A Practice End-of-Course Assessment in U.S. History, 1850-present

SS.912.A.2.1

- 1. What was the significance of the *Dred Scott* decision?
 - **A.** The Supreme Court overruled attempts by Congress to limit the spread of slavery.
 - B. The Supreme Court held that the practice of slavery was unconstitutional.
 - C. While Lincoln objected to the decision, Stephen Douglas supported it.
 - D. Dred Scott and his wife spent the rest of their lives in slavery.

SS.912.A.3.13

- 2. What was the main reason for fighting in Florida during the Civil War?
 - **A.** The Union army wanted to prevent cattle and crops in Florida from reaching Confederate troops.
 - **B.** Northern commanders planned to divide the South by marching through Florida
 - C. The main Southern fleet was stationed in ports along the Florida coast.
 - D. Robert E. Lee, the Southern commander, owned land in Florida.

SS.912.A.2.3

- **3.** How did President Andrew Johnson's views on Reconstruction differ from those of Congress?
 - **A.** President Johnson refused to pardon former Confederate leaders, while Congress wanted to treat them leniently.
 - **B.** President Johnson was shocked at the Southern "Black Codes," while Congressional leaders saw them as necessary to restore order.
 - C. President Johnson accepted Southern "Black Codes," while Congress overturned them with a Civil Rights Bill prohibiting racial discrimination.
 - **D.** President Johnson thought the readmission of states into the Union should be decided by Congress, while Congressional leaders saw it as his responsibility.

SS.912.A.2.6

- 4. How did the "Black Codes" of 1865–1866 differ from the "Jim Crow" laws of the 1880s and 1890s?
 - **A.** Black Codes created segregated public schools; Jim Crow laws prohibited African Americans from learning to read.
 - **B.** Black Codes prohibited use of the same public facilities by different races; Jim Crow laws prohibited voting by African Americans.
 - C. Black Codes prohibited freedmen from traveling freely, serving on juries or exercising civil rights; Jim Crow laws required racial segregation.
 - **D.** Black Codes required "separate but equal" facilities for different races; Jim Crow laws stated some races were "not entitled to social and political equality."

5. The painting on the left depicts the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876.



What was the primary object behind the U.S. policy that led to the conflict depicted in the painting?

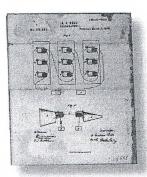
- **A.** to protect the safety of the transcontinental railroad from attack
- **B.** to force American Indian tribes on the Great Plains to live on reservations
- C. to remove remaining American Indian tribes from east of the Mississippi River
- **D.** to capture deserters from the Union and Confederate armies after the Civil War

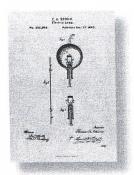
SS.912.A.3.1

- **6.** Which was NOT one of the ways in which 19th-century settlers dealt with the challenges of farming on the Great Plains?
 - A. They used barbed wire for fencing.
 - B. They burned cow and buffalo chips for fuel.
 - C. They relied on irrigation from nearby lakes for water.
 - D. They used steel plows to dig furrows into the tough soil.

SS.912.A.3.2

7. The patents below were filed by Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Alva Edison.





How did these inventions affect the United States economy?

- A. They created a new demand for electricity.
- B. They led to increased working hours in factories.
- C. They prevented the growth of monopolies.
- D. They moved the center of American manufacturing to the South.

SS.912.A.3.5

- 8. Which American inventor became a millionaire by developing new hair-care and cosmetic products for African-American women?
 - A. Sarah Goode

- C. Garrett Morgan
- B. Madam C.J. Walker
- D. Jan Ernst Matzeliger

SS.912.A.3.5

- **9.** How did Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, and Henry Ford help to transform the American economy?
 - **A.** They were the first to introduce interchangeable parts to manufacturing processes.
 - **B.** They introduced the use of conveyor belts and assembly lines in their factories.
 - **D.** They created new industries requiring large investments, which resulted in cheaper products.
 - **C.** Their willingness to engage in collective bargaining with unions improved conditions for workers.

