

## *Certification Exams*

*CLEP-History-and-Social-Sciences*

*Government, Educational Psychology, History of the United States, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics,*

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## Question: 1

Which of the following statements regarding immigration to America during the 1980s is NOT true?

- A. Twice as many immigrants came to America during the 1980s than during the 1970s.
- B. Latin Americans comprised the largest proportion of immigrants to America in the 1980s.
- C. Most immigrants to the US in the 1980s were Latin American, Asian, and Caribbean.
- D. The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act impeded illegal Mexican immigration.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The statement that the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act impeded illegal Mexican immigration is not true. This legislation punished employers with sanctions for hiring undocumented employees, but despite this the illegal immigration of Mexicans to America was largely unaffected by the law. It is true that twice as many people immigrated to America in the 1980s than in the 1970s: the number reached over nine million in the 1980s. It is true that the majority of immigrants were Latin American. In addition to Latin Americans, other large groups of immigrants in the 1980s were Asians and Caribbean inhabitants.

## Question: 2

Which is NOT correct regarding black activism during the 1960s?

- A. There was a riot in the Los Angeles ghetto of Watts in 1965.
- B. There was a riot involving black activists in Newark New Jersey, after the Watts riot.
- C. The Mississippi Freedom Democrats unseated that state's delegation at the convention.
- D. There was a riot involving black activists in Detroit, Michigan, after the riot in Watts.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party did attend the 1964 Democratic convention: however, they were unable to garner Lyndon Johnson's support to unseat the regular delegation from Mississippi. A riot did break out in Watts in 1965, and in the following three years, more riots occurred in Newark, New Jersey and in Detroit, Michigan. These riots were manifestations of the frustrations experienced by blacks regarding racial inequities in American society. Another demonstration of black unrest was the increasing activity of the Black Panthers and the Black Muslims in the 1960s. Both were militant organizations demanding civil rights reforms.

## Question: 3

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What was the earliest written language in Mesopotamia?

- A. Sumerian
- B. Elamite
- C. Akkadian
- D. Aramaic

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The earliest written language in Mesopotamia was Sumerian. Ancient Sumerians began writing this language around 3500 BC. Elamite, from Iran, was the language spoken by the ancient Elamites and was the official language of the Persian Empire from the 6th to 4th centuries BC. Written Linear Elamite was used for a very short time in the late 3rd century BC. The written Elamite cuneiform, used from about 2500 to 331 BC, was an adaptation of the Akkadian cuneiform. Akkadian is the earliest found Semitic language. Written Akkadian cuneiform first appeared in texts by circa 2800 BC, and full Akkadian texts appeared by circa 2500 BC. The Akkadian cuneiform writing system is ultimately a derivative of the ancient Sumerian cuneiform writing system, although these two spoken languages were not related linguistically. Aramaic is another Semitic language, but unlike Akkadian, Aramaic is not now extinct. Old Aramaic, the written language of the Old Testament and the spoken language used by Jesus Christ, was current from 1100 BC to 200 AD. Middle Aramaic, used from 200 to 1200 AD, included literary Syriac (Christian groups developed the writing system of Syriac in order to be able to write spoken Aramaic) and was the written language of the Jewish books of Biblical commentary (Namely, the Talmud, the Targum, and the Midrash). Modern Aramaic has been used from 1200 AD to the present.

### Question: 4

During which of these periods were pyramids NOT built in Egypt?

- A. The Old Kingdom
- B. The Middle Kingdom
- C. The New Kingdom
- D. The Third Dynasty

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The New Kingdom was the period during which no more pyramids were built in Egypt. The Pyramids were built between the years of 2630 and 1814 BC, and the New Kingdom spanned from circa 1550-1070 BC. As a result the last pyramid was built approximately 264 years before the New Kingdom began. 2630 BC marked the beginning of the reign of the first Pharaoh, Djoser, who had the first pyramid built at Saqqara. 1814 BC marked the end of the reign of the last Pharaoh, Amenemhat III, who had the last pyramid built at Hawara. In between these years, a succession of pharaohs built many pyramids. The Old Kingdom encompasses both the Third and Fourth

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Dynasties; therefore, all three of these choices encompass pyramid-building periods. Djoser's had his first pyramid built during the Third Dynasty. The Pharaohs Kufu Khafre, and Menkaure, respectively, built the famous Pyramids of Giza during their reigns between circa 2575 and 2467 BC, the period of the Fourth Dynasty. The Middle Kingdom encompassed the 11th through 14th Dynasties, from circa 2080 to 1640 BC—also within the time period (2630—1814 BC) when pyramids were built by the Pharaohs.

### Question: 5

The Indus Valley or Harappan civilization existed in all of the following modern countries EXCEPT:

- A. Iran
- B. India
- C. Pakistan
- D. Turkey

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The ancient Indus Valley civilization, also known in its mature phase as the Harappan civilization, existed in what now encompasses all of the listed countries today, except Turkey. This culture flourished from circa 2600-1900 BC, during the Bronze Age. This civilization included the most eastern portion of Balochistan in what is now Iran; the most western parts of what is now India; the majority of what is now Pakistan; and the southeastern part of Afghanistan.

