

# Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program

# TCAP

## Social Studies Grade 6 Practice Test

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Student Name

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Teacher Name



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**Test Administrator Instructions:**

This practice test has one subpart. It is recommended that you print one copy of this practice test and pull the answer key before copying and distributing the practice test to your students. The answer key is found at the end of the practice test.

There will not be an operational social studies test for students in grades 3–8 in 2016–17. However, all students will participate in a mandatory social studies field test. Testing times for the field test will be approximately 50 minutes. This field test will be administered during the same window as the operational assessments at the end of the school year. The field test will not have a written response portion.

**Directions**

This Practice Test booklet contains multiple-choice items in Grade 6 Social Studies. You must write your answers to the practice 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.

- 1.** The map below shows the extent of a vast empire circa 117 A.D.



Which numeral marks the birthplace of the civilization that created this empire?

- A.** I
- B.** II
- C.** III
- D.** IV

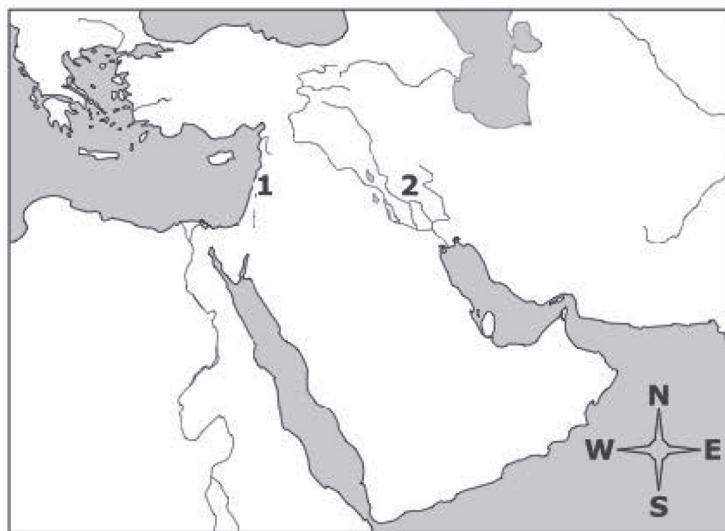
2. The map below shows ancient China and some of its rivers.



Which description identifies the river marked with the Xs on the map?

- A.** the birthplace of China's civilization
- B.** formed part of the northern Silk Road
- C.** the birthplace of the Buddhist religion
- D.** formed part of the Great Wall of China

- 3.** The map below shows two locations that played an important role in the development of Judaism.



Which statement related to the places marked on the map is correct?

- A.** Moses was the ruler of the area marked as location 1.
  - B.** Abraham was the ruler of the area marked as location 2.
  - C.** Moses moved the Israelite capital from location 1 to location 2.
  - D.** Abraham led an Israelite migration from location 2 to location 1.
- 4.** Which statement describes a difference between how Spartan and Athenian women were raised?
- A.** Athenian girls were raised in military camps.
  - B.** Athenian girls were trained for leadership positions in the government.
  - C.** Girls were given a formal education in Sparta, including writing and athletics.
  - D.** Girls were treated as slaves in Sparta and expected to do manual labor for the community.

- 5.** The paragraph below discusses China's Zhou Dynasty.

The Mandate of Heaven was an idea created by the rulers of the Zhou Dynasty to justify their taking over of the government from the Shang Dynasty. It said that heaven gave a family the right to govern as long as they did a good job and were fair to their subjects. If a ruling family failed to meet this expectation, the heavens would take away their right to rule and give it to another family. The Mandate of Heaven served to justify dynastic rule in China for hundreds of years.

Based on the paragraph and your knowledge of Chinese history, which feature of Confucius's philosophy helped the Zhou Dynasty keep the Mandate of Heaven for nearly 800 years?

