

DIRECTIONS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies section of the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment is made up of three parts consisting of multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions.

Work as rapidly as you can without sacrificing accuracy. Do not spend too much time puzzling over a question. Answer the easier questions first; then return to the harder ones.

Where necessary, you may use blank spaces in the test booklet for your work.

YOU MUST RECORD ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS IN THE SEPARATE ANSWER FOLDER. No credit will be given for anything written in this test booklet. Your responses must be in English in order to be scored.

For multiple-choice questions, mark only one answer for each question by filling in the corresponding circle in the answer folder. **MAKE SURE THAT EACH MARK IS HEAVY AND DARK AND COMPLETELY FILLS THE CIRCLE.** If you change an answer, be sure to erase your first choice completely. Incomplete erasures may be read as intended answers.

Respond fully to the open-ended questions in the area provided in the answer folder. When asked to explain an answer, you may use words, tables, diagrams, or drawings.

SOCIAL STUDIES - PART 1

DIRECTIONS FOR QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 15: For each of the questions or incomplete statements below, select the answer choice that is best in each case, and fill in the corresponding lettered space on page 33 in your answer folder with a heavy, dark mark.

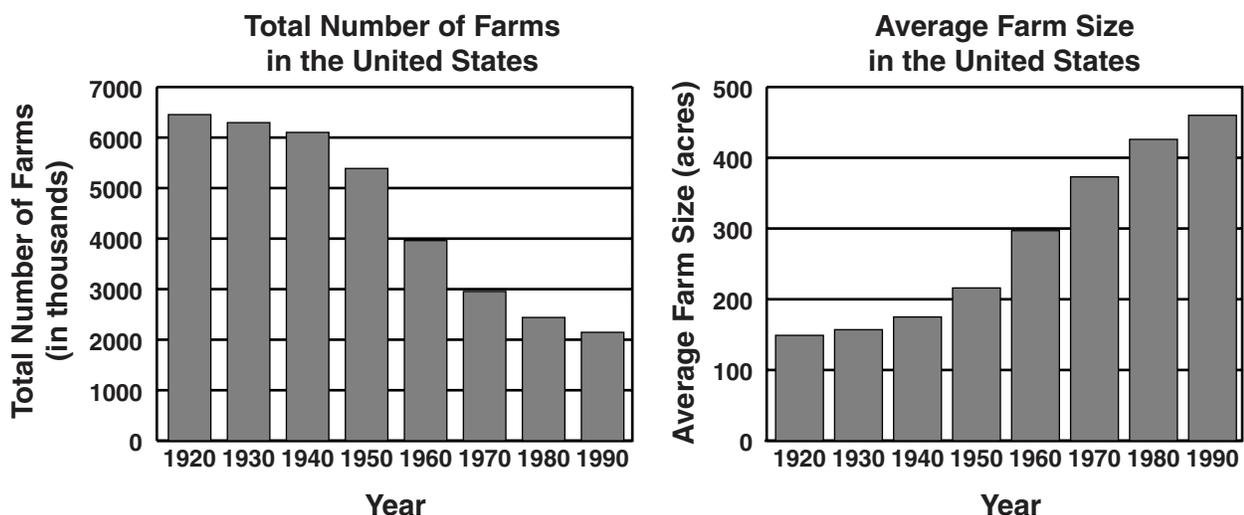
1. Currency, as a means of exchange, was made possible by which historical development?
- A. domestication of animals
 - B. creation of stable systems of government
 - C. formation of permanent hunter-gatherer societies
 - D. development of religions based on a belief in a single god

-
2. What information could be determined by using the scale on a map?
- A. types of political boundaries shown on a map
 - B. populations of cities and towns shown on a map
 - C. distance between two locations shown on a map
 - D. latitude and longitude of a location shown on a map

3. What does the following passage demonstrate?

The buffalo was even more indispensable to the Plains Indians than the horse, providing them with food, clothing, shelter, and even fuel. Necessities, luxuries, ornaments, tools, bedding, their very tepees - all were fashioned from the flesh, bone, and hide of the buffalo.