### Question: 6

The Yellow River Valley began to emerge as a cultural center during the:

- A. Shang Dynasty
- B. Neolithic Era
- C. Xia Dynasty
- D. Paleolithic Era

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Historians have determined that the Yellow River Valley in China began to develop into a cultural center during the Neolithic Era between c. 12,000—10,000 BC. The Shang Dynasty occurred between c. 1700-1046 BC—still part of the Ancient Era, but very long after the Neolithic era. The Xia Dynasty ruled between circa 2100-1600 BC, preceding the Shang Dynasty but still long after the Neolithic Era. Archaeological evidence exists of Homo erectus in China from more than a million years ago, during the Paleolithic Era, but the Yellow River Valley was not an emergent cultural center that long ago.

## Question: 7

Which statement is NOT true regarding ancient Greek democracy?

- A. Democracy began to develop approximately 500 BC.
- B. One of the first, best-known democracies was in Athens.
- C. It was a direct democracy, not using any representatives.
- D. It was a democracy completely open to all of the public.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Ancient Greek democracy was not completely open to all of the public. However, participating persons were not chosen or excluded based on their respective socioeconomic levels. The city-state of Athens had one of the first and most well-known democracies in ancient Greece. It began around 500 BC. The experiment of Athenian democracy was unique in that it was a direct democracy, meaning people voted directly for or against proposed legislation without any representation such as the House of Representatives and the Senate, as we have in modern democracies.

## Question: 8

Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding these religions under the Roman Empire?

- A. The Romans generally protected the Jews until the rebellion in Judea (66 AD).
- B. Julius Caesar circumvented Roman law to help Jews have freedom of worship.
- C. The Druids were a religious group that the Romans ignored but also tolerated.
- D. Romans viewed Christianity as a Jewish sect for its first two centuries.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The Druids were neither ignored nor tolerated by the Romans. Conversely, the Druids were viewed as "non-Roman" and therefore were suppressed. Augustus (63 BC—14 AD) forbade Romans to practice Druid rites. According to Pliny, the Senate under Tiberius (42 BC-37 AD) issued a decree suppressing Druids, and in 54 AD, Claudius outlawed Druid rites entirely. It is correct that the Romans generally protected the Jews up until the rebellion in Judea in 66 AD. In fact, Julius Caesar circumvented the Roman laws against "secret societies" by designating Jewish synagogues as "colleges," which in essence permitted Jews to have freedom of worship. After the rebellion in Judea, according to Suetonius, the Emperor Claudius appeared to have expelled all Jews, probably including early Christians, from Rome. The Roman Empire viewed Christianity as a Jewish sect, which was how Christianity began, for 200 years following its emergence. It is also correct that according to Tacitus, when much of the public saw the Emperor Nero as responsible for the Great Fire of Rome in 64 AD, Nero blamed the Christians for the fire in order to deflect guilt from himself. Following their persecution of Jews, the Roman Empire would continue to persecute Christians for

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the next two centuries.

### Question: 9

Which of the following was the earliest iteration of what is now the Republic of Ghana?

- A. The Kingdom of Ghana
- B. The Akan state of Bono
- C. The Ashanti federation
- D. The states of the Fante

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The earliest existing empire was the Kingdom of Ghana, also known as the Ghana Empire, from circa 790—1076 AD, located north of modern-day Ghana. The Akan peoples formed the first of their states, Bono, after the Kingdom of Ghana fell around the turn of the 12th-13th centuries. The Akan peoples also established the Ashanti federation and the states of the Fante people, but these existed later than Bono. The Fante repelled Portuguese colonizers in the 15th century. The Fante peoples still exist and never lost their state, despite the Ashanti Empire's expansion. (Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, was Fante, as was former Ghanaian President John Atta Mills.) A number of conflicts have existed between the Fante and the Ashanti. The Empire of Ashanti formed first a loose confederation of city-states, then a centralized kingdom, in the 18th century, uniting much of sub-Saharan Africa until Europeans came to dominate the region.

### Question: 10

Which of the following is NOT true about the Crusades?

- A. Their purpose was for European rulers to retake the Middle East from Muslims.
- B. The Crusades succeeded at European kings' goal of reclaiming the "holy land."
- C. The Crusades accelerated the already incipient decline of the Byzantine Empire.
- D. Egypt saw a return as a major Middle Eastern power as a result of the Crusades.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

It is not true that the Crusades succeeded at Christians' reclaiming the "holy land" (the Middle East) from Muslims. Despite their number (nine not counting the Northern Crusades) and longevity (1095-1291 not counting later similar campaigns), the Crusades never accomplished this purpose. While they did not take back the Middle East, the Crusades did succeed in exacerbating the decline of the Byzantine Empire, which lost more and more territory to the Ottoman Turks during this period. In addition, the Crusades resulted in Egypt's rise once again to become a major power of the Middle East as it had been in the past.

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