

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Social Studies Answer Key

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
1	Multiple Choice	8.28.B	1	C	4	Supporting
2	Drag and Drop	8.1.A	2	American Revolution Era: "Conflict over issue of mercantilism" and "Ideas of Thomas Paine inspired action"; Civil War Era: "Conflict over issue of slavery" and "Ideas of Jefferson Davis inspired action" See Appendix 1.1	1	Readiness
3	Multiple Choice	8.14.A	1	B	4	Supporting
4	Multiple Choice	8.5.F	1	D	1	Supporting
5	Multiple Choice	8.23.A	1	C	2	Readiness
6	Multipart	8.24.A	2	A, D	2	Readiness
7	Multiple Choice	8.18.A	1	D	3	Supporting
8	Multiple Choice	8.9.C	1	B	1	Readiness
9	Short Constructed Response	8.19.B	2	See Appendix 1.2	3	Readiness
10	Multiple Choice	8.26.B	1	D	2	Supporting
11	Multiple Choice	8.25.C	1	B	2	Readiness
12	Multiple Choice	8.16.B	1	C	3	Readiness

13	Multiple Choice	8.10.A	1	B	2	Supporting
14	Multiple Choice	8.5.C	1	A	1	Readiness
15	Multiple Choice	8.5.E	1	C	1	Readiness
16	Multiple Choice	8.10.B	1	D	2	Readiness
17	Multiple Choice	8.19.C	1	D	3	Supporting
18	Drag and Drop	8.3.A	2	The Virginia House of Burgesses' Contributions: "Established a representative government", "Established a method of checks and balances" See Appendix 1.3	1	Readiness
19	Multiple Choice	8.21.A	1	C	3	Supporting
20	Multiple Choice	8.19.A	1	C	3	Readiness
21	Multiple Choice	8.11.A	1	D	2	Readiness
22	Multiple Choice	8.10.C	1	B	2	Readiness
23	Multiple Choice	8.6.C	1	D	1	Readiness
24	Multiple Choice	8.1.B	1	C	1	Supporting
25	Drag and Drop	8.5.B	2	Alexander Hamilton: "A national bank would help maintain public credit." And "Holding public funds and paying government debts requires a national bank."	1	Supporting

				Thomas Jefferson: "The Constitution does not give the government the power to set up a national bank." And "A national bank would favor manufacturing at the expense of agriculture." See Appendix 1.4		
26	Multiple Choice	8.25.A	1	A	2	Supporting
27	Multiple Choice	8.9.A	1	C	1	Supporting
28	Multiple Choice	8.13.B	1	D	4	Readiness
29	Drag and Drop	8.15.D	2	Limited government: "Cruel punishments and excessive fines are prohibited." Separation of powers: "Only Congress can make laws." Federalism: "People are governed by state and national laws." See Appendix 1.5	3	Readiness
30	Multiple Choice	8.4.D	1	A	1	Readiness
31	Multiple Choice	8.7.D	1	D	1	Supporting

32	Multipart	8.8.D	2	C, A	1	Supporting
33	Multiple Choice	8.2.A	1	A	1	Readiness
34	Multiple Choice	8.15.A	1	D	3	Readiness
35	Short Constructed Response	8.27.A	2	See Appendix 1.6	4	Readiness
36	Multiple Choice	8.6.B	1	A	1	Readiness
37	Multiselect	8.4.A	2	B, C See Appendix 1.7	1	Readiness
38	Multiple Choice	8.18.C	1	D	3	Supporting
39	Multiple Choice	8.6.A	1	A	1	Readiness
40	Multiple Choice	8.12.B	1	A	4	Readiness

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Appendix

1.1

Which characteristics are associated with the American Revolution era and which are associated with the Civil War era?

Move each characteristic to the correct era.

