

Middle Level Social Studies (Grades 5–8)

Subtest 2 Sample Items

1. Which of the following best describes the most significant source of conflict between English colonists and American Indian peoples in seventeenth-century New England?

- A. the exploitation of American Indian labor by English landowners
- B. the construction of English settlements on American Indian lands
- C. the efforts of Puritan ministers to convert American Indians
- D. the expansion of English trade with American Indian communities

2. Which of the following events in U.S. history occurred before the Mexican-American War?

- A. the California gold rush
- B. the Lincoln-Douglass debates
- C. the Dred Scott decision
- D. the Missouri Compromise

3. As an early twentieth-century civil rights leader, W.E.B. Du Bois most strongly endorsed which of the following positions?

- A. African Americans should have the same legal rights and educational opportunities enjoyed by other U.S. citizens.
- B. African Americans should establish their own political and social institutions.
- C. African Americans should make nonviolent civil disobedience their main weapon in the struggle for equality.
- D. African Americans should place economic improvement before the achievement of political equality.

4. Which of the following excerpts from the Minnesota state constitution best illustrates the state's commitment to the principle of popular sovereignty?

- A. "No member of this state shall be disfranchised or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to any citizen thereof, unless by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers."
- B. "No religious test or amount of property shall be required as a qualification of any voter at any election in this state; nor shall any person be rendered incompetent to give evidence in any court of law or equity in consequence of his opinion upon the subject of religion."
- C. "The military shall be subordinate to the civil power and no standing army shall be maintained in this state in times of peace."
- D. "Government is instituted for the security, benefit, and protection of the people, in whom all power is inherent, together with the right to alter, modify, or reform government whenever required by the public good."

Source: [Public Domain] Minn. Const. art. I, § 1, 2, 14, 17. Available:
<http://www.House.leg.state.mn.us/cco/rules/mncon/Article1.htm>.

5. Which of the following best describes a major function of competition in market economies?

- A. increasing employment
- B. limiting government involvement
- C. promoting innovation
- D. protecting private property

Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
1	B	I. U.S. and Minnesota History	0012
2	D	I. U.S. and Minnesota History	0013
3	A	I. U.S. and Minnesota History	0014
4	D	II. Government and Citizenship	0019

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
5	C	III. Economics	0020

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