

World Geography

Administered May 2013

RELEASED

World Geography

DIRECTIONS

Read each question carefully. Determine the best answer to the question from the four answer choices provided. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

1



Source: NOAA/PMEL

How does the technology shown in this photograph help humans adapt to the environment?

- A** By detecting sunken ships
- B** By helping ships navigate
- C** By monitoring fish migration
- D** By warning of a natural disaster

- 2 The global diffusion of advanced computer technology has resulted in —
- F a renewed adherence to traditional customs
 - G declining interest in foreign popular culture
 - H an increase in the accessibility of higher education
 - J reduced levels of geographic mobility
-

- 3 Which statement best explains how Jerusalem is perceived throughout the world?
- A Foreign students regard it as an intellectual center for higher education.
 - B Several countries claim it as a colonial possession.
 - C Economists view it as an important center for international trade.
 - D The adherents of several major religions regard it as a holy city.
-

- 4 The arrival of new immigrant groups creates a more diverse culture when —
- F immigrants are pressured to assimilate quickly to their new community
 - G immigrants are forced to settle in areas populated by people from their homeland
 - H the traditions of local and immigrant populations combine to create new customs
 - J local governments pass laws enforcing immigration quotas

5

Coniferous Trees in the
Taiga Biome of Eurasia

- Larch
- Spruce
- Fir
- Pine

The trees listed above are similar because they —

- A** all require very little moisture
- B** are all unable to flourish at high elevations
- C** all depend on large birds to spread their seeds
- D** are all adapted to cold regions

6

Twenty-five percent of prescription drugs come from rapidly disappearing tropical forests.

—*U.S. Department of State, "Environment and Conservation,"
www.state.gov (accessed January 6, 2009)*

Which situation is referred to in this excerpt?

- F** The rapid growth of urban populations
- G** The rapid conversion of an important habitat to other uses
- H** The spread of invasive species to non-native habitats
- J** The release of toxic chemicals into Earth's atmosphere



In which location would the environmental adaptation shown above most successfully serve its purpose?

- A** A place with low elevation
- B** A place that experiences regular monsoons
- C** A place that experiences frequent sunny days
- D** A place with high daily temperatures

-
- 8** Which change is a direct result of the diffusion of popular American chain restaurants throughout the world?
- F** The cultural landscapes of commercial areas have become increasingly similar.
 - G** Local production of fresh produce has declined.
 - H** The service sectors of developing countries have begun to decline.
 - J** Religious dietary restrictions have been ignored.

- 9 What is the main purpose of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- A It provides economic assistance to member countries through loans.
 - B It controls the global distribution of a natural resource.
 - C It offers military support to threatened member countries.
 - D It stores reserves of a natural resource.

10

The Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy: the position of the monarch is laid down in the Constitution. The monarch is the Dutch head of state and, together with the ministers, makes up the government. . . .

As well as carrying out official tasks as head of state, the monarch works actively on behalf of the people of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, playing a cohesive, representative and encouraging role.

—Dutch Royal House website, <http://www.koninklijkhuis.nl/english>
(accessed January 4, 2011)

In the Netherlands the monarch plays a role in government most similar to that of the —

- F ayatollah of Iran
- G British queen
- H South Korean president
- J king of Saudi Arabia

11 Which physical feature has most limited the movement of people living in North Africa?

- A** The Sahel
- B** The Nile River
- C** The Red Sea
- D** The Sahara

12 Which of these would most likely be shown on a map of a more-developed country's quaternary economic sector?

- F** Locations of natural resources
- G** Major universities and research institutions
- H** Transportation networks
- J** Centers of manufacturing and processing

Hong Kong, c. 1910



Source: Library of Congress

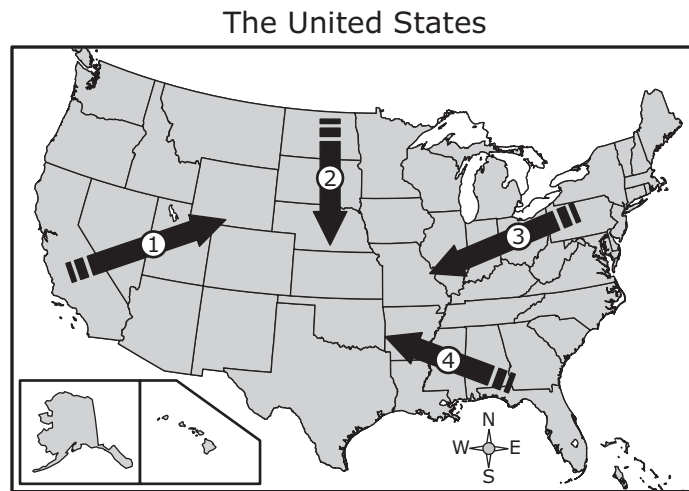
Hong Kong, c. 2000



© iStockphoto.com/Justin Horrocks

Which of the following most likely caused the change shown in these photographs?

