

APS 6th Grade Social Studies Assessment Items

GEOGRAPHY DOMAIN

SS6G1a

1. The Andes and the Sierra Madres are
 - A. mountain ranges in Latin America.*
 - B. located on South America's coast.
 - C. regions of great mineral wealth.
 - D. all sparsely populated regions.

SS6G2a

2. Which country has the largest area of remaining rainforest in the world?
 - A. Argentina
 - B. Mexico
 - C. Brazil*
 - D. Colombia

SS6G2a

3. Brazil's rainforests are increasingly in danger of destruction. Which of the following statements explains one reason for this danger?
 - A. The Amazon River usually floods and destroys the rainforests.
 - B. The indigenous people believe the rainforests are home to evil spirits.
 - C. Forest vegetation can only handle so much rain.
 - D. Logging and farmland use have contributed to deforestation.*

SS6G3a

4. The Andes Mountains run down the western side of South America. How does this mountain range affect trade?
 - A. No trade exists.
 - B. It enhances trade significantly.
 - C. It makes it difficult and limits trade.*
 - D. Trade is very productive in a country.

SS6G3b

5. The Amazon River has a major influence on the location of industry in South America. Why is it so important?
 - A. It provides a major trade route and creates fertile areas for farming.*
 - B. It determines what kinds of crops will grow and where.
 - C. It acts as a barrier between the eastern and western regions.
 - D. It inspires fear in the residents, causing them to live and work elsewhere.

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SS6G4b

6. In colonial times, Spain, Portugal, France, and England spread their languages and religions by means of cultural
- A. diversity.
 - B. exchange.
 - C. diffusion.*
 - D. experience.

SS6G4

7. When a person is literate, that means that the person can
- A read and write.*
 - B get a good job.
 - C have a greater standard of living.
 - D pay for his or her child's education.

SS6G4

8. Which is often an effect of a country having a high literacy rate?
- A a higher illiteracy rate
 - B lower education levels
 - C a lower standard of living
 - D a higher standard of living*

SS6G5a

9. What are the two large bodies of water that border Canada on the east and west coast?
- A. The Atlantic Ocean and Baffin Bay
 - B. The Hudson Bay and Pacific Ocean
 - C. The Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean
 - D. The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans*

SS6G6a

10. How has climate affected the way Canadians live?
- A. Few people live in the northern regions of Canada because of the cold climate.*
 - B. Few people live along the border of Canada and the United States because of cold climate.
 - C. Most people tend to migrate and live in the northern provinces of Canada.
 - D. Most people tend to migrate toward the Great Plains.

SSG6b

11. How does Canada's strategic position (location) in North America affect trade?
- A. It limits how much can be imported and exported.
 - B. It allows for an easier movement of goods and services between other countries.*
 - C. It causes a barrier between its neighboring countries.
 - D. It promotes some trading between provinces.

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SSG7a

12. Which of these is MOST LIKELY to be classified as a reason for Canadians' concern about pollution of the Great Lakes?

- A. The Great Lakes are a favorite Canadian tourist destination.
- B. The Great Lakes are a major source of Canada's drinking water.*
- C. Canadians prefer the beaches along the Great Lakes to those along the coast.
- D. Diving on shipwrecks is a growing Great Lakes sport which attracts divers from around the world.

SS6G8a

13. Which mountain range separates Europe from Russia?

- A. Alps
- B. Pyrenees
- C. Balkans
- D. Ural*

SS6G8b

14. Which country lies northwest of the European mainland?

- A. Germany
- B. Italy
- C. Spain
- D. United Kingdom*

SS6G9a

15. Where did the nuclear disaster happen in April 1986?

- A. Belarus
- B. Ukraine*
- C. Italy
- D. Russia

SS6G9a

16. What concerns did the Europeans have about the nuclear disaster?

- A. It lasted for a short period of time.
- B. Millions of children died immediately.
- C. It would affect the Ural Mountains.
- D. Radioactive materials spread into many European countries.*

SS6G9a

17. What environmental issue is affecting Germany's black forests?

- A. Air Pollution
- B. Acid Rain*
- C. Nuclear Disaster
- D. Water Pollution

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SS6G9a

18. Factories and car emissions are contributing to what environmental issue in the United Kingdom?
- A. Air Pollution*
 - B. Acid Rain
 - C. Nuclear Disaster
 - D. Water Pollution

