

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Social Studies Rationales

1	Option C is correct	As labor demands increased in various industries, workers moved to cities to find work, causing urban populations to grow. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to interpret information from a chart.
	Option A is incorrect	Living conditions were poor in the cities. Diseases spread easily, there were no sewers, and families lived in tenement housing.
	Option B is incorrect	Decreasing rural land prices would pull people to rural, not to urban, areas.
	Option D is incorrect	Decreasing agricultural output would result in less food for urban workers and would reduce urban populations, not increase them.

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2	Option "Conflict over issue of mercantilism": American Revolution Era	Issues over the British colonial trade policy of mercantilism caused resentment among American colonists, leading to the American Revolution.
	Option "Ideas of Thomas Paine inspired action": American Revolution Era Option d89a adf	In Thomas Paine argued for independence from Great Britain leading to greater support for independence in the American colonies. t2 0 0 tnc2 ref72 Tm(d89)-5 5Cevo

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4	Option D is correct	President Andrew Jackson used the spoils system, which involved appointing people to government offices in exchange for their support for his election campaign. Some of these appointees took advantage of their new roles. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills by using valid secondary sources to acquire information about the United States.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the nullification crisis did lead to sectional conflict, President Jackson said that states did not have the right to nullify laws.
	Option B is incorrect	As president, Jackson had the power to enforce laws. The issue described in the excerpt is related to his placing of unqualified or corrupt people in positions of power.
	Option C is incorrect	There are no term limits for government employees.

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5	Option C is correct	German immigrants were drawn to the United States by economic opportunities and the availability of farmland.
	Option A is incorrect	German immigrants were not part of a forced migration. They voluntarily left Germany to settle in various parts of the United States. Africans historically were kidnapped and enslaved to provide labor in America.
	Option B is incorrect	The Irish, not the Germans, were pushed to migrate out of their home country because of the loss of a staple crop, the potato, during the Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s.
	Option D is incorrect	German immigrants did not come to the United States seeking to get rich from gold or natural resources. They wanted to farm.

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6	<p>Part A: Option A is correct</p> <p>Part A: Option B is incorrect</p>	<p>Frederick Douglass used his personal story and his oration and writing skills to spread awareness of the conditions of slavery. He did this through his newspaper and his autobiography. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills by drawing conclusions about a primary source.</p> <p>_____ was primarily used to spread awareness of the conditions that enslaved people were subjected to. Douglass is not associated with using _____ to employ runaway enslaved</p>

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7	Option D is correct	The principle of judicial review was established by Chief Justice John Marshall in the Supreme Court case
	Option A is incorrect	The principle of individual rights was applied in the Bill of Rights, not
	Option B is incorrect	The principle of separation of powers in the U.S. government was established through the U.S. Constitution, not

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10 Option D is The artist'
correct

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11	Option B is correct	The First Amendment prohibits the government from making laws that limit religious freedoms or the practice of certain religious beliefs.
	Option A is incorrect	Several conflicts occurred between individuals of different faiths in the United States during this period, even with the First Amendment in place.
	Option C is incorrect	The First Amendment does not allow for unifying citizens under one common religion; it allows for all beliefs to be practiced within the United States.
	Option D is incorrect	The First Amendment does not provide funding to preserve religious places.

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12	Option C is correct	During Reconstruction, African American men were successfully elected to public office, increasing political representation for African Americans and supporting legislative, n & db TmkF.004 Tw 12 0 1 (

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14	Option A is correct	The Federalist Party supported a strong central government. This party wanted to increase taxes on whiskey to help pay the federal debt from the Revolutionary War; Democratic-Republicans were

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16	<p>Option D is correct</p> <p>The table shows that the populations of northern states were larger than those of southern states. This trend was a result of economic differences. The North relied on manufacturing, which led immigrants to northern cities for jobs, while the South was primarily focused on agriculture and relied on enslaved laborers. Furthermore, the southern population remained predominantly rural, with smaller populations than their urban counterparts. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.</p>

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19 Option C is
correct

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21	Option D is correct Option	New England's access to harbors, such as in Boston, provided economic opportunities for trade. It also allowed residents opportunities to become shipbuilders or whalers.

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22	Option B is correct	An unusually thick fog served as necessary cover for the retreating army. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to interpret information.
	Option A is incorrect	Washington'

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25	Option "A national bank would help maintain public credit." Alexander Hamilton	Hamilton believed it necessary to establish a national bank in order to safeguard public funds, maintain public credit, consolidate the debts of the states, and enact tariffs and subsidies.
	Option "Holding public funds and paying government debts requires a national bank." Alexander Hamilton	Hamilton believed it necessary to establish a national bank in order to safeguard public funds, maintain public credit, consolidate the debts of the states, and enact tariffs and subsidies.