SS.912.A.3.9

- **10.** Which statement best describes the American labor movement in the late 19th century?
 - **A.** Workers organized their own labor unions against harsh conditions despite public hostility.
 - **B.** Government officials encouraged workers to form labor unions because they distrusted business-owners.
 - C. Union leaders were unable to recruit members because most workers were satisfied with their conditions.
 - **D.** Disagreements between native-born and immigrant workers made the organization of labor unions almost impossible.

SS.912.A.3.10

- 11. Which ideology favored self-governing communities over organized government?
 - A. Communism

C. Capitalism

B. Anarchism

D. Socialism

SS.912.A.3.11

12. The cartoon on the left was published by Thomas Nast in the 1870s.



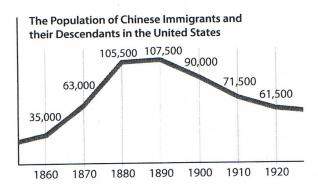
"THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER."

Boss Tweed: "As long as I count the votes,
what are you going to do about it? Say?"

What is the view of the cartoonist about the power of Tammany Hall in New York City?

- A. New York City government was unaffected by Tammany Hall.
- **B.** Tammany Hall maintained its power by falsifying vote counts in elections.
- **C.** Immigrants were happy to vote for Tammany Hall to repay it for its services.
- **D.** Many ordinary citizens felt powerful because Tammany Hall listened to them.

13. The graph below shows the population of Chinese immigrants and their descendants in the United States from 1860 to 1920.



Why did the population of Chinese Americans decrease, as shown on the graph, when the populations of many other ethnic groups were increasing?

- **A.** Improved economic conditions in China discouraged further emigration to the United States.
- **B.** Congressional legislation in the 1880s banned any further immigration of workers from China.
- **C.** After completion of the transcontinental railroad, there was a shortage of jobs in western states.
- **D.** China entered into a "Gentlemen's Agreement with the United States not to permit further emigration.

SS.912.A.3.1

14. The excerpt below is from William Jennings Bryan's speech at the Democratic National Convention in 1896.

Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests, the laboring interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."

Why did Bryan's rural supporters believe that the gold standard was oppressive?

- **A.** They knew that railroad owners and grain elevator operators usually insisted on being paid with gold coin.
- **B.** They believed that a policy of bimetallism would lead crop prices to rise, making farm debts less burdensome.
- C. They feared that speculators like Jay Gould and James Fisk would manipulate prices by cornering the gold market.
- **D.** They felt that reliance on the gold standard in international trade had made it difficult for farmers to export crops overseas.

SS.912.A.3.12

15. The excerpt below was written by Upton Sinclair in his novel *The Jungle* in 1905.

There was never the least attention paid to what was cut up for sausage . . . There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had trampled and spit uncounted billions of consumption germs. There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it, and thousands of rats would race about on it. It was too dark in these storage places to see well, but a man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the dried dung of rats. These rats were nuisances, and the packers would put poisoned bread out for them; they would die, and then rats, bread, and meat would go into the hoppers together. . . . and be sent out to the public's breakfast.

Which federal law was passed in reaction to this description?

A. 17th Amendment

- C. Meat Inspection Act
- B. Federal Reserve Act
- D. Clayton Antitrust Act

SS.912.A.3.12

16. The excerpt below is from the Sherman Antitrust Act, enacted in 1890.

Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, is declared to be illegal.

What was the goal of this legislation?

- A. to prevent businesses from unfairly exploiting their laborers
- **B.** to use the power of government to promote economic growth and full employment
- C. to encourage companies to take advantage of their patent rights and natural monopolies
- **D.** to maintain fair competition and to halt unfair practices damaging to consumers and competitors

SS.912.A.3.12

- Withdrew 1.5 million acres of public lands from sale
- Designated the Devils
 Tower in Wyoming and the
 Petrified Forest and Grand
 Canyon in Arizona as
 National Monuments
- Created the National Conservation Commission
- 17. The information on the left describes key events in the development of U.S. conservation policy.

Which Progessive President was responsible for these achievements?