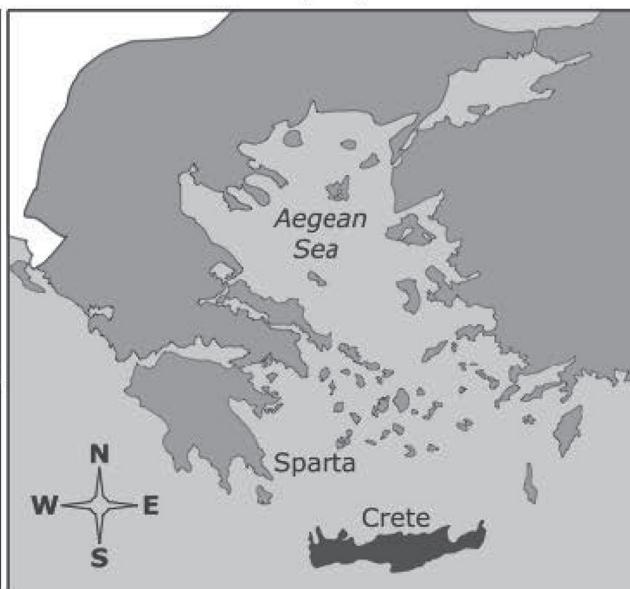
- A.** requiring local landowners to treat their subjects fairly
- B.** creating a fair system for advancement in the bureaucracy
- C.** replacing rule by familial dynasties with authoritarian government
- D.** spreading the idea that a weaker government would abuse its power less

- 6.** The maps below contain information about Greece in the 300s B.C.

**Macedonian Territory, ca. 336 B.C.**



**Hellenistic Empire, ca. 323 B.C.**



**KEY**

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| [Dark Gray Box]   | Macedonia                         |
| [Medium Gray Box] | Separate kingdoms and states      |
| [Black Box]       | Neutral states (Sparta and Crete) |

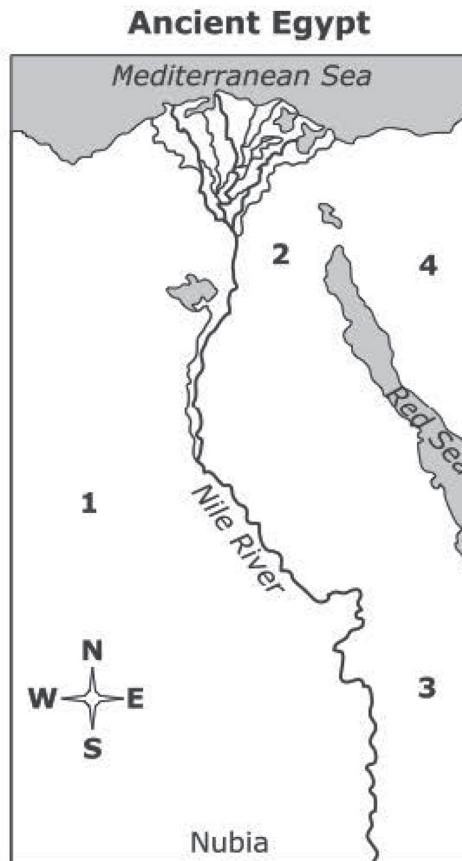
**KEY**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| [Dark Gray Box] | Greek territories |
| [Black Box]     | Independent state |

Based on the maps and your knowledge of Greek history, which impact resulted from the change shown by the maps?

- A.** A major world religion was spread.
- B.** A deadly plague was spread to the Persian Empire.
- C.** Culturally and politically separate areas were unified.
- D.** Caste systems from the Hindus were adopted by Greeks.

7. The map below shows ancient Egypt and its surrounding areas.



Which option identifies the location of Upper Egypt and the reason for the name?

- A.** 1; Upper Egypt was a Saharan region with high temperatures.
  - B.** 2; Upper Egypt was a crowded area near the Nile River delta.
  - C.** 3; Upper Egypt was a mountain area closer to the Nile River source.
  - D.** 4; Upper Egypt was a distant region with access to Red Sea trade routes.
8. What did Brahmanism and early Hinduism have in common?
- A.** Both originated around the same time.
  - B.** Both promoted the belief in a caste system.
  - C.** Both promoted the worship of only one god.
  - D.** Both originated to help the powerless in society.

