

# GACE History Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Which empire is noted for the reunification of China and significant expansion of knowledge in Europe?**
  - A. Roman Empire**
  - B. Mongol Empire**
  - C. Ottoman Empire**
  - D. Persian Empire**
- 2. Which English philosopher advocated for knowledge gained through scientific knowledge and experiment during the Renaissance?**
  - A. Sir Francis Bacon**
  - B. Isaac Newton**
  - C. Thomas Hobbes**
  - D. David Hume**
- 3. Which agency is responsible for federal investigations into business activities in the United States?**
  - A. Federal Bureau of Investigation**
  - B. Federal Reserve**
  - C. Federal Trade Commission**
  - D. Department of Commerce**
- 4. What was the financial commitment of the United States for the Marshall Plan?**
  - A. \$10 billion**
  - B. \$13 billion**
  - C. \$20 billion**
  - D. \$50 billion**
- 5. Who was the head of state in Communist Russia during World War II?**
  - A. Trotsky**
  - B. Stalin**
  - C. Lenin**
  - D. Brezhnev**

- 6. What is one characteristic of the Bedouin people?**
- A. Sedentary lifestyle**
  - B. Nomadic dwellers**
  - C. Agricultural practices**
  - D. Urban living**
- 7. What agricultural development significantly changed prehistoric communities?**
- A. Domestication of animals**
  - B. Invention of irrigation**
  - C. Development of agriculture**
  - D. Trading with other groups**
- 8. Which battle is considered to seal the defeat of the South in the Civil War, occurring the day after Gettysburg?**
- A. Battle of Vicksburg**
  - B. Battle of Chickamauga**
  - C. Battle of Chattanooga**
  - D. Battle of Fredericksburg**
- 9. In which field would the chemical process of radiocarbon dating be most beneficial?**
- A. Botany**
  - B. Archaeology**
  - C. Chemistry**
  - D. Astronomy**
- 10. What type of governance was prominent in the Kushite civilization?**
- A. A single male ruler**
  - B. A council of elders**
  - C. Female rulers**
  - D. Direct democracy**

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. C

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which empire is noted for the reunification of China and significant expansion of knowledge in Europe?**

- A. Roman Empire**
- B. Mongol Empire**
- C. Ottoman Empire**
- D. Persian Empire**

The Mongol Empire is noted for its significant role in the reunification of China, especially under the leadership of Genghis Khan and his successors. During their conquests, the Mongols not only brought together a vast region that included China but also created the Pax Mongolica, which facilitated trade and cultural exchange across Eurasia. This empire established a network of trade routes, such as the Silk Road, which allowed for the transmission of knowledge, technology, and ideas between the East and West. As a result, many innovations from Asia, including advancements in mathematics, astronomy, and medicine, eventually made their way to Europe. This exchange contributed to a broadened understanding and catalyzed developments in various fields during the following centuries. The other empires mentioned did influence regions and cultures, but they do not match the specific combination of reunification of China and significant knowledge expansion in Europe that characterized the Mongol Empire's legacy.

**2. Which English philosopher advocated for knowledge gained through scientific knowledge and experiment during the Renaissance?**

- A. Sir Francis Bacon**
- B. Isaac Newton**
- C. Thomas Hobbes**
- D. David Hume**

The correct answer is Sir Francis Bacon, who is widely recognized for his development of the scientific method and his advocacy for empirical research and experimentation as the best means of gaining knowledge. During the Renaissance, Bacon argued that traditional methods of acquiring knowledge, which relied heavily on philosophy and abstract reasoning, were inadequate. Instead, he emphasized observation and experimentation, encouraging a systematic approach to scientific inquiry that laid the groundwork for modern science. Bacon's works, particularly "Novum Organum," outlined his ideas about inductive reasoning and the importance of gathering data through experiments and observations to form conclusions. This marked a significant shift in the way knowledge was approached, steering away from reliance on authority and dogma. Other figures, such as Isaac Newton, played pivotal roles in advancing scientific concepts but built upon the foundation laid by Bacon's earlier philosophical ideas. Thomas Hobbes and David Hume contributed to political philosophy and empiricism, respectively, but did not specifically advocate for the scientific method in the same way that Bacon did during the Renaissance period.

