

Sample GED Social Studies Test

Section: GED Social Studies Exams • Total Questions: 10 • Format: Verified Q&A

1. How did the position expressed by President Johnson differ from the position expressed by Senator Russell?

This excerpt is from a speech given by President Lyndon Johnson before a joint session of Congress in 1965.

1 I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy....

2 At times history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom.... So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.

3 There, long-suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans. Many were brutally assaulted....

4 There is no constitutional issue here. The command of the Constitution is plain.

5 There is no moral issue. It is wrong, deadly wrong, to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote in this country.

6 There is no issue of States' rights or national rights. There is only the struggle for human rights....

7 We cannot... refuse to protect the right of every American to vote in every election that he may desire to participate in..

8 But even if we pass this bill, the battle will not be over.

9 Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negroes, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.

10 And we shall overcome..

11 This great, rich, restless country can offer opportunity and education and hope to all: black and white, North and South, sharecropper and city dweller. These are the enemies: poverty, Ignorance, disease.

They are the enemies and not our fellow man, not our neighbor. And these enemies too, poverty, disease and ignorance, we shall overcome.

This excerpt is from a telegram Senator Richard Russell of Georgia sent to President Dwight Eisenhower in 1957.

12... As a citizen, as a senator of the United States, and as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, I must vigorously protest the highhanded and illegal methods being

- (A) Only Senator Russell said that state governments were sufficiently protecting the rights of citizens.
- (B) Only Senator Russell supported the federal government's intervention.
- (C) Only President Johnson supported the state governments' rights to manage their own affairs.
- (D) Only President Johnson believed that the federal government was authorized to intervene.

2. What impact do the varying insurance rates of the Revenue Protection Plan have on farming?

This passage describes some activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency oversees the Commodity Insurance program. This program offers farmers a variety of forms of insurance. One form is known as the Revenue Protection Plan. This plan protects farmers against losing income due to falling prices or crop failures. Under this plan, a farmer may choose to purchase insurance to guarantee revenue of at least 75% of the Actual Production History of the farm. The insurance on some crops, such as corn, is subsidized by the federal government at a much higher rate than most other crops. The insurance rates vary depending on the type of crop grown. The USDA also has several agencies devoted to research. The Economic Research Service compiles data about the total profits earned by U.S. farms. It measures the total income earned by farms and the total costs of production. Generally, both figures have increased over the past 10 years. This graph contains data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- (A) They maintain stable prices for certain crops.
 - (B) They give farmers an incentive to promote crop diversity.
 - (C) They ensure the steady increase of crop production levels.
 - (D) They give farmers an incentive to grow crops that have higher subsidies.
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3. Which statement about the ratification of the 19th Amendment is based on the passage?

1st Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, of promoting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

6th Amendment: In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed.....

8th Amendment: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

14th Amendment: No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law

- (A) Ratification was the result of the Seneca Falls Convention.
 - (B) Ratification occurred in return for the military service of women during World War I.
 - (C) Ratification occurred prior to the granting of voting rights to freed slaves.
 - (D) Ratification was the result of the accumulated efforts of women for decades.
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4. Which one statement identifies the main idea of President Johnson's speech?

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12... As a citizen, as a senator of the United States, and as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, I must vigorously protest the highhanded and illegal methods being

- (A) The federal government has the responsibility to guarantee the rights of citizens.
- (B) The expansion of educational opportunities should be the next goal of the civil rights movement.
- (C) The expansion of voting rights can eliminate poverty.
- (D) The federal government has power over state governments.

5. Which statement from the excerpts provides evidence for the Inference that minority rights were not protected by the U.S. government as originally founded?

This excerpt is from a 1987 speech by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

"I do not believe that the meaning of the Constitution was forever "fixed" at the Philadelphia Convention. Nor do I find the wisdom, foresight, and sense of justice exhibited by the Framers particularly profound. To the contrary, the government they devised was defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war, and momentous social transformation to attain the system of constitutional government, and its respect for the individual freedoms and human rights, we hold as fundamental today. When contemporary Americans cite "The Constitution," they invoke concept that is vastly different from what the Framers barely began to construct two centuries ago... When the Founding Fathers used this phrase [We, the People] in 1787, they did not have in mind the majority of America's citizens. "We the People" included, in the words of the Framers, "the whole Number of free Persons."

This excerpt is from a 1987 speech by President Ronald Reagan.

"In a very real sense, it was then, in 1787, that the Revolution truly began. For it was with the writing of our Constitution, setting down the architecture of democratic government, that the noble sentiments and brave rhetoric of 1776 took on substance...."

All men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights-until that moment some might have said that was just a high-blown sentiment, the dreams of a few philosophers and their hot-headed followers. But could one really construct a government, run a country, with such idealistic notions? But once those ideals took root in living, functioning institutions, once those notions became a nation-well, then, as I said, the revolution could really begin, not just in America but around the world, a revolution to free man from tyranny of every sort and secure his freedom the only way possible in this world, through the checks and balances and institutions of limited, democratic government."

- (A) "To the contrary, the government they devised was defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war, and momentous social transformation to attain the system of constitutional government, and its respect for the individual freedoms and human rights, we hold as fundamental today."
- (B) "In a very real sense, it was then, in 1787, that the Revolution truly began."
- (C) "I do not believe that the meaning of the Constitution was forever 'fixed' at the Philadelphia Convention."
- (D) "For it was with the writing of our Constitution, setting down the architecture of democratic government, that the noble sentiments and brave rhetoric of 1776 took on substance....."