- A** The preservation of local cottage industries
- B** The expansion of international trade
- C** The adoption of a command economy
- D** The extraction of nonrenewable resources from local reserves



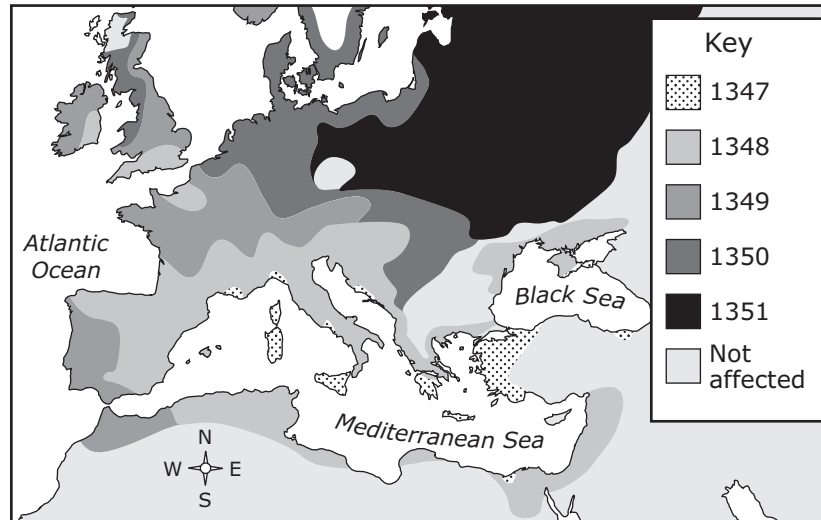
Which arrow shows the general direction of the population shift in the United States over the last two centuries?

- F** 1
- G** 2
- H** 3
- J** 4

15 Which factor attracted many Europeans to New York City in the mid-nineteenth century?

- A** The increase in economic opportunities due to expanding industrialization
- B** An improvement in living conditions due to innovations in sanitation
- C** The ease of travel due to the construction of transportation networks
- D** An increase in agricultural productivity due to climate conditions

Spread of the Black Death, 1347–1351



Which of the following best explains why the Black Death spread along the Mediterranean coast before spreading to the interior of central Europe?

- F** Fewer people lived in the interior of central Europe than along the Mediterranean coast.
- G** Before 1352 travel to the interior of central Europe was limited by severe weather.
- H** Travel from one region to another was easier and faster by water than by land.
- J** In 1351 a vaccine against the disease was developed and made available for public use.

Development Indicators for
Selected South American Countries, 2008

Country	Life Expectancy at Birth (years)	Immunization Rate for Measles (of children aged 12–23 months)	Annual Population Growth
Argentina	75	99%	1.0%
Bolivia	66	86%	1.8%
Brazil	72	99%	1.0%
Peru	73	90%	1.1%

Source: The World Bank

Which conclusion is best supported by the data in this table?

- A** Health care was more expensive in Argentina than in Brazil.
- B** The quality of life was better in Peru than in Brazil.
- C** Peru had a greater number of young people than Bolivia.
- D** Bolivia had a lower standard of living than Argentina.

18 How did the development of an interstate highway system change the urban landscape in the United States?

- F** There was an expansion of economic activity away from city centers.
- G** There was a decrease in the construction of new housing in the suburbs.
- H** There was an increase in the number of areas specifically designated as public parks.
- J** There was a decrease in transportation options available in inner cities.

I was in India interviewing [a business executive]. . . . And he said to me, "Tom, the playing field is being leveled." Indians and Chinese were going to compete for work like never before. . . . And then it hit me: Holy mackerel, the world is becoming flat. Several technological and political forces have converged, and that has produced a global . . . playing field that allows for multiple forms of collaboration without regard to geography or distance—or soon, even language.

—Thomas Friedman, *interview in Wired, May 2005*

Which of the following has contributed most to the change described in this excerpt?

- A** The increasing difficulty of maintaining telecommunication systems
- B** The declining cost of new telecommunication technologies
- C** The increasing use of French in international business
- D** The declining number of corporations outsourcing their work

Debate Tonight

Globalization: For and Against

Debaters

Wendy Yanick: "In Defense of Globalization"

Randy Tremaine: "The Dangers of Globalization"

Location: University Auditorium

Time: 7:00 P.M.



Which of these does Randy Tremaine most likely support?

