



Delaware DeSSA

Delaware System of Student Assessments

Fall 2022

Grade 8 *Social Studies*

Training
Test Booklet

Name: _____

Student ID: _____

School: _____

District: _____

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Social Studies

This practice test contains samples of various question types that will appear on the Spring test. Read each question carefully and follow the directions.

SSI_080006_1

1. This passage about Robert Fulton’s invention of the steamboat is based on a newspaper article published by the *Virginia Argus* in 1807.

Mr. Fulton’s ingenious steamboat was invented to navigate the Mississippi River. The speed of the steamboat is calculated at four miles an hour when traveling with the current of the Mississippi River and two miles an hour when traveling against the current. If so, the steamboat will certainly be a very valuable acquisition to the commerce of the western states.

How did Robert Fulton’s steamboat contribute to the growth of the Industrial Revolution?

- A. By making it easier to distribute goods
- B. By reducing the time it took to produce goods
- C. By providing a power source for manufacturing
- D. By transporting manufacturing workers to factories

SSI_080062_4

2. These two historians have come to different conclusions about American expansion into the West.

Historian 1

Westward expansion led to the creation of what Thomas Jefferson called an “empire of liberty.” Life on the frontier helped form the country’s individualistic and democratic culture.

Historian 2

Westward expansion was a tragedy that should not be celebrated. Entire communities were dispossessed of their land in the name of so-called progress.

Which source did Historian 2 **most likely** use to support her conclusion about westward expansion?

- A. A treaty between the United States and Spain allowing shared access to the Mississippi River
- B. A transcript of the legislative debate that led to prohibiting slavery in land north of the Ohio River
- C. A diary describing cooperation between white settlers while migrating to the Missouri Territory
- D. A summary of communications between Native Americans discussing how to protect tribal lands

SSI_080095_P

3. This adapted excerpt was written during the debate over ratifying the U.S. Constitution and was published anonymously on October 18, 1787.

Circle **one** number in front of the shaded text that **best** explains the author’s point of view toward ratifying the U.S. Constitution.

According to several constitutional scholars, a republic can only survive if it governs a small territory. **1)** In fact, there is no historical example of a republic as large as the United States. . . . In such a large republic, the officers of the central government would soon be above the control of the people. **2)** In every government, just a few people command the army and are responsible for taxes and government spending. They can use these powers to satisfy their own interests and ambitions. **3)** It will be very difficult to hold leaders accountable for misconduct in such a large republic. These are some of the reasons that a government over such a large number of states cannot protect our freedoms. This new constitution appears to consolidate the thirteen states into one. Because of this, it should not be adopted.

SSI_080054_P

4. A student is preparing research questions for a presentation about westward expansion. Write an X in each row to select the **best** source for answering each research question about westward expansion. Write **one** X for each question.

Research Question	Newspaper Editorials Promoting Westward Expansion	A Timeline of Events Related to Territory the United States Acquired From Other Countries	Statistics Collected by the U.S. Government About Settlers in the West
How did U.S. diplomacy affect westward expansion?			
What beliefs were used to justify westward expansion?			
How did westward expansion affect population patterns in the United States?			

SSI_080057_2

5. This passage is adapted from a pamphlet published by the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery in 1787.

The Creator of the world has made all people. Thus, it is important for them to promote each other's happiness. Even though they may be different by color, religion, or status in society, it is the duty of religious people to use their power to extend the blessings of freedom to every part of the human race.

Which reason **best** explains why the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery included this information in the pamphlet?

- A. To explain why it was an economic necessity to legalize slavery
- B. To show that slavery was a violation of Americans' moral values
- C. To explain why a political compromise was needed to end slavery
- D. To show that slavery was a positive influence on American culture

GO ON TO NEXT PAGE

Use the sources to answer the questions.

Source 1

This map shows the territory that the United States purchased from France in April 1803.



SSI_080001_S2

Source 2

This passage is based on a letter Pierre S. du Pont wrote to President Thomas Jefferson in April 1802. Pierre S. du Pont was a French immigrant to the United States who helped the U.S. government acquire the Louisiana Territory from France.

Mr. President,

France is worried that the United States has ambitions for conquest. If all you need is access to the Mississippi River for transporting goods from the Western states, then all you need is a trade treaty.

If you want to own the land, you will need to persuade them to give it up. The natural taste of all people for wealth leaves you but one choice when you have nothing else to offer. It is to pay them money.

Think about what a war with France would cost. If the United States purchases Louisiana, both countries will benefit. We will have Louisiana, while avoiding bloodshed and remaining friends with France.

SSI_080001_S3

Source 3

This passage is based on a letter that President Thomas Jefferson wrote to Pierre S. du Pont in May 1802.

