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World Hist- ory

Volume 1
to 1500

OpenStax *World History*, Volume 1, to 1500 Test Bank

Chapter 1: Understanding the Past

Review Questions

Multiple Choice

1. The study of history will enhance which skills desired by employers?

- A. reading and business writing
- B. critical thinking and analytical ability*
- C. public speaking and attentive listening
- D. research and professional development

Difficulty: Moderate

2. This textbook maintains a chronological order from ancient to modern times in an effort to maintain which one of the following purposes?

- A. reader interest
- B. the historical storyline
- C. clarity*
- D. historical accuracy

Difficulty: Difficult

3. Which of the following items would be considered a secondary source of information?

- A. a biography of George Washington*
- B. a newspaper article announcing the upcoming funeral arrangements for George Washington
- C. military documents signed by George Washington
- D. a pair of shoes worn by George Washington

Difficulty: Easy

4. What is meant by the concept of “hidden history”?

- A. written historical records banned by a ruling government
- B. historical topics few have been interested in researching
- C. rare documents and publications too difficult to locate
- D. experiences of groups who have been ignored in historical research*

Difficulty: Difficult

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5. The search for causation leads historians to investigate which of the following focuses of research?

- A. the immediate and long-term circumstances of a specific event*
- B. how previous historians interpreted a specific event
- C. how many books have been previously published on a specific event
- D. the initial stages of a specific event

Difficulty: Moderate

True/False

6. The main purpose of studying history is to justify the actions of previous generations.

Answer: False

The main purpose of studying history is to better understand ourselves and change for the better.

Difficulty: Moderate

7. The feature box type identified as “Beyond the Book” will provide students the opportunity to evaluate history through art and architectural objects.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Easy

8. Wikipedia or an encyclopedia would be considered a weak source for academic research because neither provides the depth of information and detail for such research.

Answer: True

Difficulty: Easy

9. In history, the term *causation* refers to government policies.

Answer: False.

It refers to the “why” behind events.

Difficulty: Moderate

10. The tertiary level of causation includes the results of the historical event.

Answer: False

Tertiary level refers to the overall cause of the historical event.

Difficulty: Difficult

Identification

- A. media literacy
- B. feature boxes
- C. historiography
- D. rhetoric
- E. intellectual history

11. These sections of the textbook include documents and images from the eras under discussion in each chapter.

Answer: B. feature boxes

Difficulty: Easy

12. This is the process in which words are put together to influence the reading audience.

Answer: D. rhetoric

Difficulty: Moderate

13. Development of this skill is identified as critical to the workplace.

Answer: A. media literacy

Difficulty: Moderate

14. This is the study of how historians studied, interpreted, and wrote about the past.

Answer: C. historiography

Difficulty: Easy

15. This is the study of philosophical questions and the history of human thought.

Answer: E. intellectual history

Difficulty: Moderate

Fill in the Blank

16. Historians observe and gather information so they can interpret data to _____.

Answer: draw conclusions

Difficulty: Moderate

17. Chapter 1 of the textbook shows _____ as a writing style found in primary sources dealing with Ancient Egypt.

Answer: hieroglyphics

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Difficulty: Easy

18. Historians tend to believe _____ sources create a better narrative of the past.

Answer: written

Difficulty: Easy

19. The _____ level of causation is considered the spark, where the immediate cause for research is identified.

Answer: primary

Difficulty: Moderate

20. _____ history studies people at all levels in a society.

Answer: Social

Difficulty: Moderate

Short Answer Questions

21. According to the World Economic Forum, what are the top skills that employers value, and how can those skills be improved through the study of history?

Sample Answer: Studying history will improve analytical ability and critical and creative thinking. History teaches students how to assess the material they are reading and to present content in a meaningful and persuasive way. It also encourages a creative mindset that is flexible and open to interpretations and ideas outside our own worldview. Studying history encourages students to learn to communicate effectively. Studying history also helps to develop cultural awareness and empathy, which is necessary in the modern workplace.

Difficulty: Easy

22. What is “cultural competence?” According to the textbook, why would companies or corporations value employees with a strong understanding of world history and a global perspective?

Sample Answer: Cultural competence refers to being aware of and sensitive to differences among cultures. Today’s workplaces are very culturally diverse, and employees will have to learn how to respect, communicate with, and collaborate with people from other cultural backgrounds in order to work effectively. Studying world history will help to develop cultural competence.

Difficulty: Moderate

23. The textbook's feature boxes include "Dueling Voices" and "The Past Meets the Present." Explain how these two discussion opportunities could complement each other as you evaluate the historical information within a chapter.

Sample Answer: Dueling Voices feature boxes present either an ongoing historical debate or conflicting reports of the same event or idea that were written around the time it occurred or emerged. The Past Meets the Present feature boxes ask you to understand the connections between the material in the chapter and the present. These two types of feature boxes could complement one another. After reading a political discussion of the past, you could then evaluate how political discourse in the modern era remains somewhat the same or differs drastically.

Difficulty: Difficult

24. When analyzing a primary source, what are the key questions you should ask? Explain why those questions are important to understanding the source.