- F** Efforts to encourage less-developed countries to join free-trade organizations
- G** Outsourcing jobs to countries where labor and resources are less expensive
- H** A tariff policy that promotes the importation of manufactured goods
- J** Regulatory measures that protect domestic businesses from foreign competition

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your outdoor air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you. . . . EPA calculates the AQI for five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. For each of these pollutants, EPA has established national air quality standards to protect public health.

—AIRNow website, <http://www.airnow.gov> (accessed December 5, 2010)

How does the Environmental Protection Agency use AQI data to support the enforcement of the Clean Air Act?

- A** By monitoring the production of fuel-efficient cars
- B** By limiting the use of certain chemicals by industrial manufacturers
- C** By reducing the number of permits for new construction projects
- D** By decreasing the use of mass-transportation systems

Research at Washington State University has led to the following conclusions.

- Organic farming methods can help reduce the amount of nitrogen draining into the groundwater.
- Conventional farming practices involve the use of synthetic fertilizers, which are the primary source of nitrogen pollution in water systems and the atmosphere.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

What is another possible effect of organic farming?

- F** Soils are healthier.
- G** Air pollution increases.
- H** Tap water has more nutrients.
- J** Crop yields are larger.

San José, Costa Rica

- Is the nation's capital city
- Was founded during Spanish colonization
- Has historically been a center of coffee production
- Serves as a transportation hub for the Inter-American Highway and several express highways
- Has several public and private universities

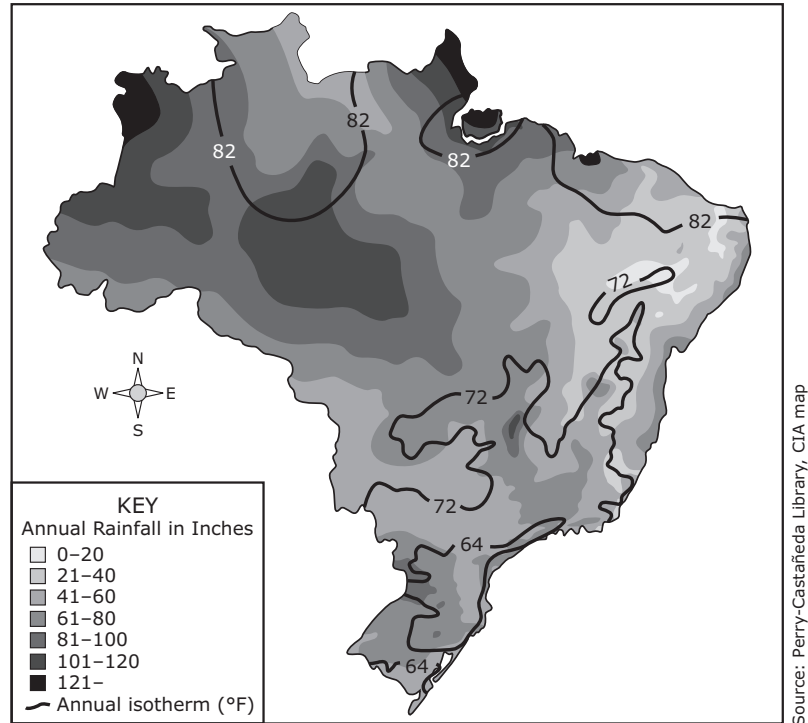
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

- Is the nation's capital city
- Was originally designed by the French
- Is the nation's chief port
- Has a high unemployment rate

One way that San José and Port-au-Prince are similar is that both —

- A** have high unemployment
- B** are centers of higher learning
- C** are port cities
- D** have European origins

Temperature and Precipitation Map of Brazil, 1977



Which factor best explains the climate distribution of northern Brazil?

- F** Being located at tropical latitudes
- G** The effects of the flow of cool ocean currents
- H** Distance from the continental shelf
- J** Elevation above sea level

25 Which factor posed the greatest challenge to developing natural resources in Siberia?

- A** Severe drought limited agricultural production on arable land.
- B** Limited access to water prevented the establishment of large cities.
- C** The employment of seasonal laborers reduced annual output quotas.
- D** The harsh climate hindered the establishment of permanent settlements.

It is . . . undeniable that no settlement can be just and complete if recognition is not accorded to the right of the Arab refugee to return to the home from which he has been dislodged by the hazards and strategy of the armed conflict between Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

—*Progress Report of the United Nations Mediator on Palestine, 1948*

What was one reason for the conflict referred to in this report?

- F** Different groups had competing claims over land in the region.
- G** The International Criminal Court issued warrants for suspected war criminals living in the region.
- H** Ethnic groups competed for control of the region's natural resources.
- J** The United Nations imposed immigration reforms in some countries in the region.

Satellite Image of Part of the Eastern Hemisphere at Night



Which conclusion is supported by the image?

