



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

# **U.S. History**

## **Paper Item Sampler**

1 This photograph was taken in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1963.

Governor George Wallace at the University of Alabama



Library of Congress

Select **ONE** correct in each box answer to complete each sentence.

Alabama Governor George Wallace was trying to

- (A) prevent integration in
- (B) increase funding for
- (C) demand religious influence in

education. He wanted

- to
- (A) force state and federal cooperation.
  - (B) preserve the established system.
  - (C) maintain the separation between church and state.

- 2 This excerpt is from an executive order from President Harry S. Truman in 1948.

It is hereby declared . . . that there shall be equality . . . for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.

—President Harry S. Truman, *Executive Order 9981*,  
July 26, 1948

Select **ONE** correct answer in each box to complete each sentence.

Executive Order 9981 was a response to the lack of progress

regarding civil rights by the

(A) Supreme Court

(B) Congress

(C) Department of Justice

. This executive

order began the

(A) full integration

(B) partial demobilization

(C) limited deployment

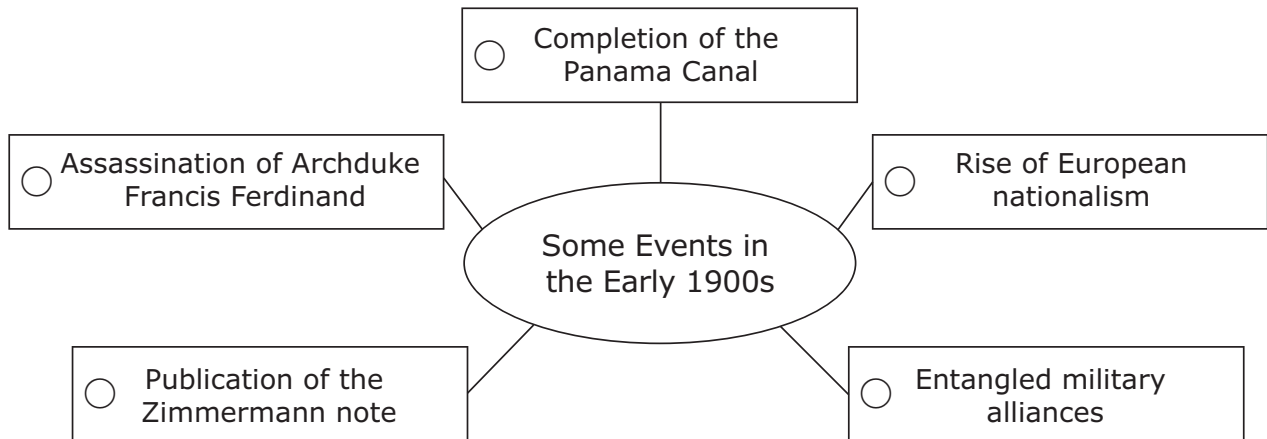
of the military by the end of

the Korean War.

3 This diagram lists some events in the early 1900s.

Which event was a reason for the entry of the United States into World War I?

Select **ONE** correct answer.



- 4 This excerpt is from a speech given by the U.S. Secretary of State in 1947.

