

ILTS Social Science History (246) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which example best illustrates the influence of physical geography on a region's historical development?**
 - A. The development of the caste system in South Asia.**
 - B. The spread of Greek culture in the Mediterranean basin.**
 - C. The diffusion of Islam into Southeast Asia and West Africa.**
 - D. The expansion of the slave trade into the Atlantic Ocean basin.**
- 2. What does the Gilded Age refer to in American history?**
 - A. A period of economic turmoil and hardship**
 - B. A phase of significant political reform**
 - C. A period of economic growth and ostentatious wealth**
 - D. A time of industrial decline**
- 3. Which psychological area would benefit from studying cognitive biases and decision-making processes?**
 - A. Social influence**
 - B. Behavioral psychology**
 - C. Cognition and decision-making**
 - D. Human motivation**
- 4. Racial violence in East St. Louis in 1917 and Chicago in 1919 reflected which of the following developments?**
 - A. White working-class resentment at the promotion of African Americans to administrative and clerical positions.**
 - B. Attempts by the Illinois legislature to enforce desegregation on public transportation systems.**
 - C. Competition between recent African American migrants and white workers for factory jobs.**
 - D. The admission of African Americans to leadership roles in labor unions in the steel and meatpacking industries.**

- 5. What idea is associated with the concept of Manifest Destiny?**
- A. The belief in the superiority of American culture**
 - B. The belief that American settlers were destined to expand across North America**
 - C. The belief that the U.S. should remain isolated from global affairs**
 - D. The belief in equal rights for all citizens**
- 6. Who famously said, "Give me liberty, or give me death"?**
- A. Samuel Adams**
 - B. Thomas Paine**
 - C. Patrick Henry**
 - D. George Washington**
- 7. When planning a study with human subjects, what is the most important ethical consideration for the researcher?**
- A. that participants may not disclose results of the study**
 - B. any procedures in place to reduce risk**
 - C. that participants may decline to participate and can opt-out at any time**
 - D. all applicable policies related to the use of human research subjects**
- 8. What does the concept of "cultural relativism" in anthropology emphasize when conducting research?**
- A. Making judgments based on their own cultural standards**
 - B. Collecting data reflecting the totality of the subjects' culture**
 - C. Maintaining positive relationships with subjects**
 - D. Refraining from making judgments based on their own culture**
- 9. What economic system is characterized by private ownership of the means of production?**
- A. Socialism**
 - B. Capitalism**
 - C. Communism**
 - D. Feudalism**

10. Who was the famous abolitionist known for the "Underground Railroad"?

- A. Frederick Douglass**
- B. Harriet Tubman**
- C. Sojourner Truth**
- D. William Lloyd Garrison**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which example best illustrates the influence of physical geography on a region's historical development?
- A. The development of the caste system in South Asia.
 - B. The spread of Greek culture in the Mediterranean basin.**
 - C. The diffusion of Islam into Southeast Asia and West Africa.
 - D. The expansion of the slave trade into the Atlantic Ocean basin.

The spread of Greek culture in the Mediterranean basin serves as an excellent example of how physical geography has influenced a region's historical development. The Mediterranean Sea facilitated trade and communication among various cultures, allowing for the exchange of ideas, goods, and technologies. The geographical layout of the region, characterized by a range of islands and coastal cities, made it easier for the Greek city-states to establish maritime trade networks. As a result, the Greeks could share their advancements in philosophy, politics, art, and science across vast distances, leading to a rich cultural exchange that shaped the development of Western civilization. The physical environment, including the sea routes and proximity to other cultures in Africa, Asia, and Europe, played a crucial role in this cultural diffusion, highlighting the significant connection between geography and historical progress.

2. What does the Gilded Age refer to in American history?
- A. A period of economic turmoil and hardship
 - B. A phase of significant political reform
 - C. A period of economic growth and ostentatious wealth**
 - D. A time of industrial decline

The Gilded Age refers to a significant period in American history, typically considered to span from the 1870s to about 1900. This era was characterized by rapid economic growth, particularly in the industrial sector, which led to the rise of impressive wealth among a select few individuals and families. It was marked by the expansion of industries such as steel, railroads, and textiles, which propelled the United States into a new era of economic power. The term "Gilded" itself suggests that while the period appeared prosperous and glittering on the surface, it often masked deeper issues, such as income inequality, poor working conditions, and political corruption. The wealth accumulated by industrialists and financiers created a stark contrast to the struggles faced by factory workers and farmers at the time. Therefore, the correct answer accurately encapsulates the essence of the Gilded Age as a time of remarkable economic growth and ostentatious displays of wealth, which defined the social landscape of the United States during that era.