Sample Answer: When analyzing a primary source you should ask: what kind of source is it? Who authored the source and why? For whom was the source intended? When was the source created? What is the historical context? Knowing who authored the text will help you to detect bias that may affect how an event is depicted. A text that is meant to persuade people to do something may present events differently from a text that is simply meant to record what happened. A source that was meant to be public may leave out important details that might not present things in the best possible light. Knowing when a source was created and what else was happening at the time may indicate whether the author was exposed to particular influences or exposed to certain stresses, like a war or a health crisis.

Difficulty: Moderate

25. What is rhetorical stance, and why is it a concern when reading history?

Sample Answer: Rhetorical stance is an intentional effort to create a certain outcome or opinion. It uses biased wording or hides facts to encourage readers to reach a specific conclusion.

Difficulty: Moderate

26. Identify one or two groups that might have been overlooked and become part of "hidden history." Explain the concept and why or how these groups were not represented in the historical narrative.

Sample Answer: Primary sources tend to reflect the experiences of social elites because it was the elites who left most of the written sources. It is more difficult to learn about non-elites, like the poor, the enslaved, women, and members of minority communities, because few records talk about their experiences. Some regions of the world, like Latin America and Africa, are

difficult to studying because the indigenous inhabitants left few written records, and the records that do exist were often created by biased European colonizers.

Difficulty: Moderate

27. Define the term *social history* and give examples of the types of issues that this history would evaluate.

Sample Answer: Social history is a field of history that is guided by the concept that history is made by all people and not just elites. It focuses on people at all levels of society. It studies issues affecting all social classes, often including issues of gender.

Difficulty: Moderate

28. What are “social constructs,” and how do they influence historical studies?

Sample Answer: Social constructs are the ways people define roles and perceive themselves within a social context. Social constructs are ideas that have been created and accepted by the people in a society, such as the concepts of class distinction and gender. Social constructs influence the ways people think and behave. Historians may look at events through a Marxist lens of class struggle. The gender historian will focus on the role that social constructs of gender played in the lives of people in the past. And the postcolonialist will highlight why aspects of colonialism, such as racism and poverty, remain influential after independence.

Difficulty: Easy

29. Provide an example that demonstrates how bias can sometimes be of benefit in historical research. Present brief details to support the selected example.

Sample Answer: In the 1960s and 1970s, historians who were influenced by the counterculture and the politics of the era were interested in the history of non-elites and wanted to know more about the experiences of all people. This is when the study of women’s history or gender history began. Historians began to focus on the history of the working class, African American history, and the history of Indigenous peoples.

Difficulty: Difficult

30. Select an event in history and evaluate the spark, the surrounding issues, and the overall process of motivation through the identified three levels of causation.

Sample Answer: In 1453, Mehmed II laid siege to the city of Constantinople. The primary cause was that Mehmed II wanted to make a statement and achieve what no other sultan had been able to achieve. The secondary cause was that Constantinople was a great prize. Its conquest would send a clear message. The tertiary cause was the desire to expand. The Ottoman Empire had been expanding since its founding. Conquest served to bring new wealth and new people into the empire.

Difficulty: Difficult

Long Answer Questions

31. Maya Angelou suggested the study of history is an opportunity to meet the pain of the past and overcome it. Winston Churchill stated that history is a chronicle by the victors and is interpreted by those who wrote it. Others identify historical study as a path to know why we are the way we are. Of the three thoughts, which do you think is most accurate and why?

Sample Answer: The response could be influenced by an individual's connection to either the work of Angelou, the victories of Churchill, or possibly the third concept if there isn't an understanding of who Angelou or Churchill were in the realms of the historical narrative.

Difficulty: Easy

32. Explain the reasons why Wikipedia or an encyclopedia are not considered strong sources for academic research. Describe how these sources can be of initial help with a research topic.

Sample Answer:

- Wikipedia and encyclopedias are too basic in information. Research needs to include more than commonly known facts that usually are found in those sources.
- In the past, Wikipedia has also had problems because pages can be altered by anyone. While they have made some efforts to lock controversial pages and review content changes, not all pages are locked, and reviewers may not be content experts able to catch wrong or biased information when reviewing changes.
- The sources can be useful for an increased understanding of a topic before the actual research efforts get underway.

Difficulty: Moderate

33. Describe how images of the Hagia Sophia depict changes in society throughout centuries. How can that evaluation process be used with personal photographs of your own life and family through the years?

Sample Answer:

- When the Hagia Sophia was originally constructed in the sixth century it contained elements of Byzantine architecture, including arches and the domed roof. It also contained Christian iconography.
- When Mehmet II conquered Constantinople in 1453, he added Islamic details to the building, such as minarets, and placed Arabic writing beside the Greek iconography.
- Today, medallions with Arabic writing cover the Greek iconography during prayer times.
- Changes in society can also be seen in personal photographs of oneself and one's family. Details such as clothing fashions, hairstyles, and models of cars and household

appliances indicate the period when a photograph was made and reveal the influence of fashion trends and technological developments.

Difficulty: Difficult

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