- 9.** Why did taxation in the Roman Empire contribute to the social and economic stability of the Pax Romana?
- A.** because taxes were used to pay for missionaries that spread the official religion
  - B.** because taxes were used to pay for public projects such as the sanitation systems
  - C.** because taxes were used to pay tribute to rival empires, which reduced the need to maintain a large army
  - D.** because taxes were used to pay the costs of abolishing slavery, which increased the number of skilled workers
- 10.** The text below provides information about Mesopotamian culture.

Although Mesopotamia was home to many cultures over the centuries—Sumerians, Assyrians, and Babylonians—the art these cultures created is similar enough that art historians term it “Mesopotamian art.” Because there was little stone in Mesopotamia, most building and artwork was done with clay or mud. For instance, ziggurats tended to be built out of bricks made of clay and mud. For this reason, limited types of art have survived. The artwork that does survive show refined techniques and realistic figures.

Based on the excerpt, for which cultural achievements is ancient Mesopotamia **most** famous?

- A.** printed pictures
- B.** ceramic figures
- C.** sculpture and architecture
- D.** paintings and drawings

- 11.** The information below describes an important change that took place in the Roman Empire.

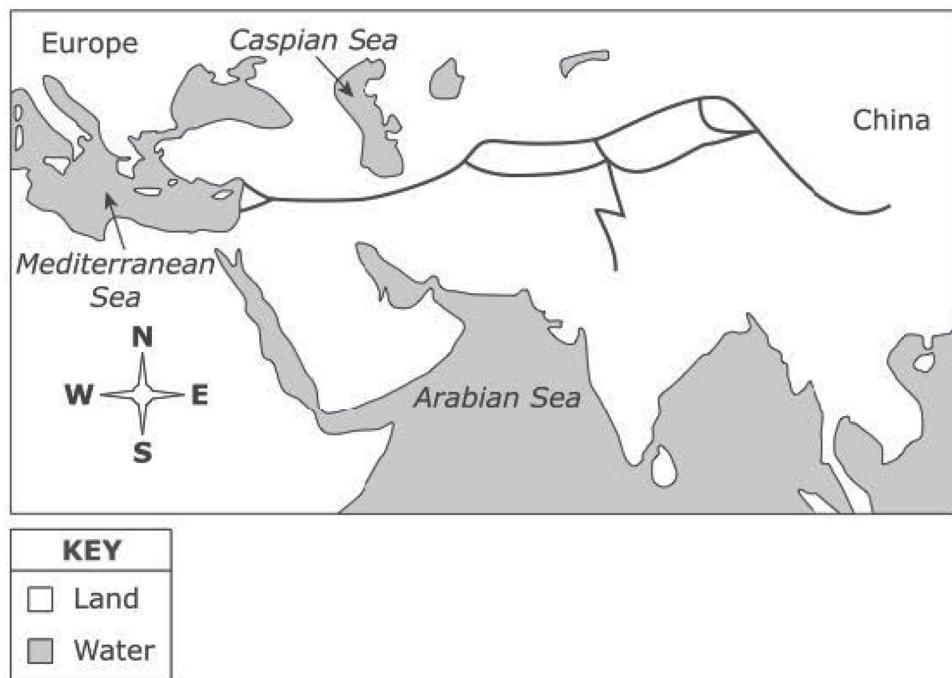
One of the watersheds of early history was the conversion of the Roman emperor Constantine to Christianity. Locked in a war with his brother-in-law and coemperor, Maxentius, Constantine became convinced he needed divine help. According to the historian Eusebius, Constantine prayed for assistance before the crucial battle of Milvian Bridge. A vision and a dream assured Constantine he would be victorious. Believing the dream came from his prayer, Constantine converted and he adopted the cross as his royal symbol. After his victory, he vowed to wear it whenever he faced an enemy.