- A** There are many large cities located in eastern Indonesia.
- B** The eastern part of China is more developed than the western part.
- C** There are fewer cities in western India than in Tibet.
- D** The northern region of Australia has more cities than the southern region.

The fundamental purpose of the Canal Expansion–Third Set of Locks Project is to maintain the competitiveness and value of the Canal route by generating higher revenues and benefits for the Republic of Panama over the long range in a sustainable manner. To this end, it is proposed that the Canal be provided with the capacity necessary to meet the growing demand with competitive service levels and increase the value of the Canal route by allowing the transit of Post Panamax ships.

—Canal Expansion Program: Environmental Impact Study, *Panama Canal Authority, 2007*

The project described in the excerpt is an example of how technology and human modifications of the environment can —

- F** contribute to the economic development of a country
- G** be used as bargaining tools by a regulatory body
- H** result in the irreversible destruction of natural resources
- J** increase demand for renewable energy sources

29 The constitution of which country is most directly influenced by the religion of Islam?

- A** France
- B** Slovenia
- C** Kuwait
- D** China

Due to its isolationist nature, North Korea's human rights record is difficult to evaluate. However, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), think tanks, and defectors continue to report that North Korea maintains a record of consistent, severe human rights violations, stemming from the government's total control over all activity.

—U.S. Department of State, 2010

It can be inferred from this excerpt that —

- F** unrestricted Internet access is common in North Korea
- G** North Koreans are free to protest government policies
- H** the principles of free enterprise are supported by the North Korean government
- J** many North Koreans receive censored information about the rest of the world

31 Which event had the greatest impact on the culture of South America?

- A** The immigration of laborers from Asia
- B** The completion of the Panama Canal
- C** The rise of Marxist revolutionaries
- D** The arrival of Spanish conquerors

Mechanical Dredging



© Lunamarina/Dreamstime.com

What major benefit is associated with the activity shown in this photograph?

- F** Improved port access resulting from enlarged navigation channels
- G** Improved seawall construction that prevents flooding
- H** Decreased amounts of water pollution
- J** Reduced damage to marine habitats

- 33** Which of these best explains the population shift in Europe that resulted from the formation of the European Union?
- A** People migrated to western Europe in search of employment in more-industrialized countries.
 - B** Increased opportunities for trade with Africa encouraged people to migrate to southern Europe.
 - C** The development of new markets in former Soviet countries encouraged people to migrate to eastern Europe.
 - D** People migrated to northern Europe in search of greater economic and political freedoms.
-

34



© Paura/Dreamstime.com

Brazilian favelas such as the one shown above began to expand rapidly in the 1970s. What was one reason for this expansion?

- F** Migrants from rural areas could not afford to settle in city centers.
- G** The government was not able to provide utilities and sanitation services to remote settlements.
- H** The government forcibly relocated indigenous populations from rural areas.
- J** Regional conflicts resulted in the establishment of large refugee camps.

- Girls in poor countries with pre-existing low female schooling are highly vulnerable to being pulled out of school as households cope with declining household income.
- Women's income in developing countries will likely be reduced as a result of losses in employment in export oriented industries, tightening micro-finance lending, and/or drop in remittances.

—World Bank press release, March 6, 2009

Which of the following is most likely to cause the negative effects described in the excerpt?

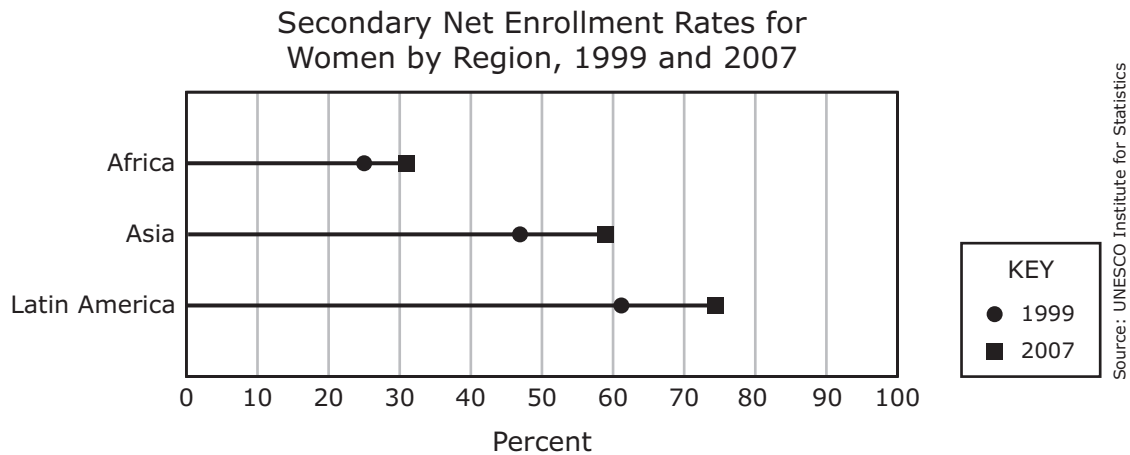
- A** Protective tariffs
- B** Global climate change
- C** A global economic recession
- D** A political coup

36 Which of these is the most likely result of a well-planned national transportation network?

- F** Government ventures are more profitable.
- G** Consumers have access to a wider variety of products.
- H** Damage to fragile items is minimized.
- J** Raw materials are more difficult to get to market.