6. Which sentence from the passage provides evidence that the Veterans Administration was involved in the development of suburban communities?

Levittown

1 Shortly after World War II, many changes led to the development of suburbs. Men returned home from military service, got married, and started families. They needed housing. William Levitt, an entrepreneur, started building look-alike houses in developments in rural areas using assembly-line techniques. His first site, located in Nassau County, New York, is now called Levittown.

2 William and his brother Alfred first gained experience in assembly-line techniques while building government housing for defense workers during World War II. After the war, the Levitts gambled on the belief that many veterans would want to work in the city while living in rural areas. They bought 1,000 acres of Long Island farmland 25 miles east of Manhattan. In 1947, they began construction on the first of what would eventually be 17,000 houses.

3 The operation was organized so that houses could be mass-produced. At a 20-acre facility on-site, cement was mixed and lumber cut. Carpenters, roofers, and tile layers worked in waves. There was even one team of painters for red and another for white. The Levitt brothers owned a forest, a saw mill, and a nail-making factory. This use of vertical integration, along with buying appliances directly from manufacturers, allowed them to keep costs down and maximize their profits. Houses sold for \$8,000, which resulted in a \$1,000 profit per house for the builders.

4 Even so, the success of Levittown depended not only on the efficiency of the Levitt brothers' process but also on the Federal Housing Administration, which guaranteed bank loans to builders. Moreover, a separate government program made low-interest mortgage loans available to returning military personnel. With this financing in place, more homes could be built and more veterans could afford to buy them. Thus, much of the baby-boom generation had well-constructed homes in which to grow up.

- (A) "Men returned home from military service, got married, and started families." (paragraph 1)
- (B) "Moreover, a separate government program made low-interest mortgage loans available to returning military personnel." (paragraph 4)
- (C) "Even so, the success of Levittown depended not only on the efficiency of the Levitt brothers' process but also on the Federal Housing Administration, which guaranteed bank loans to builders." (paragraph 4)
- (D) "William and his brother Alfred first gained experience in assembly-line techniques while building government housing for defense workers during World War II." (paragraph 2)

7. Which statement from Common Sense provides evidence that the author Thomas Paine supported American independence?

The Affordable Care Act was passed by the U.S. Congress in 2010, but faced numerous legal challenges after it took effect. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the law was constitutional.

Excerpts from Senator Rand Paul's article against the Affordable Care Act, March 25, 2011

1 Excerpt 1: "For the first time in U.S. history, the federal government will force you to purchase health insurance."

2 Excerpt 2: "Like other areas of the economy where the federal government wields its heavy hand, health care is overregulated and in need of serious market reforms. But many see bigger government as the solution to this problem...."

3 Excerpt 3: "When people blame the current crisis on the free market, they are making a grave intellectual error. We have not even remotely tried a free market in health care. We put layer upon layer of rules and mandates on companies. We limit the choices available to consumers."

4 Excerpt 4: "The solutions we seek to our health care problems should therefore offer more freedom, not less."

Excerpts from President Obama's speech about the Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act, June 28, 2012

5 Excerpt 1: "... Earlier today, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act... [T]oday's decision was a victory for people all over this country whose lives will be more secure because of this law and the Supreme Court's decision to uphold it."

6 Excerpt 2: "Each state will take the lead in designing [its] own menu of [health care] options, and if states can come up with even better ways of covering more people at the same quality and cost, this law allows them to do that, too."

7 Excerpt 3: "That's why... we ultimately included a provision in the Affordable Care Act that people who can afford to buy health insurance should take the responsibility to do so."

- (A) "Absolute governments have this advantage with them, that they are simple..."
- (B) "I challenge the warmest advocate for reconciliation, to [show], a single advantage that this continent can reap, by being connected with Great Britain."
- (C) "The prejudice of Englishmen, in [favor] of their own government arises as much or more from national pride than reason."
- (D) "Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state is but a necessary evil."

8. Which event counters the viewpoint expressed in the newspaper excerpt that African Americans refused to defend their civil rights?

- (A) the ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments
- (B) the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation
- (C) the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- (D) the start of the Great Migration

9. Based on the timeline and the map, what was one way African Americans dealt with Jim Crow laws?

- (A) by taking service jobs in southern cities
 - (B) by seeking factory jobs in urban areas of the North
 - (C) by becoming tenant farmers in other parts of the South
 - (D) by gaining technical skills in northern schools
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10. How did Chief Justice Marshall contribute to the U.S. government system of checks and balances?

This excerpt discussing the U.S. Supreme Court case of Marbury v. Madison (1803) is from an article published by the National Archives in 1995.

*"A Law [opposed] to the Constitution is void. With these words written by Chief Justice Marshall, the Supreme Court for the first time declared unconstitutional a law passed by Congress and signed by the President. Nothing in the Constitution gave the Court this specific power. Marshall, however, believed that the Supreme Court should have a role equal to those of the other two branches of government. When James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote a defense of the Constitution in *The Federalist*, they explained... "You must first enable government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."... The Constitution gave Congress the power to... remove officials, including judges or the President himself. The President was given the veto power to restrain Congress and the authority to appoint members of the Supreme Court.... [T]he role of the Supreme Court had not been defined. It therefore fell to a strong Chief Justice like Marshall to complete the triangular structure of checks and balances by establishing the principle of judicial review.*

- (A) by establishing the Supreme Court's power to check Congress
- (B) by creating the power to remove the president from office
- (C) by expanding the president's power to check Congress
- (D) by giving the Supreme Court the power to control itself