- A. Meeting universal needs often depends on cultural and geographic factors.
- B. Universal needs lead people to create governments to meet religious needs.
- C. A society's religious beliefs vary depending on geographic and political factors.
- D. A society's government creates institutions that meet individual and group needs.



4. According to the graphs above, which of the following is true regarding farms in the United States?
- A. Farms have a decreased reliance on technology.
 - B. Small farms have been combined into larger farms.
 - C. The number of people living on farms has increased.
 - D. Farmers have increased their dependence on foreign aid.

5. Individuals under the age of eighteen can affect the outcomes of elections by
- A. watching television news reports about the candidates.
 - B. running for public office in local government elections.
 - C. registering to vote in local, state, and national elections.
 - D. volunteering to work at a campaign headquarters.

6. All of the following factors contributed to the decline of feudalism in Europe EXCEPT the
- A. spread of the bubonic plague.
 - B. military failure of the Crusades.
 - C. travels of Marco Polo.
 - D. growth of an urban merchant class.

7. The rapid growth of the world's population in the last fifty years is due, in part, to scientific advances in
- A. space exploration and oceanography.
 - B. health care and medicine.
 - C. computers and the Internet.
 - D. weapons and military technology.

9. In 1215, King John of England was forced by a group of nobles to sign the Magna Carta. What was the result of this action?
- A. Limits were placed on the power of English kings.
 - B. Christianity became the official religion of England.
 - C. English knights were required to join in the Crusades.
 - D. England sent ships to establish colonies in the Americas.

8. Consider the following lyrics by Bruce Springsteen:

*New Jersey Turnpike
Ridin' on a wet night
'Neath the refinery's glow
Out where the great black rivers flow*

The above song lyrics highlight which of the following contemporary issues?

- A. growth of suburbs near large cities
- B. economic effects of natural disasters
- C. high cost of maintaining the highway system
- D. environmental effects of industrial development

10. When Arabian armies took control of Egypt in the mid-seventh century, they brought with them the religion of Islam. In the years that followed, many Egyptians chose to convert to Islam. This is an example of cultural

- A. isolation.
- B. diffusion.
- C. separation.
- D. discrimination.



11. What is one important difference between the hunter-gatherer and the agricultural societies?

- A. Hunter-gatherer societies were early forms of capitalism.
- B. Agricultural societies led directly to democratic communities.
- C. Agricultural societies allowed for more stationary populations.
- D. Hunter-gatherer societies allowed for greater population growth.

12. Which of the following economic activities were responsible for the rapid growth of urban areas in New Jersey in the twentieth century?

- A. agriculture and fishing
- B. education and publishing
- C. mining and timber harvesting
- D. manufacturing and transportation

13. At the Constitutional Convention, there was a debate over two plans for setting up the legislative branch of government. These were the two plans:

VIRGINIA PLAN

Each state would be represented according to the size of its population.

NEW JERSEY PLAN

Each state would have the same number of representatives.

The debate was resolved by a third plan:

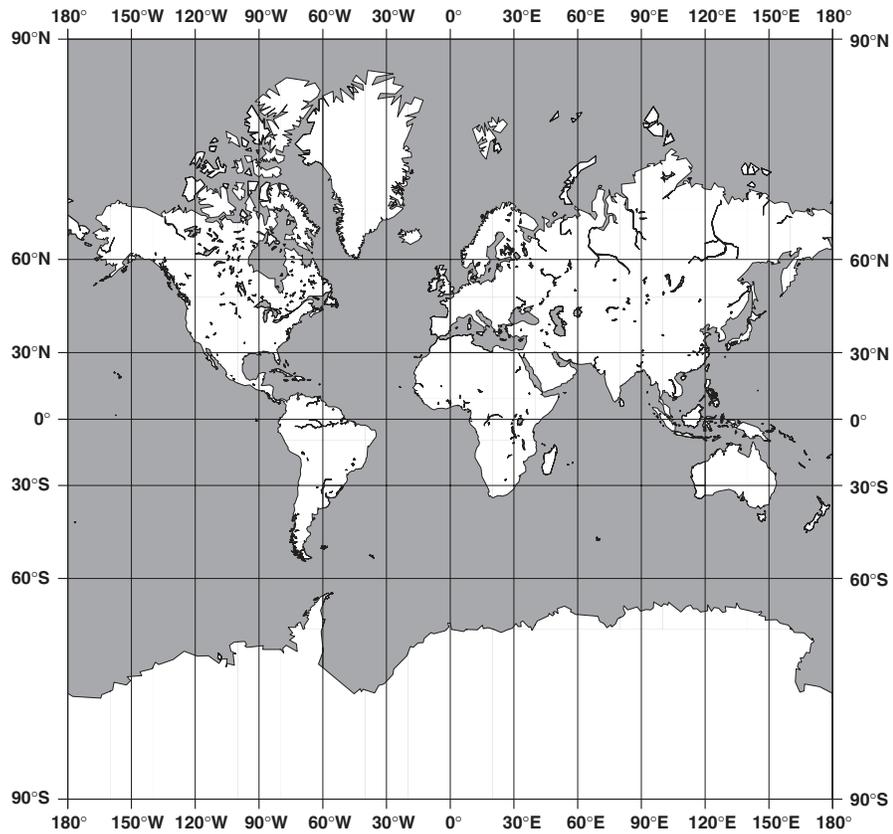
CONNECTICUT PLAN

(the GREAT COMPROMISE)

The legislature would have two houses. In one house the states would be represented according to population. In the other house, each state would be represented equally.

What issue was settled by the Connecticut Plan?

- A. how to count the states' population
- B. how the president should be elected
- C. how the larger and smaller states could share power
- D. how the states and the federal government could share power



14. The type of map shown above is called a Mercator projection. What is the main weakness of the Mercator projection?
- A. Not all the earth's oceans can be viewed at the same time.
 - B. Areas far from the equator are distorted and appear too large.
 - C. Not all the earth's continents can be viewed at the same time.
 - D. Areas far from the prime meridian are distorted and appear too large.

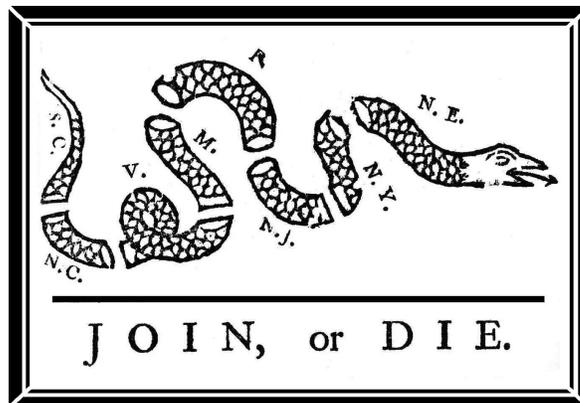


15. The Amish are a religious group with strict rules for worship and daily life. In the late 1700s, they came to the United States from Europe, where they had been unable to live according to their own beliefs. Initially, Americans did not understand or accept the Amish ways either. Nevertheless, the Amish built their own communities and tried to live as good neighbors and good citizens in their new land.

As described above, which best explains the Amish experience in both Europe and the United States?

- A. They were the victims of prejudice.
- B. They were disliked because of their race.
- C. They were denied the right to own property.
- D. They were expelled from their native land.

DIRECTIONS FOR QUESTION 16: Respond fully to the open-ended question that follows. Show your work and clearly explain your answer. You may use words, tables, diagrams, or drawings. Write your answer on page 34 in your answer folder.



16. This cartoon was drawn by Benjamin Franklin in 1754 during the French and Indian War (Seven Years War). He printed it again during the American Revolution.
- Explain how this cartoon is a symbol that reflects a political viewpoint in Colonial America. Use the cartoon and what you already know to develop your response.







SOCIAL STUDIES - PART 2

DIRECTIONS FOR QUESTIONS 17 THROUGH 31: For each of the questions or incomplete statements below, select the answer choice that is best in each case, and fill in the corresponding lettered space on page 35 in your answer folder with a heavy, dark mark.