Mr. Du Pont,

I seek to avoid conflict with France. However, a future president might think otherwise and take Louisiana by force.

It is our long friendship with France that makes me so uneasy of conflict between our two countries. Moreover, a war with France would make us more reliant on England for trade. You and I both want to keep our friendship with France. Thus, I believe you will do your best to negotiate an agreement that benefits both countries.

SSI_080001_S4

Source 4

This passage is based on a letter President Thomas Jefferson wrote to Congress in January 1803.

There are two steps the United States needs to take in order to peaceably extend our territory. First, we must encourage the Native Americans to abandon hunting and instead apply themselves to agriculture, raising livestock, and domestic manufacturing. This will prove to them that they need less land to live better than they do now under their current lifestyle. The large areas of forest land needed to support the hunting life will then become useless. They will soon see the advantage in exchanging their land to pay for improving their farms and increasing their domestic comforts.

Second, we need to multiply the number of trading posts among the Native Americans. This will give them access to goods that will contribute to their domestic comfort, more than the possession of wilderness land. By encouraging them to adopt agriculture and manufacturing, I believe we are acting for their greatest good.

SSI_080001_S5

Source 5

This passage is based on a letter President Thomas Jefferson wrote in February 1803 to William Henry Harrison, a U.S. government official authorized to make treaties with Native Americans.

Since this letter is private, I can safely give you a better view of my Native American policy. To encourage them to sell us their territory, I plan to build more trading posts so that they fall into debt. When these debts get beyond what they can pay, they will be more willing to sell their land. Thus, our settlements will gradually surround the Native Americans. In time, they will either join with us as U.S. citizens or relocate west of the Mississippi River.

We should remain on friendly terms with the Native Americans, even though they know by now that we can overpower them. But if any tribe is foolish enough to resist my plan, we will seize their land as a warning to others.

I would like you to begin purchasing Native American land along the Mississippi River. Native Americans are already anticipating the occupation of New Orleans by the French. Under the hopes of French protection, they will refuse to sell land to us. We had better do at once what can now be done.

SSI_080001_08_2

6. Use Source 1 to answer this question.

Which research question would **most** help a student analyze whether the addition of the Louisiana Territory contributed to sectionalism in the United States?

- A. How did acquiring the Louisiana Territory contribute to the creation of a national market?
- B. Did the U.S. Constitution provide a process for deciding whether territories could allow slavery?
- C. Did the U.S. Constitution permit the federal government to purchase territories from other countries?
- D. How did acquiring the Louisiana Territory contribute to the exploration of the western region of the continent?

SSI_080001_02_P

7. Use Source 2 to answer this question.

These two historians researched the Louisiana Purchase and reached these conclusions.

Historian 1

The Louisiana Purchase was the result of political considerations. President Thomas Jefferson wanted the United States to create an “empire of liberty” that would eventually stretch across North America without threatening its longstanding relationship with a foreign ally.

Historian 2

The Louisiana Purchase was driven primarily by economic concerns. President Thomas Jefferson wanted a quicker way to connect commercial producers west of the Appalachian Mountains to overseas markets.

Choose **one** sentence from Source 2 that **best** supports each historian’s conclusion. Write the number in the correct box.

Source 2

This passage is based on a letter Pierre S. du Pont wrote to President Thomas Jefferson in April 1802. Pierre S. du Pont was a French immigrant to the United States who helped the U.S. government acquire the Louisiana Territory from France.

Mr. President,

France is worried that the United States has ambitions for conquest. **1)** If all you need is access to the Mississippi River for transporting goods from the Western states, then all you need is a trade treaty.

If you want to own the land, you will need to persuade them to give it up. **2)** The natural taste of all people for wealth leaves you but one choice when you have nothing else to offer. It is to pay them money.

Think about what a war with France would cost. If the United States purchases Louisiana, both countries will benefit. **3)** We will have Louisiana, while avoiding bloodshed and remaining friends with France.

Historian	Sentence Number
Historian 1	
Historian 2	

SSI_080001_05_3

- 8.** Use Sources 4 and 5 to answer this question.

How would a historian **most likely** use Source 5 to evaluate the credibility of President Jefferson's claims in Source 4?

- A.** To counter Jefferson's claim that Native Americans should abandon hunting
- B.** To support Jefferson's claim that Native Americans needed more trading posts
- C.** To counter Jefferson's claim that he was acting for the greatest good of Native Americans
- D.** To support Jefferson's claim that farming would contribute to Native Americans' domestic comfort

[SSI_080001_03_P](#)

9. Use Sources 1, 2, 3, and 5 to answer this question.

Draw a line from the title box to **two** phrases that **best** show effects of the United States acquiring New Orleans as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

Promoting friendly relations
with England

Increasing economic growth
in the United States

Providing a homeland for
Native American tribes

Protecting a shipping route
from foreign interference

**Effects of Acquiring
New Orleans**

[SSI_080001_01_2](#)

10. Use all the sources to answer this question.

What was **most likely** a long-term effect of the Louisiana Purchase?