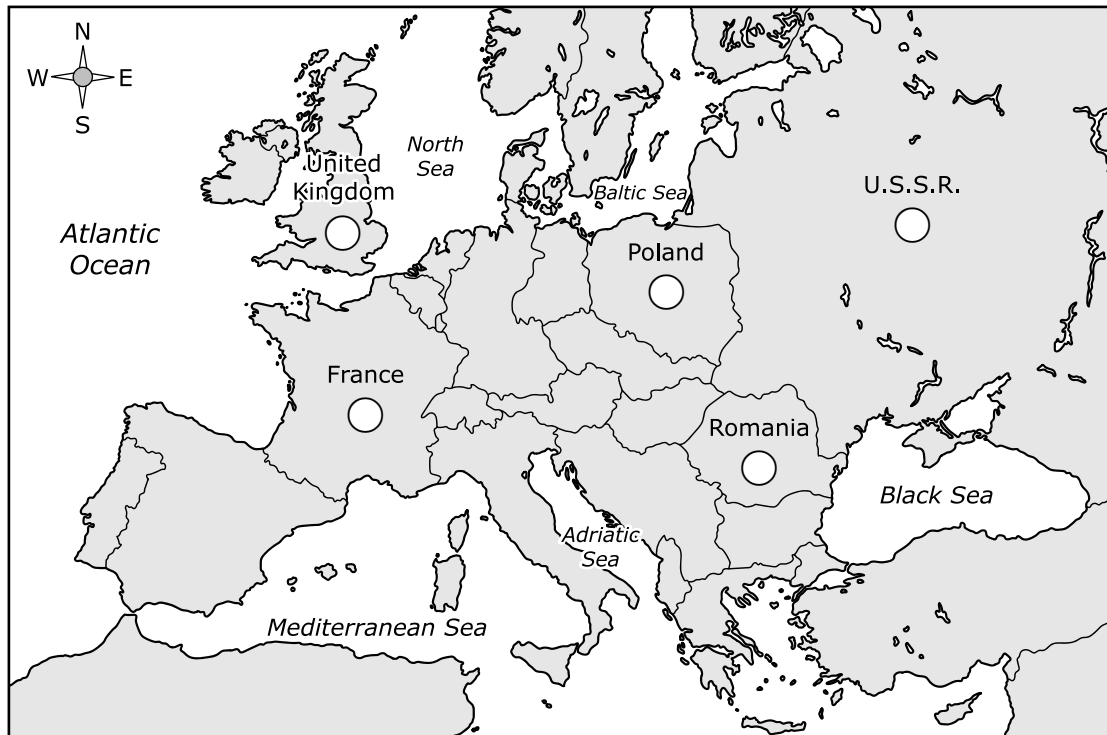
In considering the requirements for the rehabilitation of Europe, the physical loss of life, the visible destruction of cities, factories, mines, and railroads was correctly estimated, but it has become obvious during recent months that this visible destruction was probably less serious than the dislocation of the entire fabric of European economy.

—U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall,  
*The Marshall Plan Speech, June 4, 1947*

Which European countries received economic aid as a result of this speech?

Shade the **TWO** correct circles that represent the locations.

Europe, 1950



5 This excerpt is from a presidential speech made during the 1960s.

Which selections from President Nixon’s inaugural address describe his future policy of détente?

Select the correct answer from the options below.

Ⓐ The American dream does not come to those who fall asleep. . . .

Ⓑ Our greatest need now is to reach beyond government, and to enlist the legions of the concerned. . . .

With these, Ⓒ we can build a great cathedral of the spirit—each of us raising it one stone at a time, as he reaches out to his neighbor, helping, caring, doing. . . .

Ⓓ The essence of freedom is that each of us shares in the shaping of his own destiny. . . .

Ⓔ We seek an open world—open to ideas, open to the exchange of goods and people—a world in which no people, great or small, will live in angry isolation.

—President Richard Nixon, inaugural address,  
January 20, 1969

- 6 This excerpt describes the Klondike Gold Rush during the late 1890s.

Which statements describe how the geography of the area negatively affected people who participated in the Klondike Gold Rush?

Select only **TWO** correct answers.

In August 1896, Skookum Jim and his family found gold near the Klondike River in Canada's Yukon Territory. Their discovery

(A) sparked one of the most frantic gold rushes in history. Nearby miners immediately flocked to the Klondike to stake the rest of the good claims. Almost a year later, news ignited the outside world.

(B) A wave of gold seekers bought supplies and boarded ships in Seattle and other west coast port cities. They headed north thinking they would strike it rich.

(C) Stampeders faced several routes to the Klondike. Some chose the all-water, or "rich man's," route. (D) Sailing around Alaska and up the Yukon River was easy, but expensive. Some stampeders tried walking the entire way with one of the overland routes. These were often tangled messes. Folks taking some of these routes arrived two years after everyone else. Other stampeders tried crossing the glaciers near Yakutat and Valdez. (E) In a sea of icy towers, many of these people got lost or went snow blind.

—*"The Last Grand Adventure," National Park Service*

- 7 This table shows a time line of voting rights for U.S. citizens in the late 1800s and the 1900s.

Complete the time line by correctly matching each voting rights amendment or law to the year it was enacted.

Select the correct answer for each box.

Amendments or Laws

**A** The Indian Citizenship Act extends citizenship and voting rights.

**B** The Nineteenth Amendment extends the right to vote to women.

**C** The Voting Rights Act makes state-level restrictions on voting rights illegal.

**D** The Fifteenth Amendment extends the right to vote to people regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

	U.S. Voting Rights Time Line, 1870–1965
Year	Amendment or Law
1870	(A) (B) (C) (D)
1920	(A) (B) (C) (D)
1924	(A) (B) (C) (D)
1965	(A) (B) (C) (D)



- 8** Determine whether each statement describes a cause or effect of Latin American immigration to the United States in the late 1900s.