- 37** Which of the following is a factor that favors the development of primary economic activities?
- A** A location for industrial manufacturing operations
 - B** The presence of natural resources
 - C** The availability of neighbors willing to trade
 - D** An economy based on communist ideals

38



What is one reason for the changes shown on the graph?

- F** International organizations provided aid for the education of women.
- G** Many countries shifted to primary economic activities.
- H** The number of women serving as heads of state increased.
- J** The cost of operating schools declined.

- 39** A man who lives in Bangalore, India, works in a customer-service center for a company that is based in Salt Lake City, Utah.

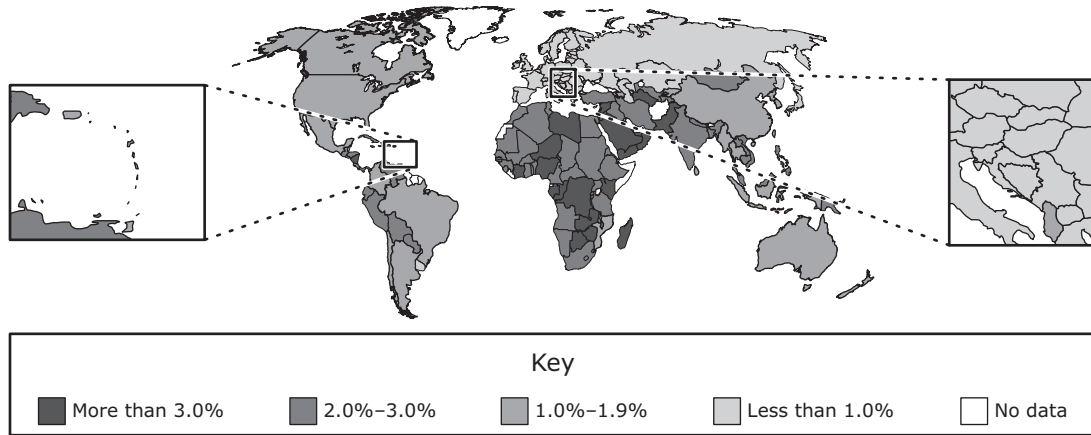
Which development helped create this economic opportunity?

- A** Lower costs for international transportation
- B** Advances in data processing
- C** Improvements in communication technology
- D** More restrictions on international trade

-
- 40** Why did many cities expand in size during the early twentieth century?

- F** Government projects made port cities accessible to large ships.
- G** Recent advances in transportation allowed people to travel greater distances to work.
- H** Commercial farms began producing a greater variety of agricultural products for urban consumers.
- J** The cost of undeveloped land bordering cities increased.

Average Annual Rate of Population Growth, 1980–1998



Which of the following best describes population growth from 1980 to 1998?

- A** The rate of population growth was slower in African countries than in South American countries.
- B** Most of the countries with the fastest rates of population growth were located in Central Asia.
- C** The rate of population growth was faster in Australia than in North America.
- D** Most of the countries with the slowest rates of population growth were located in Europe.

42 Which of these factors most influence the climate of Death Valley?

- F** Rain-shadow effect and low elevation
- G** Longitudinal location and severe thunderstorms
- H** Location in the tropics and seasonal monsoons
- J** Proximity to cold ocean currents and location in a high-pressure zone

43 Which of these best explains the African influence on Brazilian culture?

- A** The formation of an alliance between the African Union and Brazil
- B** The forced migration of Africans to Brazil
- C** The exploration of Brazil by African sailors
- D** The establishment of Brazilian colonies in Africa

44 One reason for the stability of the U.S. political system is that widespread public support exists for —

- F** allowing citizens to choose government officials
- G** government welfare programs
- H** a single state-sponsored religion
- J** requiring military service by citizens

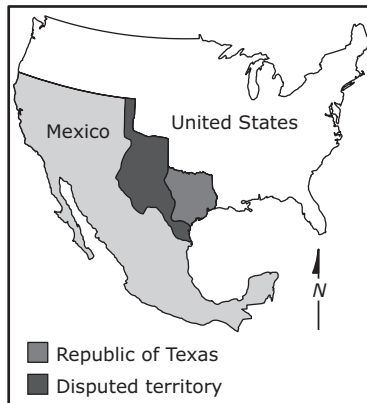
- 45** As climate change becomes a more recognized global issue, many countries are starting to —
- A** limit the production of vehicles that use alternative fuels
 - B** require the use of petroleum products
 - C** pass legislation mandating the reduction of carbon emissions
 - D** deregulate the coal industry

