

Multiple Choice Questions—The Uses of Geography

Answer Key

1. What is one of the main reasons cities began to evolve?
 - a. People wanted to live closer to the places where food was produced.
 - b. An agricultural surplus allowed people to settle down.
 - c. Kings ordered people to congregate together.
 - d. People wanted more opportunities to raise domestic animals.

answer: b
2. Which statement best describes people's perceptions of and attitudes toward places?
 - a. Most people change their perceptions of places many times throughout their lives.
 - b. Attitudes toward places tend to stay the same over generations.
 - c. Perceptions of certain types of places can change dramatically over just a few generations.
 - d. A place's environmental features usually determine the perceptions people have of that place.

answer: c
3. Which statement best describes the role of advertising in affecting perceptions of places?
 - a. Ads have been used to portray places as idyllic and to persuade people to visit those places.
 - b. Statistics show that ads have little overall impact on people's perceptions of places.
 - c. Ads are only effective when they show beautiful scenery.
 - d. The railroads used ads primarily to encourage people to move to the West.

answer: a

4. How did early European settlers' attitudes toward the forest and its resources differ from Native Americans' attitudes toward the forest?
- a. Native Americans tended to view the forest as an obstacle to farming, while settlers tended to make more thorough use of the forest's resources.
 - b. Settlers appreciated the benefits of firewood to a greater degree than Native Americans did.
 - c. Settlers tended to view the forest as an obstacle to farming, while Native Americans tended to make more thorough use of the forest's resources.
 - d. Native Americans viewed the forest as dangerous, while settlers ventured deep into the forest to extract its resources.

answer: c

5. Which of the following events would have least likely affected the outcome of a single battle in the American Revolution?
- a. the weather
 - b. the locations and routes of rivers
 - c. the locations of settlements of Native Americans friendly to the colonists
 - d. a plague of locusts

answer: d

6. Historically, what has been one of the most significant factors people have considered when determining where to settle?
- a. whether the soil contains enough nitrogen
 - b. how often swarms of locusts arrive
 - c. whether anyone has farmed the land in the past
 - d. the location of water sources

answer: d

7. Which factor probably did not play a major role in the "success" of the triangular trade, from the point of view of European colonists and slave traders?
- a. the work habits of African slaves
 - b. wind patterns
 - c. soil quality in the American Southeast
 - d. the existence of a sea route from Europe to Africa

answer: a

8. If you look at a map of counties in Illinois and a map of counties of Virginia, what would you expect to be the main difference?

- a. There would be no noticeable difference.
- b. Illinois' counties would appear more rectangular than Virginia's.
- c. Virginia would have much larger counties than those in Illinois.
- d. Virginia's counties would be more rectangular than those in Illinois.

answer: b

9. Which of the following statements is true?

- a. More people suffer from liver disease in affluent areas than in poorer areas.
- b. Liver disease in rural Virginia can be attributed to high rates of smoking.
- c. People in rural Virginia tend to suffer from higher rates of liver disease than people in suburban Virginia.
- d. There is no correlation between where a person lives and his or her health.

answer: c

10. What is one disadvantage of solar power?

- a. The equipment used to harness it is rather expensive and not readily available to most people.
- b. It's very difficult to determine the best places to locate solar panels.
- c. The technology does not exist for solar power to be widely used.
- d. No city officials are qualified enough to assess the benefits of solar power.

answer: a

11. What is one important geographic factor to take into account when determining where to locate a major new facility (e.g., a hospital, a power plant) in a town?

- a. how often the facility will need to be renovated
- b. who will manage the facility
- c. when to set the construction deadline
- d. the location of water sources

answer: d

12. Imagine that you're in charge of deciding where to allocate money for a local or regional transportation project. Which of the following would probably not prove useful in helping you determine where to spend this money?
- a. analyzing transportation usage in another city to see what works there
 - b. taking a survey of townspeople's opinions about transportation changes they'd like to see
 - c. analyzing the locations of another city's power plants
 - d. analyzing current transportation patterns and usage in your town

answer: c

13. Why are scientific models helpful in planning for the future?
- a. They help us understand the layout of the current infrastructure.
 - b. They enable us to predict different outcomes based on different scenarios.
 - c. They help us better understand historic trends.
 - d. They let us know with certainty how things will be in 50 years.

answer: b

14. If current rates of deforestation continue, satellite images of the tropical rain forest in 100 years will be:
- a. about the same as today
 - b. much more red than today
 - c. much more purple than today
 - d. much more greenish-gray than today

answer: d

15. Which statement about ecotourism is true?
- a. Some ecotourism hotels are more environmentally conscious than others.
 - b. Most ecotourism hotels emphasize birdwatching.
 - c. Costa Rica has not been particularly successful in its ecotourism initiatives.
 - d. An avid hiker would probably be bored on an ecotourism tour.

answer: a

16. Which of the following is not a likely environmental impact resulting from building a beach resort with many hotels?

- a. Coral reefs might suffer from the extra “traffic” of scuba divers and snorkelers.
- b. If the hotels are not careful, raw sewage could escape into the ocean.
- c. Sea turtles who typically lay eggs on the beach will have fewer places to nest.
- d. If the resort is “eco-friendly” enough, the beach and coastal ecosystems may actually improve.

answer: d

17. Which of the following statements best describes the human impacts of large-scale resort tourism in a developing country?

- a. Most tourists make donations to social welfare funds in the countries they visit.
- b. Large Western corporations tend to shy away from investing in resorts in developing countries.
- c. Many new jobs get created, but the towns in which the resorts are located don’t often see improvements to their infrastructures or achieve a higher quality of life for residents.
- d. Most tourists get to know the locals and learn some of their language.

answer: c

18. Which of the following is not an example of a step that towns commonly take to improve their physical environments?

- a. adding more lanes to freeways in order to improve traffic
- b. designing greenbelts in or around the town
- c. improving water quality
- d. encouraging people to bike to work

answer: a

19. What of the following is true about the mandate for how the National Park Service should manage and use America’s national parks?

- a. The mandate for the National Park Service calls for the parks to be privatized.
- b. The mandate for the National Park Service calls for the parks to do whatever is necessary to increase tourism.
- c. The mandate for the National Park Service calls for the parks to be preserved in their wild state but also to be accessible for people’s enjoyment.
- d. The mandate for the National Park Service calls for the parks to be as accessible as possible to people with various types of disabilities.

answer: c

20. Which of the following provides an example of how different people can have different perceptions of a place?
- a. Jim can't wait to visit Yellowstone National Park, and his kids are getting pretty excited about it too.
 - b. Samantha loved reading all about the tropical rainforest, but when she got to Brazil she couldn't stand the humidity, heat, and insects.
 - c. Larry will never visit Death Valley again after he nearly died of heatstroke there last summer.
 - d. Maria loves her hometown but resents the tourists who come in their fancy cars and spend little money. Jose is one of those tourists, and he thinks the town is a great place to buy a soda, take a scenic picture, and then leave for a prettier town up the road.

answer: d