17. In order to supply the Atlantic slave trade in the 1600s, European slave traders in Ghana, West Africa, often purchased the captives of wars between different cultural groups. By paying high prices for these prisoners, European slave traders encouraged the warring cultural groups to

- A. resolve their differences and make peace.
- B. kill their enemies rather than take prisoners.
- C. leave Ghana and migrate to other areas of Africa.
- D. continue fighting in order to capture more people.

18. Which of the following actions by the United States government would have the greatest economic effect on families and individual citizens?

- A. a decrease in personal income tax rates
- B. an increase in land set aside for national parks
- C. the nomination of a new Supreme Court justice
- D. the decision to construct more interstate highways

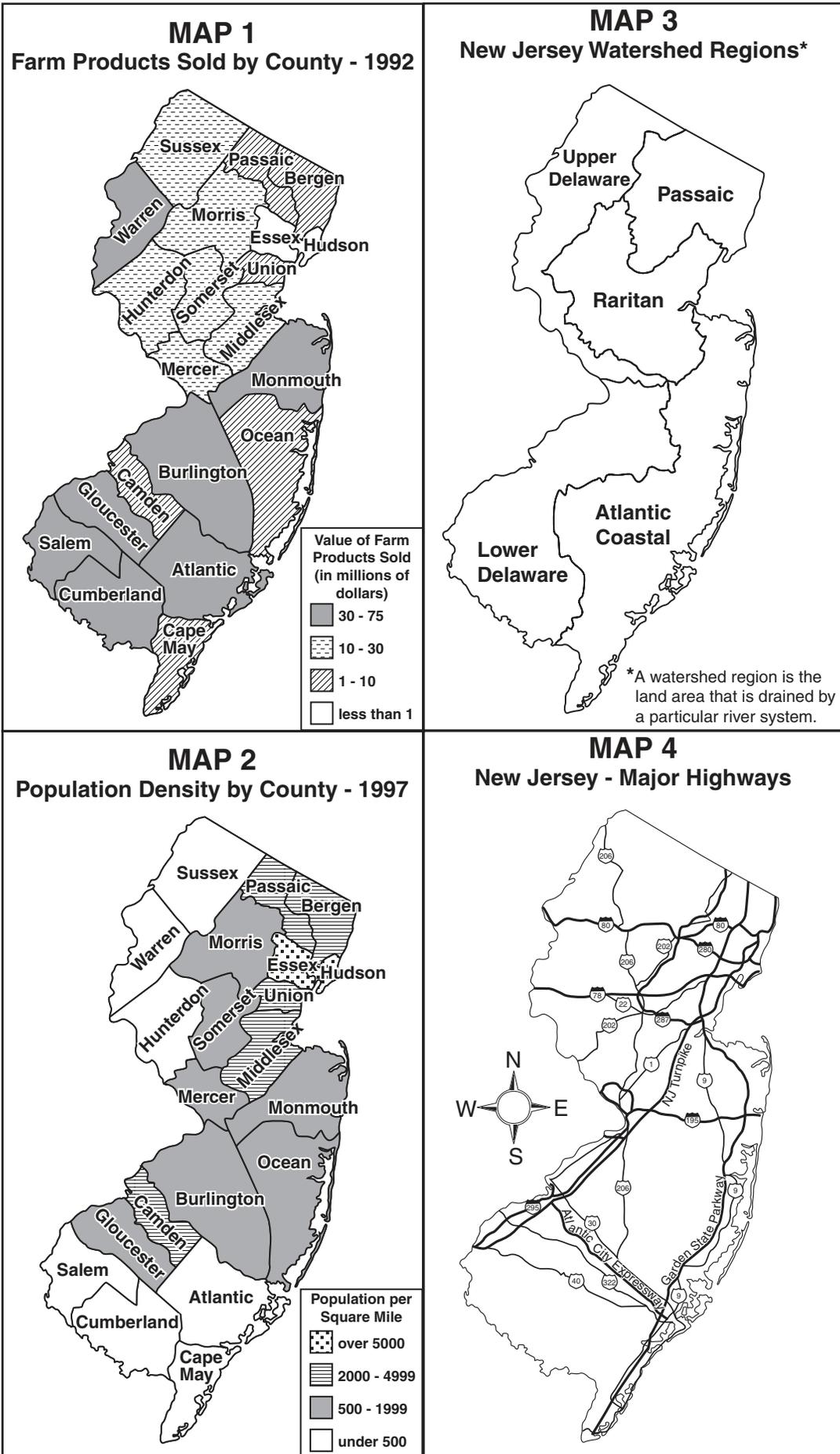
19. In drafting the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson proposed the following criticism of King George III, which was not included in the final version:

He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death. . . .

The most likely reason why this statement was NOT included in the Declaration of Independence was to

- A. prevent France from getting involved in the war.
- B. avoid losing the support of the southern colonies.
- C. ensure the support of free blacks in northern colonies.
- D. persuade American Indians to help fight against the British.

Use the maps below to answer the next three questions.



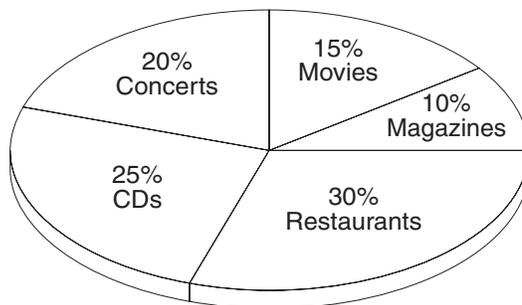


20. Which map indicates structures built by humans?
- A. Map 1
 - B. Map 2
 - C. Map 3
 - D. Map 4

21. Which of the following features is NOT found on any of the four maps?
- A. title
 - B. scale
 - C. legend
 - D. compass rose

22. Two New Jersey counties each produced less than one million dollars worth of farm products in 1992. Based on these maps, what factor best explains this?
- A. Those counties are too far north to be able to grow many crops.
 - B. Restrictions on water use prohibit irrigation in that watershed region.
 - C. High population density in those counties leaves little room for farmland.
 - D. There are few major highways in those counties, so it is difficult to transport farm products to market.

Lisa's Entertainment Budget



23. This is Lisa's entertainment budget. Which of the following is an example of an opportunity cost (trade-off)?
- A. Lisa decides to buy a different magazine than the one she usually buys.
 - B. Lisa doesn't like a CD she bought, so she returns it to the store for a refund.
 - C. Lisa's favorite place to eat goes out of business, so she must find another place.
 - D. Lisa wants to spend more on concerts, so she must spend less on other entertainment categories.



24. The War of 1812 has been described by some historians as a “Second War of Independence.” This is because the War of 1812
- A. freed the people of the Louisiana territory from the tyranny of French rule.
 - B. resulted in the abolition of slavery in all of the territory controlled by the United States.
 - C. demonstrated that the United States could defend itself against attack by European nations.
 - D. inspired the people of the United States to overthrow the government and write a new constitution.

26. If the president vetoes an act of Congress, it can become a law if
- A. the Supreme Court unanimously votes for it.
 - B. two-thirds of the Supreme Court deems it constitutional.
 - C. one-half of both houses of Congress votes for it.
 - D. two-thirds of both houses of Congress vote for it.

-
25. All of the following sources would be useful in determining the locations of mineral deposits around the world EXCEPT
- A. an atlas.
 - B. a globe.
 - C. an almanac.
 - D. the Internet.

-
27. European farmers in the Middle Ages rotated the use of their land. Each year they planted crops on only two-thirds of the farmland, and the remaining one-third was left unused. As a result, the soil was not depleted of nutrients. This is an example of
- A. urbanization.
 - B. supply and demand.
 - C. sustainable resource use.
 - D. desertification.



28. The cartoon above, depicting President Andrew Jackson, was published in 1833. The cartoon reflects the opinion that President Jackson was
- A. not qualified to be president.
 - B. unable to make important decisions.
 - C. abusing the power of the presidency.
 - D. overly influenced by European political ideas.

