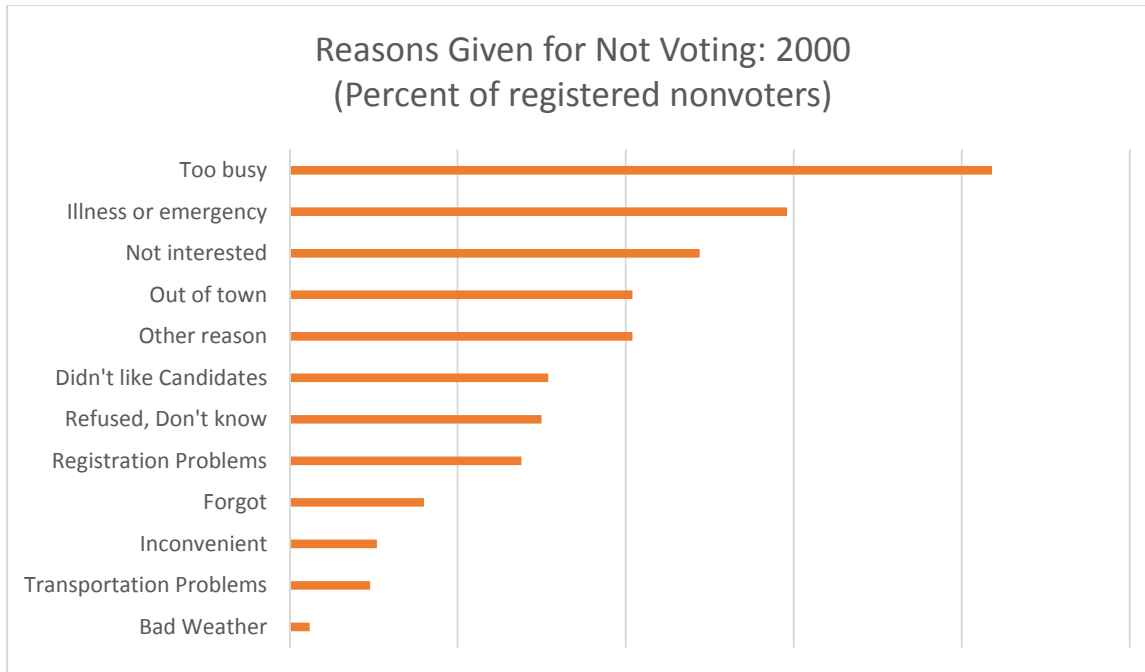
**23. Capital gains tax is money paid to the federal government out of profits from the sale of financial assets, like property (land or buildings) or stocks. For which of the following would you need to pay capital gains tax?**

- a. cigarettes
- b. groceries
- c. your mortgage
- d. your wages
- e. a profitable real estate sale

**24. In order for a bill to become a law in the United States, it must be passed in identical form by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the president. If the president vetoes the bill instead of signing it, the bill can still become law if two thirds of each house of Congress approves the bill in anew vote, overriding the president's veto. If the president neither signs nor vetoes a bill passed by Congress, the bill becomes law ten days later, unless Congress is no longer in session. If Congress has adjourned, the unsigned bill does not become law; this is known as a pocket veto.**

**Which statement best summarizes the previous passage?**

- a. The president plays the key role in passing a new law.
- b. The president has the power to block Congress from passing a law.
- c. The president, by simply not signing a law, can keep it from taking effect.
- d. The veto power gives the president the ability to rewrite bills passed by Congress before signing them.
- e. The president can sometimes check the power of Congress to pass new laws.



**25. Based on the information in the graph, which of the following proposals might best improve the voting rate?**

- a. Distribute umbrellas to all household members to encourage people to vote on rainy days.
- b. Organize buses to help people get voting places.
- c. Send reminders to registered voters so they do not forget to vote.
- d. Reschedule Election Day to a weekend so that people who are busy at work and at school can be available to vote.
- e. Provide more interesting candidates that inspire people to vote.

**Answer Key**

1. a

2. c

3. d.

4. c

5. e.

6. b

7. d

8. c

9. b

10. c

11. a

12. c

13. b

14. a

15. d

16. b

17. b

18. d

19. b

20. e

21. c

22. d

23. e

24. e

25. d