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27	Option C is correct	One of the greatest successes for the Freedmen's Bureau was the building of schools and the providing of

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28	Option D is correct	High numbers of immigrants provided labor for manufacturing. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to interpret information from a graph.
	Option A is incorrect	Immigration did not cause widespread unemployment, since worker demand was high for the years shown on the graph.
	Option B is incorrect	Immigration did not increase the prices of imported goods, since higher domestic production increased the supply of goods in the market.
	Option C is incorrect	Immigration increased westward expansion and growth, as new immigrants left

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31	Option D is correct	Ratifying the Fugitive Slave Act was seen by many Northerners as an infringement of their rights. It prevented citizens from interfering with the capture of escaped enslaved people and made assisting escaped enslaved people punishable by law.
	Option A is incorrect	Fugitive enslaved people did not want to take over western territories and establish local governments.
	Option B is incorrect	Runaway enslaved people were not given paid passage to leave the United States for a different country.
	Option C is incorrect	Southern government officials, not Northern officials, wanted to expand the institution of slavery.

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32	Part A: Option C is correct	Lincoln references the Declaration of Independence in stating that this war is to determine whether a country dedicated to the notion that “all men are created equal” can flourish. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills by drawing inferences from a primary source.
	Part A: Option A is incorrect	The Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed to help ease sectional tensions but was not a reason for fighting the Civil War.
	Part A: Option B is incorrect	Though Confederate leaders saw the Civil War as an attempt to protect their constitutional rights, Lincoln did not view it that way.
	Part A: Option D is incorrect	The Civil War was not fought to prevent Southern states from increasing their representation in Congress.
	Part B: Option A is correct	

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33 Option A is
correct

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34	Option D is correct	The English Bill of Rights was created to help protect individual liberties. The founders of the U.S. Constitution used several ideas from the English Bill of Rights to guarantee individual freedoms, such as the freedom of speech and the prevention of excessive fines and cruel punishments, and to create a government derived from the consent of the people. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to interpret information.
	Option A is incorrect	The ideas in the list did not influence the concept of separation of powers, which was developed by Montesquieu.
	Option B is incorrect	The concept of judicial review was established after the ratification of the U.S. Constitution by Chief Justice John Marshall in 1803.
	Option C is incorrect	The ideas in the list did not influence the use of tariffs to fund the government.

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37	Option B is correct	The cartoon illustrates the theory of mercantilism. Under this theory, England passed the Navigation Acts, restricting colonial trade to benefit the colonial power, as exemplified by the cartoon. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to interpret information.
	Option C is correct	According to the theory of mercantilism, colonies existed for the sole purpose of serving the mother country. The Boston Tea Party was a protest against a British policy of taxing its colonies without representation. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to interpret information.
	Option A is incorrect	The cartoon does not relate to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which occurred under the Articles of Confederation and set the requirements for parts of this territory to obtain statehood.
	Option D is incorrect	The Great Awakening was a series of religious revivals aimed at restoring the Puritan religion throughout the colonies and is not associated with the economic belief shown in the cartoon.
	Option E is incorrect	Shays's Rebellion occurred after the American Revolution, when farmers in Massachusetts revolted against unfair laws while the U.S. government was

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38	Option D is correct	The ruling stated that neither enslaved nor free African Americans were considered citizens, and therefore, they did not have the right to use the legal system.
	Option A is incorrect	The ruling stated that neither enslaved nor free African Americans were considered citizens, not that they were allowed to peacefully participate in political protests.
	Option B is incorrect	The ruling stated that neither enslaved nor free African Americans were considered citizens; it did not prohibit them from attending religious services.
	Option C is incorrect	The ruling stated that neither enslaved nor free African Americans were considered citizens, not that they were permitted to lawfully seek out economic opportunities.

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39	Option A is correct	Early U.S. leaders believed that educating the country’s people would foster engaged, informed, and law-abiding citizens. For this item, the student applies critical-thinking skills to analyze a primary source to acquire information to answer a historical question.
	Option B is incorrect	While the Northwest Ordinance helped organize land in the Northwest Territory, this law was not passed to help people acquire land.
	Option C is incorrect	While the Northwest Ordinance involved property in the Northwest Territory, this law was not passed because of any belief about education and the preservation of property rights.

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40	Option A is correct. The economy of the Southern United States was