

Early Presidents Practice Questions

- 1 Thomas Jefferson opposed Alexander Hamilton's plan to create a national bank primarily because the plan would
- (1) weaken the nation's currency
 - (2) increase the national debt
 - (3) promote the interests of farmers
 - (4) depend on a loose interpretation of the Constitution**
- 2 Which Supreme Court case best completes the partial outline below?
- I. _____
- A. Heard under Chief Justice John Marshall
 - B. Established judicial review
 - C. Strengthened the judiciary
- (1) Marbury v. Madison (1803)**
 - (2) McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
 - (3) Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)
 - (4) Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857)
- 3 During the presidency of George Washington, disagreements between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson over the interpretation of the Constitution contributed to the
- (1) impeachment of federal judges
 - (2) defeat of the Whiskey Rebellion
 - (3) formation of political parties**
 - (4) elimination of the commerce clause
- 4 The War of 1812 has been called the "Second War for American Independence" primarily because the
- (1) British blocked United States access to the port of New Orleans
 - (2) United States continued to resist taxes imposed by Great Britain
 - (3) British government had never fully respected the United States as a free nation**
 - (4) United States and Great Britain had not signed a peace treaty after the Revolutionary War
- 5 One result of the War of 1812 was that the United States
- (1) acquired French-held territory in southern Canada
 - (2) maintained its independence and its territory**
 - (3) lost control of the Ohio River valley
 - (4) gained territory from Mexico
- 6 Which heading best completes the partial outline below?
- I. _____
- A. Creation of a national bank
 - B. Full funding of the national debt
 - C. Collection of an excise tax on whiskey
- (1) The Spoils System
 - (2) The American System
 - (3) Hamilton's Financial Plan**
 - (4) Constitutional Amendments
- 7 The Supreme Court decisions in *Gibbons v. Ogden* and *Northern Securities Co. v. United States* were based on the federal government's power to
- (1) issue patents
 - (2) control the stock market
 - (3) regulate interstate commerce**
 - (4) encourage technological development
- 8 One reason President George Washington called for a policy of neutrality in the 1790s was to
- (1) improve his popularity among Federalist voters
 - (2) avoid United States participation in European wars**
 - (3) gain support for the development of a United States navy
 - (4) enforce the Treaty of Alliance with France
- 9 The establishment of the president's cabinet as part of the United States government was the result of a
- (1) law passed by Congress
 - (2) constitutional amendment
 - (3) precedent started by George Washington**
 - (4) ruling of the United States Supreme Court
- 10 A major criticism of the electoral college system has been that
- (1) party loyalty is weakened after a presidential election
 - (2) electors frequently fail to vote for a candidate
 - (3) members of the electoral college are appointed for life terms
 - (4) a president may be elected without receiving the majority of the popular vote**