In A.D. 313, Constantine went even further when he mandated toleration for Christianity. A few decades later, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. This policy change allowed the religion to spread throughout the empire. Because the emperor had been considered a god, the adoption of Christianity caused struggles for the future Roman emperors.

Based on the information and your knowledge of the Roman Empire, how did the situation described in the information cause problems for Roman emperors?

- A.** Barbarian groups refused to pay tribute to Roman emperors.
- B.** Catholic popes became more powerful than Roman emperors.
- C.** Christianity recognized only one God, weakening the authority of the emperors.
- D.** Opponents of Christianity encouraged men to become warriors, building an army against the emperors.

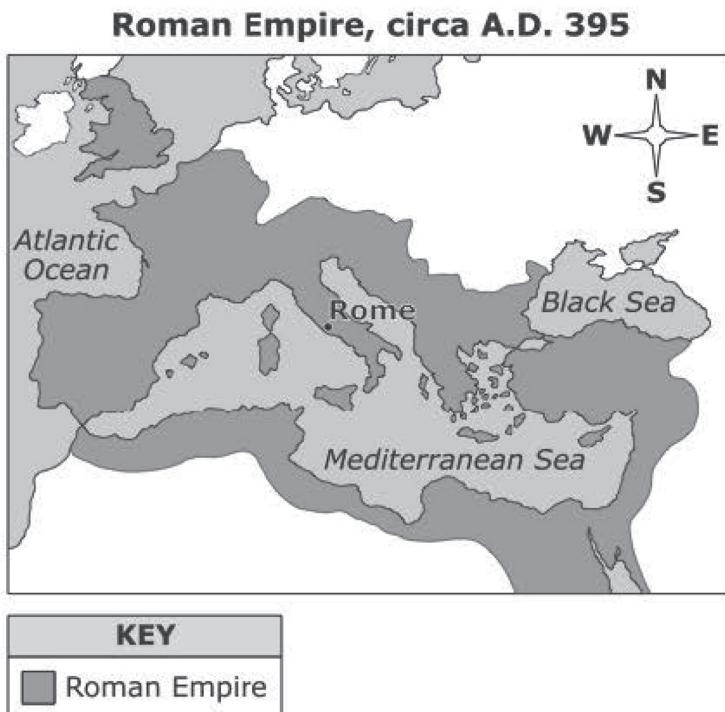
- 12.** The map below illustrates the Silk Road during the Han Dynasty in China.



Which advance was spread along the route shown on the map?

- A.** writing systems
- B.** technological innovations
- C.** a more efficient way to organize labor
- D.** more democratic systems of government

13. The map below shows the extent of the Roman Empire about A.D. 395.



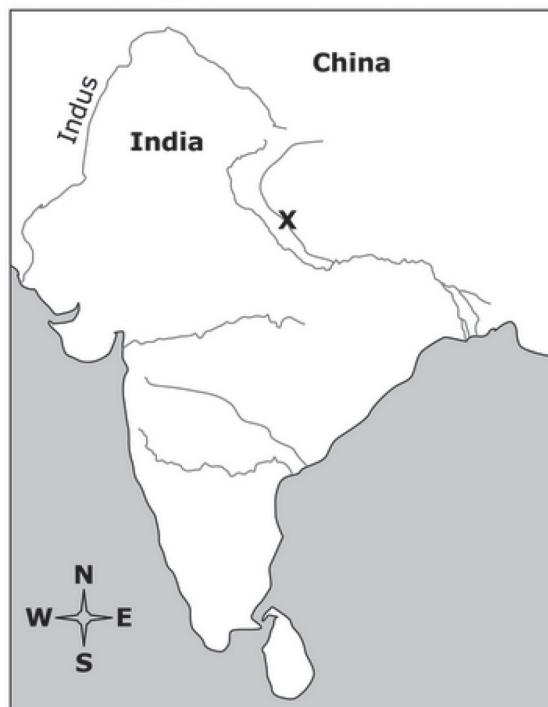
Based on the map and your knowledge of ancient Rome, which conclusion about Roman innovation does the map support?

