Preparing stimulus based multiple choice questions

Period 1 - Technological and environmental transformations to c.600 B.C.E

“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

1) According to the author, if historians want to understand the causes for human migration, they should pay particular attention to which of the following?
   A. unique cultures
   B. economic systems
   C. state building
   D. social structures

2) The events described in the scientific research paper above can best be understood in the context of which of the following historical periods?
   A. Emergence of the first civilizations
   B. Development of nomadic pastoralism
   C. The Neolithic Revolution
   D. The Paleolithic Era

“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.
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 developed systems to record commercial transactions.
D. Mesopotamians benefited from pastoral nomadic technologies.

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

Period 2- c.600 B.C.E- c.600 C.E

5) Which of the following best explains why Buddhism has progressed slowly among the pastoral peoples of Central Asia?
A. The lack of a written tradition was an obstacle to the spread of the highly literate Buddhism.
B. As pastoralists came to rule settled agricultural peoples, Christianity became more attractive than Buddhism.
C. Buddhism began to gain converts but was quickly overtaken by the influence and spread of Hinduism.
D. Conversion to Buddhist tradition required pastoralists to abandon most cultural traditions that had become familiar to them.

6) The map best illustrates an example of which of the following?
A. Buddhism and Christianity spread through Europe but only in select areas.
B. The extent to which trade routes encouraged the diffusion of religious traditions.
C. River systems throughout Afro-Eurasia were the most important factor in encouraging the diffusion of religious traditions
D. Buddhism and Christianity diffused only through land-based trade routes.

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."


7) Spartacus which was a roman gladiator who had led a slave revolt that eventually would lead to which of the following?
   A. A caste system that related citizenship with one's racial purity.
   B. The eventual liberation of most Roman slaves.
   C. The crucifixion of thousands of Roman slaves.
   D. An alliance among the Roman slaves and the Spartan Army.

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

Period 3- c.600- c. 1450 C.E
We have heard that the Buddha was never spoken of before the Han dynasty; form then on the religion of idols gradually came to prominence. So in this latter age Buddhism has transmitted its strange ways and has spread like a luxuriant vine unit it has poisoned the customs of our nation. Buddhism has spread to all the nine provinces of China; each day finds its monks and followers growing more numerous and its temples more lofty. Buddhism wears out the people’s strength, pilfers their wealth, causes people to abandon their lords and parents for the company of teachers, and severs man and wife with its monastic decrees. In destroying law and injuring humankind indeed nothing surpasses this doctrine!

Now if even one man fails to work the fields, someone must go hungry; if one woman does not tend her silkworms, someone will go cold. At present there are an inestimable number of monks and nuns in the empire, all of them waiting for the farmers to feed them and the silkworms to clothe them while the Buddhist public temples and private chapels have reached boundless numbers, sufficient to outshine the imperial palace itself.

Having thoroughly examined all earlier reports and consulted public opinion on all sides, there no longer remains the slightest doubt in Our mind that this evil should be eradicated.

9) What had caused Buddhism to originally spread from India to China?
   A. Indian imperialism  
   B. Trade along the Silk Road  
   C. Foreign invasion  
   D. War

10) which of these was not reason Emperor Wu felt so strongly about abolishing Buddhism in China?
   A. He wanted people to be taught and practice or appreciate monastic decrees.
   B. Buddhism was an extremely differing belief system than Confucianism and was seen as a threat.
   C. He did not want an overpopulation of monks and nuns and public Buddhist temples.
   D. He had a xenophobic mindset and wanted to uphold China’s traditional beliefs.

11) Based on this eddict we can see that Tang Emperor Wu feels that Buddhism in China.
   A. Should bring more
   B. Should be allowed to remain in China, but limited.
   C. Strengthens the people of China and provides them with new teachings.
   D. Should be abolished, as it is foreign and therefore poisoning customs

*Period 4- c.1450 to c.1750*
12) Why were the Ottomans so successful at expanding their territory?

A. The weakening agricultural production of the bordering countries
B. The lack of military resistance on their borders.
C. The use of advanced gunpower technology.
D. They were immunes to the black plague.

13) What allowed the Ottoman empire to flourish economically due to their location?

A. Their ample amount of gunpower weaponry.
B. Full control over the warm water ports of the Mediterranean.
C. Their military bases built in foreign territory.
D. All the above.

14) Which was not true about the Ottoman empire?

A. It used gunpower technology to increase borders
B. State sponsored Islam.
C. Rehabilitated the silk route and helped it flourish.
D. They held a genocide against the Jews and disabled.
15) What does the cartoonist intend to suggest in the political cartoon?

A. Literacy rates were at an all time high during the early 1900s
B. The US imposed many restrictions and impeded the immigration process during the early 1900s.
C. During the early 1900s the US voting laws were unfavorable to families
D. The education system was failing people during the early 1900s.

16) According to this illustration what can we infer about literacy tests?

A. Literacy tests have been used as a dog whistle for discrimination against disadvantaged groups
B. Literacy test have helped people from disadvantaged groups
C. Literacy test have caused less discrimination
D. None of the above

17) The passing of the immigration Act of 1917 marked a turn towards which of the following in the United States?

A. Navitism
B. Capitalism
C. Imperialism
D. Nationalism
Period 6- c.1900 to the present

18) Based on this photograph what can we infer has occurred?
   A. TheBerlin wall has officially been torn down
   B. There is a war which is about to begin
   C. The cold war has begun
   D. None of the above

19) What happened on October 3, 1990?
   A. The wall was torn down piece by piece
   B. The sovietunion collapsed
   C. Germany was officially reunited into a single country
   D. The wall was rebuilt to be wider, higher and stronger

20) What US president asked Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the wall?
   A. Jimmy carter
   B. George Bush
C. Bill Clinton  
D. Ronald Reagan