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CLEP History of the United States I Exam



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Question: 1

Place the following events related to Spanish colonization in their proper order. Place the earliest event first.

- I. The Treaty of Tordesillas divides the New World between Spain and Portugal
- II. Pizarro invades the Incan empire
- III. Balboa explores Panama
- IV. Cortés conquers the Aztec Empire.

- A. I, II, IV, III
- B. III, IV, I, II
- C. I, IV, III, II
- D. IV, III, II, I
- E. I, III, IV, II

Answer: E

Explanation:

The 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas predated Balboa's 1513 Panamanian expedition, Cortés's 1519-1521 incursion into the Aztec empire, and Pizarro's 1532 destruction of the Tawantinsuyu.

Question: 2

All of the following were reasons for disagreement over the legitimacy of British taxation EXCEPT

- A. a lack of colonial representation in Parliament.
- B. different perceptions of a separation of powers between Parliament and colonial legislatures.
- C. the changeability of the English constitution and the set-in-stone quality of colonial charters.
- D. different interests of colonial merchants and British joint-stock companies.
- E. a split over the legitimacy of the French and Indian War.

Answer: E

Explanation:

Colonial opposition to post-French and Indian War taxes can be summarized by the call, "No taxation without representation!" Colonial legislatures considered it their duty to tax goods in the colonies since they, and not Parliament, were elected by the colonists. England had no written constitution but instead, a commonly agreed upon set of principles and the rich history of precedent. Colonial state charters were written and inflexible, while the English constitution was malleable in the sense that Parliament could pass any law it currently thought necessary to meet the current need. Taxes benefitted untaxed British joint-stock companies such as the East India Company, but hurt local merchants in the

colonies. However, both British and colonial troops fought in the French and Indian War, so opposition did not divide the British and the colonists.

Question: 3

During the Second Constitutional Convention, the Connecticut plan was developed as a compromise to the plans of which two colonies?

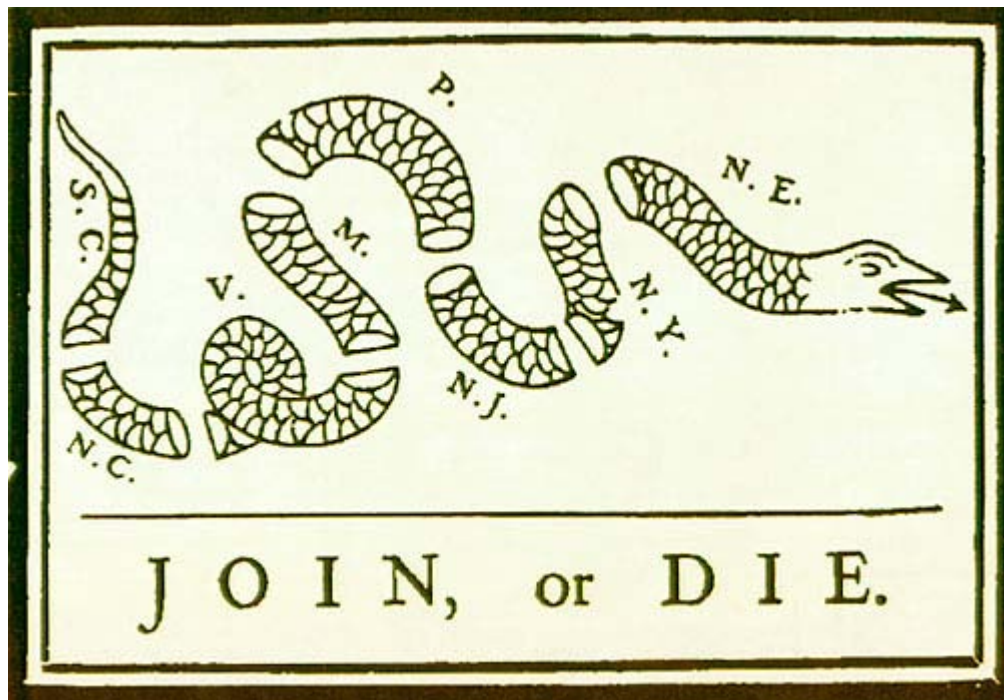
- A. Pennsylvania and Virginia
- B. New Jersey and New York
- C. Georgia and South Carolina
- D. New Jersey and Virginia
- E. Massachusetts and Pennsylvania

Answer: D

Explanation:

The three plans that were brought up during the Second Constitutional Convention were the New Jersey plan, which favored less populous states; the Virginia plan, which favored more populous states; and the Connecticut plan, which attempted to appeal to both categories of states and provided for two houses of the legislature, one house whose membership was based on the population of the state and the other house made up of an equal number of representatives for all the states.

Question: 4



In Ben Franklin's Join, or Die cartoon, which of the original thirteen states is not represented?