29. Which of the following has been an effect of the growth of the Internet in recent years?

- A. People have become more interested in sending handwritten letters.
- B. People have become less interested in events that take place in other countries.
- C. It has become more difficult for people to ship goods to people in other countries.
- D. It has become easier for people all over the world to exchange ideas with one another.

30. All of the following characteristics are common to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam EXCEPT

- A. the existence of a sacred book.
- B. a belief in only one god.
- C. origins in the same general region of the world.
- D. celebration of the same religious holidays.

How European Scholars Explained the Physical World

Before	After
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • religious teachings • traditional beliefs • superstition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • careful observation and measurement • experiments • formal reasoning

31. The changes shown in the lists above were a result of which of the following?

- A. the Fall of the Roman Empire
- B. the Crusades
- C. the Scientific Revolution
- D. the American Revolution



DIRECTIONS FOR QUESTION 32: Respond fully to the open-ended question that follows. Show your work and clearly explain your answer. You may use words, tables, diagrams, or drawings. Write your answer on page 36 in your answer folder.

32. Cultural change often occurs as a result of historical events.
- Select **two** events from the list below.
 - Describe **two** cultural changes that occurred as a result of each event you selected.
 1. the Louisiana Purchase
 2. the annexation of Texas and the Mexican War
 3. the Seneca Falls Convention
 4. the Civil War







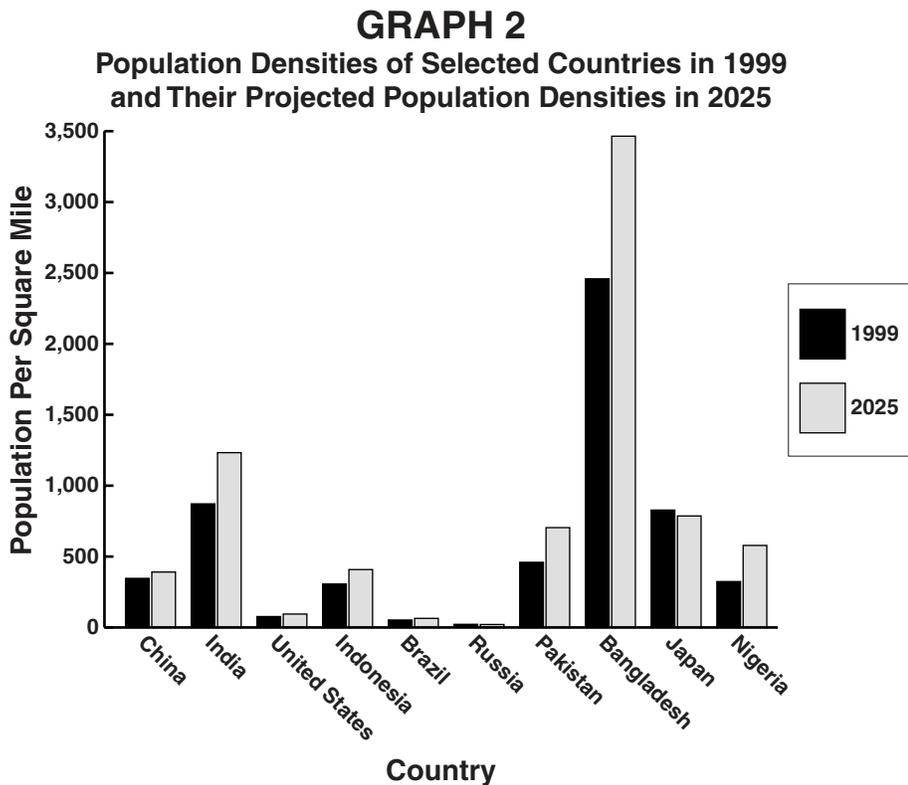
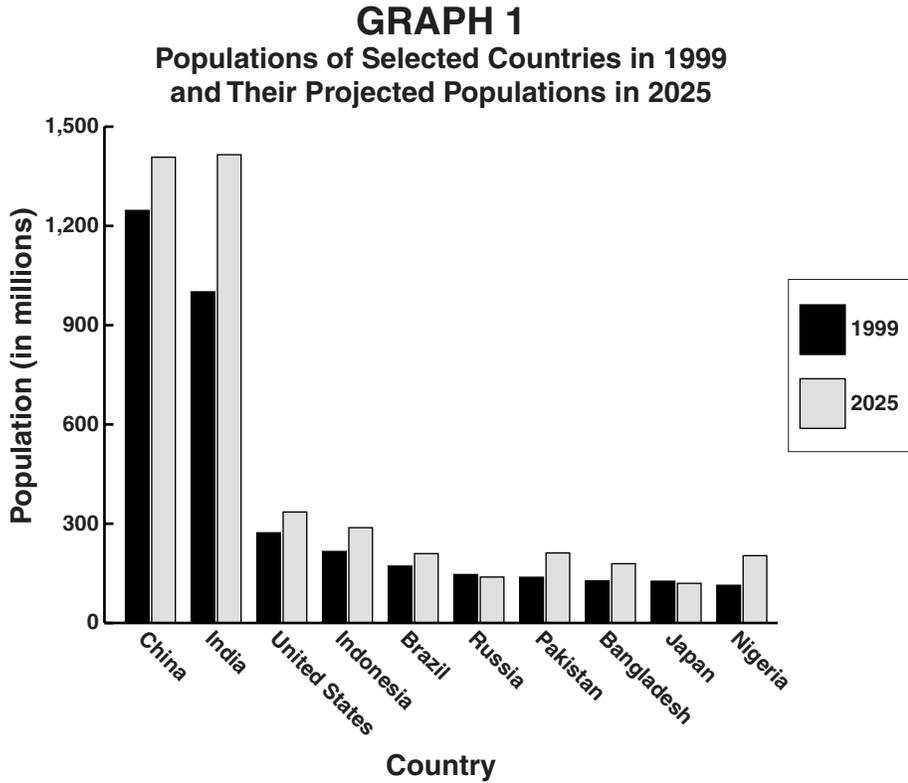
SOCIAL STUDIES - PART 3