46

Selected North American Countries, 1821



Selected North American Countries, 1836

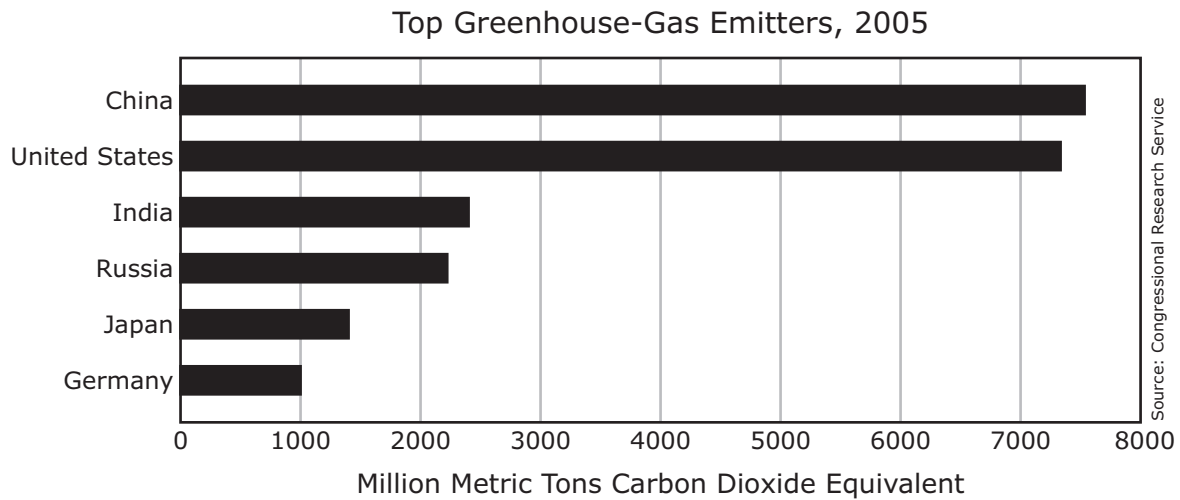


Selected North American Countries, 1848



Which inference is best supported by these maps?

- F** Mexico had the largest economy in North America during the mid-1800s.
- G** The United States had more power than Mexico during the mid-1800s.
- H** Mexico had more foreign allies in 1848 than in 1836.
- J** A peace treaty allowed the United States to annex the Republic of Texas in 1821.



China's position as the top emitter of greenhouse gases was a direct result of —

- A** its increased reliance on industrial manufacturing
- B** its measures to nationalize the agricultural and manufacturing sectors
- C** the migration of people from the country's urban areas to its rural areas
- D** its policy of promoting public transportation

48 During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Europeans migrated to the Americas in part because —

- F** the Americas contained an abundance of fertile land
- G** an epidemic was spreading in European cities
- H** Protestant religions were banned in the Americas
- J** the institution of slavery had been outlawed in several European countries

Al-Faatir Mosque, Chicago



The presence of this type of building in the United States is an example of how a country's culture can be modified through —

- A** assimilation
- B** cultural divergence
- C** cultural imperialism
- D** diffusion

Thousands of people from . . . Oregon, Mexico, Chile, Peru and China headed for California in the summer and fall of 1848, before Americans on the East Coast had a clue of what was to come. Europeans would soon follow. . . .

By 1849, the non-native population of California had grown to almost 100,000 people. Nearly two-thirds were Americans.

—The American Experience, *www.pbs.org* (accessed January 3, 2011)

This population change occurred in California because —

- F** new agricultural technology increased crop yields
- G** foreign governments enacted environmental-protection policies
- H** new sources of gold were discovered
- J** foreign governments exploited all sources of raw materials

-
- 51** The 1989 parliamentary elections in Poland demonstrated that which of the following was occurring in Eastern Europe?
- A** A shift toward totalitarianism
 - B** The diffusion of democratic ideals
 - C** The unification of the communist satellite states
 - D** A movement to abolish constitutional monarchies