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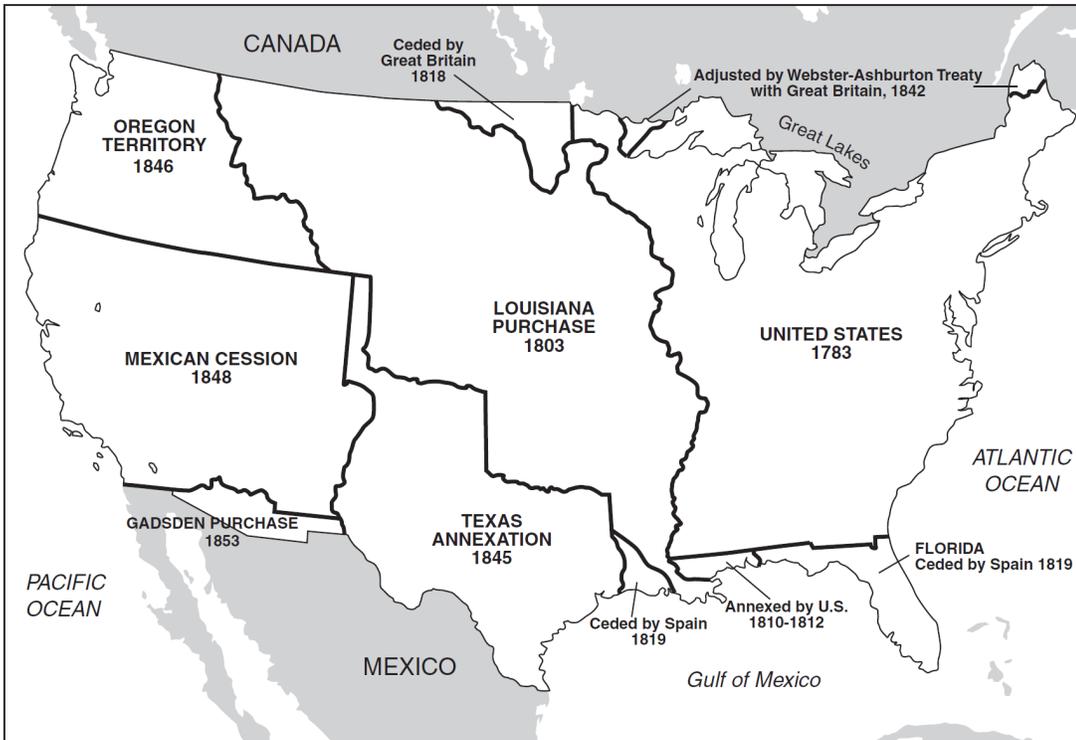
- 11 What was a direct cause of the War of 1812?
- (1) the acquisition of Florida
 - (2) American trade pacts with Spain
 - (3) British impressment of American soldiers**
 - (4) Napoleon's rise in France
- 12 Most historians consider Alexander Hamilton to have been a successful Secretary of the Treasury because he
- (1) expanded trade with all nations
 - (2) established a sound financial plan for the new nation**
 - (3) eliminated tariffs between the states
 - (4) opposed payment of previous federal government debts
- 13 Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton supported the creation of the Bank of the United States because it would
- (1) increase the power of state banks
 - (2) raise revenue to reduce the need for tariffs
 - (3) help ensure the economic stability of the new nation**
 - (4) provide low-cost loans to farmers
- 14 President George Washington pursued a foreign policy of neutrality during his administration primarily because he believed that
- (1) the United States needed time to gain economic and military strength**
 - (2) treaties were prohibited by the Constitution
 - (3) the United States should not expand by force
 - (4) alliances should be established with both France and England
- 15 The outcome of the Whiskey Rebellion (1794) strengthened the authority of the
- (1) national government**
 - (2) state governors
 - (3) territorial legislatures
 - (4) local police
- 16 From 1798 to 1800, following the XYZ Affair, the United States waged an undeclared Naval War against which country?
- (1) France**
 - (2) Great Britain
 - (3) Portugal
 - (4) Spain
- 17 One important goal of the Monroe Doctrine (1823) was to
- (1) reduce trade barriers between the United States and African nations
 - (2) establish United States colonies and naval bases in the Caribbean
 - (3) provide military assistance to help the Philippines gain independence from Spain
 - (4) prevent former colonial powers from taking over Latin American nations**
- 18 In the United States, Federal judges hold office for life to
- (1) decrease political interference in their decisions**
 - (2) gain experience in their jobs
 - (3) develop a judicial philosophy which is consistent with that of other judges
 - (4) have the opportunity to view the long-term results of their decisions
- 19 One feature common to the foreign policies of Presidents George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson was that each wanted to
- (1) favor France in its conflict with Great Britain
 - (2) secure new territory west of the Mississippi River
 - (3) maintain neutrality during European conflict**
 - (4) seek military alliances with neighboring countries
- 20 The importance of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) is that the Court
- (1) decided on the legality of state taxation of federal property
 - (2) allowed for the influence of political parties in the passage of laws
 - (3) refused to expand federal power over interstate trade
 - (4) established the power of judicial review of federal laws**
- 21 How did Alexander Hamilton's financial plan help to establish the credit of the United States Government?
- (1) by providing for the payment of the nation's debts**
 - (2) by taxing only the people most able to pay
 - (3) by favoring agriculture over industry
 - (4) by encouraging spending for national defense

