

Name _____

1st Benchmark for 2008–2009

Social Studies Grade 7

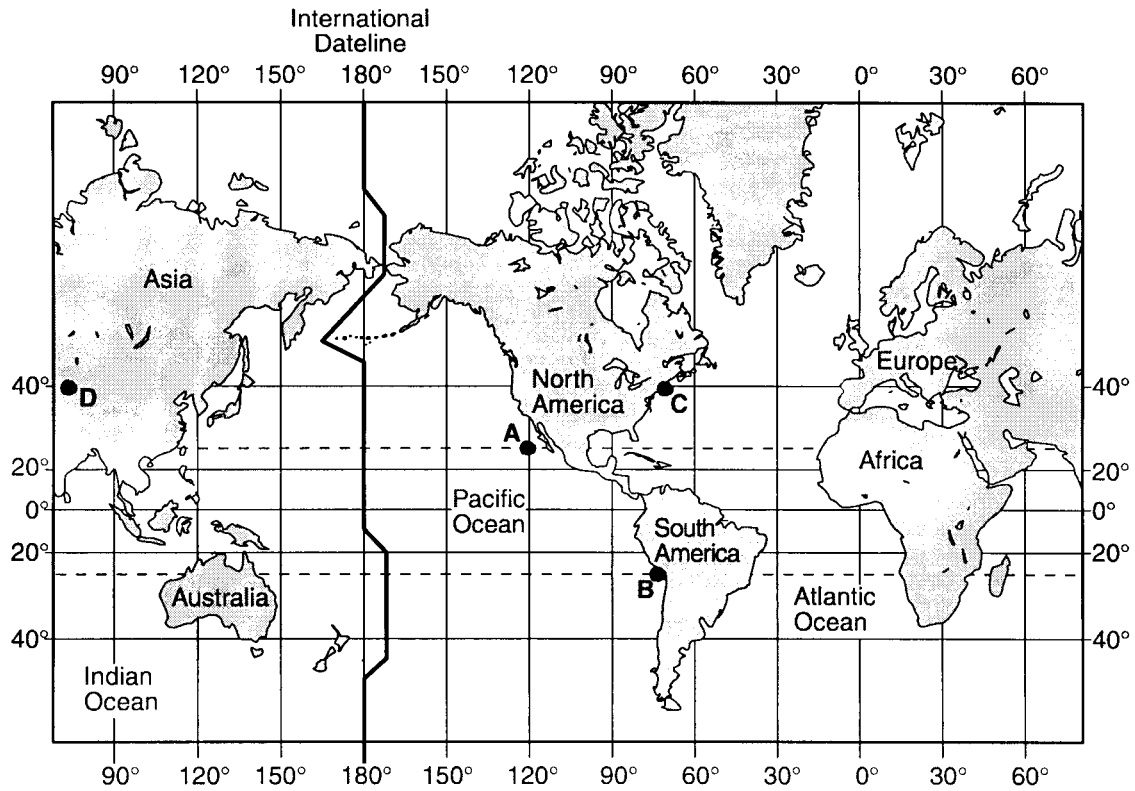
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DIRECTIONS: The items in this test are based on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Social Studies Grade 7. Proceed with the test on the next page.

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1. The map below indicates four stops on a journey around the world.



Which of the points represents $23.5^{\circ}\text{S } 75^{\circ}\text{W}$?

- A B
- B D
- C C
- D A

2. What is the map indicator that explains map distance versus real distance, such as "1 inch = 1 mile"?

- A scale
- B bar graph
- C compass rose
- D legend

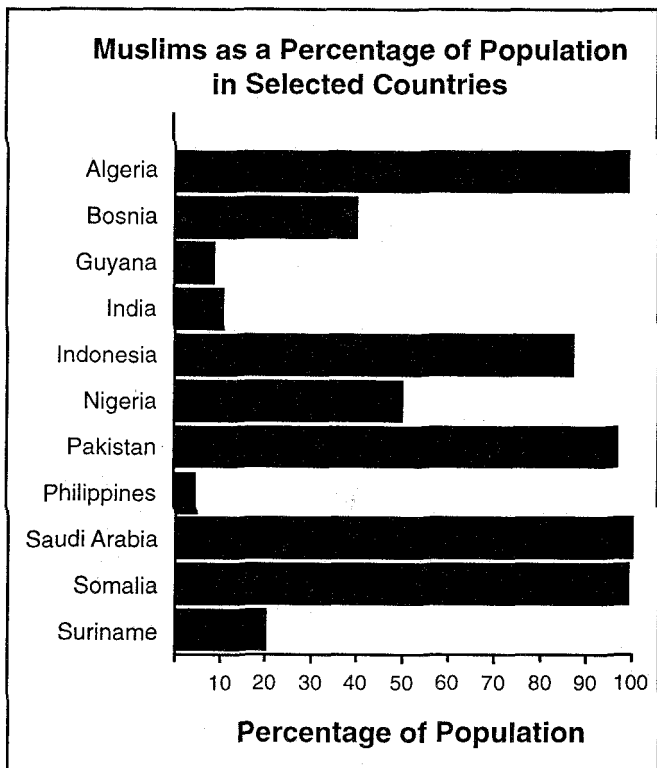
3. What geographic term is described as something's position of the globe compared to something else?