- A. The empire grew because Christianity became a popular religion.
  - B. The empire spread because Roman engineers invented the chariot.
  - C. The empire grew because Roman leaders built roads to defend borders.
  - D. The empire spread because Latin allowed conquered people to read important documents.
14. Which belief was a characteristic of the religion of the Israelites?
- A. the belief that all followers must pray to their gods
  - B. the belief that the faithful followed the same set of laws
  - C. the belief that leaders of the faith held the highest status
  - D. the belief that spirits influenced events in the natural world

- 15.** Why did the government of the Roman Republic develop the ideas of separation of governmental powers and of checks and balances?
- A.** because those ideas ensured that every citizen had equal rights
  - B.** because those ideas ensured that every citizen obeyed the laws
  - C.** because those ideas made it harder for the government to abuse its power
  - D.** because those ideas made it easier to check on what the government was doing

- 16.** The map below shows some of the important rivers in India.

**Some Major Rivers in South Asia**



What is the importance of the river marked with an X?

- A.** It is sacred to Hindu believers.
- B.** It is the only source of clean water in India.
- C.** It is the site of the earliest Indian settlements.
- D.** It is the only river that flows from the Himalayas.

17. The passage below describes an important ancient Egyptian invention.

Early Egyptians invented papyrus, a material on which to write. Papyrus was made from a river plant of the same name. For 3,000 years, Egypt used this resilient and durable paperlike material. They also developed and refined a system of writing.

The original Egyptian writing system was hieroglyphics. The word hieroglyph is of Greek origin and roughly translates to “sacred inscription.” For nearly 4,000 years, the Egyptians used hieroglyphs to express themselves, tell stories, and to keep a tally of objects. They used hieroglyphics on papyrus, carved them in stone on tomb and temple walls, and used them to decorate numerous other objects.

However, hieroglyphics were complicated to write, especially for short messages. To solve the problem, Egyptians invented Hieratic, a writing form that combined words with the hieroglyphic symbols. They used Hieratic alongside hieroglyphs for most of Egyptian history. A later form invented by the Egyptians during the 26th Dynasty (664–525 B.C.) used mostly words. This more cursive form of writing was called Demotic.

Based on the passage, which statement explains why Egyptians developed various forms of writing?

- A. to honor the many gods of writing
- B. to express ideas that were difficult to write in symbols
- C. to communicate with other people using other languages
- D. to allow ideas to be written down on smaller pieces of papyrus

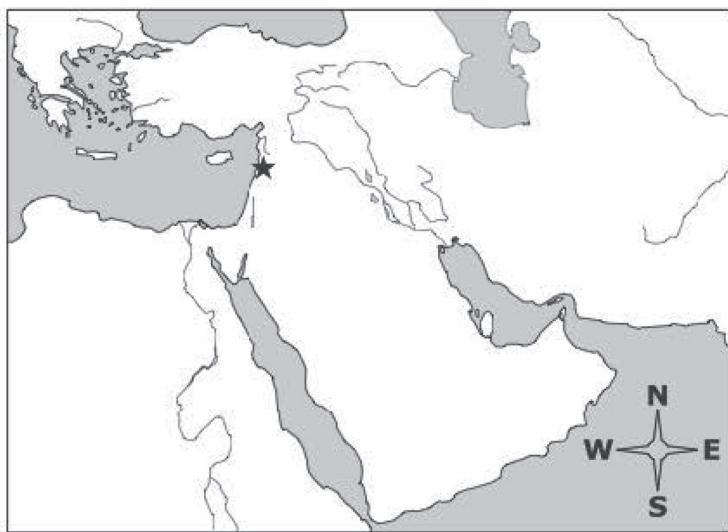
**18.** The list below contains categories of athletic events.