Select **TWO** correct answers for each box.

**A** There was increased demand for workers in low-paying agricultural and service jobs.

**B** Hispanic populations along border states increased significantly.

**C** People had the ability to send money back to their families.

**D** A lack of economic opportunities and political instability created a sense of urgency.

Cause of Latin American Immigration	Effect of Latin American Immigration
<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D

- 9 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.  
This excerpt describes an event during the Vietnam War in 1968.

In the months that followed, U.S. and South Vietnamese forces retook the towns that the [National Liberation Front (NLF)] had secured over the course of the offensive, but they incurred heavy military and civilian casualties in the process.

At the end of the Tet Offensive, both sides had endured losses, and both sides claimed victory. The U.S. and South Vietnamese military response almost completely eliminated the NLF forces and regained all of the lost territory. At the same time, the Tet Offensive weakened domestic support for the Johnson Administration as the vivid reporting on the Tet Offensive by the U.S. media made clear to the American public that an overall victory in Vietnam was not [forthcoming].

—*“U.S. Involvement in the Vietnam War: The Tet Offensive, 1968,” U.S. Department of State*

### Part A

According to the excerpt, why did this event result in a negative perception of the Vietnam War in the United States?

- (A) The U.S. military endured another defeat by the enemy during the war.
- (B) U.S. citizens lost confidence in the country’s ability to win the war.
- (C) The U.S. military began to use selective service to draft soldiers during the war.
- (D) U.S. government officials openly spoke out against the war.

## Part B

Which statement provides evidence for the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "U.S. and South Vietnamese forces retook the towns that the [NLF] had secured. . . ."
- Ⓑ ". . . both sides had endured losses, and both sides claimed victory."
- Ⓒ "The U.S. and South Vietnamese military response almost completely eliminated the NLF forces. . . ."
- Ⓓ ". . . the U.S. media made clear to the American public that an overall victory in Vietnam was not [forthcoming]."

- 10** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

This excerpt describes an event from World War II.

Lt. General Masaharu Homma was the commander in charge of the Japanese Imperial forces during the first battles for the Philippines. . . . It was Homma who forced and accepted the surrender of the Americans at Bataan. Homma also ordered the evacuation of American and Filipino forces from Bataan. . . .

At the end of the war, war crimes trials were convened in Manila. Homma was tried for crimes including abuses of POWs in the Philippines, atrocities related to the death march and the bombing of Manila after it was declared an open city. Homma accepted moral responsibility as commander—but maintained that he had no knowledge of atrocities until after they had occurred. According to historian Philip Piccigallo, Homma was convicted for the actions of his troops rather than for directly ordering atrocities.

—*"Masaharu Homma and Japanese Atrocities,"* PBS

**Part A**

Which claim is supported by the excerpt?

- Ⓐ Americans were able to successfully address only atrocities related to the Bataan Death March.
- Ⓑ The Battle of the Philippines led to the most U.S. casualties of the war.
- Ⓒ Americans demanded accountability for the atrocities of the Bataan Death March.
- Ⓓ The Battle of the Philippines put an end to U.S. military involvement in the war.

## Part B

Which statement **BEST** provides evidence for the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "It was Homma who forced and accepted the surrender of the Americans at Bataan."
- Ⓑ "Homma also ordered the evacuation of American and Filipino forces from Bataan."
- Ⓒ "Homma accepted moral responsibility as commander. . . ."
- Ⓓ ". . . Homma was convicted for the actions of his troops rather than for directly ordering atrocities."

- 11** Match each technological advancement of the 1900s with its reason for development or use.

Select **ONE** correct answer in each row.

Reason for Development or Use	Pesticides	Drones	X-rays
The need to diagnose and treat internal injuries	(A)	(B)	(C)
The need to deploy remote weapons	(A)	(B)	(C)
The need to protect crops against infestation and disease	(A)	(B)	(C)
The need to reduce risks to military personnel	(A)	(B)	(C)

- 12** Determine whether each protection of minority rights was addressed by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* or *Sweatt v. Painter*.

Select **ONE** correct answer in each row.

Protection of Minority Rights	Addressed by <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>	Addressed by <i>Sweatt v. Painter</i>
Declared that a separate law school for African Americans would be inferior	(A)	(B)
Began the desegregation of public K-12 schools	(A)	(B)
Allowed for minority admittance into university graduate programs	(A)	(B)
Formally ended the "separate but equal" doctrine	(A)	(B)

**13** This excerpt explains an effect of technology on the U.S. economy.

The United States was one of the largest exporters of industrial robots in 2018 and NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] partners were the main markets for these exports. The automotive industry drives demand for robots, which in North America is highly connected, making Canada and Mexico accessible markets for industrial robots from the United States. These robots are widely used in automotive manufacturing because of their welding, handling, and heavy payload capabilities.