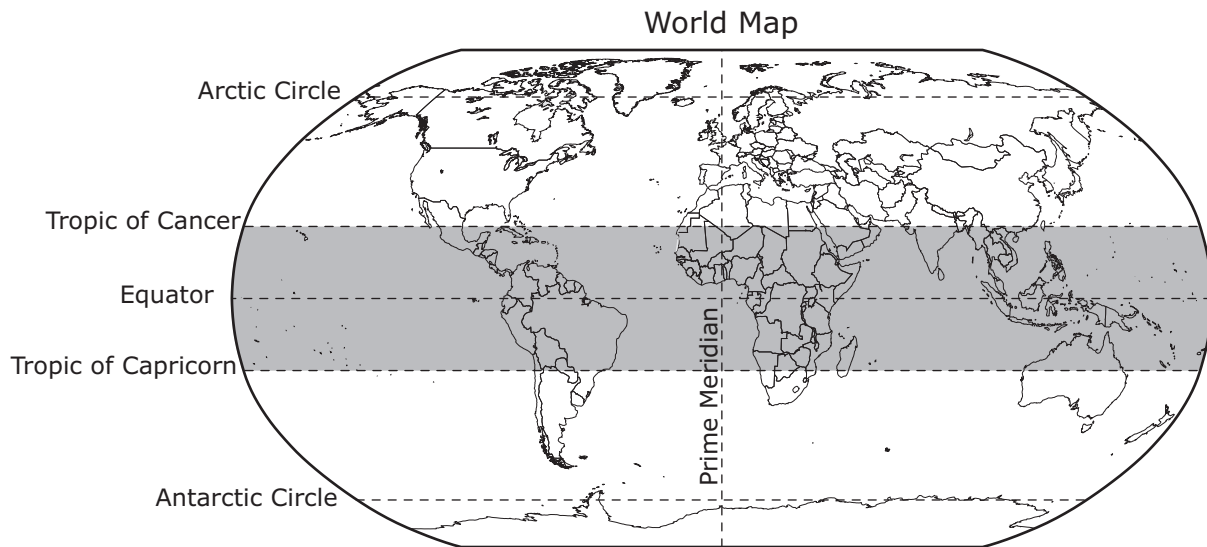
Martin Duspohl, curator of Berlin's Kreuzberg Museum, said that there had been a lot of visible changes since [Turkish] immigrants arrived in Germany.

Giving examples from the readers' letters sent to German newspapers in the 1960s, Duspohl said, "In those letters, they used to say: 'It's incredible, immigrants sit on the lawn in public parks, they just put their blankets and sit down.' People were annoyed, because you don't touch the public green! Now, when you go to public parks, you find everybody sitting outside and they all have their barbecues."

—World Bulletin, *January 6, 2010*

This excerpt describes an example of —

- F** the environmental benefits of public works programs
- G** the cultural influence of immigrants on a community
- H** respect for public space within a community
- J** the importance of assimilation for recent immigrants



Which characteristic is common to all the countries located in the shaded region on this map?

- A** A warm climate
- B** Coniferous forests
- C** The widespread practice of Hinduism
- D** The use of a Romance language

54 Which challenge of globalization is demonstrated by the rapid spread of SARS in 2003 and the H1N1 flu in 2009?

- F** Cultural movements that limit vaccinations for children
- G** Health problems caused by decreased government funding
- H** Accelerated transmission of viruses due to increased travel
- J** Improved sanitation resulting in resistant strains of viruses

- 55** Which argument would an opponent of the construction of a new nuclear power plant most likely use?
- A** There are limited supplies of nonrenewable resources.
 - B** The demand for electric power is growing.
 - C** There is an unacceptable risk of radiation exposure.
 - D** The use of fossil fuels creates air pollution.

-
- 56** Earth's Arctic biome is located above 66°N latitude. Which statement best explains why low-growing plants in this biome thrive only in the spring and summer months?
- F** Excessive levels of precipitation in early spring cause frequent floods in the biome.
 - G** The biome receives the greatest amount of solar energy during the spring and summer months.
 - H** The permafrost in the biome traps toxic levels of carbon dioxide during the winter months.
 - J** Year-round human activity disrupts the life cycles of native organisms in the biome.

Boxing Day is a holiday traditionally celebrated the day after Christmas in some countries. Some people celebrate by plunging into the ice-cold waters of the North Sea or nearby frozen lakes and rivers.

The Boxing Day celebration described above is most likely a cultural tradition of which region?

- A** Southwest Asia
- B** North Africa
- C** Northern Europe
- D** Central America

In just 20 years, since market forces were unleashed by economic reforms begun in 1978, life for many urban Chinese has changed drastically. A recent survey of 12 major cities showed that 97 percent of the respondents had televisions, and 88 percent had refrigerators and washing machines. Another study revealed that farmers are eating 48 percent more meat each year and 400 percent more fruit. *Cosmopolitan* magazine . . . is read by 260,000 Chinese women every month.

