

Praxis II Social Studies (7815) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What are raw goods?**
 - A. Finished products ready for sale**
 - B. Materials derived from natural resources**
 - C. Consumer-ready items in stores**
 - D. Items produced for export only**
- 2. Women's suffrage in the United States was primarily advocated by which two figures?**
 - A. Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem**
 - B. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
 - C. Jane Addams and Alice Paul**
 - D. Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton**
- 3. What characteristics are often associated with push factors in migration?**
 - A. Housing opportunities**
 - B. Economic hardships**
 - C. Educational facilities**
 - D. Political stability**
- 4. Which institution is primarily responsible for socializing individuals and families in local contexts?**
 - A. Schools**
 - B. Governments**
 - C. Micro-level institutions**
 - D. Corporations**
- 5. What are taxes primarily used for?**
 - A. Supporting private business initiatives**
 - B. Funding government operations and services**
 - C. Promoting individual wealth**
 - D. Encouraging international trade**

- 6. Human geography primarily studies:**
- A. The impact of natural disasters on populations**
 - B. The impact of people on the physical world**
 - C. The distribution of animal populations across regions**
 - D. The history of human civilizations**
- 7. What economic role refers to someone who buys products for personal use?**
- A. Producer**
 - B. Consumer**
 - C. Supplier**
 - D. Distributor**
- 8. In economic terms, what role does currency play?**
- A. It serves as a commodity**
 - B. It ensures product availability**
 - C. It establishes a standard of value**
 - D. It determines production limits**
- 9. What contribution is known from ancient Egypt?**
- A. Writing system**
 - B. Calendar**
 - C. Pyramids**
 - D. Mathematics**
- 10. What does the term 'communitarians' imply about individual development?**
- A. A person's social identity and personality develop primarily through community relationships**
 - B. Individuals should focus on self-fulfillment over community ties**
 - C. Community relationships hinder personal growth and development**
 - D. A person's identity is solely shaped by individual achievements**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. What are raw goods?

- A. Finished products ready for sale
- B. Materials derived from natural resources**
- C. Consumer-ready items in stores
- D. Items produced for export only

Raw goods refer to materials that are extracted or harvested from natural resources before they have undergone any significant processing or transformation. These goods serve as the foundational ingredients or inputs for manufacturing or producing finished products. They can include items such as agricultural produce, minerals, and timber, among others. Understanding that raw goods are essential in the supply chain is crucial because they represent the starting point for the production of consumer-ready items. In contrast, finished products are those that have been fully processed and are ready for immediate consumption or use, which is not the case for raw goods. Similarly, consumer-ready items in stores are the end products, while items produced solely for export do not encompass the broader category of raw goods, as raw goods can be utilized in domestic production as well. Thus, raw goods play a critical role in various industries and the economy as a whole.

2. Women's suffrage in the United States was primarily advocated by which two figures?

- A. Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem
- B. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
- C. Jane Addams and Alice Paul
- D. Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton

The women's suffrage movement in the United States was greatly shaped by the efforts of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, both of whom were instrumental in advocating for women's right to vote. Their partnership was pivotal in organizing the movement and garnering public support. They co-founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869, aimed at promoting the rights of women, particularly the right to vote. Anthony was known for her tireless activism and was frequently arrested for voting illegally, using her trial as a platform to advocate for women's suffrage. Stanton was an eloquent speaker and writer, contributing significantly to the movement's literature and strategy. Together, they worked to advance the cause by addressing not just voting rights but also broader issues of women's rights, thereby becoming iconic figures in the fight for gender equality in the United States. Their legacy continues to influence women's rights activism today. In contrast, the other figures mentioned were prominent in different eras or aspects of women's rights, contributing to causes that included but were not solely focused on suffrage. Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem primarily emerged in the second-wave feminist movement focusing on a broader range of issues beyond suffrage. Jane Addams and Alice Paul, while also influential, targeted different aspects

3. What characteristics are often associated with push factors in migration?

- A. Housing opportunities**
- B. Economic hardships**
- C. Educational facilities**
- D. Political stability**

Push factors in migration are typically negative conditions or situations that compel individuals to leave their place of origin. Economic hardships qualify as classic push factors because they encompass a variety of challenging circumstances, such as high unemployment, low wages, lack of access to resources, or poor living conditions. These economic pressures create a sense of urgency to seek better opportunities elsewhere, leading individuals or families to migrate. In contrast, the other options present characteristics that are usually seen as pull factors or neutral aspects. Housing opportunities would attract people to move rather than push them away from their current location; educational facilities could entice individuals to migrate to places with better schooling options rather than compel them to leave; and political stability signifies a secure and peaceful environment, which is not a factor that would drive people away from their home but rather encourage them to stay. Thus, economic hardships perfectly encapsulate the essence of push factors in the context of migration.

4. Which institution is primarily responsible for socializing individuals and families in local contexts?

- A. Schools**
- B. Governments**
- C. Micro-level institutions**
- D. Corporations**

The correct choice is micro-level institutions, as they play a crucial role in socializing individuals and families within their immediate communities and local contexts. Micro-level institutions encompass various entities such as family structures, peer groups, neighborhoods, and local organizations that directly influence social norms, values, behaviors, and interpersonal relationships. These institutions provide the primary environment for socialization, where individuals learn cultural practices, social skills, and roles that are important for functioning within their specific community. For instance, family members instill ways of interacting with one another, while peer groups help reinforce certain social behaviors and expectations. While schools contribute significantly to socialization through formal education and the transmission of knowledge and skills, their focus is often broader and more structured, encompassing a larger societal context. Governments create laws and regulations that govern behavior at a societal level, but they do not provide intimate, personalized socialization. Corporations can influence social behaviors and norms, particularly in professional settings, but they mainly operate within the framework of economic relationships rather than personal or familial socialization. Thus, micro-level institutions are the primary agents for socializing individuals and families in local contexts.