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- 22 What were two key precedents established by George Washington during his presidency?
- (1) aid to farmers and the end of the slave trade
 - (2) universal male suffrage and support for political parties
 - (3) foreign policy of neutrality and the use of presidential advisors**
 - (4) protective tariffs and foreign alliances during peacetime
- 23 What is a major result of the Supreme Court decisions in *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) and *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824)?
- (1) Abuses of power by the president were prevented.
 - (2) The powers of the federal government were expanded.**
 - (3) The powers of Congress over the territories were reduced.
 - (4) Freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights were restricted.
- 24 Which action during Washington's administration led to the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania?
- (1) passage of a new excise tax**
 - (2) establishment of a presidential cabinet
 - (3) creation of the Bank of the United States
 - (4) ban on slavery in the Northwest Territory
- 25 An example of a primary source of information about the War of 1812 would be a
- (1) battle plan for the attack on Fort McHenry**
 - (2) historical novel on the Battle of New Orleans
 - (3) movie on the life of President James Madison
 - (4) textbook passage on the naval engagements of the war
- 26 The major purpose of the Monroe Doctrine (1823) was to
- (1) create a military alliance for the defense of North America
 - (2) guarantee democratic governments in Latin America
 - (3) secure new colonies in the Caribbean
 - (4) limit European influence in the Western Hemisphere**
- 27 One factor that led to the formation of the first two political parties in the United States in the 1790s was the conflict over the
- (1) distribution of power between the federal and state governments**
 - (2) spread of slavery into the western territories
 - (3) control of interstate commerce
 - (4) acquisition of lands from France and Spain
- 28
- 29 A geographic and economic motivation for the Louisiana Purchase (1803) was the desire to
- (1) annex California
 - (2) secure land for the Erie Canal
 - (3) control the port of New Orleans**
 - (4) own all of the Great Lakes
- 30 The legal basis for the United States purchase of the Louisiana Territory was the
- (1) power granted to the President to make treaties**
 - (2) President's power as Commander in Chief
 - (3) authority of Congress to declare war
 - (4) Senate's duty to approve the appointment of ambassadors
- 31 The Preamble of the United States Constitution was written to
- (1) outline the organization of the government
 - (2) protect the people from abuses of the Federal Government
 - (3) describe the purposes of the government**
 - (4) provide for ways to amend the Constitution

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32 Base your answer to the following question on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Robert A. Divine et al., *America: Past and Present*, Scott, Foresman (adapted)

The Louisiana Purchase was important to the United States because it

- (1) expanded the nation's boundary to the Pacific Ocean
- (2) removed the Spanish from North America
- (3) closed the western territories to slavery
- (4) secured control of the Mississippi River**

33 Alexander Hamilton urged Congress to pass a protective tariff to encourage the growth of what area?

- (1) labor unions
- (2) manufacturing**
- (3) agriculture
- (4) slavery

34 The Supreme Court decisions in *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, and *Wabash v. Illinois* dealt with

- (1) freedom of speech
- (2) equal protection under the law
- (3) the supremacy of the National Government**
- (4) the rights of labor unions.

35 As Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton was most noted for

- (1) devising a plan to pay off the nation's debts**
- (2) beginning a system to tax exports
- (3) arranging necessary loans from European nations
- (4) raising revenue from the sale of western lands

36 In the United States Constitution, the power to impeach a federal government official is given to the

- (1) House of Representatives**
- (2) president
- (3) state legislatures
- (4) Supreme Court

37 "The individual can be free *only* when the power of one governmental branch is balanced by the other two."

—Baron de Montesquieu, 1735
(adapted)

The idea expressed in this quotation is best illustrated by which aspect of the United States Government?

- (1) existence of a Cabinet
- (2) separation of powers**
- (3) elastic clause
- (4) executive branch

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38 The creation of the first political parties in the United States resulted from a controversy over

- (1) declaring independence from Great Britain
- (2) recognizing women's equality
- (3) expanding slavery into the newly acquired territories
- (4) interpreting the Constitution**

39 In deciding to purchase the Louisiana Territory, President Thomas Jefferson had to overcome the problem of

- (1) obtaining the support of Western settlers
- (2) passing the constitutional amendment necessary to authorize the purchase
- (3) avoiding a possible war with England over the purchase
- (4) contradicting his belief in a strict interpretation of the Constitution**

40 President George Washington's leadership during the Whiskey Rebellion (1794) was important because it

- (1) showed the ability of the new government to enforce federal law**
 - (2) helped assure his reelection to a third term
 - (3) forced frontier farmers to limit grain production
 - (4) halted British fort construction in the Northwest
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