

# STAAR Spring 2025 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	2.A	1	D	1	Readiness
2	Multiple Choice	1.A	1	C	1	Readiness
3	Multiple Choice	25.C	1	A	2	Readiness
4	Hot Text	3.B	1	“Membership in the Council and . . . in the Assembly . . . was composed . . . of members elected by the people” See Appendix 1.1	1	Supporting
5	Multiple Choice	11.A	1	C	2	Readiness
6	Multiple Choice	6.C	1	C	1	Readiness
7	Multiple Choice	8.C	1	A	1	Readiness
8	Multipart	16.B	2	B, B See Appendix 1.2	3	Readiness
9	Multiple Choice	4.C	1	C	1	Readiness
10	Multiple Choice	12.A	1	C	4	Supporting
11	Short Constructed Response	5.H	2	See Appendix 1.3	1	Supporting
12	Multiple Choice	3.A	1	B	1	Readiness
13	Multiple Choice	15.A	1	D	3	Readiness
14	Multiselect	9.A	2	A, C See Appendix 1.4	1	Supporting
15	Multiple Choice	24.A	1	C	2	Readiness
16	Multiple Choice	26.A	1	D	2	Supporting
17	Drag and Drop	19.B	2	“Frisked”: Option “The Fourth Amendment—prevents law enforcement from doing an unreasonable search”, “Protesting”: Option “The First Amendment—protects the freedoms of speech, assembly,	3	Readiness

				religion, and the press", "Refuses to testify": Option "The Fifth Amendment—provides legal protections to citizens accused of crimes" See Appendix 1.5		
18	Multiple Choice	3.C	1	B	1	Supporting
19	Multiple Choice	6.B	1	D	1	Readiness
20	Multiple Choice	21.B	1	A	3	Supporting
21	Multiple Choice	20.A	1	C	3	Supporting
22	Multiselect	27.C	2	A, E See Appendix 1.6	4	Supporting
23	Multiple Choice	7.D	1	D	1	Readiness
24	Multiple Choice	25.A	1	B	2	Supporting
25	Multiple Choice	22.B	1	C	3	Supporting
26	Multiple Choice	15.C	1	B	3	Readiness
27	Multiple Choice	4.D	1	D	1	Readiness
28	Multiple Choice	5.D	1	D	1	Readiness
29	Multiple Choice	13.B	1	B	4	Readiness
30	Multipart	16.B	2	D, B See Appendix 1.7	3	Readiness
31	Multiple Choice	6.A	1	A	1	Readiness
32	Short Constructed Response	23.D	2	See Appendix 1.8	2	Supporting
33	Multiple Choice	12.B	1	D	4	Readiness
34	Multiple Choice	10.B	1	B	2	Readiness
35	Multiple Choice	14.B	1	B	4	Supporting
36	Match Table Grid	23.A	2	"Sought economic opportunities in the North": Option Europe, "Looked for religious freedom mainly in the North and East": Option Europe, "Forcibly brought to the South and West as enslaved labor": Option Africa, "Sought economic	2	Readiness

				opportunities in the West despite discrimination": Option Asia See Appendix 1.9		
37	Multiple Choice	17.A	1	B	3	Readiness
38	Multiple Choice	18.C	1	C	3	Supporting
39	Multiple Choice	12.C	1	A	4	Readiness
40	Multiselect	5.A	2	B, D See Appendix 1.10	1	Readiness

## STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 8 Social Studies Appendix

### 1.1

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

Which selection provides the **BEST** example of how the Virginia House of Burgesses influenced the development of representative government in the United States?

Select the correct answer.

Membership in the Council and . . . in the Assembly . . . was composed . . . of members elected by the people and of [appointed] members of the Council. . . .

Each member had one vote, . . . the governor . . . having the power to veto any measure. . . .

By an extension of usage the Company applied the term "borough" to each area, whether town, hundred, or plantation. . . .

. . . The two classes of members began to sit as separate chambers.

—Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619

## 1.2

This question has two parts.

This excerpt is from the U.S. Constitution.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

—*Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution*

### Part A

Which statement describes an effect of the Thirteenth Amendment?

- ☐ Ⓐ It provided equal protection for citizens.
- ☒ Ⓑ It allowed forced labor as a judicial sentence applied by the courts.
- ☐ Ⓒ It allowed formerly enslaved people to participate in government decisions.
- ☐ Ⓓ It provided additional powers to the judicial branch of government.

### Part B

Which quotation from the excerpt provides the **BEST** evidence to support the answer to Part A?

