

Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program TCAP

Social Studies Grade 8 | Practice Test



Please PRINT all information in the box.

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School: _____

District: _____



Directions

This test booklet contains multiple-choice items in Grade 8 Social Studies. You must write your answers to the test items in your separate answer document.

You may use this test booklet for scratch paper or to make notes. However, you must write your answers in the separate answer document to receive credit.

Nothing you write in this test booklet will be scored.

Sample Multiple-Choice Items

1 What city is the capital of Tennessee?

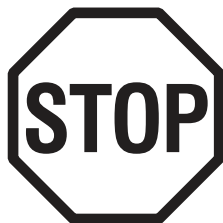
- A** Chattanooga
- B** Knoxville
- C** Memphis
- D** Nashville

2 What do the stripes on the United States flag represent?

- M** the number of states
- P** the number of original colonies
- R** the number of presidents
- S** the number of federal holidays

Sample Answers

1. A B C D
2. M P R S

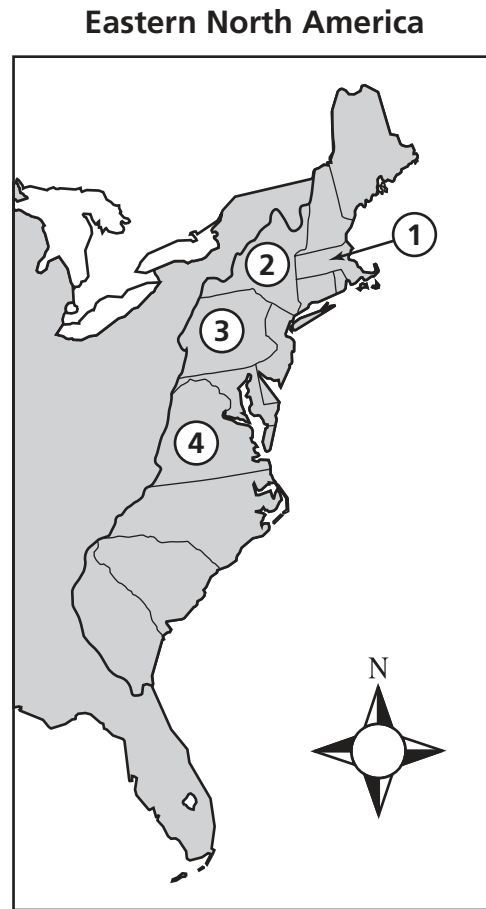


Do not go on to the next page until told to do so.

1 What caused the defeat of Fort Loudoun during the French and Indian War?

- A the lack of trade networks between the colonists and American Indians
- B the British army's failure to capture land in the Ohio River Valley
- C the weakened relationship between the western settlers and Cherokee Indians
- D the British colonists' lack of trade relations with Spanish colonies

- 2 Look at the map and answer the question.



Which number on this map shows the location of colonial New York?

- M 1
P 2
R 3
S 4

- 3** Read the list and answer the question.

**Factors Contributing to the Rise of Memphis
as the Cotton Capital of the South**

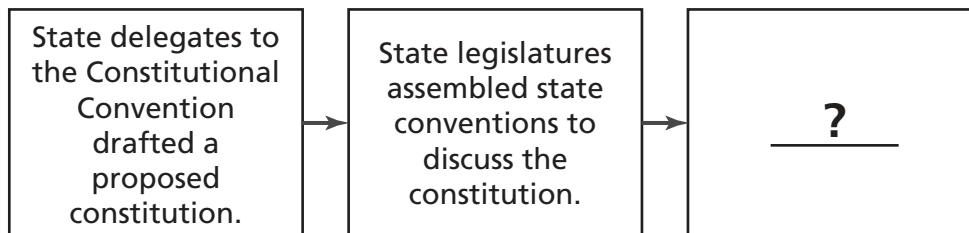
- Central location
- Productive and fertile land
- _____ ? _____

Which factor best completes the list?

- A Large population of indentured servants
- B Many wealthy plantation owners
- C Large inland port on the bank of the Mississippi River
- D Many well-built roads through the Smoky Mountains

- 4** Read the diagram and answer the question.

Ratification Process for the United States Constitution



What is the next step to best complete this process?

- M Citizens voted for officials who were in favor of ratifying the constitution.
- P The states sent edits to the document in order to support ratification.
- R Citizens signed petitions in their states for ratifying the constitution.
- S The constitution was adopted when nine states voted in favor of ratification.

5 Read the source and answer the question.

Section. 8.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

— Article 1, United States Constitution

The Supreme Court's interpretation of this section of the Constitution increased congressional power by

- A** enabling the federal government to increase military spending.
- B** creating a federal agency to collect taxes from the states.
- C** authorizing the federal regulation of interstate commerce.
- D** allowing the federal government to issue money to the states.

