Period 1 and 2 Practice SBMCQ’s

Stimulus Based Multiple Choice Questions

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. An answer key for all below questions is listed on the last page.

Questions 1-3 refer to the passages below

“You said, ‘I will give good copper to Gimil-Sin.’ That is what you said, but you have not done so; you offered bad copper to my messenger saying ‘Take it or leave it.’ Who am I that you should treat me so? Are we not both gentlemen?”

Tablet inscription of a message from a customer to a copper merchant, Ur, Mesopotamia, circa 1800 B.C.E.

“A merchant will loan to his business partners approximately 3 pounds of silver, for an expedition to the Arabian peninsula to buy there copper…After safe termination of the voyage, the merchant loaning the silver will not recognize commercial losses; the debtors have agreed to satisfy him with four mina of copper for each weight of silver, roughly 500 pounds of copper total, as a just price.”

Tablet inscription, Ur, Mesopotamia, circa 1800 B.C.E.

1. The interactions described in the inscriptions are best understood in the context of which of the following?
   (A) The desertification of the Middle East
   (B) The development of trade networks
   (C) Growing patriarchy in agricultural societies
   (D) Government regulation of commercial activities

2. The tone of the first inscription best reflects which of the following developments in early urban societies?
   (A) The mobilization of surplus labor
   (B) The militarism of Mesopotamian city-states
   (C) The appeal to religion as a source of authority
   (D) The stratification of social groups

3. The two tablets best support which of the following conclusions?
   (A) Mesopotamian society had highly developed legal codes.
   (B) Mesopotamian society had little trade with other regions.
   (C) Mesopotamians benefited from pastoral nomadic technologies.
   (D) Mesopotamians developed systems to record commercial transactions.
Questions 4 - 6 refer to the passage below

“Sometime after 70,000 years ago our species, Homo Sapiens, left Africa to begin its inexorable spread across the globe…It was, without a doubt, the most consequential migration event in the history of our planet…I think the diaspora occurred when a new social behavior evolved in our species: a genetically encoded penchant for cooperation with unrelated individuals. The joining of this unique proclivity to our ancestors’ advanced cognitive abilities enabled them to nimbly adapt to new environments. It also fostered innovation, giving rise to a game-changing technology: advanced projectile weapons. Thus equipped, our ancestors set forth out of Africa, ready to bend the whole world to their will.”

Curtis W. Marean, “The Most Invasive Species of All,” Scientific American, August 2015

4. The events described in the above scientific research paper are best understood in the context of which of the following historical periods?
   a. The Paleolithic Era
   b. The Neolithic Revolution
   c. Development of nomadic pastoralism
   d. Emergence of the first civilizations

5. According to the author, which of the following WAS NOT a necessary precondition for Homo Sapiens’ migration out of Africa?
   a. Social cooperation
   b. Advanced cognitive ability
   c. Sophisticated tools
   d. Temperate climates

6. According to the author, if historians wish to understand the causes for human migration, they should pay particular attention to
   a. unique cultures
   b. state building
   c. economic systems
   d. social structures
Questions 7 and 8 refer to the image shown below

Site of one of the earliest known granaries, granaries in the settlement of Dhra' near the Dead Sea in what is now Jordan. The site was inhabited c. 11,300 years ago.


7. The image is best seen as evidence of which of the following?
   a. Humans living in the region around the Dead Sea stored grain in order to engage in trade with communities in Asia and Africa.
   b. Humans living in the region of the Dead Sea lived in small groups that structured social, economic and political activities.
   c. Humans of the Paleolithic developed increasingly diverse and sophisticated tools in order to adapt to their environment.
   d. Humans of the Paleolithic worked cooperatively to clear land and irrigate crops, drastically altering the environment.

