

CHAPTER 1: A CHANGING AMERICA

PRACTICE TEST

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Federally funded programs that provide healthcare for certain groups in society include **(p. 14)**

- a. Food Stamps.
- b. **Medicare and Medicaid.**
- c. WIC and rent vouchers.
- d. Social Security.
- e. unemployment.

Answer: b; Page: 14; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

2. “An economic system characterized by individual and corporate ownership of the means of production” is a definition of **(p. 22)**

- a. communism.
- b. liberalism.
- c. **capitalism.**
- d. socialism.
- e. greed.

Answer: c; Page: 22; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

3. “The widely held, deeply rooted political values of a society” is a definition of **(p. 21)**

- a. **political culture.**
- b. liberalism.
- c. politics.
- d. conservatism.
- e. ethical culture.

Answer: a; Page: 21; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

4. “A system of government in which ultimate political authority is vested in the people” is a definition of **(p. 21)**

- a. capitalism.
- b. socialism.
- c. mixed economy.
- d. **democracy.**
- e. communism.

Answer: d ; Page: 21; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

5. Is having access to alternative sources of information considered a key criterion of democracy? (p. 21)
- a. No, because most Americans are not interested in keeping up with current events
 - b. **Yes, because citizens in a democracy have a right to access information sources that are not controlled by the government**
 - c. Yes, because government control over media is common in the world's democracies
 - d. No, because government-controlled media would provide more and better information about all political processes
 - e. No, because alternative sources are too biased to be of any use

Answer: b; Page: 21; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Comprehension

6. According to the Census Bureau, what is the population of the U.S.? (p. 12)
- a. Less than 100 million
 - b. 150 million
 - c. 850 million
 - d. **More than 300 million**
 - e. One billion

Answer: d; Page: 12; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

7. The baby boom generation refers to which age group currently? (p. 12)
- a. Under 20
 - b. **Over 60**
 - c. 20–30
 - d. Under 15
 - e. Over 100

Answer: b; Page: 12; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

8. During which period of time was the baby boom generation born? (p. 12)
- a. Between the first and second world wars
 - b. During the Great Depression
 - c. **In the 1940s and 1950s**
 - d. During the 1980s
 - e. Before the Great Depression

Answer: c; Page: 12 ; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

9. Which group of U.S. states receives the largest number of immigrants? (p. 14)
- a. Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee
 - b. **California, New York, Texas**
 - c. Utah, Montana, Idaho
 - d. Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine
 - e. Oregon, Washington, Idaho

Answer: b; Page: 14; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

10. What was the annual growth rate of the American population between 2000 and 2008? (p. 12)

- a. 1.9 percent
- b. **1 percent**
- c. 2 percent
- d. 10 percent
- e. .5 percent

Answer: b; Page: 12; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

11. Approximately how many illegal immigrants reside in the United States? (p. 14)

- a. 50,000
- b. **More than 11 million**
- c. 275,000
- d. 42.5 million
- e. Less than 3 million

Answer: b; Page: 14; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

12. In which of the following periods did the American population grow most slowly? (p. 12)

- a. **1930s**
- b. 1950s
- c. 1970s
- d. 1980s
- e. 1990s

Answer: a; Page: 12; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Analysis

13. Which of the following is the source of France's immigration problem today? (p. 16)

- a. Immigrants lack important skills.
- b. Immigrants from former French colonies refuse to learn French.
- c. **Islamic immigrants have posed problems of cultural integration.**
- d. Muslim families have come to France only to live for short periods of time.
- e. Most of the recent immigrants have come from Protestant countries.

Answer: c; Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension

14. According to demographers, what percentage of the nation's population is white, non-Hispanic? (p. 15)

- a. **65 percent**
- b. 10 percent
- c. 85 percent
- d. 25 percent
- e. 20 percent

Answer: a; Page: 15; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

15. 15. Are the population changes in the U.S. affecting the House of Representatives? (p. 16)

- a. There has been no change as a result of population changes.
- b. The size of the House of Representatives has been increased.
- c. **The Frostbelt states have been losing representatives, while the Sunbelt states have been gaining representatives.**
- d. The northwest states have been losing representatives, while the northeast states have been gaining representatives.
- e. Both the Frostbelt states and the Sunbelt states have been losing representatives.

Answer: c; Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

16. According to the census, which of the following statements is true about the population of the U.S.? (p. 16)

- a. A majority of Americans live in the Frostbelt.
- b. A majority of Americans live in rural areas and small towns.
- c. African Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanic Americans combined now constitute a majority of the nation's population.
- d. The population is getting younger.
- e. **A majority of Americans live in the Sunbelt.**

Answer: e; Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

17. According to the census data, which of the following is true? (p. 17)

- a. Americans are 20 percent urban.
- b. **Americans are 80 percent urban.**
- c. American are split 50-50 between the urban and rural areas of the country.
- d. White Americans are urbanized but Latinos are rural.
- e. Americans are equally divided among urban, suburban, and rural areas.

Answer: b; Page: 17; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Analysis

18. Which of the following statements is true about the United States? (p. 19)

- a. The United States is the world's most populous nation.
- b. **The United States has the world's largest GDP.**
- c. The United States is the largest nation in the world in terms of land area.
- d. The United States accepts very few immigrants each year.
- e. The population of the United States is actually shrinking.

