

# Texas A&M University (TAMU) HIST226 History of Texas Exam 1 Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

## Questions

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1. What is the Nueces River known for in Texas history?
  - A. It marked the border after the Louisiana Purchase
  - B. It was the site of a major battle during the Texas Revolution
  - C. It serves as a historical site for early American settlements
  - D. It is the longest river in Texas
2. Who did Santa Anna capture during the Texas Revolution?
  - A. Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin
  - B. William B. Travis and other Texian leaders at the Alamo
  - C. James Fannin and his troops at Goliad
  - D. Only lower-ranking soldiers
3. What was one of the major challenges faced by the Guitierrez-Magee expedition?
  - A. Regulation by the Mexican government.
  - B. Insufficient supplies and resources.
  - C. Internal conflicts within the republican forces.
  - D. Trickery by Spanish forces leading to their defeat.
4. What was one impact of the Spanish exploration on Native American populations?
  - A. Increased trade relationships
  - B. Peaceful coexistence
  - C. Wiped out by disease and retaliation
  - D. Formation of new tribes
5. Which conquistador is known for mistreating Native Americans during his expedition in Texas?
  - A. Hernán Cortés
  - B. Francisco Coronado
  - C. Hernando de Soto
  - D. Francisco Pizarro

6. What year is marked as the beginning of the European colonization effort in the Americas?
- A. 1492
  - B. 1607
  - C. 1498
  - D. 1521
7. What was the main consequence of the Canadian territory changes after the French and Indian War?
- A. Control shifted to Spain
  - B. Control shifted to Britain
  - C. France established more colonies
  - D. Native American sovereignty was recognized
8. Who was Miguel Hidalgo and what was his contribution to the Mexican Revolution?
- A. He was a federalist leader fighting against Santa Anna
  - B. He was a Catholic priest who led the rebellion for independence from Spain
  - C. He was a soldier known for uniting the Mexican army
  - D. He played no role in the independence movement
9. What were the main objectives of the Spanish regulations for respecting prisoners of war according to the 1772 policy?
- A. To ensure their military defeat
  - B. To treat them justly and provide assistance
  - C. To incite further conflicts for resources
  - D. To recruit them into Spanish forces
10. What role did religion play in early Texas communities?
- A. It divided communities along denominational lines
  - B. It replaced political systems in governance
  - C. It provided social structure and unity among diverse populations
  - D. It was primarily a source of conflict

## Answers

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

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## Explanations

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## 1. What is the Nueces River known for in Texas history?

- A. It marked the border after the Louisiana Purchase
- B. It was the site of a major battle during the Texas Revolution
- C. It serves as a historical site for early American settlements
- D. It is the longest river in Texas

The Nueces River holds historical significance primarily due to its role in marking the boundary between the United States and Mexico following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. After this acquisition, the river became an important geographic point referenced in various territorial disputes and claims, particularly during the events leading up to the Mexican-American War. This context highlights its relevance in defining borders and shaping the geopolitical landscape of Texas during the 19th century. While the river is also associated with other historical events, such as skirmishes during the Texas Revolution, it is not primarily recognized for being a battle site, which diminishes the relevance of that option. The Nueces River does contribute to the narrative of early American settlements, but it is not singularly recognized as a prominent historical site compared to other locations. Additionally, while it is one of the significant rivers in Texas, it is not the longest, which further clarifies the uniqueness of its status as a border marker rather than just a geographical feature.

## 2. Who did Santa Anna capture during the Texas Revolution?

- A. Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin
- B. William B. Travis and other Texian leaders at the Alamo
- C. James Fannin and his troops at Goliad
- D. Only lower-ranking soldiers

During the Texas Revolution, Santa Anna captured William B. Travis and other Texian leaders at the Alamo. The Battle of the Alamo, which took place in February and March of 1836, was a pivotal moment in the revolution where a small group of Texian defenders, including prominent figures such as Travis, James Bowie, and Davy Crockett, fought against a much larger Mexican force led by Santa Anna. The significance of this capture lies in the fact that it galvanized Texian resistance across the region and became a rallying cry for the Texian army, famously summed up in the phrase "Remember the Alamo!" This event highlighted the struggles and sacrifices of the Texans, contributing to their eventual victory at the Battle of San Jacinto later that spring. Captures of other individuals such as Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin did not occur during this specific engagement, nor was the capture limited to lower-ranking soldiers. James Fannin's surrender at Goliad, while also significant, involved a separate encounter with Santa Anna's forces.