- 6** Read the table and answer the question.

African-American Members of the Tennessee General Assembly 1873 – 1884

Representative Sampson W. Keeble	1873 – 1874
Representative John W. Boyd	1881 – 1884
Representative Thomas A. Sykes	1881 – 1882
Representative Thomas F. Cassels	1881 – 1882
Representative Isham F. Norris	1881 – 1882

Which two factors influenced the election of these representatives?

- M** expanding trade after the Civil War
- P** adoption of new federal tariffs
- R** passage of the 15th Amendment
- S** increasing migration of Exodusters
- T** political involvement following emancipation

**No test material
on this page**

Use the source and answer the question.

1. It is Ordered . . . that there shall be yearly two General Assemblies . . . one to be chosen Governor for the year ensuing and until another be chosen, and no other Magistrate to be chosen for more than one year: provided always there be six chosen besides the Governor, which being chosen and sworn according to an Oath recorded for that purpose, shall have the power to administer justice according to the Laws here established. . . .

2. It is Ordered . . . that the election of the aforesaid Magistrates shall be in this manner: every person present and qualified for choice shall bring in . . . one single paper with the name of him written in it whom he desires to have Governor, and that he that hath the greatest number of papers shall be Governor for that year. . . .

4. It is Ordered . . . that no person be chosen Governor above once in two years, and that the Governor be always a member of some approved Congregation, and formerly of the Magistracy within this Jurisdiction. . . .

5. It is Ordered . . . that to the aforesaid Court of Election the several Towns shall send their deputies, and when the Elections are ended they may proceed in any public service as at other Courts. Also the other General Court in September shall be for making of laws, and any other public occasion, which concerns the good of the Commonwealth.

. . .

7. It is Ordered . . . that after there are warrants given out for any of the said General Courts, the Constable or Constables of each Town, shall forthwith give notice distinctly to the inhabitants of the same, in some public assembly or by going or sending from house to house, that at a place and time by him or them limited and set, they meet and assemble themselves together to elect and choose certain deputies to be at the General Court then following to agitate the affairs of the Commonwealth; which said deputies shall be chosen by all that are admitted Inhabitants in the several Towns and have taken the oath of fidelity; provided that none be chosen a Deputy for any General Court which is not a Freeman of this Commonwealth.

. . .

In which Court the Governor or Moderator shall have power to order the Court, to give liberty of speech, and silence unseasonable and disorderly speakings, to put all things to vote, and in case the vote be equal to have the casting voice. But none of these Courts shall be adjourned or dissolved without the consent of the major part of the Court.

— Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, 1639

7 How did the adoption of this document influence the development of colonial self-government?

- A** It enabled colonists to establish trade treaties with other nations.
- B** It allowed colonists to create their own laws for the area.
- C** It allowed colonists to practice freedom of religion.
- D** It enabled colonists to protect their land from native peoples.

8 Read the headlines and answer the question.

- 1

Daily Express
Taxes Increased to Support the Military

- 2

Daily Express
Treaty Agreed to with Foreign Nation

- 3

Daily Express
Postal System Is Created

- 4

Daily Express
Guidelines for Statehood Made

Which headline describes an action Congress was unable to accomplish under the Articles of Confederation?

- M 1
- P 2
- R 3
- S 4

- 9** Study the chart and answer the question.

1876 Presidential Election Results

Political Party	Presidential Nominee	Electoral College Votes	Popular Vote
Republican	Rutherford B. Hayes	185	4,033,497
Democratic	Samuel J. Tilden	184	4,288,191

Based on this chart, why was the election of 1876 considered controversial?

- A** Hayes won the Electoral College vote but did not win the popular vote.
- B** There were no third party candidates running for office.
- C** Tilden was unable to win the Electoral College vote or the popular vote.
- D** More than half of the states favored a Democratic candidate.

- 10** The Transylvania Purchase was important because it

- M** limited the western boundaries of Virginia and the Carolinas.
- P** included lands which would become part of middle Tennessee.
- R** served as a refuge for pioneers escaping from British troops.
- S** forced the removal of Cherokees refusing to leave the lands.

- 11** Read the source and answer the question.

**Selected Components of the Democratic
Party Platform of Stephen Douglas, 1860**

- That the Democratic party will abide by the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States upon . . . Constitutional law.
- Resolved, that the enactments of the State Legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the Fugitive Slave Law, are hostile in character, subversive of [against] the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect.

According to this platform, Douglas would most likely support legislation that would

- A end the plantation system.
- B require wages for enslaved persons.
- C follow the ideals of abolitionists.
- D protect slavery where it already exists.