- A axis location
- B absolute location
- C relative location
- D grid location

4. What does the study of culture primarily involve?
- A observing the physical environment of people
 - B understanding the technology of modern machinery
 - C analyzing the personalities of children in the same family
 - D learning why various peoples live as they do
5. What constitutes a region?
- A an area with a uniform system of government
 - B an area defined by absolute latitude and longitude
 - C a group of places with some common physical or cultural characteristic
 - D the location of people and places
6. Which of the five themes of geography would describe the planting of a garden?
- A movement
 - B human/environment interaction
 - C region
 - D place
7. What type of climate would you expect to find near the equator?
- A a cold, arctic climate
 - B a tropical climate
 - C a mild, temperate climate
 - D an arid, desert like climate
8. What term best describes the average amount of people in a given area?
- A population increase
 - B population diffusion
 - C total population
 - D population density
9. What is the definition of cultural diffusion?
- A the rejection of ideas and other items among cultures
 - B the spread of cultural items from one society to another
 - C the change and development of cultural values over time
 - D the isolation of cultures from each other divided by national borders

10. What would most likely be included in a description of an area's physical geography?
- A customs and traditions
 - B systems of government
 - C distribution of goods and services
 - D landforms of continents and currents of oceans
11. Which feature would most often be shown on a political map?
- A topography
 - B elevation
 - C type of climate
 - D capital cities
12. Who has the most power in a federal system of government?
- A power is shared among various branches
 - B the central government
 - C the local divisions of government
 - D the state government
13. What is the political system by which people elect representatives to manage government known as?
- A a dictatorship
 - B an authoritarian government
 - C a democracy
 - D a monarchy
14. Government control of the media is representative of what form of government?
- A socialism
 - B communism
 - C democratic
 - D anarchism

15. Base your answer on the graph below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: *World Almanac and Book of Facts, 1995*

Based on this graph, which statement is a valid conclusion?

- A Islam is a religion practiced throughout the world.
- B Pakistan is a nation with much religious diversity.
- C Most of the world's Muslims live in Saudi Arabia.
- D Islam was recently introduced in Indonesia.

16. Which belief is shared by Hindus and Buddhists?

- A Everyone should have the same social status.
- B People should pray five times a day.
- C The soul can be reincarnated.
- D Material wealth is a sign of the blessing of the gods.

17. The Eightfold Path, the Four Noble Truths, and the concept of nirvana are associated with which religion?

- A Shinto
- B Buddhism
- C Jainism
- D Islam

18. According to the Buddhist religion, how is salvation earned?

- A by being baptized and confirmed
- B by worshiping Allah as the one true god
- C by learning to give up selfish desire
- D by following the Ten Commandments

19. Base your answer to the following question on the speakers' statements below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Speaker A: "The eightfold noble path and four noble truths as expressed by Siddhartha Gautama are the foundations of our faith."

Speaker B: "There is one God and his name is Allah and his truth has been revealed to us through his prophet Mohammed."