**3. Which agency is responsible for federal investigations into business activities in the United States?**

- A. Federal Bureau of Investigation**
- B. Federal Reserve**
- C. Federal Trade Commission**
- D. Department of Commerce**

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the agency responsible for overseeing and investigating business activities in the United States to ensure fair competition and protect consumers. Established in 1914, the FTC enforces antitrust laws, which are designed to prevent monopolistic practices and maintain competition among businesses. It also investigates deceptive or unfair business practices, allowing it to promote consumer protection. The agency plays a crucial role in regulating various sectors, ensuring that businesses operate fairly and transparently. By conducting investigations, the FTC can take action against companies that violate federal laws, thereby maintaining integrity within the marketplace and protecting consumer interests. In contrast, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation primarily focuses on criminal investigations and national security, the Federal Reserve manages monetary policy and banking. The Department of Commerce deals with various economic aspects, including trade and economic growth but does not directly investigate business activities in the same regulatory capacity as the FTC.

**4. What was the financial commitment of the United States for the Marshall Plan?**

- A. \$10 billion**
- B. \$13 billion**
- C. \$20 billion**
- D. \$50 billion**

The Marshall Plan, officially known as the European Recovery Program, was a significant American initiative launched in 1948 to aid Western Europe after the devastation of World War II. The financial commitment of the United States for this plan was approximately \$13 billion, which was allocated over four years to help rebuild the economies and infrastructures of countries in Europe. This financial support was intended to stabilize these economies, prevent the spread of communism, and foster political stability and economic cooperation among the European nations. The considerable investment of \$13 billion also reflected the U.S. government's understanding that economic recovery was critical for global peace and prosperity in the post-war world. The successful implementation of the Marshall Plan is credited with significantly contributing to the economic revival of Western European countries and is often cited as a key factor in creating a more prosperous and stable Europe.

**5. Who was the head of state in Communist Russia during World War II?**

**A. Trotsky**

**B. Stalin**

**C. Lenin**

**D. Brezhnev**

During World War II, the head of state in Communist Russia was Joseph Stalin. He came to power after the death of Vladimir Lenin and played a crucial role in the Soviet Union's leadership during the war. Stalin was the General Secretary of the Communist Party and took on the role of the Premier of the Soviet Union, guiding the country through significant military and political challenges. Stalin's leadership was marked by the implementation of extensive industrialization and the militarization of the Soviet economy, which were essential for the USSR's preparation for the conflict. Under his command, the Red Army engaged in several pivotal battles, most notably the Battle of Stalingrad, which marked a turning point in the war against Nazi Germany. His strategic decisions, although sometimes controversial, were pivotal in securing the defeat of Axis powers and establishing the Soviet Union as a superpower in the post-war period. While Trotsky was a key figure in the early years of the Bolshevik Revolution, he was exiled from the Soviet Union and played no role in the government during the war. Lenin, who led the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, had passed away in 1924, long before the onset of World War II. Brezhnev came to power after Stalin.

**6. What is one characteristic of the Bedouin people?**

**A. Sedentary lifestyle**

**B. Nomadic dwellers**

**C. Agricultural practices**

**D. Urban living**

The Bedouin people are known for their nomadic lifestyle, which is primarily driven by their need to adapt to harsh desert environments. This characteristic is marked by their movement in search of grazing lands for their livestock, as well as water sources. The nomadic existence allows them to take advantage of the seasonal changes in vegetation and climate, which is essential for their survival and livelihood in arid regions. Their way of life is deeply connected to traditional practices, including herding camels and sheep, which not only provide sustenance but also form a critical part of their cultural identity. The nomadic nature of the Bedouin has also shaped their social structures, interactions with other tribes, and their economic exchanges, highlighting their resilience and adaptability in a challenging environment. In contrast, a sedentary lifestyle, agricultural practices, and urban living do not accurately represent the Bedouin way of life, as these options suggest more permanent settlement and reliance on cultivated food production or urban environments, which diverges from the traditional nomadic practices of the Bedouin people.