SS6G10a

19. Stretching from southwestern France and southeastern England through Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Poland and into western Russia is an important physical feature. This area has some of the best soils in Europe causing many Europeans to live there. What is this physical feature called?
- A. The English Channel
 - B. The Great European Plain*
 - C. The Scandinavian Peninsula
 - D. The Iberian Peninsula

SS6G10b

20. Which mountain range in Europe provides water resources for France, Switzerland, and Italy?
- A. Alps*
 - B. Pyrenees
 - C. Balkans
 - D. Ural

SS6G11a

21. What languages are the common ones spoken in Europe?
- A. English, Dutch, Spanish and Russian
 - B. English, Spanish, German, and French*
 - C. Spanish, German, Dutch, and Romanian
 - D. Spanish, French, Dutch, and Romanian

SS6G11b

22. Which religion uses the Holy Book of the Torah to worship?
- A. Judaism*
 - B. Islam
 - C. Christianity
 - D. Catholic

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SS6G11b

23. The religions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism are what type of religion?
- A. Cults
 - B. Theocratic
 - C. Polytheistic
 - D. Monotheistic*

SS6G11b

24. What is the place of worship for the Islamic faith?
- A. Synagogue
 - B. Church
 - C. Mosque*
 - D. Temple

SS6G11c

25. How does Europe's literacy rate affect its development?
- A. The literacy rate has little impact on development of a country.
 - B. Well-developed countries tend to have lower literacy rates.
 - C. Low literacy rates bring more tourism and boost overall development.
 - D. The higher the literacy rate, the more developed a country tends to be.*

SS6G14

26. Which statement best describes the literacy rate in Australia?
- A Three-fourths of Australians are literate.
 - B Nearly half of Australians are illiterate.
 - C Ninety nine percent of Australians are literate.*
 - D Two-thirds of Australians are literate.

SS6G12

27. What is the main reason few people live in the Great Victoria Desert?
- A There are wild animals.
 - B It rains in the winter months.
 - C It is too hot and dry.*
 - D There is only one oasis.

SS6G12

28. Where is the Great Barrier Reef?
- A Arafura Sea
 - B Tasman Sea
 - C Shark Bay
 - D Coral Sea*

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HISTORY DOMAIN

SS6H1a

1. Cortes and Pizarro were able to conquer the Aztecs and the Incas because
 - A. European diseases killed many Native Central Americans who might have fought the Spanish.*
 - B. the Native Central Americans were peaceful and refused to fight the Spanish soldiers.
 - C. the Aztec navy was quickly defeated by the superior Spanish Armada.
 - D. the Aztecs and Incas were at war with each other making them weaker.

SS6H1b

2. Part of the Columbian Exchange between Europe and the Americas included the
 - A. Movement of many indigenous Americans to Europe.
 - B. Movement of goods on shipping routes across the Pacific.
 - C. Introduction of new crops to Europe and the Americas.*
 - D. Introduction of mass production and factory buildings to the Americas.

SS6H2a

3. The need for slave labor in Latin America was the result of
 - A. Spaniards were reluctant to do hard labor
 - B. Many natives died from war and disease
 - C. Master's could control the lives of slaves
 - D. All of the above*

SS6H2b

4. The primary languages of Latin America have become Spanish and Portuguese because this region
 - A. Was once colonized by Spain and Portugal.*
 - B. Was once totally ruled by Mexico.
 - C. Many refugees fled to Latin America after WWI.
 - D. Farmers were brought over from Spain and Portugal to help develop struggling crops.

SS6H2c

5. All of the following describe Miguel Hidalgo **EXCEPT**
 - A. He was a Creole from a wealthy family.
 - B. He became a priest to serve the poor.
 - C. He saw Mexico gain its independence.*
 - D. He planned a revolution against Spain.

SS6H3a

6. Which best explains why the Cuban elections of 1952 did **NOT** take place?
 - A. Fidel Castro started the Cuban Revolution.
 - B. Fulgencio Batista fled to the Dominican Republic.
 - C. Fulgencio Batista staged a coup d'etat.*
 - D. Fidel Castro attacked the Cuban Senate.