A. Woodrow Wilson

- C. Theodore Roosevelt
- B. William McKinley
- D. William Howard Taft

SS.912.A.4.3

- **18.** Which new technique for selling newspapers contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War?
 - A. muckraking

C. jingoism

B. yellow journalism

D. Social Darwinism

19. The newspaper headline on the left describes a significant event in U.S. foreign affairs.



How did this event contribute to the United States' entry into the Spanish-American War?

- A. It led to anti-government demonstrations in the United States.
- B. It enraged Cuban Americans in Florida who had lost their relatives.
- **C.** It revealed that the United States needed to have colonies in the Caribbean.
- **D.** It became difficult for President McKinley to resist demands to intervene in Cuba.

SS.912.A.4.2

20. The timeline below shows the dates of U.S. annexation of several territories.

August 1867: Midway

1870

1880

December 1898: Philippines

January 1899: Wake Island

1900

December 1899: American Samoa

December 1898: Guam

Which argument did American imperialists make in favor of these annexations?

- A. These territories were necessary for protection of the Panama Canal.
- B. The local populations of these territories had asked to be annexed.
- **C.** These territories would provide good coaling stations for trade with East Asia.
- **D.** The United States should prepare them for self-government and independence.

SS.912.A.4.1

The excerpt below is from President Theodore Roosevelt's message to Congress in 1905.

That our rights and interests are deeply concerned in the maintenance of the doctrine is so clear as hardly to need argument. This is especially true in view of the construction of the Panama Canal. As a mere matter of self-defense we must exercise a close watch over the approaches to this canal; and this means that we must be thoroughly alive to our interests in the Caribbean Sea. . . . [I]t is very inadvisable to permit any foreign power to take possession, even temporarily, of the custom houses of an American republic in order to enforce the payment of its obligations; for such temporary occupation might turn into a permanent occupation. The only escape from these alternatives may at amy time be that we must ourselves undertake to bring about some arrangement by which so much as possible of a just obligation can be paid.

Which policy is described in this message?

- A. Roosevelt Corollary
- B. "Open Door" Policy

- C. Dollar Diplomacy
- D. Watchful Waiting

22. On January 31, 1917, the German Ambassador to the United States presented the following message to the United States.

Since two years and a half England is using her naval power for a criminal attempt to force Germany into submission by starvation. . . . From February 1, 1917, sea traffic will be stopped with every available weapon and without further notice in the following blockade zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Why did the use of unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic by Germany, as announced in the note above, so enrage American public opinion?

- A. Submarine warfare was prohibited under international.
- B. The United States did not have as large a submarine fleet as Germany.
- C. Submarines attacked without warning and did not have enough room to take on survivors.
- **D.** The use of submarines for a naval blockade was causing starvation in Great Britain and France.

SS.912.A.7

23. The photo on the left shows infantry soldiers in France during World War I.

Which sentence best explains the conditions shown in the photograph?

- **A.** Shortages of fuel made it difficult for armies in France to use tanks or airplanes.
- **B.** The use of machine guns made it difficult for soldiers to advance across open fields.
- C. Lack of public support for the war made it safer for soldiers to remain isolated in trenches.
- **D.** Troops were kept separate from civilians as a safety precaution before the discovery of antibiotics.



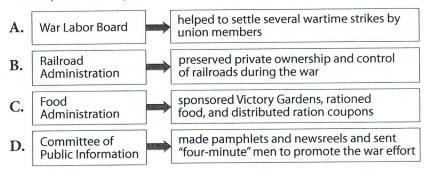
24. The excerpt below is from the Supreme Court in Schenck v. United States (1919).

The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic. . . . The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent.

What action was taken in consequence of this decision?

- **A.** Conscientious objectors were forced to engage in combat because the United States was in danger.
- **B.** Charles Schenck was imprisoned for distributing thousands of leaflets urging young men to resist the draft.
- C. German Americans living on the East Coast were relocated to internment centers to avoid possible sabotage attempts.
- **D.** Charles Schenck was permitted to go free because the Court did not believe his actions created a "clear and present" danger.