- A. Massachusetts
- B. Vermont
- C. Georgia
- D. Virginia
- E. New York

Answer: C

Explanation:

Vermont was not one of the original 13 colonies. Massachusetts is represented as part of New England, along with Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, near the head of the snake. Virginia and New York have their own segments, but Georgia (though one of the original 13 colonies) is excluded.

Question: 5

What is salutary neglect?

- A. High taxation levels on British colonies without representation in Parliament
- B. Establishment of independent colonial legislatures
- C. A laissez-faire attitude towards colonial government
- D. Colonial indifference to British taxation
- E. Relaxed enforcement of British colonial laws related to foreign trade

Answer: E

Explanation:

Salutary neglect refers to Britain's unwritten policy of not enforcing international trade laws for its colonies. The Navigation Act had required the American colonies to only trade with England. All trade goods had to be sent on British ships. If trade was going to another country, the ship had to pass through a British port first in order for a tax or duty to be assessed. A benign blind eye was turned to American foreign trade because it resulted in a higher standard of living in the colonies and therefore more money flowing to Britain. Also, it meant that fewer enforcement officers had to be employed, which saved money. Many of the officials appointed to enforce these laws were also very favorable to local colonial interests and therefore did not put forth much effort to enforce the laws. When this policy was changed and new taxes imposed, the colonies strongly resisted, resulting in the revolutionary war.

Question: 6

Which of the following best describes the role of women in the American Revolution?

- A. Because America was still a patriarchal society, women were considered weaker and needed to be protected from the war.
- B. Women helped directly on the battlefield and fought beside the men on a regular basis.
- C. Women played a wide variety of roles, including cooks, seamstresses, nurses, maids, spies, launderers, and even secret soldiers

- D. They were not permitted near the battle lines, or the army camps, but could send help in the form of clothing and food.
- E. They were required to remain at home in order to raise their children while the men were off fighting

Answer: C

Explanation:

America was a patriarchal society, but the colonists were strong people and everybody had to help. Women were never formally considered for active military duty and in many cases the men might say that the primary role of a married woman with children was to remain home and raise them. However, many of the women with no way to support themselves and no form of protection often followed the army camps and provided what help they could. This help often took the form of nurse, seamstress, cook, maid, launderer, spy, and in some cases, secret soldiers. Those caught impersonating a male soldier were usually imprisoned, though there were a few recorded cases where men assigned to cannon batteries had the aid of their wives with them on the battlefield. Women filled many different roles during the American Revolutionary War.

Question: 7

Who would agree most with the aims of the Boston Tea Party?

- A. Quebecois Francophones
- B. Redcoats
- C. American Tories
- D. Yankee merchants
- E. Southern farmers

Answer: D

Explanation:

American Tories and Redcoats were strongly opposed to the Boston Tea Party. while Quebecois Francophones and Southern farmers were generally indifferent as it didn't impact them directly. Yankee merchants, however were directly affected by and hence strongly opposed to the Tea Act, and thus in favor of the Boston Tea Party.

Question: 8

Which two crops dominated Southern agriculture in the early 1700s?

- A. Tobacco and Wheat
- B. Rice and Tobacco
- C. Cotton and Rice
- D. Corn and Rice
- E. Tobacco and Peaches

Answer: B

Explanation:

Cotton and peaches did not become significant in Southern agriculture until the 1800s. Chesapeake Bay tobacco and Carolina rice were major cash crops (along with Indian) during the colonial period. Most of the food for the nation was grown in the mid-Atlantic colonies. The manufacturing took place in the North East. Because of its long growing season, the South turned to cash crops intended for export.

Question: 9

The French and Indian War was significant because it

- A. directly led to the collapse of the British empire in North America.
- B. prompted a change in the British view toward the colonies' role in the empire
- C. renewed French hostility toward Great Britain.
- D. united the colonies against British policies.
- E. ended Spanish influence in the western hemisphere.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The French and Indian War, although a British victory, generated large amounts of war debt for Great Britain. This in turn prompted the British to take a more active role in colonial government, ending salutary neglect and raising taxes in an effort to make the colonies more productive as a source of revenue to retire the debt. It fell predominantly on the American colonies because they were the direct beneficiaries of the British victory. As a result, both the British and the colonists viewed each other differently, and acted less independently. This change in view and practice would lead ultimately to the revolutionary war and American independence.

Question: 10

"As Europe is our market for trade. we ought to form no partial connection with any part of it. It is the true interest of America to steer clear of European contentions. Europe is too thickly planted with kingdoms to be long at peace. and whenever a war breaks out between England and any foreign power, the trade of America goes to ruin, because of her connection with Britain..." The sentiment of this passage best echoes:

- A. Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty" speech
- B. The Federalist Papers
- C. Washington's Farewell Address
- D. The Articles of Confederation
- E. The Declaration of Independence

Answer: C

Explanation:

This passage is taken from Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and argues against being entangled with European nations. The sentiments are similar to Washington's reservations about entangling alliances expressed during his farewell address.

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