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SS6H3b

7. What is the Zapatistas belief regarding NAFTA?
- A. It gives unfair advantage to Canada.
 - B. It will completely bankrupt Mexico's economy.
 - C. It only makes the United States richer.
 - D. It will increase poverty in Chiapas rather than reduce it.*

SS6H4a

8. The primary languages and religion in Canada have been influenced by which two countries?
- A. Spain and the United Kingdom
 - B. France and Portugal
 - C. France and the United Kingdom*
 - D. Spain and Portugal

SS6H4b

9. Canada gained its independence from Britain by
- A. Winning the war against Britain.
 - B. Buying the land from Britain.
 - C. Peaceful means.*
 - D. Going to war.

SS6H5a

10. What is causing some of the people of Quebec to desire independence from Canada?
- A. French descendents living in Quebec feel their culture and language is being overwhelmed by the English*
 - B. Oppressed Quebec citizens desire freedom of speech and religion
 - C. Large deposits of fossil fuels that Quebec does not want to share with the rest of Canada
 - D. Canada conquered Quebec during World War II

SS6H6a

11. Early Portuguese voyagers with the support of Prince Henry the Navigator
- A. Searched for a northwestern route to the Americas
 - B. Traveled to the west coast of the Americas
 - C. Sailed along the coast of Africa trying to find a quicker route to Asia*
 - D. Defeated the Aztecs and the Incas

SS6H6a

12. European explorers and settlers distributed goods(including the slave trade), diseases, and ideas around the world in a process called the
- A. Renaissance
 - B. Columbian Exchange*
 - C. Protestant Reformation
 - D. Crusades

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SS6H6b

13. Which country conquered two major civilizations in the New World?
- A. the Netherlands
 - B. Spain*
 - C. France
 - D. Portugal

SS6H6c

14. Australia was colonized by which country primarily for the purpose of relocating prisoners?
- A. The United States
 - B. Spain
 - C. Great Britain*
 - D. Portugal

SS6H7a

15. In 1914, fighting between two groups of countries broke out into
- A. World War II.
 - B. the Industrial Revolution.
 - C. the Cold War.
 - D. World War I.*

SS6H7a

16. What was Woodrow Wilson's plan for peace called?
- A. The Marshall Plan
 - B. The Fourteen Points*
 - C. The Treaty of Versailles
 - D. League of Nations

SS6H7a

17. The Russian Revolution had what effect on World War I?
- A. It increased the number of Russian troops against Germany
 - B. It effectively stopped Russia's participation in the war*
 - C. It helped end the war for every nation involved
 - D. It provided a place for U.S. troops to fight.

SS6H7a

18. The Treaty of Versailles was the treaty that formally ended World War I. Which of these statements best explains what the treaty did?
- A. It placed the blame for the war on Austria-Hungary
 - B. Great Britain could now keep all of its colonies
 - C. Italy was forced to give up some of its territories
 - D. It made Germany take full responsibility for the war.*

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SS6H7b

19. Before the United States joined World War II, the **Allies** were Britain, France, and _____.
A. China*
B. Italy
C. Spain
D. Switzerland

SS6H7b

20. What started WWII?
A. Germany's invasion of Poland*
B. Germany's invasion of Czechoslovakia
C. Japan bombing Pearl Harbor
D. The Battle of Britain

SS6H7b

21. What was the Holocaust?
A. The persecution of Nazis after World War II*
B. During the Great War
C. The rise to power of the Nazis in Germany
D. The murder of millions of Jews and other persecuted groups by the Nazis

SS6H7b

22. What is anti-Semitism?
A. Any kind of racism
B. Racism against minorities
C. Racism against Jews*
D. Racism against Caucasians

SS6H7b

23. During World War II, Germany, Italy and Japan were called the
A. Nazis
B. Communists
C. Axis Powers*
D. Allies

SS6H7a

24. World War II came to an end when _____.
A. the United States captured Berlin.
B. the Allies defeated Italy.
C. the Allies defeated Germany.
D. the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan.*

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SS6H7a

25. After WWII ended, which country had to pay huge reparations to the countries it harmed?
- A. Britain
 - B. Italy
 - C. France
 - D. Germany*