- A. The U.S. government encouraged cooperation with Native Americans.
- B. The U.S. government supported policies that promoted westward migration.
- C. The U.S. government discouraged settlement near Native American territory.
- D. The U.S. government prohibited territorial expansion through military conquest.

These items are not connected to a source.

SSI_080065_3

- 11.** These two historians reached different conclusions about the effect of the War of 1812 on the development of an American identity.

Historian 1

The United States victory over Great Britain in the War of 1812 led to an upsurge in national pride. For the first time since the Revolutionary War, many Americans began to see themselves as part of the United States rather than a country composed of a collection of states.

Historian 2

While some historians emphasize national unity in the years after the War of 1812, I disagree. The historical evidence shows that the sectionalism that had been part of the American identity since colonial times continued to grow in the years after the War of 1812.

Which primary source did Historian 2 **most likely** use to support her conclusion about the effect of the War of 1812 on the development of an American identity?

- A.** A newspaper editorial praising the decline in differences between the political parties
- B.** A bill proposing road and canal funding sponsored by legislators from across the country
- C.** A debate showing a difference in support for tariffs between northern and southern senators
- D.** A magazine article noting the popularity of “The Star-Spangled Banner” in northern and southern regions

SSI_080077_1

12. This list summarizes some important events related to slavery from 1787 to 1820.

Events Related to Slavery, 1787–1820

- 1787**—Federal law requires the capture and return of fugitives from slavery; slavery is prohibited in the Northwest Territory.
- 1792**—Kentucky is admitted to the Union as a slave state.
- 1799**—New York passes a law requiring the gradual emancipation of enslaved people.
- 1804**—New Jersey passes a law requiring the gradual emancipation of enslaved people.
- 1807**—The U.S. Congress votes to prohibit the international slave trade.
- 1819**—The U.S. Congress defeats a law seeking to prohibit slavery in the Arkansas Territory.
- 1820**—The Missouri Compromise prohibits slavery in the northern half of the Louisiana Purchase.

Which conclusion about slavery from 1787 to 1820 does the evidence in the list **best** support?

- A. Antislavery attitudes in the northern states increased sectional tensions.
- B. Full equality for African Americans spread rapidly across the United States.
- C. Pressure from southern states forced gradual acceptance of slavery nationwide.
- D. Westward expansion of the United States guaranteed freedom for African Americans.

Social Studies

SSI_080053_P

- 13.** A student is preparing research questions for an essay about why the U.S. Constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation. Draw a line from each research question to the **best** source for answering the question.

How much public support was there for the Articles of Confederation?

Newspaper Editorials Discussing the Articles of Confederation

Who encouraged the effort to draft the U.S. Constitution?

A Copy of the Articles of Confederation

What type of government structure was created by the Articles of Confederation?

Letters Calling for a Convention to Revise the Articles of Confederation

SSI_080019_P

- 14.** Two historians researched the debate at the Constitutional Convention about a proposal to prohibit the transport and sale of enslaved people from Africa. The historians reached different conclusions.

Historian 1:

- Counting enslaved people for state representation encouraged states to bring more enslaved people from Africa.
- Slavery violated the principles Americans fought for in the Revolutionary War.

Historian 2:

- States already had the right to transport and sell additional enslaved people from Africa.
- Compromise was needed to create a new system of government.
- The states would eventually abolish slavery.

Write an X in each row to select whether Historian 1 or Historian 2 was **most likely** influenced by each question in their research on prohibiting the transport and sale of enslaved people. Write **one** X for each question.

Question	Historian 1	Historian 2
What was the best way to get the Constitution approved?		
How could slavery be ended as quickly as possible?		
What was the best way to preserve local control over slavery?		

SSI_080009_1

15. This chart shows the percentage of the U.S. population working in agriculture in 1790 and in 1820.

Percent of U.S. Population Working in Agriculture

Year	Population	Percent of Population Working in Agriculture
1790	3,929,214	90
1820	9,638,453	72

Public Domain/U.S. Census Bureau

Which event was **most likely** a cause of the change in the percentage of agricultural workers from 1790 to 1820?

- A. The invention of new labor-saving machines
- B. An increase in cooperation between political parties
- C. An increase in support for abolishing slavery in the United States
- D. The acquisition of land by the United States from other countries