Answer: b; Page: 19; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

19. As measured by GDP, which nation has the largest economy in the world? (p. 19)

- a. Japan
- b. **United States**
- c. Germany
- d. Russia
- e. Ireland

Answer: b; Page: 19; LO: 2.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

20. “The total value of goods and services produced by a nation’s economy in a year, excluding transactions with foreign countries” is a definition of **(p. 19)**

- a. standard of living.
- b. **gross domestic product.**
- c. inflation.
- d. income distribution.
- e. net economic growth.

Answer: b; Page: 19; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

21. “The goods and services affordable to and available to the residents of a nation” is a definition of **(p. 19)**

- a. **standard of living.**
- b. gross domestic product.
- c. inflation.
- d. income distribution.
- e. net annual trade rate.

Answer: a; Page: 19; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

22. Which of the following nations has the largest GDP per capita? **(p. 19)**

- a. Japan
- b. **United States**
- c. Mexico
- d. United Kingdom
- e. South Africa

Answer: b; Page: 19; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

23. Which group(s) in society tend to be more educated? **(p. 17)**

- a. African Americans
- b. Hispanic Americans
- c. Asian Americans and African Americans
- d. Women and Native Americans
- e. **Asian Americans and whites**

Answer: e; Page: 17; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge

24. On what basis does government set the poverty threshold? **(p. 18)**

- a. Persons with below-average income are considered poor by the official definition.
- b. **Persons without sufficient incomes to purchase basic necessities are considered poor by the official definition.**
- c. Anyone earning less than \$8,000 a year is considered poor by the official definition.
- d. Anyone who claims to be poor on government surveys is considered poor by the official definition.
- e. Persons earning less than half the average income are considered poor by the official definition.

Answer: b; Page: 18; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

25. Which of the following is true about U.S. poverty? (p. 18)
- a. There is no poverty in America.
 - b. Nearly 150 million people in America live in poverty.
 - c. **The poverty threshold for a family of four is \$22,050.**
 - d. Poverty only affects adults with no children.
 - e. Few who live in poverty are legal citizens.

Answer: c; Page: 18; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension

True or False Questions

1. Social Security is a federal retirement program funded by the taxpayers. **True (p. 14)**
Answer: T; Page: 14; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension
2. Attitudes toward democracy and capitalism constitute the core of America's political culture. **True (p. 21)**
Answer: T; Page: 21; LO: 1.3; Skill Level: Comprehension
3. The U.S. spends more on the military than all potential adversaries. **True (p. 19)**
Answer: T; Page: 19; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge
4. The high point in U.S. population growth appears to have been a result of soldiers returning from World War I. **False (p. 12)**
Answer: F; Page: 12; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension
5. The issue of wage rates in the U.S. is central to arguments both for and against illegal immigration. **False (p. 15)**
Answer: F; Page: 15; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension
6. To remedy problems with Muslim immigrants, France has stopped immigration of all North Africans. **False (p. 16)**
Answer: F; Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge
7. According to the census, a majority of Americans live in the South and West, the region known as the Sunbelt. **True (p. 16)**
Answer: T; Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge
8. *Frostbelt* is the term used to describe the northwest corner of America. **False (p. 16)**
Answer: F; Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge
9. Latinos now make up 15.4 percent of the United States population. **True (p. 14)**
Answer: T; Page: 14; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Knowledge
10. Japan now has the world's largest economy, as measured by GDP. **False (p. 19)**
Answer: F; Page: 19; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Knowledge

Short-Answer Questions

1. What is political culture? What makes political culture significant when studying the politics of a nation? Page: 21; LO: 1.3; Skill Level: Analysis
2. What would be the impact on a democratic society if the government took control of all media sources? Page: 21; LO: 1.3; Skill Level: Analysis
3. What is the baby boom generation, and why is this generation so significant to policymaking in America? Page: 12; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Analysis
4. What are the arguments used for and against illegal immigration? What issues are common to both? Pages: 14–16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Analysis
5. Describe the demographic changes in America over the last few decades. Page: 12; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension
6. What effect do population changes have on the House of Representatives? Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension
7. What is the difference between the Sunbelt and the Frostbelt? Why do we use these terms? Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension
8. What are some of the issues that have changed the place of the Sunbelt in American political life? Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Comprehension
9. What are the common measures of a country's economy, and what does each reflect? Page: 19; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Analysis
10. How does the government measure poverty? Does this method over- or underestimate the problem? Page: 18; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Analysis

Essay Questions

1. Immigration accounts for a substantial share of the nation's population growth. Write an essay on immigration in which you accomplish the following goals: (a) compare the current immigration rate in the U.S. with the immigration rate earlier in this century; (b) identify the main countries of origin of recent immigrants to the U.S.; and (c) discuss the arguments for and against immigration. Pages: 14–16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Analysis
2. How does the size and strength of the U.S. economy compare with the economies of Japan, Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom? Write an essay in which you consider the following measures of economic performance: GDP, per capita income, standard of living, and rate of economic growth. Pages: 19–20; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Analysis

3. Write an essay on the proper role of government concerning poverty. Should the government participate in income redistribution? Should the government take care of those deemed to be living below the poverty level? From where should the government take the money it redistributes within the economy? Pages: 17–18; LO: 1.2; Skill Level: Analysis
4. Suppose you are conducting research to write an essay on the political culture of another country, such as Italy or Australia. What information would you study to determine the sources of this country's political culture? Page: 21; LO: 1.3; Skill Level: Analysis
5. Compare the immigration issues that face France and the U.S. What elements are common to each, and how have political responses differed between the two countries? Page: 16; LO: 1.1; Skill Level: Analysis