SS6H7b

26. From World War II, two superpowers emerged: the United States and
- A. the Soviet Union*
 - B. Germany
 - C. Japan
 - D. Great Britain

SS6H7c

27. The East German government built the Berlin Wall to
- A. Keep people from West Berlin from entering East Berlin
 - B. Keep people from East Berlin from fleeing to West Berlin*
 - C. Protect East Berlin from attack from the West
 - D. Prevent Western spies from entering East Berlin

SS6H7c

28. The Cold War was “cold” because
- A. the opposing sides did not talk to each other
 - B. neither side used nuclear weapons
 - C. neither side mobilized their armies in an official war*
 - D. the opposing sides would not trade with each other.

SS6H7c

29. Which organization was originally formed as a protector from the communist states?
- A. European Atomic Energy
 - B. Common Market
 - C. European Union Community
 - D. NATO*

SS6H7c

29. The loan program to help rebuild Europe after World War II was called the
- A. Truman Doctrine
 - B. European Common Market
 - C. Warsaw Pact
 - D. Marshall Plan*

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SS6H9

30. What did English Captain James Cook name the first colony of Australia?
- A New Britain
 - B New South Wales*
 - C Tasmania
 - D South Cockney

APS 6th Grade Social Studies Assessment Items

CIVICS/ GOVERNMENT

SS6CG2

1. What type of government does Brazil currently have?

- A communist
- B monarchy
- C parliamentary democracy
- D presidential democracy*

SS6CG2

2. What phrase describes how political power is distributed in Brazil?

- A aristocratic
- B confederation
- C federal*
- D unitary

SS6CG2

3. In what way is Brazil's government different from the United States of America's government is that the U.S.

- A has a president as chief executive.
- B does not allow 16-year-olds to vote*
- C requires citizens aged 18-70 to vote
- D has a legislature called the Congress

SS6CG2

4. What type of government does Mexico currently have?

- A communist
- B monarchy
- C parliamentary democracy
- D presidential democracy *

SS6CG2

5. Which phrase best describes how political power is distributed in Mexico?

- A aristocratic
- B confederation
- C federal*
- D unitary

SS6CG2

6. One way in which Mexico's government differs from the United States of America's government is that in Mexico

- A the president is the chief executive.
- B the legislature is called the Congress.
- C citizens 18 years old and over may vote.
- D president can only serve one 6-year term.*

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SS6CG2

7. What type of government does Cuba currently have?

- A dictatorship*
- B monarchy
- C parliamentary democracy
- D presidential democracy

SS6CG2

8. What phrase best describes how political power is distributed in Cuba?

- A aristocratic*
- B confederation
- C federal
- D unitary

SS6CG2

9. What statement about political parties is true about Cuba?

- A There are many political parties.
- B There is only one legal political party.*
- C The leader of the political party cannot be president.
- D Those running for office may not be in the Communist Party.

SS6CG3a

10. In most democratic countries, the government is divided into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. In Canada, the legislative branch is the

- A. Parliament*
- B. prime minister
- C. Supreme Court
- D. governor general

SS6CG4a

11. A government ruled by a king, queen, emperor or empress is called

- A. Monarchy*
- B. Dictatorship
- C. Unitary
- D. Federal

SS6CG4b

12. This form of government is elected by the people and everyone is eligible to vote.

- A. Oligarchy
- B. Democratic*
- C. Autocratic
- D. Unitary

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SS6CG4b

13. A government in which one person possesses unlimited power and the citizen has little if any role in the government is called
- A. Democratic
 - B. Oligarchy
 - C. Autocracy*
 - D. Unitary

SS6CG4b

14. A government in which a few people such as a dominant clan have power for corrupt and selfish purposes. The citizen has a very limited role.
- A. Democratic
 - B. Oligarchy*
 - C. Autocracy
 - D. Unitary

SS6CG4c

15. A system of government in which the president is constitutionally independent of the legislature is called
- A. Constitutional Monarchy
 - B. Absolute Monarchy
 - C. Parliamentary Democracy
 - D. Presidential Democracy*

SS6CG5a

16. Queen Elizabeth of England only has ceremonial duties; thus she does not get involved with the day-to-day activities of the government in her country. Which of these titles describes her?
- A. Princess
 - B. Chief of State*
 - C. Head of Government
 - D. Both B and C

