

Examination Questions

Multiple Choice

1. The oldest city known to archeologists emerged in human history
 - a. 50,000 years ago.
 - * b. 10,000 years ago.
 - c. in 3500 B.C.E.
 - d. in 350 B.C.E.

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2. In 2010, the percentage of the world's population living in cities was
 - a. 19%.
 - b. 33%.
 - c. 47%.
 - *d. 52%.

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3. According to archeologists, populations began to settle in fertile places
 - * a. because of increased population density.
 - b. because of slavery.
 - c. during the 5th century B.C.E.
 - d. in Europe first.

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4. The early settlements were characterized by
 - * a. a relatively complex division of labor.
 - b. a relatively egalitarian division of tasks.
 - c. a population of hunters and gatherers.
 - d. a lack of political structure.

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5. Jericho
 - a. is thought to be the oldest city.
 - b. showed imposing fortifications, including a surrounding wall and a tower.
 - c. was first built about 10,000 years ago.
 - * d. All of the above

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6. City-states
 - a. were first created by the Greeks.

- * b. were found in Mesopotamia.
- c. characterized the Middle-age.
- d. typically lacked political and military structure.

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7. The study of early urban settlements reveals
- a. the continuous development over the millennia.
 - * b. discontinuity and change in developmental patterns.
 - c. that cities always grow in population over time.
 - d. None of the above

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8. Mesopotamia was characterized by
- * a. theocratic political regimes.
 - b. political stability.
 - c. a diversity of cultures.
 - d. Both b and c

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9. The archeological record of Egyptian cities is less detailed due to
- a. earthquakes.
 - * b. building materials.
 - c. wars.
 - d. None of the above

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10. Egyptian cities were symbols of
- a. simplicity.
 - b. democracy.
 - * c. the pharaohs' power.
 - d. military wealth.

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11. The ancient city of Moenjo-Daro
- a. shows a gridiron system of street layout.
 - b. reveals the existence of a large, prosperous middle class.
 - c. had a well-established city sanitation system.
 - * d. All of the above

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12. The pattern of Chinese cities
- a. is very similar to that of Egyptian cities.
 - * b. is more diffused than in other areas.
 - c. reveals the concentration of priests, rulers, craftpeople and traders within the city walls.
 - d. All of the above

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13. In Mesoamerica,
- a. cities were farming centers.
 - * b. at the beginning, only few people resided permanently in the cities.
 - c. cities were political rather than religious centers.
 - d. cities never supported populations larger than 20,000.

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14. Greek cities
- a. were more egalitarian than earlier cities in the Near East.
 - b. had commercial ties across Southern Europe.
 - c. experienced a destructive war among themselves.
 - * d. All of the above

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15. The Roman civilization was
- a. based on Christianity.
 - * b. based on the expression of militaristic power.
 - c. based on principles of moderation.
 - d. based on the democratic principle of human participation.

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16. Following the collapse of the Roman Empire, cities in Europe
- a. experienced a new rapid growth.
 - * b. became smaller or disappeared.
 - c. grew steadily.
 - d. began to trade more regularly.

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17. The revival of cities during the 11th century is explained by
- a. the Crusades.
 - b. the emergence of a class of merchants.
 - c. the increase in trade and specialization.
 - * d. All of the above

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18. Renaissance humanists saw cities as
- * a. ideal places for human development.
 - b. dangerous and unhealthy.
 - c. necessary but problematic.
 - d. centers of religious life.

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19. Medieval cities, circa 1350, include all but which one of the following?
- * a. gridiron streets
 - b. defensive walls
 - c. the fortress of the local lord
 - d. a market plaza

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20. The Black Plague
- a. began in 1253.
 - * b. killed at least one-fourth of the European population.
 - c. had a more devastating effect in rural areas.
 - d. None of the above

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21. A demographic transition refers to
- a. the fact that women began to have more children.
 - b. the fact that families became smaller.
 - * c. the fact that birth rates remained high while death rates decreased dramatically.
 - d. a rapid decline in birth rates combined with urban migration.

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22. London emerged as
- a. a Greek city-state.
 - * b. a Roman outpost.
 - c. the political center of Great Britain.
 - d. a ship-building center.

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23. London became a world city during the 16th century because of all but which of the following?
- a. the discovery of the Americas
 - b. its efficient sailing fleet

- c. its wool production
- * d. its infrastructure

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True/False

24. Cities have always been a part of human history. (F)

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25. The emergence of the first cities occurred some 10,000 years ago. (T)

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26. The first permanent settlements promoted specialization of tasks. (T)

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27. The *idea* of the city took hold around 7,000 B.C.E. (F)

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28. The first city-states emerged in Mesopotamia. (T)

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29. In Catal Hüyük, house entrances were on the roof to protect the household from floods and wild animals. (T)

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30. In Mesopotamia, all early cities were ruled by a military ruler. (F)

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31. The Egyptians encircled their cities with high protective walls. (F)

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32. Egyptian cities are characterized by social inequality. (T)

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33. Tensions between pharaohs divided Egypt into many independent areas. (F)

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34. Cities in the Indus region reveal a more egalitarian lifestyle than Egyptian cities. (T)

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35. Moenjo-Daro was built on a gridiron pattern. (T)

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36. Central American cities emerged as ceremonial centers. (T)

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37. Both Roman and Greek cities magnified military power at the expense of their other citizens. (F)

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38. At its height, the Roman Empire included almost half of the world's population. (T)

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39. During the Middle Ages, many people gathered to cities to seek protection from barbarians. (F)

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40. The Church was a central component of social life during medieval times. (T)

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41. The Renaissance movement first emerged in Italian city-states such as Florence, Venice, Palermo, and Milan. (T)

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42. In the pre-industrial era, life expectancy was typically under 40 years. (T)

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43. The spread of activities to British colonies decreased the economic importance of London. (F)

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Essay/Discussion

44. What are the factors that facilitate the growth of cities over time? Think about the physical, social, economic, political and other possible factors.
45. Compare and contrast life in an early city with life in a modern city.
46. Using an early city as an example, discuss the validity of conceptualizing history as “progress.”