25. Which federal agency is correctly paired with its achievements during World War I (1917–1919)?



SS.912.A.4.10

26. The Treaty of Versailles, signed on June 28, 1919, included the article below.

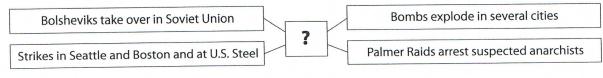
Article 231 The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

What was a consequence of this article?

- A. German voters agreed to reduce the size of their armed forces.
- B. Germany was required to pay reparations to the Allied powers.
- C. The League of Nations refused to admit Germany as a member.
- D. The U.S. Senate failed to ratify the treaty in protest against this article.

SS.912.A.5.2

27. The diagram below provides details about United States history.



Which phrase best completes the diagram?

A. Red Scare

C. Homestead Strike

B. McCarthyism

D. Civil Rights Movement

SS.912.A.5.5

- **28.** What was the goal of the Washington Naval Conference, the Geneva Disarmament Conference and the Kellogg-Briand Pact?
 - A. to promote American investment abroad
 - B. to achieve lasting peace without the League of Nations
 - C. to prepare the Western Allies against German rearmament
 - D. to strengthen U.S. naval power relative to the European powers and Japan

Which phrase best completes the diagram? 29.

> Economic Prosperity of the 1920s ?

- A. the construction of railroads
- B. the demobilization after World War I
- C. the spread of radio and automobiles
- D. the spread of televisions and jet travel

SS.912.A.5.10

- 30. Why are the Twenties often considered to have been a turning point for American women?
 - A. Women were generally able to remain in the jobs they had filled while men were away during World War I.
 - B. Women gained social and economic equality with men through new affirmative action programs and federal legislation.
 - C. Women were guaranteed the right to vote, wore less restrictive clothing, and enjoyed increased employment opportunities.
 - D. Women began taking more aggressive steps on behalf women's suffrage, including marches and demonstrations in front of the White House.

SS.912.A.5.8

Based on these excerpts, in what way are the views of Du Bois and Locke similar?

The Negro race, like all races, is going to be saved by its exceptional men. The problem of education, then, among Negroes must first of all deal with the Talented Tenth; it is the problem of developing the best of this race . .

-W.E.B. Du Bois, The Talented Tenth, 1903

Negro life is not only establishing new contacts and founding new centers, it is finding a new soul. There is a fresh spiritual and cultural focusing. We have, as the heralding sign, an unusual outburst of creative expression. There is a renewed race-spirit that consciously and proudly sets itself apart.

—Alain Locke, The New Negro, 1925

- A. Both opposed sending African Americans for further vocational education.
- B. Both believed that the racist attitudes of the majority of Americans could not be changed.
- C. Both looked to the efforts of talented African Americans to overcome racial prejudice.
- D. Both believed that conditions in the North for African Americans were just as bad as in the South.

32. The cartoon below, "Watch Your Step," appeared in November 1925.



The photograph below was taken in Chicago in February 1931.



Which event contributed to the changes from the time of the political cartoon to the conditions shown in the photograph?

- A. demobilization after World War I
- C. the Stock Market Crash
- B. the rise of Nazism in Germany
- D. the "Red Scare"

SS.912.A.5.11

33. The picture below shows a dust storm approaching Stratford, Texas, in 1933

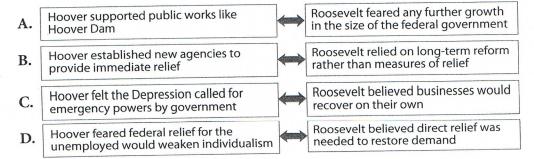


What was one effect of this and similar events across the Great Plains in the 1930s?

- A. growth of the banking industry from farm loans
- B. mass migration to California and other states
- C. suspension of government assistance to farmers
- D. increase in farm production on the Great Plains

SS.912.5.11

34. How did President Franklin D. Roosevelt's response to the Depression differ from Herbert Hoover's?



SS.912.5.11

- 35. Which New Deal agency helped businesses draw up their own voluntary codes of fair practice, including standard prices and minimum wages, but was later held to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court?
 - A. Tennessee Valley Authority
- C. Social Security Administration
- B. Civilian Conservation Corps
- D. National Recovery Administration

SS.912.A.6.5

- 36. The list below provides information about conditions in the 1940s.
 - Migration to the West and the North
- Mandatory rationing
- The selling of war bonds
- Increased employment

Victory Gardens

• Enlistment of Women

Which conditions are identified in the list?