3. Which psychological area would benefit from studying cognitive biases and decision-making processes?

- A. Social influence**
- B. Behavioral psychology**
- C. Cognition and decision-making**
- D. Human motivation**

Studying cognitive biases and decision-making processes falls squarely within the realm of cognition and decision-making. This area of psychology focuses on understanding how people think, reason, and make choices. Cognitive biases are systematic patterns of deviation from norm or rationality in judgment, and they significantly influence how decisions are made. By examining these biases, researchers can uncover the cognitive mechanisms at play when individuals face choices, leading to better insights into how decisions are formulated, structured, and influenced. This area is particularly relevant in exploring how various factors, including emotional, social, and environmental influences, affect human thought processes and choices. It connects to theories of rational choice and heuristics, exploring both the limitations of human cognition and the strategies people employ to navigate complex decision-making scenarios. The other options relate to important aspects of psychology but do not specifically center on cognitive biases in decision-making. Social influence, for example, looks more at how personal behavior is affected by others, while behavioral psychology emphasizes observable behaviors rather than internal thought processes. Human motivation focuses on the reasons behind individuals' actions but doesn't delve into the cognitive aspects of how those actions are decided upon. Thus, "Cognition and decision-making" is the most appropriate area for this inquiry.

4. Racial violence in East St. Louis in 1917 and Chicago in 1919 reflected which of the following developments?

- A. White working-class resentment at the promotion of African Americans to administrative and clerical positions.**
- B. Attempts by the Illinois legislature to enforce desegregation on public transportation systems.**
- C. Competition between recent African American migrants and white workers for factory jobs.**
- D. The admission of African Americans to leadership roles in labor unions in the steel and meatpacking industries.**

The choice indicating that racial violence in East St. Louis in 1917 and Chicago in 1919 reflected competition between recent African American migrants and white workers for factory jobs accurately captures a significant aspect of the socio-economic context during that period. During World War I, there was a surge in migration of African Americans from the rural South to Northern cities in search of better job opportunities and an escape from the oppressive Jim Crow laws. This influx of migrants coincided with a labor shortage in industrial cities due to the war effort, leading to heightened competition for available jobs. White workers, feeling threatened by the increasing presence and labor participation of African Americans, often reacted with hostility. The violent confrontations that erupted in places like East St. Louis and Chicago were largely fueled by these economic tensions, underscoring how competition for jobs could exacerbate racial animosities. The conflicts are not necessarily reflective of other issues, such as promotion in administrative positions or attempts at desegregation, nor were they primarily about African Americans gaining leadership roles in labor unions. Instead, the underlying cause was a palpable fear among white workers that their job opportunities and economic stability were jeopardized by the arrival of African Americans seeking equitable employment in the same industries.

5. What idea is associated with the concept of Manifest Destiny?

- A. The belief in the superiority of American culture**
- B. The belief that American settlers were destined to expand across North America**
- C. The belief that the U.S. should remain isolated from global affairs**
- D. The belief in equal rights for all citizens**

The concept of Manifest Destiny is fundamentally about the belief that American settlers were destined to expand across North America. This idea surfaced in the 19th century, rooted in the notion that the United States was not just entitled but destined by God to spread democracy and capitalism across the continent. It was tied to a sense of mission and purpose, which many Americans felt justified the expansion into territories that were already inhabited by Native Americans and other nations. The belief in Manifest Destiny played a significant role in justifying westward expansion, territorial acquisitions such as the Louisiana Purchase, the annexation of Texas, and the Oregon Trail migrations. Proponents of this ideology saw expansion as a means to enhance the nation's strength and influence and felt a moral obligation to spread their perceived superior way of life. The other options do not capture the essence of Manifest Destiny as accurately. While the notion of cultural superiority might be tangentially related, the central idea is indeed the belief in destined expansion. Isolationism contradicts the very premise of Manifest Destiny, which advocates for engagement and territorial growth. Similarly, the belief in equal rights for all citizens does not directly relate to the expansionist agenda characteristic of the Manifest Destiny philosophy.