DIRECTIONS FOR QUESTIONS 33 THROUGH 47: For each of the questions or incomplete statements below, select the answer choice that is best in each case, and fill in the corresponding lettered space on page 37 in your answer folder with a heavy, dark mark.

33. Which of the following was a cultural contribution of the ancient Greek city-state of Athens?
- A. the creation of the first written language
 - B. a model for a democratic system of government
 - C. the exploration and mapping of the coast of Western Europe
 - D. a religion based on the belief in one god
-
34. By the 1820s, farmers in the midwestern United States were sending crops and raw materials to the East and the South. Eastern factories were sending manufactured goods, such as textiles, to the Midwest. This growth of trade was made possible by the invention of the
- A. telegraph.
 - B. cotton gin.
 - C. steamboat.
 - D. automobile.
35. Voting in elections is a right of United States citizenship. Which of the following is a responsibility of all voters?
- A. running for public office
 - B. contributing money to political campaigns
 - C. attending national political party conventions
 - D. educating themselves about the candidates and the issues
-
36. As the problem of heavy traffic on New Jersey's highways increases, one solution has been the construction of new roads. Which of the following is an opportunity cost (trade-off) of building more roads and highways?
- A. licensing of more cars and trucks
 - B. loss of farmland and natural habitats
 - C. installation of road signs on new highways
 - D. construction of more gas stations and rest areas



Use the graphs below to answer the next two questions.