8. Which of the following later developments would best be explained by the image?
   a. Humans developed intensive agricultural cultivation of selected plants based on the plant’s ability to be stored, requiring them to create permanent settlements.
   b. Humans in the region developed new technologies to overcome geographic barriers to migration.
   c. Patriarchal forms of social organization developed in agricultural societies.
   d. Specialized labor systems developed in regions relying on agriculture and herding.
Questions 9 and 10 refer to stimulus 1 and stimulus 2 below:

Stimulus 1

Source: http://www.todohr.com/early/early-human-migration-map

Stimulus 2

More than 15,000 years ago, humans began crossing a land bridge called Beringia that connected their native home in Eurasia to modern-day Alaska. Who knows what the journey entailed or what motivated them to leave, but once they arrived, they spread southward across the Americas.

“Our results suggest this working model that we had is not correct. There’s another early population that founded modern Native American populations,” says study coauthor David Reich, a geneticist at Harvard University. The origin of the first Americans has been hotly debated for decades, and the questions of how many migratory groups crossed the land bridge, as well as how people dispersed after the crossing, continue to spark controversy. In 2008, a team studying DNA from 10,800-year-old poop concluded that a group of ancient humans in Oregon has ancestral ties to modern Native Americans. And in 2014, genetic analysis linked a 12,000-year-old skeleton found in an underwater cave in Mexico to modern Native Americans.”

Source: “A DNA Search for the First Americans Links Amazon Groups to Indigenous Australians” by Helen Thompson (Smithsonian.com, 7/21/15)

9. Based on Stimulus 1 and your knowledge of early human migrations, all of the following causal factors likely motivated humans to migrate out of Africa EXCEPT?
   A. Environmental degradation, famine and drought
   B. Scarcity of food
   C. Lack of social mobility
   D. Widespread disease

10. Compared to Stimulus 1 and commonly accepted notions of how the Americas were initially populated by humans, what revisionist thesis can you infer from the text of Stimulus 2 and your knowledge of world history regarding patterns of early human migration to the Americas?
   A. Polynesians likely migrated up the Eurasian landmass and eventually crossed the land bridge into northern North America and worked their way southward
   B. Modern descendants of Native Americans share direct lineage with Africans who bypassed South Asian route to the Americas
   C. Some Oceanic peoples migrated across the Pacific Ocean and populated portions of the Americas bordering the Pacific
   D. Early Europeans departed Northwest Europe and crossed the North Atlantic via Greenland
11. Central to most Mayan city-kingdoms were large pyramids like the one depicted above which served as
   A. Granaries to house surplus agricultural produce.
   B. Religious temples for ritual bloodletting ceremonies.
   C. Administrative centers for the bureaucracy.
   D. Military outposts.

12. The intellectual developments of the _____________ were improved upon by the Mayans.
    a. Europeans
    b. Bantu
    c. Olmecs
    d. Aztecs
13. The map is most clearly an example of which of the following?
   A. The extent to which trade routes encouraged the diffusion of religious traditions.
   B. Buddhism and Christianity spread through Europe but only in select areas.
   C. Buddhism and Christianity diffused only through land-based trade routes.
   D. River systems throughout Afro-Eurasia were the most important factor in encouraging the diffusion of religious traditions.

14. Which of the following best explains why Buddhism progressed slowly among pastoral peoples of Central Asia?
   A. As pastoralists came to rule settled agricultural peoples, Christianity became more attractive than Buddhism.
   B. The lack of a written tradition was an obstacle to the spread of the highly literate Buddhism.
   C. Conversion to Buddhist tradition required pastoralists to abandon most cultural traditions that had become familiar to them.
   D. Buddhism began to gain converts but was quickly overtaken by the influence and spread of Hinduism.
Stimulus for questions 15 and 16: An excerpt from *The History of the World in Six Glasses*

“Drinkers at a Greek symposium¹…The seated men drink watered-down wine from shallow wine bowls while a flutist plays music and a slave fetches her masters more wine from the communal krater.”


¹ Symposium – a drinking party where politics are often discussed

15. A historian researching the organization of human societies would most likely find the document useful as a source of information for which of the following?
   A. How economic, religious, and political elites defined and sponsored art and architecture.
   B. The economic role of cities as centers of production and commerce.
   C. Forms of labor organization, including families and labor specialization within and across different societies.
   D. How the development of specialized labor systems interacted with the development of social hierarchies.