- A. Causes of World War II
- B. Effects of World War II on methods of warfare
- C. Domestic effects of World War II
- D. Social impact of the Progressive Era

SS.912.A.6.1

- 37. Which statement best explains the Allied victory over Germany in World War II?
 - **A.** The massacre of European Jews and other groups made the war unpopular in Germany.
 - **B.** The Soviets had a larger army, Americans manufactured more weapons, and Germany faced a war on several fronts.
 - C. The Allies were able to use missiles, atomic weapons and other new weapons against Nazi Germany.
 - **D.** The German army lacked experienced officers, training and supplies, and therefore quickly surrendered after the D-Day invasion.

SS.912.A.6.7

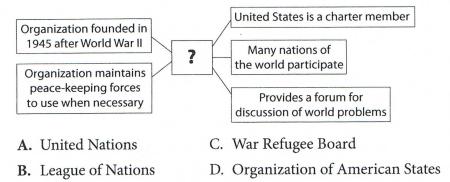
38. The excerpt below comes from an official indictment (*accusation*).

All the defendants ... participated as leaders, organizers, instigators, or accomplices in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to commit, or which involved the commission of, Crimes against Peace, War Crimes, and Crimes against Humanity. ... [T]he defendants ... carried out ruthless wars against countries and populations ... including ... [the] murder, ill-treatment, [and] deportation for slave labor ... of civilian populations.

Based on the excerpt, where were these accusations made?

- A. Trial of Sacco and Vanzetti
- C. Nuremberg Trials
- B. Dumbarton Oaks Conference
- D. Munich Conference

39. The diagram below provides information about an international organization?



SS.912.A.6.10

40. The statement below was made by President Truman in an address to Congress in March 1947.

I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation [overthrow] by armed minorities or by outside pressures. . . .

Which event was Truman referring to in this speech?

- A. Stalin's refusal to permit free elections in Poland
- B. the danger of a North Korean invasion of South Korea
- C. the threat of a Communist takeover in Greece or Turkey
- **D.** American participation in the trials of former Nazi leaders

SS.912.A.6.8

41. The timeline below displays a sequence of events in the late 1940s and early 1950s.



What would be the most appropriate title for this timeline?

- A. The Cold War Spreads to Asia and Latin America
- B. The Dangers of Nuclear Proliferation during the Cold War
- C. The Cold War Creates an Atmosphere of Suspicion at Home
- D. Soviet Spies Successfully Infiltrate the United States

2. CALCIANDUM. FOR September 11, 1981
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENCE
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add others.

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Ar. Kohler

42. The memorandum on the left was written by President Kennedy in September 1961.

In the last paragraph, President Kennedy wrote:

"I am also interested in knowing when and under what circumstances we would expect to use West German forces if the East Germans confront us."

Which situation was President Kennedy addressing?

- A. The failure of the Soviet Union to permit elections in Poland.
- B. The Soviet blockade of all road and rail routes to West Berlin.
- C. The building of the Berlin Wall to separate East and West Berlin.
- D. The construction of silos for missiles with nuclear warheads in Cuba.

SS.912.A.6.13

- 43. What was the significance of the Cuban Missile Crisis?
 - A. The world came close to a nuclear war.
 - B. Khrushchev condemned the actions of Castro.
 - C. The United States overthrew Communism in Cuba.
 - D. The United States failed to give air cover to Cuban exiles.

SS.912.A.7.8

- **44.** On what grounds did the Supreme Court rule that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*?
 - **A.** The practice of racial segregation is based on personal prejudices that Americans should strive to overcome.
 - **B.** Southern states had not invested in African-American schools, which were not equal in quality to white schools.
 - C. Segregated schools were by their nature unequal because they gave African-American children a sense of inferiority.
 - **D.** The United States will not be able to compete internationally if it does not help all its citizens to reach their full potential.