3. What was one of the major challenges faced by the Gutierrez-Magee expedition?

- A. Regulation by the Mexican government.
- B. Insufficient supplies and resources.
- C. Internal conflicts within the republican forces.
- D. Trickery by Spanish forces leading to their defeat.

The difficulty encountered by the Gutierrez-Magee expedition was primarily due to the deception and strategic maneuvers employed by Spanish forces, which ultimately led to their defeat. The expedition was an effort to establish a republic in Texas and involved a coalition of individuals seeking to gain independence from Spanish rule. Unfortunately, the expedition faced considerable opposition from loyalist forces, who used cunning tactics to disrupt their plans and demoralize their troops. This manipulation, along with logistical challenges, resulted in their inability to secure a lasting foothold in the region. Understanding this context helps clarify the significance of the Gutierrez-Magee expedition in Texas history, as it illustrates the broader struggle for independence and highlights the complexities of military engagements during this period.

4. What was one impact of the Spanish exploration on Native American populations?

- A. Increased trade relationships
- B. Peaceful coexistence
- C. Wiped out by disease and retaliation
- D. Formation of new tribes

The impact of Spanish exploration on Native American populations was profoundly negative, most notably through the introduction of diseases such as smallpox, influenza, and measles, to which Native Americans had no immunity. This led to catastrophic mortality rates among indigenous peoples across the Americas. Additionally, as Spanish explorers and colonizers pushed into new territories, they often encountered resistance from local tribes. This retaliation, combined with the effects of disease, resulted in significant population declines and destabilization of existing tribal structures. In contrast, the notions of increased trade relationships and peaceful coexistence were often limited or overshadowed by conflicts and the prioritization of colonial expansion over mutual understanding. While some tribes did engage in trade with Spanish explorers, the overarching narrative of Spanish colonization is marked more by violence and disease than by collaborative growth. The formation of new tribes, while it may have occurred in some contexts due to various factors, does not encapsulate the widespread devastation faced by many existing tribes as a direct consequence of Spanish exploration.

5. Which conquistador is known for mistreating Native Americans during his expedition in Texas?

A. Hernán Cortés

B. Francisco Coronado

C. Hernando de Soto

D. Francisco Pizarro

The conquistador known for mistreating Native Americans during his expedition in Texas is Francisco Coronado. During his expedition in the early 1540s, Coronado ventured through what is now the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. His approach to indigenous peoples often involved violence and coercion, reflecting a broader pattern of mistreatment common among many Spanish explorers of that era. Coronado is particularly noted for the harsh treatment of Native American tribes he encountered. His quest for the fabled Seven Cities of Gold led him into territories inhabited by various Native groups, where his soldiers often resorted to brutality, enslaving some and destroying crops and villages. This legacy of violence marks his expedition as one characterized by significant negative impact on the indigenous populations of the regions he traversed. In contrast, while Hernán Cortés, Hernando de Soto, and Francisco Pizarro were also known for their aggressive conquests and exploitation of Native populations, their primary activities took place in regions outside of Texas – namely, Mexico and the Inca Empire in South America. This distinction makes Coronado the most relevant figure regarding mistreatment of Native Americans specifically within the context of Texas.

6. What year is marked as the beginning of the European colonization effort in the Americas?

A. 1492

B. 1607

C. 1498

D. 1521

The year 1492 is significant as it marks the beginning of European colonization efforts in the Americas, largely due to Christopher Columbus's first voyage which led to the European awareness of the New World. In that year, Columbus, sailing under the Spanish flag, completed his journey across the Atlantic Ocean and made landfall in the Caribbean Islands. This event is often considered the catalyst for subsequent exploration, conquest, and colonization of the Americas by European powers. The importance of 1492 lies not just in Columbus's landing, but also in its broader implications for history, including the beginning of transatlantic exchanges between Europe and the Americas, which would have profound impacts on both continents. This year set in motion a series of events that led to the establishment of various European colonies across North America, Central America, and the Caribbean in the following decades. Other years listed in the options represent different milestones in colonization: 1607 marks the establishment of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement; 1498 corresponds to Vasco da Gama's voyage to India, not directly related to colonization in the Americas; and 1521 signifies the fall of the Aztec Empire to Hernán Cortés, which was a critical event within the colon

7. What was the main consequence of the Canadian territory changes after the French and Indian War?

- A. Control shifted to Spain
- B. Control shifted to Britain
- C. France established more colonies
- D. Native American sovereignty was recognized