SS6CG5a

17. Which country has a Federation as their type of government?
- A. Germany
 - B. United Kingdom
 - C. Ireland
 - D. Russia*

SS6CG5a

18. What is the voting age in Germany, the United Kingdom and Russia?
- A. 18*
 - B. 19
 - C. 20
 - D. 21

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SS6CG5a

19. Which two countries have a president with ceremonial duties?
- A. Germany and United Kingdom
 - B. Russia and United Kingdom
 - C. Germany and Russia*
 - D. Russia and Ireland

SS6CG5a

20. Who is the Head of Government in the United Kingdom?
- A. The Queen
 - B. The President
 - C. The Prime Minister*
 - D. The Chancellor

SS6CG5b

21. What is the main purpose of the European Union?
- A. To make trading easier*
 - B. To switch to a single currency
 - C. To have the same constitution
 - D. To increase GDP

SS6CG5b

22. What is the name of the currency in most European countries?
- A. Pesos
 - B. Euro*
 - C. Lira
 - D. Franc

SS6CG6

23. Which is an example of a confederation?
- A. Australia alone
 - B. Australia and New Zealand
 - C. Commonwealth of Nations*
 - D. European Union

SS6CG6

24. Who represents the Queen in Australia's form of government?
- A. president
 - B. prime minister
 - C. member of parliament
 - D. governor-general*

APS 6th Grade Social Studies Assessment Items

SS6CG6

25. Which branch of government makes laws in Australia?

- A executive
- B judicial
- C legislative*
- D monarch

SS6CG7

26. Which has the most power in the Australian government?

- A the people of Australia
- B Queen
- C Parliament*
- D The national Constitution

APS 6th Grade Social Studies Assessment Items

ECONOMICS DOMAIN

SS6E1

1. Which statement best describes the current economy of Brazil?
- A Brazil has a pure market economy with no government control.
 - B Brazil has a pure command economy with total government control.
 - C Brazil is mostly a market economy with some government control.*
 - D Brazil is mostly a command economy with some traditional market elements.

SS6E1

2. An economy that is a blend between a command economy and a market economy is said to be
- A hybrid.
 - B mixed.*
 - C centralized.
 - D decentralized.

SS6E1

3. Between Canada, Brazil, and Cuba, which country has less government restrictions and favorable property rights for those entrepreneurs?
- A Brazil
 - B Canada*
 - C Cuba
 - D about the same in each

SS6E2

4. What is an advantage of specialization as a voluntary trade benefit?
- A Factories cannot produce goods as quickly.
 - B Workers do not become experts in their jobs.
 - C A factory can produce more goods in less time and for less money.*
 - D Businesses cannot sell as many types of goods when they specialize.

SS6E2

5. What type of trade barrier involves adding a special tax onto goods brought into the country?
- A embargo
 - B quota
 - C import
 - D tariff*

SS6E3

6. What is an example of investment in human capital?
- A education*
 - B factories
 - C highways
 - D trucks

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SS6E3

7. Which activity is an example of investing in physical capital by a company?

- A constructing a new factory*
- B throwing away old delivery trucks
- C giving workers more benefits
- D training workers to do their jobs better

SS6E3

8. How does investment in capital by companies help a country increase its GDP?

- A The GDP of a country goes down when companies make more money.
- B Companies that invest in capital are able to provide a better place for their workers to work.
- C Highly trained workers help the company be more profitable by finding ways to help the company work better.*
- D When a company invests in capital, it can produce more goods at a better price and increase the profit that it makes.

SS6E3

9. Which is a way that entrepreneurs help increase a country's GDP?

- A writing laws to protect personal property
- B creating businesses that give people jobs*
- C closing businesses that are increasing profits
- D decreasing goods and services sold

SS6E4

10. A financial plan that helps people make the best possible use of their money is a(n) _____.

- A savings account
- B income
- C budget*
- D investment

SS6E4

11. The amount of money you earn or receive during a certain period of time is referred to as your _____.

- A savings
- B expenses
- C outflow
- D income*

SS6E4

12. In a budget, the items that you spend money on are referred to as _____.

- A expenses*
- B income
- C savings
- D investments

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SS6E4

13. Depositing money into an account in order to earn interest on your money, or buying stocks or bonds in order to earn a profit are both examples of _____.

