

Social Studies GED Test

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

1. What is the meaning of the word entrenched as used in this excerpt?

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) in control
- (B) strongly defended
- (C) established and unlikely to change
- (D) surrounded and unable to move

2. Which statement identifies a purpose of Roosevelt's speech?

This excerpt is from a speech delivered by Theodore Roosevelt in 1910. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.... Moreover, I believe that the natural resources must be used for the benefit of all our people, and not monopolized for the benefit of the few.... Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us, and training them into a better race to inhabit the land and pass it on. Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation....

- (A) to convince his audience that preserving the environment is as important as national security
- (B) to convince his audience that preserving the environment is the responsibility of ordinary citizens
- (C) to gain support for using public lands to obtain vital productive resources
- (D) to gain support for a candidate who wants to preserve the environment

3. Which statement can be made based on both the passage and the table?

Political Party Identification

The percentage of registered voters identifying with political parties is declining. If current trends continue, half of American voters could identify as politically Independent within the next decade.

This change has been influenced by an information revolution that includes 24-hour television news channels and near universal access to the Internet. Easy access to news and diverse opinions has freed voters from a reliance on parties for political education. Moreover, voters no longer need political parties to vouch for the good reputation of candidates. Voters can make judgments based on candidate media appearances and broadcast stories.

Similarly, candidates no longer rely on the party to communicate with voters or to ask for campaign contributions. Every major modern campaign includes television ads and Internet sites focused on the candidate's message and raising money.

- (A) The increase in independent voters has strengthened the influence of Democrats on the national level.
- (B) The best political campaigns of Republicans and Democrats use modern media to communicate with voters.
- (C) The most recent data shows that Republicans controlled almost three × the number of state legislatures as Democrats.
- (D) The decrease in party identification has strengthened the influence of Republicans in state legislatures.

4. Which quotation from the excerpt reveals the author's bias about the relationship between the rule of the majority and the rights of the minority?

This excerpt is from Federalist No. 22, published in 1787. It has been paraphrased.

A legislative rule requiring more than a majority to pass a bill gives the minority more power than the majority. The effect of this practice is the opposite of what is expected in theory. Requiring a unanimous vote or more than a majority vote is meant to provide a safeguard against oppression. But in reality it destroys the thoughtful deliberation of a respectable majority and replaces it with the whims and trickery of a small but unruly gang.

In times of national emergency, the goodness, badness, weakness, and strength of the government is supremely important. The government must in one way or another take action. If a majority resolution can be blocked by a stubborn minority, it will be necessary for the majority to conform to the minority for action to occur. The wishes of the smaller group will override the wishes of the larger group and this will create resentment. In these circumstances, expect constant scheming, trickery, and tiresome delays, resulting in disgraceful deals that violate the public good.

- (A) "The wishes of the smaller group will override the wishes of the larger group and this will create resentment."
- (B) "Requiring a unanimous vote or more than a majority vote is meant to provide a safeguard against oppression."
- (C) "In these circumstances, expect constant scheming, trickery, and tiresome delays, resulting in disgraceful deals that violate the public good."
- (D) "In × of national emergency, the goodness, badness, weakness, and strength of the government is supremely important."

5. Which event occurred first?

This passage uses information published in zutz ty die National Archives.

In 2012 workers at the National Archives preparing an exhibition of the records of immigrants discovered a 1951 document concerning teenaged Holocaust survivor Michael Pupa. Michael, whose parents died in the Holocaust, was one of many war orphans who came to the United States following World War II. Because of relief efforts made by the United Nations (UN) after the war, Pupa became a U.S. citizen in 1957.

These relief efforts were the result of the humanitarian crisis the United States and its allies faced after World War II. Millions of persons who had been forced to leave their homes needed to be resettled. The United States heavily supported and funded the creation of the International Refugee Organization (IRO) in 1946 by the United Nations, which was founded a year earlier.

Michael Pupa arrived in the United States in May of 1951. After living for six months in a United Nations home for refugee children, he moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was raised by a foster family and began his life as an American.

- (A) Michael moved to Ohio.
 - (B) Michael attained U.S. citizenship.
 - (C) The IRO was created.
 - (D) The UN was established.
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6. Which technology mentioned in the passage was the first one invented by Edison?

The great inventor Thomas Edison received more than one thousand patents during his career and made a large contribution to how we live today. For example, in 1877, after discovering a way to record sound, Edison introduced the phonograph. In 1893 he invented the first motion-picture camera. Eight years before inventing the phonograph, Edison received his first patent for a vote recorder, which was intended to help record legislative votes quickly. The Innovation he is most known for is the electric light bulb. He filed a patent for his light bulb in 1879. Though others contributed to the invention of the light bulb, Edison's work made this invention a long-lasting, practical household item.

- (A) vote recorder
 - (B) motion-picture camera
 - (C) electric light bulb
 - (D) phonograph
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7. According to the information in the first graph, which statement correctly describes the period from 2006 to 2008?

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) Gross farm income continued the decline that had characterized previous years.
- (B) Gross farm income increased despite increases in production costs.
- (C) Increases in production costs caused gross farm income to decline.
- (D) Decreases in production costs continued throughout this period.

8. Which statement from the passage is an opinion?

This passage contains information about the concept of sustainability. What does the word "sustainability" mean? "Sustainability" means using natural resources responsibly so that they are available to future generations. Sustainability seeks to balance economic, environmental, and societal challenges and opportunities. For example, to achieve sustainability a business will not view profit only in terms of dollars. Energy companies will ask what impact their operation has on humans, wildlife, land, and water. The ill-advised rush to extract new discoveries of shale oil and natural gas is a case in point. These resources will earn millions of dollars and create many jobs. However, if the result is polluted water and ghost towns, it is not a sustainable model.

- (A) "The ill-advised rush to extract new discoveries of shale oil and natural gas is a case in point."
- (B) "...if the result is polluted water and ghost towns, it is not a sustainable model."
- (C) "'Sustainability' means using natural resources responsibly so that they are available to future generations."
- (D) "... to achieve sustainability a business will not view profit only in terms of dollars."

9. According to this information, which philosopher would most likely support the presidential power to appoint federal judges with the consent of the U.S. Senate?

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) Thomas Hobbes
- (B) Baron de Montesquieu
- (C) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- (D) John Locke

10. Which basic assumption is only behind the speech?

The blog entry and speech excerpt below discuss the U.S. Supreme Court case of Tinker v. Des Moines (1969).

Blog

In the Tinker v. Des Moines case, the Court ruled that students lawfully exercised their rights when they wore black armbands in school as a protest against the Vietnam War. The ruling stated that school officials were wrong to suspend students from school for their act of protest. Students are not required to give up their rights when they enter a public school, especially freedom of speech, which is the foundation of democracy. These students modeled good citizenship by their actions. In contrast, school representatives placing restrictions on liberty provided a bad example to the future leaders of our country.

Speech

I believe the U.S. Supreme Court ruled correctly in Tinker v. Des Moines. Democracy requires individual expression, debate, and public protest. Still, freedom of speech is not the only issue to be considered when protests occur in public schools. School officials have a responsibility to provide a safe environment that is not disruptive to learning. Individual expression should not interfere with a school's mission to teach.

- (A) Freedom of speech must be protected in schools.
- (B) Citizens can express their views through symbols.
- (C) Citizens should be able to express their views on issues.
- (D) Freedom of speech has some restrictions