- ☐ Ⓐ Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . .
- ☒ Ⓑ . . . except as a punishment for crime . . .
- ☐ Ⓒ . . . shall exist within the United States . . .
- ☐ Ⓓ . . . shall have power to enforce this article . . .

### 1.3

This excerpt is from the majority opinion in a Supreme Court case from 1832.












The Cherokee nation, then, is a distinct community, occupying its own territory. . . .

The Indian nations had always been considered as distinct, independent political communities, retaining their original natural rights, as the undisputed possessors of the soil. . . . The very term "nation," so generally applied to them, means "a people distinct from others."

—U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall, *Worcester v. Georgia*, 1832

What was President Andrew Jackson's plan for American Indians in the Southeast, **AND** what is one way his plan would be in conflict with the *Worcester v. Georgia* ruling?

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

**B** **I** **U** **I<sub>x</sub>**           

# Chars 0/475

#### Rubric

For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

## 1.4

This excerpt describes a government program established after the Civil War.

In the years following the Civil War, the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (the Freedmen's Bureau) provided assistance to tens of thousands of former slaves and impoverished whites in the Southern States and the District of Columbia.

—"African American Records: Freedmen's Bureau," National Archives, 2016

Which statements **BEST** describe the purpose of this program following the Civil War?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

☒ It provided job training and education to formerly enslaved people.

☐ It reestablished trade relationships between the North and the South.

☒ It assisted with the distribution of food throughout the South.

☐ It detailed the terms of the South being admitted back into the union.

☐ It oversaw the forced migration of people to other parts of the country.

1.5

Which amendment **BEST** applies to each circumstance described in the table?

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

- The First Amendment—protects the freedoms of speech, assembly, religion, and the press
- The Fourth Amendment—prevents law enforcement from conducting an unreasonable search
- The Fifth Amendment—provides legal protections to citizens accused of crimes
- The Seventh Amendment—preserves the right of the accused to a trial in federal civil cases
- The Ninth Amendment—reserves rights not specifically listed in the Constitution to the people

Circumstance	Constitutional Amendment That Applies
Being frisked by police without probable cause	The Fourth Amendment—prevents law enforcement from conducting an unreasonable search
Protesting the use of the death penalty	The First Amendment—protects the freedoms of speech, assembly, religion, and the press
Defendant refuses to testify in court	The Fifth Amendment—provides legal protections to citizens accused of crimes

1.6

How did factories contribute to economic growth in the United States during the early 1800s?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

- ☒ Power-driven machinery produced large quantities of goods quickly and inexpensively.
- ☐ Increases in income closed the wealth gap between the owners of industrial facilities and their employees.
- ☐ Workers organized labor unions, which allowed them to demand better working conditions.
- ☐ Government regulations required industrial companies to invest part of their profits and shares in their communities.
- ☒ Women could become industrial workers, which allowed them to earn an income.



## 1.7

This question has two parts.

This excerpt is from the U.S. Constitution.

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

—*Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution*

### Part A

What was the **PRIMARY** purpose of this amendment?

- ☐ Ⓐ To allow American Indian men to vote for the first time
- ☐ Ⓑ To offer voting rights to all citizens
- ☐ Ⓒ To conduct voting through the electoral college system
- ☒ Ⓓ To extend voting rights to African American men

### Part B

Which statement from the excerpt provides evidence to support the answer to Part A?

- ☐ Ⓐ shall not be denied or abridged by the United States
- ☒ Ⓑ account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude
- ☐ Ⓒ Congress shall have the power
- ☐ Ⓓ enforce this article by appropriate legislation

## 1.8

Which **TWO** characteristics of the American Southwest reflect the influence of Spanish culture and colonization?

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

**B** *I* U ~~I<sub>x</sub>~~

# Chars 0/475

### Rubric

For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

## 1.9

This table lists the historical reasons behind the migration of different groups of people to the United States.

Which statement **BEST** describes reasons behind various historical migrations?

Select the correct answer in each row.

Reason for Migrating	Africa	Europe	Asia
Sought economic opportunities in the North	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Looked for religious freedom mainly in the North and East	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forcibly brought to the South and West as enslaved labor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sought economic opportunities in the West despite discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 1.10

Why did Alexander Hamilton want to create a national bank?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

☐ To encourage trade with Great Britain

☒ To manage the country's debt

☐ To discourage the creation of plantations

☒ To centralize the collection of federal taxes

☐ To replace the states' banks