**7. What agricultural development significantly changed prehistoric communities?**

- A. Domestication of animals**
- B. Invention of irrigation**
- C. Development of agriculture**
- D. Trading with other groups**

The development of agriculture represents a monumental shift in prehistoric communities, marking the transition from nomadic lifestyles to settled farming societies. This transformation allowed people to cultivate crops and domesticate animals, thereby ensuring a more reliable food supply. The ability to produce food surpluses enabled communities to sustain larger populations, which in turn facilitated social organization, the establishment of permanent dwellings, and the development of complex societies. Agriculture also prompted innovations in technology and labor division, as not everyone needed to engage in food production. This specialization allowed for the emergence of various professions and trade networks as communities grew and interacted with one another. Consequently, agriculture laid the foundation for advancements in culture, governance, and economy that would shape human civilization for millennia. While the domestication of animals and the invention of irrigation played significant roles in enhancing agricultural practices, they stemmed from the overall development of agriculture itself. Trading with other groups also became more prominent as agricultural communities emerged, but it was the initial agricultural development that fundamentally changed the structure and dynamics of prehistoric societies.

**8. Which battle is considered to seal the defeat of the South in the Civil War, occurring the day after Gettysburg?**

- A. Battle of Vicksburg**
- B. Battle of Chickamauga**
- C. Battle of Chattanooga**
- D. Battle of Fredericksburg**

The Battle of Vicksburg, fought from May 18 to July 4, 1863, is a critical turning point in the American Civil War. It effectively sealed the fate of the Confederacy by giving the Union control over the Mississippi River, which was a vital transportation and supply route. The Union's victory at Vicksburg occurred just after the significant Union victory at Gettysburg, which not only halted the Confederate invasion of the North but also shifted the momentum firmly in favor of the Union forces. By capturing Vicksburg, General Ulysses S. Grant divided the South, preventing supplies and reinforcements from easily moving between the eastern and western Confederate states. This dual defeat of Gettysburg and Vicksburg marked a significant decline in Southern morale and military efficacy. The Confederacy struggled to recover from losses and diminishings in resources, implying and establishing Vicksburg's importance as a decisive factor in sealing the South's fate in the Civil War.

**9. In which field would the chemical process of radiocarbon dating be most beneficial?**

**A. Botany**

**B. Archaeology**

**C. Chemistry**

**D. Astronomy**

Radiocarbon dating is a method used to determine the age of an object containing organic material by measuring the amount of carbon-14 it contains. This process is particularly beneficial in the field of archaeology because it allows archaeologists to date artifacts, fossils, and remains from ancient civilizations. By using radiocarbon dating, archaeologists can build timelines for historical events, understand the age of human activity, and establish connections between different cultures over time. In contrast, while botany might make use of radiocarbon dating to study the age of plant remains, its primary focus is on plant biology rather than dating historical objects. Chemistry, although it involves understanding the processes behind radiocarbon dating, does not apply the method in a historical or archaeological context. Astronomy studies celestial objects and phenomena, for which radiocarbon dating is not relevant. Thus, archaeology stands out as the field that derives the most benefit from this valuable dating technique.

**10. What type of governance was prominent in the Kushite civilization?**

**A. A single male ruler**

**B. A council of elders**

**C. Female rulers**

**D. Direct democracy**

The Kushite civilization, which thrived in what is now modern-day Sudan, is notable for its unique approach to governance, particularly the significant role that female rulers played. Among the most celebrated figures in Kushite history are the queens, such as Amanirenas and Cleopatra (the last of the Ptolemaic dynasty), who ruled during powerful periods of the civilization. These queens often held the title of "Kandake," a term used to refer to the queen mother or a ruling queen, and were respected for their leadership and military prowess. The prominence of female rulers in the Kushite civilization highlights a societal structure that allowed for women to ascend to power, which was relatively uncommon in many ancient cultures. This distinctive feature of Kushite governance illustrates a level of social flexibility and recognition of women's capabilities in leadership roles, contributing to the civilization's stability and continuity over centuries. While the civilization did have male rulers and other forms of governance at different times, the notable or culturally significant aspect of Kushite governance was the influence and power held by women, particularly in the context of queenship. This makes the answer about the significance of female rulers correct in the context of the question.