Conflict over issue of mercantilism

Conflict over issue of slavery

Ideas of Jefferson Davis inspired action

Ideas of Thomas Paine inspired action

American Revolution Era	Civil War Era
Conflict over issue of mercantilism	Conflict over issue of slavery
Ideas of Thomas Paine inspired action	Ideas of Jefferson Davis inspired action

1.2

The Eighth Amendment focuses on bail and punishments in the judicial system.

What does the Eighth Amendment say about bail **AND** punishments?

Think about the question carefully. Then enter your answers in the box provided.

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Chars 0/475

Score:

Rubric

Score Description

Score two points for correct answers that include a reference to both:

Bail:

- Bail must be relevant to the severity of the crime committed.
- Bail must be relevant to the history of the accused.

2 Punishments:

- Mistreatment or torture, including excessive physical or mental punishments of individuals in jail, is prohibited.
- Punishment for crimes must be equivalent to the severity of the crimes.
- Fines must be fair and cannot lead to the loss of personal property without due process.

1 The response only summarizes language on either bail or punishments, but not both.

0 The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

1.3

This excerpt describes a system of government used in Virginia during the 1600s.

Membership in the Council and . . . in the Assembly . . . was composed . . . both of members elected by the people and of members of the Council appointed by the authorities in England. . . .
At this first meeting of the General Assembly the Burgesses . . . and the members of the Council, with the governor, sat together as one body, in which each member had one vote, and questions were decided by the vote of the majority, the governor, however, having the power to veto any measure whatever.

—Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619

Based on the excerpt and your knowledge of U.S. history, how did the House of Burgesses contribute to the democratic tradition of the United States?

Move the correct answer to each box in the chart. Not all answers will be used.

- Established a representative government
- Established a strict authoritarian government
- Established a judicial branch for the government
- Established a method of checks and balances
- Established a system centered around political parties

The Virginia House of Burgesses' Contributions
Established a representative government
Established a method of checks and balances

1.4

Which views were argued by either Alexander Hamilton or Thomas Jefferson while debating the establishment of a national bank?
Move the correct answer to each box in the chart.

- The Constitution does not give the government the power to set up a national bank.
- A national bank would help maintain public credit.
- A national bank would favor manufacturing at the expense of agriculture.
- Holding public funds and paying government debts requires a national bank.

Views Regarding a National Bank

Alexander Hamilton	Thomas Jefferson
A national bank would help maintain public credit.	The Constitution does not give the government the power to set up a national bank.
Holding public funds and paying government debts requires a national bank.	A national bank would favor manufacturing at the expense of agriculture.

1.5

Which examples reflect the constitutional principles of either limited government, separation of powers, or federalism?

Move the correct answer to each box in the table. Not all answers will be used.

People are governed by state and national laws.

Cruel punishments and excessive fines are prohibited.

Only Congress can make laws.

People can serve in the military.

Constitutional Principle	Example
Limited government	Cruel punishments and excessive fines are prohibited.
Separation of powers	Only Congress can make laws.
Federalism	People are governed by state and national laws.

1.6

What were **TWO** ways that the invention of the steamboat affected the development of the United States?

Think about the question carefully. Then enter your answer in the box provided.

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Score:

Rubric

ScoreDescription

- Score two points for answers that include references to two of the following:
- Faster and easier to move goods and people
 - Encouragement of westward expansion and the completion of Manifest Destiny
 - Connecting to use of the canal system
- 2**
- Reduction in the price of goods because of the ease of movement
 - Steam power allowed boats to move easily up and down the current of river systems.
 - Growth of cities and towns along rivers and canals
 - Growth of the agriculture industry (also included with westward expansion) and distribution of harvests
- 1** The response describes only one effect of the steamboat.
- 0** The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

1.7

This cartoon shows a popular economic belief in Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.



Which events in U.S. history are directly associated with this cartoon?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

Passage of the Northwest Ordinance

Passage of the Navigation Acts

Boston Tea Party

Great Awakening

Shays's Rebellion