The primary consequence of the territorial changes in Canada following the French and Indian War was indeed the shift of control to Britain. The war, which lasted from 1754 to 1763, was fought between British and French colonial forces, along with various Native American tribes. The outcome was a significant reordering of colonial power in North America. As part of the Treaty of Paris in 1763, which ended the war, France ceded most of its North American territories to Britain. This included Canada, which had been under French control. The transfer of control to Britain marked not only a significant expansion of British territorial holdings but also set the stage for future conflicts leading to colonial unrest and the eventual American Revolution. The new British presence in Canada further complicated relationships with Native American tribes, who had relied on French alliances. While Spain did gain territory as part of the treaty, particularly in Florida and Louisiana, the most notable shift relevant to Canada was towards British control. France did not establish more colonies in North America following the war; instead, its influence was greatly diminished. Native American sovereignty was not recognized as a consequence of these territorial changes and was, in fact, challenged by the expansion of British settlements into Native lands.

8. Who was Miguel Hidalgo and what was his contribution to the Mexican Revolution?

- A. He was a federalist leader fighting against Santa Anna
- B. He was a Catholic priest who led the rebellion for independence from Spain
- C. He was a soldier known for uniting the Mexican army
- D. He played no role in the independence movement

Miguel Hidalgo was a significant figure in Mexican history, recognized primarily for his role as a Catholic priest who initiated the movement for Mexico's independence from Spanish colonial rule. His contributions are especially noted for the "Grito de Dolores," a call to arms he delivered on September 16, 1810, which sparked the Mexican War of Independence. Hidalgo's leadership marked the beginning of a widespread rebellion against the oppressive colonial government, motivating many Mexicans to join the struggle for freedom. His vision was not just about independence; it also included social reforms, such as land redistribution and the end of class privileges, which resonated with the lower classes of Mexican society. Although he faced setbacks and was eventually captured and executed in 1811, his efforts laid the groundwork for continued resistance against Spanish authorities, eventually leading to independence in 1821. Hidalgo remains an enduring symbol of the fight for liberty and justice in Mexico, celebrated annually on September 16th as Independence Day.

9. What were the main objectives of the Spanish regulations for respecting prisoners of war according to the 1772 policy?

- A. To ensure their military defeat
- B. To treat them justly and provide assistance
- C. To incite further conflicts for resources
- D. To recruit them into Spanish forces

The main objectives of the Spanish regulations for respecting prisoners of war as outlined in the 1772 policy focused on treating them justly and providing assistance. This approach was based on humanitarian principles that aimed to uphold certain standards of conduct during conflicts. By enforcing rules that mandated fair treatment, the Spanish authorities intended to promote a degree of civility in warfare, distinguishing their actions from more brutal practices that could lead to further suffering and resentment among populations. This policy reflected a broader European trend during the 18th century, where the treatment of prisoners began to be recognized as a moral and political obligation. Instead of seeking to humiliate or exploit the prisoners, the focus was on ensuring their well-being, which could also serve to bolster Spain's image and political leverage among rival powers and territorial disputes. In contrast to this, the other options do not align with the principles outlined in the 1772 policy. The idea of ensuring military defeat or inciting further conflicts contradicts the intention to stabilize relationships through humane treatment. Likewise, recruiting prisoners into Spanish forces or exploiting them for resources would violate the established norms of the time that encouraged humane and respectful treatment of individuals captured in battle.

10. What role did religion play in early Texas communities?

- A. It divided communities along denominational lines
- B. It replaced political systems in governance
- C. It provided social structure and unity among diverse populations
- D. It was primarily a source of conflict

In early Texas communities, religion served as a significant unifying force that provided a social structure among a diverse population. Different groups, including Anglo settlers, Tejanos, and Indigenous peoples, often shared common religious beliefs or participated in similar religious practices that helped foster a sense of community. Churches acted not only as places of worship but also as centers for social gatherings, education, and community support. This social cohesion was vital in the often challenging environment of early Texas, as it brought people together for mutual aid and cooperation in a frontier society where resources could be scarce. While religious differences existed, particularly among various denominations, they did not overshadow the collaborative spirit that many communities cultivated. This overarching unity provided by religion could be crucial for survival and social interaction in a rapidly developing and culturally rich region like Texas. Thus, the influence of religion was primarily about creating connections rather than causing divisions or conflicts.