

Middle Level Social Studies (Grades 5–8)

Subtest 1 Sample Items

1. A middle level social studies teacher uses both verbal explanations and nonverbal representations (e.g., relevant diagrams, graphic organizers) to introduce students to new content-specific vocabulary from an academic article they will be reading. Which of the following student activities would be most effective in supporting the students' comprehension of the article by reinforcing their understanding of the new vocabulary?

- A. defining the new vocabulary in their own words
- B. developing a word search using the new vocabulary
- C. underlining the new vocabulary as they read the article
- D. listing the new vocabulary in their social studies notebooks

2. In which of the following areas did the achievements of the ancient Romans have a greater influence on the development of European civilization than the accomplishments of the ancient Greeks?

- A. visual art and theater
- B. law and engineering
- C. mathematics and philosophy
- D. economics and manufacturing

3. The global depression of the 1930s most influenced which of the following political developments?

- A. the rise of authoritarian regimes in Germany and Japan
- B. the emergence of nationalist movements in West Africa
- C. the spread of communist ideology in China and Russia
- D. the consolidation of power by landed elites in Latin America

4. Which of the following best describes an important global consequence of the information revolution of the last quarter of the twentieth century?

- A. It increased the pace and scope of cultural diffusion.
- B. It caused major changes in international patterns of population movement.
- C. It reduced the level of conflict between nations of the world.
- D. It expanded the range of functions performed by major international agencies.

5. Which of the following physical processes most influenced the formation of the Great Lakes?

- A. volcanic activity
- B. mechanical weathering
- C. glacial erosion
- D. crustal folding

Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
1	A	I. Social Studies Skills	0002
2	B	II. World History	0004
3	A	II. World History	0007
4	A	II. World History	0008
5	C	III. Geography	0010

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