- running
- wrestling
- boxing
- chariot races
- pentathlon

Which title describes the list?

- A.** Events in Ancient Greek Myths
- B.** Sports in Greek Military Training
- C.** Events of the Ancient Olympic Games
- D.** Competitions Among the Ancient Nations

**19.** The map below shows the location of an important ancient civilization.



Which ancient Mediterranean civilization lived in the location marked with a star?

- A.** Sumerians
- B.** Phoenicians
- C.** Israelites
- D.** Egyptians

- 20.** The excerpts below are rules from Hammurabi's Code.

196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out. [An eye for an eye]

197. If he breaks another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.

198. If he puts out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.

199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay half the value of the slave. . . .

202. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.

—The Code of Hammurabi, translated by L. W. King

**Source:** Public Domain

Based on this excerpt, which conclusion can be drawn about ancient Mesopotamia?

- A.** People were all treated the same way by the legal system.
- B.** The social class a person belonged to could not be changed.
- C.** People were treated differently based on the social class to which they belonged.
- D.** A person who was considered property could not be punished for committing a crime.

- 21.** The excerpt below discusses an important feature of Roman civilization.

Good means of communication are indispensable. It was one of the first tasks of the Romans to establish such means. They were the great . . . road builders of antiquity. They began . . . before they had completed the conquest of Italy; and it was one of the devices which assured their supremacy throughout that peninsula. They followed it out in Gaul, Spain, Africa, Britain, and the East.

—James Bryce, *The Ancient Roman Empire and the British Empire in India*, 1914

**Source:** Public Domain

The excerpt below describes an action taken by Augustus when he became emperor.

Augustus . . . repaired the great . . . roads, which had been allowed to lapse into a bad condition. The public roads were among the most valuable, no less than the most durable, monuments of the power and greatness of the Roman nation.

—Israel Smith Clare, *Alexander's Empire and Roman Empire*, 1897

**Source:** Public Domain

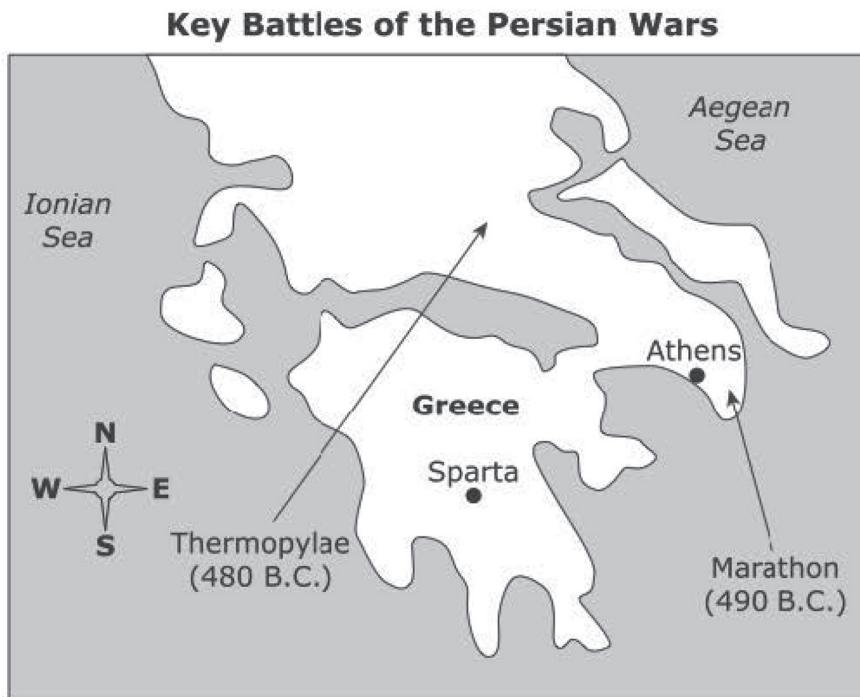
Based on the excerpts and your knowledge of Roman history, which statement explains why Augustus took the action described in the second excerpt?