12 Read the source and answer the question.

By such a Colony, many families, who would otherwise starve, will be provided for, and made masters of houses and lands; the people in Great Britain to whom these necessitous [needy] families were a burthen [burden], will be relieved; numbers of manufacturers will be here employed, for supplying them with clothes, working tools, and other necessaries.

— General James Edward Oglethorpe, 1733

Based on the source, Oglethorpe helped establish a colony in an effort to provide a

- M** home for former enslaved peoples.
- P** new beginning for poor people and refugees.
- R** safe place for religious people and communities.
- S** military barrier against native peoples.

Read the sources and answer the question.

Source 1

In 1789, North Carolina . . . ceded its land west of the Appalachian ridge to the United States government. Between 1790 and 1796, this area was called the “Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.” The new territory’s governor was William Blount. . . . Blount established the capital at a location that later would become the city of Knoxville. . . .

In the 1790s American politics were defined largely by the struggles between Federalists . . . and the Republicans. . . . Despite the Washington administration’s appointment of William Blount as Territorial Governor, most Tennesseans identified with the Republicans. This tension, combined with the belief that the federal government was not doing enough to solve “the Indian problem,” led Blount to mount a campaign for statehood. Delegates convened in Knoxville in January 1796 to forge a state constitution and formally petition the Congress to grant statehood.

— William Lyons, *Government and Politics in Tennessee*

Source 2

Jefferson’s Notes on Letters from William Blount

September 19, 1791

Enclosing a census of the territory showing 35,691 inhabitants, 3,417 of whom are slaves. — “The heads of families very generally were opposed to giving in their numbers fearing a General Assembly would shortly be the consequence. Hence it may be fairly inferred that the numbers are not exaggerated and to this cause may be attributed the delay in [completing] the Returns.” — A few districts have yet to report but he forwards the “imperfect” report now. . . . The missing count, probably about 1,500 souls, will be sent as soon as it is received.

December 26, 1791

He has learned that Virginia has “passed a law extending their government over that space of country which lays between the lines run by the Virginia and North-Carolina Commissioners, commonly called Walker’s and Henderson’s lines. I have before informed you that I had thought it my duty to claim on the part of the United States to Henderson’s, as that was the line North-Carolina claimed to, and actually held, and exercised jurisdiction to at the time she passed the cession act. I should be glad of instructions on this head.”

13 Why was William Blount's census of the land ceded by North Carolina important for the establishment of the state of Tennessee?

- A It would prove that the American Indian population was lower than expected.
- B It increased the number of representatives in North Carolina.
- C It determined that North Carolina had no right to cede its territory.
- D It would prove the population was large enough to form a state government.

14 Read the source and answer the question.

THESE are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country but he that stands it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny . . . is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

— Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis* (No 1), 1776

Which phrase best expresses Thomas Paine's purpose for writing this pamphlet?

- M** to honor American soldiers for winning a major battle
- P** to motivate loyalists to support independence
- R** to encourage citizens to begin making a peace settlement
- S** to inspire Americans to continue to fight for independence

- 15** Read the table and answer the question.

Social Structures of the New France and English Colonies

	New France	English Colonies
Government	Ruling council appointed by the king	Representative government with some local control
Economy	Based on fishing and fur trading	Based on cash crops, fishing, and subsistence farming
Culture	Small population of mostly French trappers and missionaries	?

Which phrase completes the table?

- A Large population from diverse European and African backgrounds
- B Small population of mostly young, unmarried Englishmen
- C Medium population of mostly Puritan and Quaker church members
- D Small population of American Indians who learned English customs

16 Read the source and answer the question.

I would as soon be engaged in importing the plague from the East, as in helping to build up a Southern Confederacy upon the ruins of the American Constitution. . . . There is but one office within the gift of my State that I would accept, and that is the office of *Governor*; and I am not sure that I will not run for this. I would like to fill that office for two years, in order to meet the issues that will be raised by the seceding States and traitors of the South.

— William G. Brownlow, 1861

Based on this source, how did William Brownlow “meet the issues” that faced the state of Tennessee?

- M** by retracting the rights of pro-secessionists
- P** by adopting the Emancipation Proclamation
- R** by denying voting rights for former slaves
- S** by organizing the Underground Railroad

- 17** Read the list and answer the question.

Events from Andrew Jackson's Presidency

- Passage of Indian Removal Act
- Battle over the Second Bank of the United States
- Nullification Crisis

What was the main result of Andrew Jackson's presidency on U.S. politics?

- A** It led to a power struggle between the executive and judicial branches.
- B** It established the importance of political skill over military experience.
- C** It ended the debate over states' rights.
- D** It strengthened the power of the executive branch.

18 Read the source and answer the question.

Apprehension [fear] seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican Administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that — I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination [wish] to do so.