—Erla Zwinger, "A World Together," *National Geographic*, August 1999

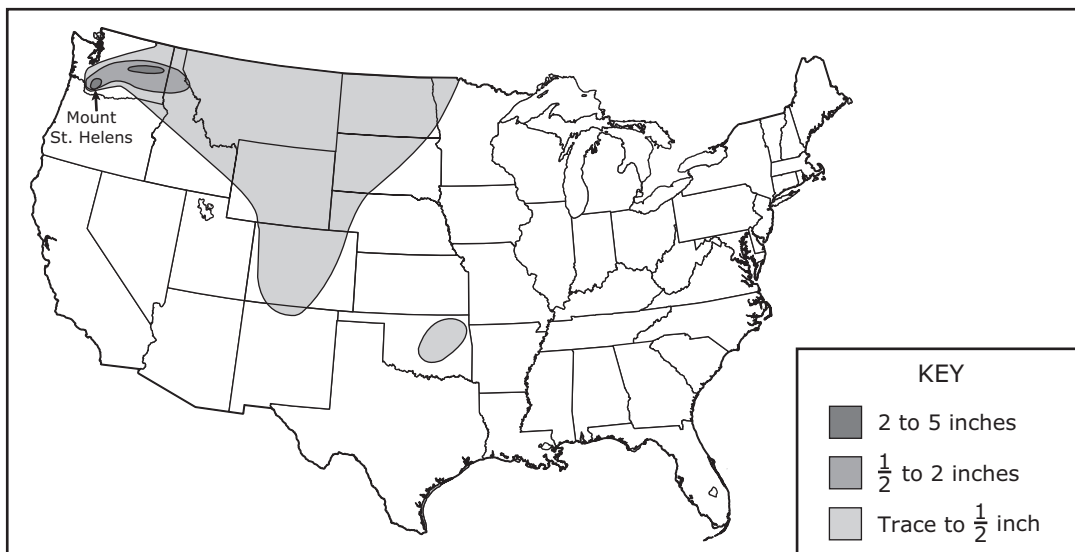
The changes described in this excerpt took place in China as a result of —

- F** an adherence to environmentally sustainable practices
- G** declining consumer demand for luxury household items
- H** the adoption of certain free-enterprise principles
- J** a transition to a new political system

- 59 Which physical process formed the landform along the northeastern border of India?
- A The deposition of sediment by floods
 - B The eruption of active volcanoes
 - C The erosion of surfaces by wind
 - D The collision of tectonic plates

60

Fallout Distribution of Ash from the 1980 Eruption of Mount St. Helens



Which newspaper headline would be most associated with this event?

- F Threat of Mudflows Nonexistent for Residents
- G Higher Than Average Crop Yields Expected This Season
- H Water Toxin Levels at All-Time Lows
- J Reports of Respiratory Problems Among Children Increase

61 Which two factors have the greatest effect on climate?

- A** Longitude and vegetation
- B** Latitude and distance from water
- C** Soil type and altitude
- D** Mountain barriers and amount of arable land

62 Which of these represents the best example of a culture being maintained?

- F** Teachers encourage students to learn a second language.
- G** Parents enroll their children in foreign-exchange programs.
- H** Siblings take part in similar school activities.
- J** Grandparents teach their grandchildren to cook family recipes.

- 63** What was one direct result of the Columbian Exchange?
- A** Europeans began to use horses to plow fields.
 - B** American Indians built large urban centers.
 - C** American Indians adopted European artistic techniques.
 - D** Europeans spread diseases to American Indians.

64

Average Temperatures in Rome

Month	Daily Average High Temperature (°C)
January	11
July	30

One reason for the difference between these temperatures is —

- F** the amount of carbon dioxide present in the atmosphere
- G** the tilt of Earth on its axis
- H** the tidal pull of the moon
- J** the distance between Earth and the sun

- 65** Which of these describes one way England changed as a result of the Industrial Revolution?
- A** The economy became heavily dependent on commercial agriculture.
 - B** Towns near supplies of natural resources were abandoned.
 - C** Urban areas grew as more jobs became available.
 - D** The amount of goods produced in factories declined.

Aerial View of Center Pivot (Circular)
Irrigation Fields



This pattern of land use has resulted in —

- F** the widespread cultivation of crops in arid regions
- G** dependence on government subsidy programs in less-developed countries
- H** increased availability of desert home sites
- J** the recharge of aquifers in arid regions

- 67** Two major reasons that Saudi Arabia is important to many people around the world are —
- A** its economic equality and large universities
 - B** its free markets and commercial agriculture
 - C** its religious sites and oil resources
 - D** its armed forces and modern cities

-
- 68** What was the main reason Jews left Europe in the years before 1948?
- F** They were seeking better educational opportunities.
 - G** They were trying to escape persecution and discrimination.
 - H** They were fleeing harsh weather conditions.
 - J** They were searching for jobs and economic prosperity.



**STAAR
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