- A.** to help him create a republic to protect the liberties and freedoms of citizens
- B.** to help him stop the collapse of the empire by defeating barbarians
- C.** to help him bring about peace and prosperity across the empire
- D.** to help him spread a new religion to unify the republic

- 22.** What was the result of the decision by King David to make Jerusalem his capital?

- A.** The location of the city on trade routes helped to stimulate the economy.
- B.** The location of the city on high ground made it difficult to defend from attacks.
- C.** The location of the city in the middle of the territory allowed for a centralized government.
- D.** The location of the city at the birthplace of the first prophet allowed for the preservation of cultural history.

23. The map shows the locations of two major battles.



Which statement explains how these battles changed the course of world history?

- A. They contributed to the militarization of Sparta, which aided the spread of Greek culture across Southwest Asia through the conquests of Alexander the Great.
- B. They furthered the growth of the political power of Athens, which contributed to the development of many of the cultural features of Western Civilization.
- C. They allowed for the continued expansion of the Persian Empire, which influenced the development of government institutions in Europe.
- D. They led to the founding of new Roman colonies, which helped spread Christianity in the Middle East.

- 24.** The excerpts below discuss medicine in ancient India.

In the science of medicine the Hindus attained a high proficiency at an early age, and Dr. Wise has shown that Hippocrates, the "father of medicine," borrowed his medical information from them. When the Greeks visited India in the fourth century, they found the Hindus proficient in the art of healing, and Alexander the Great kept Hindu physicians in his camp for the treatment of diseases which Greek physicians could not heal. The science is known as A'yurveda in India.

—Romesh Chunder Dutt, *Ancient India, 2000 B.C.–800 A.D.*, 1904

**Source:** Public Domain

The sacred Ayur Veda contained also a description of the structure of the human body obtained from dissection; an account of the causes and diseases to which it is subject, reduced to a systematic form; the enumeration of many useful remedies; and the precepts for preserving health, and curing diseases.

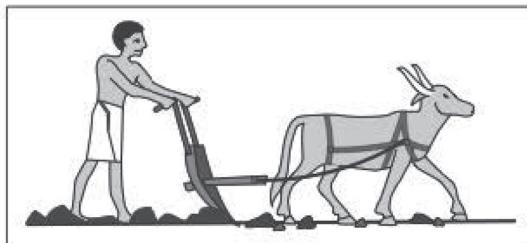
—Thomas Alexander Wise, *Commentary on the Hindu System of Medicine*, 1860

**Source:** Public Domain

Based on these excerpts and your knowledge of the history of India, which conclusion can be made about medical knowledge in India?

- A.** The efforts of medical workers were respected.
- B.** The medical techniques of Greek scientists were copied.
- C.** The traditional methods of curing physical illnesses were ignored.
- D.** The superstitions of the Brahmins were used to answer medical questions.

25. The information below identifies a Mesopotamian technological advance.



Which statement describes an effect of this advance?

- A. Religious beliefs increased the production of farmers.
  - B. Greater food production allowed for the growth of cities.
  - C. Agricultural inventors rose to the highest level of society.
  - D. Astrological studies led to the creation of many inventions.
26. The information below describes important events in ancient Greece.

Archaeologists trace the earliest habitation of Athens to 7000 B.C. By 1000 B.C., Athenian traders were sailing throughout the Mediterranean region. In 624 B.C., Drakon codified Athenian law, and the ensuing peace allowed Athenian culture to thrive. By the 480s B.C., Athens had become the strongest Greek city-state. To further expand, Athens organized a group of smaller city-states into an alliance, the Delian League. Athens continued to use its naval power to spread its influence across the Mediterranean region. However, as Athenian power increased, other Greek city-states began to resist that growth. Eventually a war erupted, and Athens was defeated.