SS.912.A.7.5

45. The excerpt below is from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in 1963.

There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair.

Which steps did Dr. King advocate African Americans should take to end those conditions they could no longer endure?

- A. taking hostages and launching terrorist attacks
- B. rioting in cities and forming armed bands for self-defense
- C. engaging in marches, boycotts, and non-violent civil disobedience
- D. adopting measures to separate from other groups in American society

SS.912.A.7.7

- **46.** Which organizations favored independent actions by African Americans to improve their conditions without collaborating with sympathetic members of other races?
 - A. Urban League and the NAACP
 - B. Black Panthers and SNCC after 1967
 - C. CORE and Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
 - D. Montgomery Improvement Association and SCLC

SS.912.A.7.3

- 47. Which of the following was an important gain for women in the 1970s?
 - A. ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
 - B. equal representation of women and men in corporate management
 - C. passage of the Equal Opportunity in Education Act, known as Title IX
 - **D.** ratification of a constitutional amendment guaranteeing women's suffrage

SS.912.A.6.14

- 48. Which belief prompted American leaders to enter into the Vietnam War?
 - A. They believed that Vietnamese Communists would be difficult to defeat.
 - **B.** They felt that the United States had historic ties with the people of Vietnam.
 - **C.** They saw the war as an opportunity to overturn the Communist government in nearby China.
 - **D.** They feared if South Vietnam fell to Communists, other countries in Southeast Asia would also do so.

SS.912.A.7.10

- 49. Which argument was raised by domestic critics of the Vietnam War?
 - A. Military service, even on behalf of a just cause, should never be compulsory.
 - **B.** Most South Vietnamese welcomed establishment of a Communist government.
 - C. An all-out military effort by the United States would quickly bring a military victory.
 - **D.** The U.S. government had misrepresented facts about the war to the American public.

SS.912.A.6.13

- 50. What was the primary goal of President Nixon's policy of détente?
 - A. to create stronger ties with Latin America
 - B. to improve relations with Western Europe
 - C. to decrease tensions with the Soviet Union
 - D. to recognize the Communist government in China

51. The excerpt below is from a speech on the problems of migrant farm workers.

The road to social justice for the farm worker is the road of unionization. Our cause, our strike against table grapes and our international boycott are all founded upon our deep conviction that the form of collective self-help, which is unionization, holds far more hope for the farm worker than any other single approach, whether public or private.

Which leader proposed unionization as an answer for these workers?

- A. Cesar Chavez
- C. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- B. Malcolm X
- D. Rosa Parks

SS.912.A.7.16

52. The conversation below gives the views of two citizens on immigration policy.

Speaker 1: Immigrants are generally the hardest working people in their country. They want to improve conditions for themselves and their families. That is why they come to the United States. Even illegal aliens contribute to the American economy, often by taking the hardest jobs.

Speaker 2: It would be unfair to give an illegal alien priority in admission to the United States. These are people who broke our laws. If we reward them, then everyone will be tempted to come here illegally.

Which law would have been favored by Speaker 1 but opposed by Speaker 2?

- A. McCarran Walter Act
- B. Immigration Act of 1965
- C. Immigration and Reform Act of 1986
- D. Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996

SS.912.A.7.17

- 53. How was Florida affected by the invention of air conditioning, the construction of highways, and the expansion of jet travel?
 - **A.** State officials refused to accept more exiles from Cuba to prevent overcrowding.
 - **B.** Tourism and the migration of retirees from other states to Florida greatly increased.
 - C. State officials were forced to raise state income taxes to pay for more social services.
 - **D.** The average age of Florida residents became lower than the rest of the United States.

SS.912.A.7.15

- 54. Why was the Department of Homeland Security formed?
 - A. to find and capture Osama bin Laden
 - B. to conduct screenings of passengers at airports
 - C. to capture those who caused the Oklahoma bombing
 - D. to coordinate federal agencies in the fight against terrorism