- A establishing a savings account
- B incurring an expense
- C making an investment*
- D spending unwisely

SS6E4

14. Every week, Tianna sets aside \$20 in her bank account toward a new digital camera she wants to buy. Which money management choice is Tianna engaging in?

- A saving*
- B spending
- C exchanging
- D crediting

SS6E4

15. When Tianna deposits the \$20 into her bank account each week, it is a positive cash entry. Each of these entries in her bank account records is referred to as _____.

- A a deduction
- B a debit
- C an income
- D a credit*

SS6E4

16. Drew started a lawn mowing business for the summer. He mowed ten lawns each week and was paid \$20 for each lawn. If he mowed the lawns for eight weeks, what was his total income for the summer?

- A \$1200
- B \$1600*
- C \$1800
- D \$2000

SS6E5a

17. Which of the following is NOT a question that every economic system must answer?

- A. What to produce?
- B. How to produce?
- C. Why should we produce?*
- D. For whom to produce?

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SS6E5b

18. Most European countries have which type of economic system?

- A. Pure market
- B. Pure command
- C. Traditional
- D. Mixed*

SS6E5c

19. . Years ago, Russia and East Germany were communists. They have transformed their economies from which type of structure?

- A. Command*
- B. Market
- C. Mixed
- D. Traditional

SS6E6a

20. A tax of 15% makes jewelry from Mexico more expensive than jewelry made in the United States. What type of trade barrier is being imposed in this case?

- A. Embargo
- B. Quota
- C. Tariff*
- D. Product Standards

SS6E6b

21. One benefit of international trade is

- A. taxes
- B. currency exchange*
- C. increased wealth
- D. economic independence

SS6E7a

22. How does human capital influence a country's GDP positively?

- A. If employees perform well, the GDP decreases.
- B. If employees perform poorly, the GDP increases.
- C. If employees perform poorly, the GDP decreases.
- D. If employees perform well, the GDP increases.*

SS6E7b

23. Factories, machinery, and new technology are all capital goods. How do these capital goods affect a country's GDP?

- A. If a country invests in their capital goods, GDP increases.*
- B. If a country does not put a lot of emphasis on capital goods, GDP stays the same.
- C. In terms of their capital goods, if a country invests somewhat on these products, then the GDP will increase.
- D. If a country invests a small portion on capital goods, the GDP will stay the same.

APS 6th Grade Social Studies Assessment Items

SS6E7c

24. Natural resources in Europe
- A. are one factor that can help contribute to a nation's wealth.*
 - B. always show whether a country will be successful.
 - C. are used wisely because of new environmental policies.
 - D. consist mainly of tea, fruits and oil.

SS6E7d

25. How have entrepreneurs aided Europe's development?
- A. Their personality traits help ensure a healthy GDP.
 - B. Their lack of business ventures hurt GDP in Europe.
 - C. Entrepreneurs tend to be more successful, so this increases GDP.*
 - D. The many risks entrepreneurs take help the GDP of a country.

SS6E1a

26. What 3 economic questions are asked when studying the similarities of a traditional, command and market economy among nations of the world?
- A. What to produce, why to produce, when to produce?
 - B. What is your opportunity cost, what economic resources are needed, why should these resources be used?
 - C. What to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce?*
 - D. What is your opportunity cost, why are economic resources needed, when should these resources be used?

SS6E1b

27. Which of the following explanations would reflect a country with a mixed economy (i.e., between a pure market and pure command)?
- A. Prices and wages are solely regulated by a country's government.
 - B. A combination of privately-owned industry and government control.*
 - C. A country's distribution of resources is based on inheritance.
 - D. Prices and wages are determined by the laws of supply and demand rather than being regulated by a country's government.

SS6E1c

28. Which of the following explanations would reflect a country with a mixed economy (i.e., between a pure market and pure command)?
- A. Prices and wages are solely regulated by a country's government
 - B. A combination of privately-owned industry and government control*
 - C. A country's distribution of resources is based on inheritance
 - D. Prices and wages are determined by the laws of supply and demand rather than being regulated by a country's government

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