Based on the information and your knowledge of ancient Greece, how did the results in this information impact the cultural achievements of Greek civilization?

- A. The rise of other city-states spurred increased cultural expression.
- B. The defeat of Athens ended a period of Greek cultural development.
- C. Cultural advances stopped as city-states focused on food production.
- D. Dictatorships that spread throughout Greece restricted cultural expression.

- 27.** The information below describes ancient Mesopotamian religion.

Different groups of people in ancient Mesopotamia developed beliefs in natural spirits and supernatural forces. The system of multiple gods in Mesopotamia probably came through combining the gods from several of these early religions. As groups joined together and a more cohesive culture was formed, even more gods were named as patrons of new types of activities.

The people of Mesopotamia believed that gods and goddesses controlled the world and their lives. Their religion had gods for all things visible and imagined. Each god oversaw an aspect of Mesopotamian life—planting crops, creating pottery, or falling in love. Here are some Mesopotamian gods and goddesses:

Ishtar—goddess of love

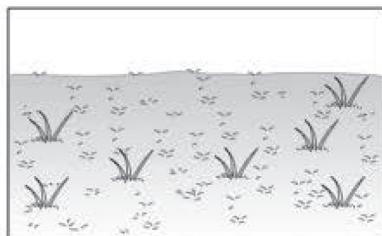
Nabu—god of scribes and writing

Shamash—god of the sun, truth, and justice

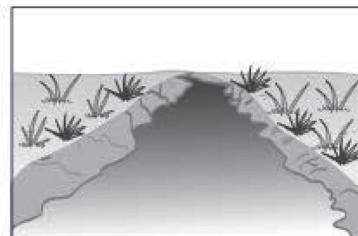
According to the information, why did the polytheistic religions of the Mesopotamians develop?

- A.** to explain life events
- B.** to honor the diversity of societies
- C.** to encourage people to build temples
- D.** to demonstrate the power of the kingdom to enemies

28. The photographs below show examples of two of the earliest human modifications of the environment.



Cleared Land



Irrigation Canal

For early groups, what was the **main** result of these modifications?

- A. new territorial claims
- B. increased military conquests
- C. new sources of food and clothing
- D. increased wind storms and drought

- 29.** The map and the statement provide information about the Greek Empire about 100 B.C.

The map and the statement provide information about the Greek Empire about 100 B.C.

**Eastern Portion of the Empire of Alexander the Great**

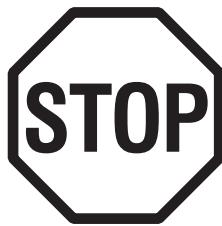


Archaeologists have discovered outstanding examples of jewelry from the Greek colony marked with an X on the map. The jewelry is made of gold and is encrusted with a variety of colorful gemstones. Such jewelry became common throughout the Greek Empire after the conquests of Alexander the Great (356–323 B.C.). Experts trace this style of jewelry to Asia but believe that the actual jewelry was created by local colonial craftspeople.

Based on the information and your knowledge of ancient Greece, which conclusion can be drawn from this information?

- A.** Trade routes in ancient Greece were limited to the western area.
- B.** Political stability in ancient Greece allowed trade to expand widely.
- C.** Colonial leaders were required to send precious metals back to the Greek city-states.
- D.** Colonial craftspeople produced work inferior to the work of craftspeople in the Greek city-states.

- 30.** Which feature of the Hindu-Arabic numeral system was an improvement over previous numeral systems?
- A.** the concept of zero
  - B.** the use of prime numbers
  - C.** the development of number lines
  - D.** the creation of multiplication tables



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Social Studies Practice Test Questions

**1.** (A) (B) (C) (D)

**2.** (A) (B) (C) (D)

**3.** (A) (B) (C) (D)

**4.** (A) (B) (C) (D)

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**14.** (A) (B) (C) (D)

**15.** (A) (B) (C) (D)

**16.** (A) (B) (C) (D)

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**Social Studies Practice Test Questions**

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