— President Abraham Lincoln, Inaugural Address, 1861

In this speech, President Lincoln explained that he intended to

- M** impose martial law in the South.
- P** expand the legal rights of slaves.
- R** refuse to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act.
- S** respect the rights of Southern states.

- 19** Read the list and answer the question.

Tennessee Constitutional Convention of 1870

- Restored voting rights to former Confederates
- Weakened the power of the Radical Republicans
- Ended the Reconstruction era in Tennessee

Based on this information, which group most likely had the majority of members in the convention?

- A conservatives who were interested in rebuilding the economy
- B former Confederates who were hoping to restore their supremacy
- C Republicans who were attempting to protect the rights of minorities
- D civil rights advocates who were focused on election reform

- 20** During the 1800s, European immigrants primarily came to the United States to

- M mine for and sell precious metals in the West.
- P establish farms or work in urban factories.
- R create model neighborhoods in cities in the South.
- S work on the railroads or serve in the military.

- 21** Look at the photograph and answer the question.

**James Marshall, Discoverer of Gold,
at Sutter's Mill, c.1850**



Source: Library of Congress

What happened in California after gold was discovered at this location?

- A** John Sutter organized an armed revolt to seize control of California from Mexico.
- B** A massive migration to California began with people coming to the area from all over the world.
- C** The Mexican government used force to prevent new settlers from coming to the area.
- D** John Sutter organized a local government that petitioned Congress to join the United States.

22 Read the source and answer the question.

We had buffalo for food, and their hides for clothing and for our teepees. We preferred hunting to a life of idleness on the reservation, where we were driven against our will. At times we did not get enough to eat, and we were not allowed to leave the reservation to hunt.

We preferred our own way of living. We were no expense to the government. All we wanted was peace and to be left alone. Soldiers were sent out in the winter, who destroyed our villages.

Then Long Hair (Custer) came in the same way. They say we massacred him, but he would have done the same thing to us had we not defended ourselves and fought to the last.

— Crazy Horse, 1877

This source describes how Crazy Horse

- M** fought the army to protect his people.
- P** wanted to sign a treaty to protect the land.
- R** did everything the military asked him to do.
- S** encouraged his people to become farmers.

23 Study the table and answer the question.

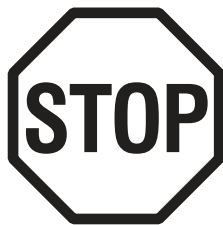
Alexander Hamilton	Thomas Jefferson
Wanted a national bank for federal funds	Felt a national bank was an abuse of power
Wanted a commercial and industrial society	Argued for a primarily agricultural society
Desired a strong central government	Believed states should have the most power

The differences outlined in this table resulted in

- A trade imbalances due to conflicting economies.
- B an agreement to end the slave trade.
- C the development of the first political parties.
- D an attempt to further define federalism.

24 What was the main reason for the inclusion of the Fugitive Slave Law in the Compromise of 1850?

- M to reward slave states for contributing funds to settle land claims
- P to pacify the free states for the decision to maintain slavery in the nation's capital
- R to foster support for the admission of another free state
- S to address problems caused by allowing popular sovereignty in the territories



This is the end of the test.

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Name: _____

Practice Test Answers

- 1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 2. (M) (P) (R) (S)
- 3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 4. (M) (P) (R) (S)
- 5. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 6. (Select **two**)
(M) (P) (R) (S) (T)
- 7. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 8. (M) (P) (R) (S)
- 9. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 10. (M) (P) (R) (S)
- 11. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 12. (M) (P) (R) (S)
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- 14. (M) (P) (R) (S)
- 15. (A) (B) (C) (D)
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- 17. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 18. (M) (P) (R) (S)
- 19. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 20. (M) (P) (R) (S)
- 21. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 22. (M) (P) (R) (S)
- 23. (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 24. (M) (P) (R) (S)



Practice Test Answer Key

- 1. (A) (B) ● (D)
- 2. (M) ● (R) (S)
- 3. (A) (B) ● (D)
- 4. (M) (P) (R) ●
- 5. (A) (B) ● (D)
- 6. (Select **two**)
(M) (P) ● (S) ●
- 7. (A) ● (C) (D)
- 8. ● (P) (R) (S)
- 9. ● (B) (C) (D)
- 10. (M) ● (R) (S)
- 11. (A) (B) (C) ●
- 12. (M) ● (R) (S)
- 13. (A) (B) (C) ●
- 14. (M) (P) (R) ●
- 15. ● (B) (C) (D)
- 16. ● (P) (R) (S)
- 17. (A) (B) (C) ●
- 18. (M) (P) (R) ●
- 19. (A) ● (C) (D)
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- 21. (A) ● (C) (D)
- 22. ● (P) (R) (S)
- 23. (A) (B) ● (D)
- 24. (M) (P) ● (S)

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