6. Who famously said, "Give me liberty, or give me death"?

- A. Samuel Adams**
- B. Thomas Paine**
- C. Patrick Henry**
- D. George Washington**

The statement "Give me liberty, or give me death" was famously declared by Patrick Henry during a speech he delivered at the Second Virginia Convention in 1775. This phrase has become emblematic of the American struggle for independence and is often cited as a passionate appeal for freedom and resistance against British rule. Henry's speech was instrumental in persuading the convention to deliver Virginian troops for the upcoming war against Britain, exemplifying his role as a leader in the fight for American independence. His eloquence on the necessity of liberty over life itself resonated deeply with his contemporaries and continues to be a rallying cry for freedom. In contrast, while Samuel Adams and Thomas Paine were also prominent figures in the revolutionary movement, they are associated with different contexts and works that addressed the need for independence and governance but did not deliver this particular phrase. George Washington, as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, played a critical role in the revolutionary war as well, but he is not known for this specific quote.

7. When planning a study with human subjects, what is the most important ethical consideration for the researcher?
- A. that participants may not disclose results of the study
 - B. any procedures in place to reduce risk
 - C. that participants may decline to participate and can opt-out at any time**
 - D. all applicable policies related to the use of human research subjects

The most important ethical consideration when planning a study with human subjects revolves around the concept of voluntary participation and informed consent. Ensuring that participants have the right to decline participation and the ability to opt-out at any time is crucial to respecting their autonomy and maintaining ethical standards in research. This principle underscores the importance of informed consent, where participants are fully aware of the nature of the study, what it involves, and any potential risks. When individuals know they can withdraw at any time without consequence, it promotes trust and reinforces their autonomy over personal decisions. While other considerations, such as reducing risk and adhering to applicable policies regarding human subjects, are also essential in conducting ethical research, they are secondary to the foundational principle of voluntary participation. This commitment to allowing participants the freedom to engage or disengage is fundamental to ethical research practices and aligns with the overarching guidelines set by institutional review boards (IRBs) and ethical research standards.

8. What does the concept of "cultural relativism" in anthropology emphasize when conducting research?
- A. Making judgments based on their own cultural standards**
 - B. Collecting data reflecting the totality of the subjects' culture
 - C. Maintaining positive relationships with subjects
 - D. Refraining from making judgments based on their own culture

The concept of "cultural relativism" in anthropology emphasizes refraining from making judgments based on one's own cultural standards. This principle is fundamental in ethnography and cultural studies, as it encourages researchers to understand and interpret cultural practices, beliefs, and values within the context of the culture being studied rather than through the lens of their own cultural background. By adhering to cultural relativism, anthropologists aim to achieve a deeper and more respectful understanding of diverse societies, which helps avoid ethnocentrism—the act of evaluating other cultures against the standards of one's own. This approach fosters an appreciation for the complexities and nuances of different cultures, allowing for more accurate and empathetic representations in research findings.

9. What economic system is characterized by private ownership of the means of production?

- A. Socialism**
- B. Capitalism**
- C. Communism**
- D. Feudalism**

The economic system characterized by private ownership of the means of production is capitalism. In capitalism, individuals or corporations own and control the production and distribution of goods and services, leading to the establishment of markets that operate based on supply and demand. This system encourages competition and innovation, as businesses strive to maximize profits and efficiency. In contrast, socialism emphasizes collective or government ownership of production, aiming for wealth distribution more equitable among members of society. Communism, which is often seen as a more extreme form of socialism, seeks to abolish private property altogether and implement a classless system where all resources are shared. Feudalism, meanwhile, is a historical system characterized by a hierarchy of land ownership and obligations, not driven by the profit motive in the same way as capitalism. Therefore, the defining characteristic of capitalism is its foundation on private ownership, making it the correct answer.

10. Who was the famous abolitionist known for the "Underground Railroad"?

- A. Frederick Douglass**
- B. Harriet Tubman**
- C. Sojourner Truth**
- D. William Lloyd Garrison**

Harriet Tubman is renowned for her pivotal role in the Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses and secret routes that helped enslaved African Americans escape to free states and Canada. Tubman, herself an escaped slave, made numerous dangerous missions back into the South to guide others to freedom, demonstrating exceptional courage and commitment to the abolitionist cause. Her efforts not only provided immediate assistance to those escaping slavery but also drew attention to the cruelties of the institution, helping to galvanize public sentiment against slavery. While other notable abolitionists made significant contributions to the movement—like Frederick Douglass, who was known for his eloquent writings and speeches; Sojourner Truth, who advocated for both abolition and women's rights; and William Lloyd Garrison, who founded the influential abolitionist newspaper 'The Liberator'—it is Tubman's direct involvement with the Underground Railroad that solidified her legacy as a legendary figure in American history.