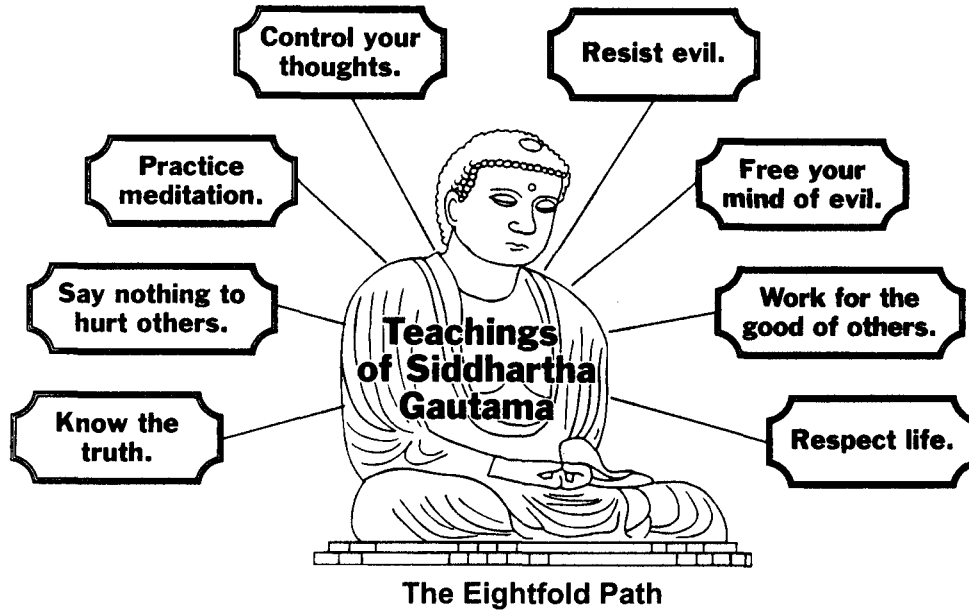
Speaker C: "The Ten Commandments and the teachings of the Gospels guide us in our quest for a fulfilling spiritual life."

Speaker D: "To achieve union with *atman*, we must pass through many births and acquire good *karma* by being obedient to moral laws and societal regulations."

Which speaker is most likely a Buddhist?

- A *A*
- B *B*
- C *C*
- D *D*

20.



Source: *The Human Experience*, Glencoe

The diagram illustrates the key concepts of which religion?

- A Buddhism
- B Islam
- C Hinduism
- D Christianity

21. Base your answer to the following question on the picture below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Q. T. Luong, www.terragalleria.com

This statue is most closely associated with which religion?

- A Buddhism
 - B Christianity
 - C Islam
 - D Jainism
22. What is one way in which Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism are similar?
- A Each rejects the Old Testament as part of the Bible.
 - B Each accepts the supreme authority of the Pope.
 - C Each was once the official religion of the Byzantine Empire.
 - D Each is a branch of Christianity.

23. How are Christianity and Islam similar?

- A Both are polytheistic religions.
- B Both have the same religious holidays.
- C Both have roots in Judaism.
- D Both have practiced a strict code of nonviolence.

24. What is one similarity between the Five Pillars of Islam and the Ten Commandments?

- A Both support a belief in reincarnation.
- B Both provide a guide to proper ethical and moral behavior.
- C Both promote learning as a means to salvation.
- D Both encourage the use of statues to symbolize God.

25. Which activity is an example of an Islamic practice?

- A a muezzin calling the faithful to prayer five times a day
- B a bishop conducting a Mass in a church
- C a rabbi reading from the Torah
- D a monk meditating and praying in a temple

26. What do many scientists believe is the cause of the "greenhouse effect"?
- A overgrazing on land in developing nations
 - B using large amounts of gasoline, oil, and coal in developed nations
 - C testing nuclear weapons in violation of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
 - D using natural fertilizers to increase crop production

27. The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased in recent years. What do environmentalists suggest has caused this change?
- A use of herbicides and toxic substances such as asbestos and DDT
 - B overcutting of forests and the increased use of fossil fuels
 - C improper storage of solid and nuclear waste
 - D dumping of inorganic material into lakes and rivers

28. Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Dan Wasserman, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

What is the concern expressed in this cartoon most closely related to?

- A the consequences of slow economic growth in developing nations
- B the consequences of further exploration of the Arctic Ocean
- C the consequences of industrialization and the burning of fossil fuels
- D the consequences of rapid migration of animals to the Northern Hemisphere

29. Base your answer on the table below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Health Statistics of Selected Countries, 1996					
Country	Population (thousands)	Life Expectancy at Birth (male/female)	Hospital Beds (per 1,000 people)	Physicians (per 1,000 people)	Infant Mortality (deaths per 1,000)
Argentina	34,673	68/75	4.4	2.7	28
Australia	18,261	76/83	5.0	2.3	6
Guatemala	11,278	63/68	*	0.8	51
Myanmar	45,976	55/58	0.6	0.3	81
Netherlands	15,568	75/81	5.7	2.6	5
Zaire	46,498	45/49	2.1	0.1	108

*Data unavailable

Source: *World Almanac and Book of Facts*

Which conclusion can be drawn from the table?

- A There is a relationship between level of health care and life expectancy.
- B Infant mortality increases as the number of hospital beds increases.
- C Women live longer than men only when the infant mortality rate is low.
- D The size of the population is directly related to the infant mortality rate.

30. Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: John Trever, *Albuquerque Journal*, Sept. 2001 (adapted)

What is the main idea of this 2001 cartoon?

- A The battle against terrorism will be long and difficult.
- B The methods of dealing with global terrorism have created consensus.
- C New equipment is needed to eliminate terrorism.
- D The main task in fighting terrorism is to eliminate nuclear weapons.

31. What is a cause of global warming?

- A rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- B the decrease in population over time
- C the melting of glaciers
- D the emission of infrared radiation

32. What is one advantage solar power has over energy sources such as coal and natural gas?

- A it is a renewable resource that cannot run out
- B It can be distributed without having to pay for it
- C solar energy can be harnessed at any time of the day
- D It can be contained for later use

33. How is geothermal energy harnessed so that it is useful?
- A the creation of a system of windmills
 - B the building of a generator near a dammed river
 - C through the building of power plants
 - D the building of solar panels on houses
34. What is the benefit of the practice of organic farming?
- A It uses less space than other forms
 - B It allows for greater agricultural output
 - C It is less expensive than other forms
 - D It is done without the use of chemicals or pesticides
35. What is the reason for the establishment of power plants in Europe burning natural gas rather than coal?
- A natural gas is more abundant resource
 - B there is no more coal available to be burned
 - C burning coal creates large amounts of pollution
 - D natural gas is a cheaper alternative
36. How has the Greenhouse Effect affected the environment?
- A It quickens the Earth's revolution raising the overall temperature
 - B It creates a hole in the atmosphere which lowers the earths temperature
 - C It results in radiation emission which warms the surface of Earth
 - D It has made the Earth's temperature stable almost year round
37. What accounts for the creation of smog in the atmosphere?
- A when clouds make contact with the ground
 - B the concentration of ultraviolet rays over a period of time
 - C the blocking of sunlight by clouds
 - D the burning of fossil fuels
38. Most of the world's known oil reserves are located near which geographic area?
- A Ural Mountains
 - B North Sea
 - C Gulf of Mexico
 - D Persian Gulf

39. What was the primary purpose for building the Suez Canal?
- A to increase trade between the Middle East, Europe, and Asia
 - B to allow Indian merchants to reach the east coast of Africa
 - C to encourage Jewish settlement in nearby Palestine
 - D to reduce the time needed for travel between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea
40. Which region is globally significant because of its strategic location, its major oil reserves, and its historic importance as the birthplace of three major religions?
- A Latin America
 - B Western Europe
 - C Southeast Asia
 - D Middle East
41. What caused the Middle East's designation as a "cultural crossroads"?
- A the region's religious unity
 - B the region's technological achievements
 - C the region's political stability
 - D the region's geographic location
42. Which factor is most responsible for the international importance of the Middle East?
- A advanced scientific and industrial development
 - B vital natural resources in a strategic location
 - C innovative political and social reforms
 - D superior weapons technology
43. Why is the Middle East of global importance today?
- A because it has become a model of economic and political equality
 - B because it allows major European powers to retain their spheres of influence
 - C because it provides much of the petroleum used by industrial nations
 - D because it remains a primary source of uranium
44. Why were both the French and the British interested in controlling Egypt in the mid-19th century?
- A Egypt had vital mineral resources.
 - B Egypt had control of the spice trade.
 - C Egypt had an industrial-based economy.
 - D Egypt had a strategic location.

45. Which statement most accurately describes how geography affected the growth of the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia?
- A Large savanna areas provided protection from invaders.
 - B River valleys provided rich soil to grow plentiful crops.
 - C Access to the Atlantic Ocean provided trade routes.
 - D Large deserts provided many mineral deposits.
46. In which region did the Arabs initially have the most success in spreading Islam?
- A North Africa
 - B East Africa
 - C Eastern Europe
 - D South Africa
47. Where is Egypt located?
- A West Asia
 - B Southeast Africa
 - C the Persian Gulf
 - D Northeast Africa
48. What was Egypt originally divided into?
- A Upper and Lower Egypt
 - B West and East Egypt
 - C North and South Egypt
 - D Sumerian and Babylonian Egypt
49. Which statement is correct regarding the deserts surrounding Egypt?
- A They kept Egypt from becoming a successful kingdom.
 - B They provided Egypt with most of its food.
 - C They prevented Egypt from being constantly attacked.
 - D They were home to the most fertile soil on the continent of Africa.



End of Social Studies
Grade 7 Exam

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