AP U.S. History Readiness Questions

The following stimulus-based multiple choice questions should be able to be answered in 15 minutes. If after completing the items and checking your answers, you are interested in finding out more about AP U.S. History course, go to the College Board at https://advancesinap.collegeboard.org/english-history-and-social-science/us-history and attend the AP Fair for this subject.

As demonstrated in the following examples, question sets will be organized around two to five questions that focus on a primary source, secondary source, or historical issue.

Questions 1–3 refer to the excerpt below.

“Be it enacted ... That after the five and twentieth day of March, 1698, no goods or merchandizes whatsoever shall be imported into, or exported out of, any colony or plantation to his Majesty, in Asia, Africa, or America ... in any ship or bottom, but what is or shall be of the built of England, Ireland, or the said colonies or plantations ... and navigated with the masters and three fourths of the mariners of the said places only ... under pain of forfeiture of ships and goods.”

— English Parliament, Navigation Act, 1696

1. The excerpt most directly reflects which of the following goals for England’s North American colonies?
   A. Developing them as a producer of manufactured goods
   B. Aiding them in developing trade with other European nations
   C. Integrating them into a coherent imperial structure based on mercantilism
   D. Protecting them from American Indian attacks

2. One direct long-term effect of the Navigation Act was that it
   A. promoted commercial treaties with Spain and France throughout the 1700s
   B. contributed to the rise of opposition that ultimately fostered the independence movement
   C. encouraged colonists in North America to expand trade agreements with American Indians
   D. led to the imposition of heavy taxes on the North American colonists in the early 1700s

3. The goals presented in the excerpt from the act have the most in common with which of the following?
   A. Increases in the federal tariff in the 1820s
   B. Progressive Era antitrust reforms in the 1900s
   C. Free-trade policies in the 1990s
   D. Federal tax reductions in the 2000s

Questions 4 - 6 refer to the excerpt below.

“In 1739 arrived among us from Ireland the Reverend Mr. [George] Whitefield, who had made himself remarkable there as an itinerant preacher. He was at first permitted to preach in some of our churches; but the clergy, taking a dislike to him, soon refused him their pulpits, and he was obliged to preach in the fields. The multitudes of all sects and denominations that attended his sermons were enormous....It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manners of our inhabitants. From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were
growing religious, so that one could not walk thro’ the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street.”

Benjamin Franklin, The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

4. Whitefield’s impact suggests that religious culture among British North American colonists in the 1700s was most directly shaped by
   A. Roman Catholic influences
   B. interest in commerce and business
   C. trans-Atlantic exchanges
   D. reliance on agriculture

5. Whitefield’s open-air preaching contributed most directly to which of the following trends?
   A. The growth of the ideology of republican motherhood
   B. Greater independence and diversity of thought
   C. Movement of settlers to the backcountry
   D. The end of the Congregationalist Church

6. The preaching described in the excerpt is an example of which of the following developments in the 1700s?
   A. The development of an idea of republican self-government
   B. The emergence of calls for the abolition of slavery
   C. The increased influence of the Enlightenment
   D. The expansion of Protestant evangelism

Questions 7 - 9 refer to the excerpt below.

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the armed services, it is hereby ordered as follows:
It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.

-President Harry S. Truman, 1948

7. The above declaration is a result of which events during World War II?
   A. the dropping of the atomic bombs
   B. the attack at Pearl Harbor
   C. the division of Berlin in 1945
   D. the segregation of US forces based on color

8. Truman’s declaration would be most at odds with
   A. The decision in Plessy vs. Ferguson
   B. President Roosevelt’s policy towards trusts
   C. President Lincoln’s plan for Reconstruction
   D. The Gospel of Wealth
9. Based on this policy decision, Truman would most likely also support
   A. Reagan’s position towards the Soviet Union
   B. Johnson’s efforts to expand voting rights
   C. Nixon’s policy of détente
   D. Kennedy’s social initiatives

Use the following stimulus for questions 10 -11.

[Graph: Manufacturing Employment January 1941 to November 2009]

10. Which of the following is supported by the graph?
   A. Manufacturing jobs rose during the boom of the 1960s and fell leading up to the Arab Oil
   B. During the baby boom of the 1950s, manufacturing jobs stagnated.
   C. Ronald Reagan’s economic policies led to resurgence in manufacturing jobs during his first
       term
   D. Manufacturing played a more significant role in the American economy at the end of the time
       period than at the beginning.

11. The change in the number of manufacturing jobs led to:
   A. a decrease in the number of service jobs
   B. a decline in union membership and increased economic inequality
   C. higher wages for people who continued to work in the manufacturing sector
   D. government subsidies for U.S. manufacturers under the George W. Bush Administration

Questions 12 - 14 refers to the following quotation.
“This momentous question like a fire-bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union. It is hushed, indeed, for the moment. But this is a reprieve only, not a final sentence. A geographical line, coinciding with a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new irritation will mark it deeper and deeper….But as it is, we have the wolf by the ears, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other.”

Thomas Jefferson, Letter to John Holmes, 1820

12. The letter above was most likely written in response to
   A. the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France.
   B. passage of the Missouri Compromise.
   C. efforts to promote the American System.
   D. governmental attempts to force the removal of American Indians.

13. The concerns expressed in the letter above can best be understood in the context of
   A. federal efforts to control American Indian populations.
   B. competing ideas about geographical boundaries.
   C. concerns over the rights and responsibilities of individual citizens.
   D. debates over the extension of slavery into the western territories.

14. Which of the following events or processes in the 1840s or 1850s most directly contributed to the “irritations” that Jefferson warned about in the letter above?
   A. The acquisition of new territory in the West and the U.S. victory in the Mexican-American War
   B. The growth of violent nativist movements aimed at limiting immigrants’ influence and power
   C. The movement of African Americans and Asians to the West
   D. The increased settlement in areas forcibly taken from American Indians
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