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Social Studies (Grades 5–12)

Subtest 2 Sample Items

1. Which of the following scientific theories can best be used to show how adaptations of major breakthroughs in scientific research have changed perceptions of social relations in human societies?

- A. Sir Charles Lyell's geological investigations
- B. Albert Einstein's theory of relativity
- C. Sir Humphry Davy's studies in electromagnetism
- D. Charles Darwin's principle of natural selection

2. Which of the following constitutional provisions most directly addresses the tension between majority rule and minority rights in U.S. society?

- A. the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment
- B. the implied powers clause of Article I
- C. the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
- D. the full faith and credit clause of Article IV

3. Which of the following best describes a power of the governor of Minnesota?

- A. nominating judges to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court
- B. vetoing specific items in state appropriations bills
- C. establishing boundaries for Minnesota's congressional districts
- D. appointing the auditor and attorney general of Minnesota

4. A major difference between command economies and free market economies is that market systems are generally better able to:

- A. maintain a positive balance of trade.
- B. take advantage of economies of scale.
- C. allocate resources efficiently.
- D. reduce joblessness during recessions.

5. Which of the following cultural behaviors are most likely to persist in a society?

- A. behaviors that enhance the power of political and economic leaders in the society
- B. behaviors that promote the society's survival and reproductive success
- C. behaviors that encourage scientific inquiry and technological innovation in the society
- D. behaviors that are supported by the society's religious and civic leaders

Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
1	D	I. Geography	0015
2	C	II. Government and Citizenship	0017
3	B	II. Government and Citizenship	0018
4	C	III. Economics	0019
5	B	IV. Behavioral Sciences	0022

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