16. Information from the excerpt illustrates all the following EXCEPT:
   A. The social structures of empires displayed hierarchies that included cultivators, laborers, slaves, artisans, merchants, elites, or caste groups.
   B. Patriarchy continued to shape gender and family relations in all imperial societies.
   C. Imperial cities served an unintentional purpose of lowering both population growth and cultural diffusion.
   D. Imperial societies relied on a range of methods to maintain the production of food and provide rewards for the loyalty of the elites.
Stimulus for questions 17 and 18: an excerpt from *The Gladiatorial Games* by Seneca (3 BC – 54 CE)

“I turned in to the games one mid-day hoping for a little wit and humor there. I was bitterly disappointed. It was really mere butchery. The morning's show was merciful compared to it. Then, men were thrown to lions and to bears: but at midday to the audience. There was no escape for them. The slayer was kept fighting until he could be slain. "Kill him! flog him! burn him alive" was the cry: "Why is he such a coward? Why won't he rush on the steel? Why does he fall so meekly? Why won't he die willingly?" Unhappy that I am, how have I deserved that I must look on such a scene as this? Do not, my Lucilius, attend the games, I pray you. Either you will be corrupted by the multitude, or, if you show disgust, be hated by them. So stay away.”


17. Which of the following best explains the way the Gladiatorial Games sustained class ideologies in ancient Rome?
   A. Despite the inhuman treatment of the gladiators ancient Roman citizens continued supported the event.
   B. Gladiators were often slaves and their lives were viewed as worthless by many elites.
   C. Unlike the source above, most Gladiators did not fight to the death and rarely fought against animals.
   D. Gladiatorial games encouraged the development of a military state.

18. A Roman gladiator named Spartacus led a slave revolt that led to…
   A. The eventual emancipation of most Roman slaves.
   B. The crucifixion of thousands of Roman slaves.
   C. An alliance among the Roman slaves and the Spartan Army.
   D. A caste-like system that equated citizenship with one’s racial purity.
Stimuli for questions 19 and 20: Excerpts from *The Analects* and the *Laws of Manu*

Excerpt I. *Analects.*

12 Duke Jing of Qi asked Confucius about government. Confucius replied, “Let the ruler be a ruler; the minister, a minister; the father, a father; the son, a son.”

Excerpt II. *Laws of Manu.*

87. But in order to protect this universe He, the most resplendent one, assigned separate (duties and) occupations to those who sprang from his mouth, arms, thighs, and feet.

88. To Brahmans he assigned teaching and studying (the Veda), sacrificing for their own benefit and for others, giving and accepting (of alms).

89. The Kshatriya he commanded to protect the people, to bestow gifts, to offer sacrifices, to study (the Veda), and to abstain from attaching himself to sensual pleasures;

90. The Vaisya to tend cattle, to bestow gifts, to offer sacrifices, to study (the Veda), to trade, to lend money, and to cultivate land.

91. One occupation only the lord prescribed to the Sudra, to serve meekly even these (other) three castes.

19. In both societies referenced above, religions and belief systems were used to:
   A. Establish divine descent of the ruler
   B. Provide social order
   C. Maintain harvest and planting routines
   D. Educate women in their domestic duties

20. Which of the following statements best describes a key difference between the two belief systems above?
   A. Excerpt II describes beliefs held on a purely spiritual and religious level, while Excerpt I describes those that are more philosophical in nature.
   B. Excerpt II describes a society, which exploited its very large slave class, while Excerpt I describes a belief system focused mainly on exploitation of the peasantry.
   C. Excerpt I describes ideas reflected in filial piety, while Excerpt II describes a rigid social system with little chance for social mobility.
   D. Excerpt I focuses on solely economic and political power while Excerpt II maintains an equal focus on religious and economic issues.
ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. D
3. D
4. A
5. D
6. D
7. C
8. A
9. C
10. C
11. B
12. C
13. A
14. B
15. D
16. C
17. B
18. B
19. B
20. C