5. What are taxes primarily used for?

- A. Supporting private business initiatives
- B. Funding government operations and services**
- C. Promoting individual wealth
- D. Encouraging international trade

Taxes are primarily used for funding government operations and services. This encompasses a wide range of essential functions that a government provides for its citizens, including public education, infrastructure maintenance and development, public safety (such as police and fire services), healthcare programs, social services, and national defense. Tax revenue is vital for maintaining the infrastructure that supports society, such as roads, bridges, and public transportation systems, as well as for funding essential services like education, which is crucial for maintaining a skilled workforce. Taxes also support public welfare programs that provide assistance to the most vulnerable populations, ensuring a safety net for those in need. This funding is necessary for the government to operate effectively and fulfill its role in society, which includes not only providing services and infrastructure but also regulating the economy and maintaining public order.

6. Human geography primarily studies:

- A. The impact of natural disasters on populations
- B. The impact of people on the physical world**
- C. The distribution of animal populations across regions
- D. The history of human civilizations

Human geography primarily focuses on the relationship between people and their environments, analyzing how human activities influence and modify the physical landscape. This branch of geography examines various aspects including urban development, population distribution, cultural landscapes, and economic and political practices. The emphasis is on the interactions between societies and their environments, understanding how societal factors shape geographical spaces and vice versa. The study encompasses various topics such as migration patterns, land use, and the spatial distribution of resources, all emphasizing the impact people have on the physical world. This is why this choice accurately reflects the primary focus of human geography. Other options pertain to different aspects of geography or history; for instance, the effects of natural disasters are more aligned with environmental geography, and the distribution of animal populations pertains to the field of biogeography rather than human geography. Additionally, the history of human civilizations relates more to historical geography rather than human geography's focus on contemporary human-environment interactions.

7. What economic role refers to someone who buys products for personal use?

- A. Producer**
- B. Consumer**
- C. Supplier**
- D. Distributor**

The economic role that refers to someone who buys products for personal use is the consumer. Consumers are individuals or entities that purchase goods and services to meet their personal needs or desires. This role is essential in the economy because consumer purchasing decisions drive demand for products, which in turn influences production and market trends. In a market economy, consumers play a vital part in determining price levels and influencing the types of products available. For example, if a large number of consumers begin to favor eco-friendly products, producers may shift their production strategies to meet this new demand. In contrast, producers create goods or provide services, suppliers are entities that provide the goods to be traded or sold, and distributors are responsible for delivering products from producers to consumers. Each of these roles is critical in the economic system, but the consumer is specifically focused on the purchase and consumption of goods for personal use.

8. In economic terms, what role does currency play?

- A. It serves as a commodity**
- B. It ensures product availability**
- C. It establishes a standard of value**
- D. It determines production limits**

Currency plays a crucial role in the economy by establishing a standard of value. This function allows people to compare the worth of different goods and services easily. When a currency is recognized as a standard for measuring value, it simplifies transactions and facilitates trade between individuals and businesses. This standardization helps consumers make informed decisions, as they can assess how much of one good or service equates to another in terms of monetary value. For example, if a loaf of bread costs \$2 and a dozen eggs costs \$3, individuals can easily understand the comparative prices through the standard value established by the currency. This function promotes efficient exchange and is essential for the overall operation of an economic system. While currency can also serve other roles, such as facilitating trade or acting as a unit of account, its primary and defining role is to establish a standard of value that simplifies the complexities of economic transactions.

9. What contribution is known from ancient Egypt?

- A. Writing system
- B. Calendar**
- C. Pyramids
- D. Mathematics

The calendar developed by ancient Egyptians is a significant contribution that allowed for advancements in agriculture, trade, and society as a whole. They created a solar calendar, consisting of 365 days divided into 12 months, which enabled them to predict seasonal changes and plan agricultural activities more effectively. This structure was crucial for their agrarian society, as it aligned their farming practices with the annual flooding of the Nile River, which was essential for crop irrigation and timing. While other contributions, such as writing systems, pyramids, and mathematics, are also critical to ancient Egyptian civilization, the calendar stands out as a vital tool that had lasting effects not only within Egypt but also influenced subsequent civilizations' understanding of time and seasonal cycles.

10. What does the term 'communitarians' imply about individual development?

- A. A person's social identity and personality develop primarily through community relationships**
- B. Individuals should focus on self-fulfillment over community ties
- C. Community relationships hinder personal growth and development
- D. A person's identity is solely shaped by individual achievements

The term 'communitarians' emphasizes the belief that individual development is deeply intertwined with community relationships. This perspective asserts that a person's social identity, values, and sense of self are significantly influenced by interactions within their community. Communitarians argue that individuals do not exist in isolation; instead, they are part of a broader social fabric that shapes their experiences and identities. This viewpoint contrasts with more individualistic philosophies, which prioritize personal autonomy and self-fulfillment without considering the impact of communal ties. By focusing on the importance of social connections, communitarians encourage individuals to recognize that their growth and identity are reliant not just on personal achievements but on the shared experiences and support systems provided by their communities. Thus, it highlights the role of relationships in shaping who we are, reinforcing the idea that community involvement is essential for holistic personal development.