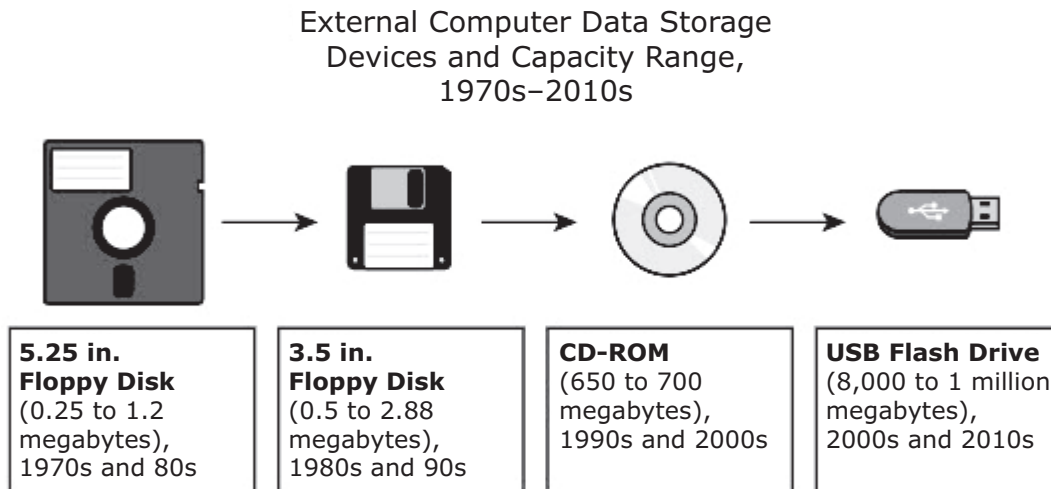
—Robert Casanova, "Industrial Robot Market Trends in the United States," *U.S. International Trade Commission, September 2019*

Which statements describe the effects this technology has had on the United States?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

- It led to more taxation of the automotive industry in the United States.
- It led to an increase in immigration to the United States from NAFTA partners.
- It led to a more efficient automotive industry in the United States.
- It led to more automotive job opportunities in the United States.
- It led to an increase in business between the United States and NAFTA partners.

- 14** This diagram shows computer data storage capacity on various devices in history.



Based on the diagram, which statements describe how changes to file-storage technology have affected society?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

- They have allowed people to buy computers in order to cheaply access data.
- They have made it easier for people to carry around large amounts of data.
- They have made it easier for businesses to replace computers in order to access large amounts of data.
- They have allowed people to rapidly access large amounts of data.
- They have made it easier for businesses to use computers in different ways to access data.



- 15** This excerpt describes a U.S. Supreme Court case concerning a New Deal program created under President Franklin Roosevelt during the 1930s.

George P. Davis was a minor stockholder in the Edison Electric Illuminating Company. Edison, like every industrial employer in the nation, was readying itself to start paying the employers' share of the payroll tax in January 1937. . . . [Davis] sued Edison to prevent their compliance with the Social Security Act. The government intervened on Edison's behalf and the Commissioner of the IRS (Mr. Helvering) took on the lawsuit. . . .

. . . Davis was also of the view that providing for the general welfare of the aged was a power reserved to the states.

*—Social Security Administration*

Based on the excerpt and your knowledge of U.S. history, explain **TWO** ways that the New Deal affected the historical roles of state and federal governments.

Think about the question carefully. Then record your answer in the box provided.


- 16 This excerpt describes the reasoning behind the ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972).

Specifically, the Court determined that the religious faith of the Amish and their mode of life are inseparable and interdependent, and that the enforcement of the Wisconsin compulsory education law “would gravely endanger if not destroy the free exercise of [their] religious beliefs.”

. . . The Court concluded that a state’s interest in universal education must be balanced against parents’ interest in the religious upbringing of their children.

—“*Exercise Religious Practices—Rule of Law*,”  
United States Courts

What did the U.S. Supreme Court decide regarding Wisconsin’s compulsory education law **AND** how did this decision affect parental rights?

Think about the question carefully. Then record your answer to **BOTH** parts of the question in the box provided.


**STAAR  
U.S. History  
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