G262.art



37. Which countries shown on these graphs are expected to experience the least amount of change in population between 1999 and 2025?
- A. China and India
 - B. Russia and Japan
 - C. Indonesia and Nigeria
 - D. Pakistan and Bangladesh
38. Which country shown on these graphs will experience the greatest increase in population between 1999 and 2025?
- A. India
 - B. China
 - C. Nigeria
 - D. Bangladesh
39. The Bill of Rights guarantees certain rights to all persons accused of crimes. These rights include a trial by jury and the right to be represented by a lawyer. Why is it important to protect the rights of the accused?
- A. to ensure that trials are fair
 - B. to increase the power of judges
 - C. to prevent criminals from escaping
 - D. to encourage people to serve on juries
-
40. Sales of products made from recycled materials have increased in recent years. Even though they often cost more than other products, the success of these products is due to the
- A. influence of labor unions.
 - B. attitudes and beliefs of consumers.
 - C. use of barter as a means of exchange.
 - D. lack of competition in a command economy.



41. Saudi Arabia is one of the world's leading oil-producing countries. However, because of its desert climate, it must import nearly all of its food. This is an example of international
- A. conflict.
 - B. isolation.
 - C. competition.
 - D. interdependence.

43. All of the following were lasting contributions of the Muslim Empires EXCEPT
- A. achievements in science, technology, and mathematics.
 - B. achievements in art and architecture.
 - C. extensive trade networks in Africa and Asia.
 - D. colonization of the Western Hemisphere.

-
42. Which of the following demonstrates how the United States Constitution is a flexible, living document?
- A. Senate committee hearings
 - B. the amendment process
 - C. national presidential elections
 - D. political party conventions

-
44. Which of the following was an economic factor in sixteenth-century Europe that led to the exploration of North America?
- A. underpopulation
 - B. expansion of trade
 - C. agricultural surplus
 - D. inadequate labor supply



	The Ancient Roman Republic	The United States of America Today
Executive	Two consuls – elected by the assembly	One president – elected by the people through the Electoral College
Legislative	Senate – 300 members, chosen from the upper class for life Centuriate Assembly – all citizen soldiers are members for life Tribal Assembly – other citizens	Senate – 100 members, elected by the people for six-year terms House of Representatives – elected by the people for two-year terms
Judicial	Praetors – eight judges	Supreme Court – nine justices
Legal Code	Twelve Tables – list of rules, the basis of Roman law	Constitution – basic law of United States
Citizenship	All adult male landowners	All native-born or naturalized persons

45. Based on the information shown above, in what way are the governments of the ancient Roman Republic and the United States of America most similar?
- A. requirements for citizenship
 - B. terms of office of legislators
 - C. number of executives
 - D. structure of the branches of government



46. Which of the following is a characteristic of a free-market economy?
- A. The price of goods is determined by supply and demand.
 - B. Businesses do not need licenses in order to produce and sell goods.
 - C. Customers do not pay sales taxes on goods that are locally produced.
 - D. Many goods are produced by the government, and citizens receive them at no charge.

-
47. The Nile River often floods its banks. These floods were an advantage to the people of ancient Egypt because the floodwaters
- A. fertilized the farmland in the river valley.
 - B. protected the treasures buried in the pyramids.
 - C. made it easier for ships to carry goods upstream.
 - D. prevented invading armies from reaching Egyptian cities.

DIRECTIONS FOR QUESTION 48: Respond fully to the open-ended question that follows. Show your work and clearly explain your answer. You may use words, tables, diagrams, or drawings. Write your answer on page 38 in your answer folder.

48. Although most citizens of New Jersey regard their shoreline as a valued resource, they do not agree about how it should be used.
- Describe one possible consequence for each of the following suggestions for activity at the shore.

Be sure to number your responses to correspond to the activity you are talking about.

1. stopping further residential and commercial development
2. mining for oil and other mineral resources off shore
3. increased development of the shore's entertainment industries
4. expansion of the fishing industry



GEPA - SECURE MATERIAL - DO NOT COPY

The publisher is indebted to the following for permission to use material in this booklet:

“Pirates in Tuxedos” by Fred M. Collier. Copyright © 1998. *Newsweek* Magazine, April 27, 1998. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.

“A Difficult Crossing” by Maureen Crane Wartski from *Boys’ Life*, January 1992. Copyright © 1992 by Maureen Crane Wartski. Used by permission of the author and *Boys’ Life* magazine, published by the Boy Scouts of America.