

EXAM STUDY GUIDE: The Modern Middle East

1. Who became president of Iraq following the rise of the Ba'ath Party to power?
2. What is a weakness of a confederation government system?
3. Which branch of government is responsible for making and carrying out the laws in a parliamentary system of government?
4. Who chooses the Prime Minister of a parliamentary system?
5. What two groups disagreed about choosing the Islamic world's leader in the late 600s?
6. In a presidential system of government, how is a president chosen?
7. In which form of government does the central government hold the most power?
8. The government in country X has multiple levels and each level is in charge of certain responsibilities. Power is spread out somewhat evenly through the levels. Based on this information, the government in country X is MOST LIKELY
- 9. How has Israel's lack of oil affected that country's economy?**
10. In which form of government is power controlled by a select few individuals, rather than the citizens?
11. Compare an autocratic government to a democratic government. What are the major differences?
- 12. The citizens of Israel have a little more influence over the election of their chief executive than the citizens of Saudi Arabia. Why is this?**
13. The primary difference between presidential and parliamentary governmental systems is how the chief executive is chosen. How is this person chosen in a parliamentary system? How is this person chosen in a presidential system?
14. Under which economic system does the government make almost all of the economic decisions?
15. Why would one country place an embargo another?
- 16. What is a major similarity between the economies of Saudi Arabia and Iran?**
- 17. What is the name of the parliament in Israel?**
18. Who rules Saudi Arabia?
19. What is the United States' main economic interest in Southwest Asia?
20. Who are the "Taliban"?
21. Why did the United States go to war against Iraq in 2003?
22. Why did the United States bomb and invade Afghanistan in 2001?
23. Why did the United Nations try to stop Iraq from taking over Kuwait in 1990?
24. What has become of many of the Palestinians who became refugees in 1948?
25. When war broke out in Palestine, what countries joined with the Palestinian Arabs to try to stop the creation of the new state of Israel?
26. Who drew up the boundaries of the new countries created from the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I?
27. Identify at least three countries that would be a good example of a unitary government system?
28. Today, in the Middle East there are many conflicts that stem from where the boundaries of the countries are drawn. Who caused this problem?
29. During World War II many surviving Jews were looking for somewhere to relocate and start a new life. Many decided to immigrate to Palestine and the land of their religious connection. Eventually, this immigration, along with Zionist conflicts with England led to which major world event?
30. What is human capital?
- 31. Why have the Israelis made a big investment in human capital?**
- 32. In what areas has Israel invested heavily in capital goods?**
- 33. How has the Saudi government used its national wealth to change the economy?**
34. How do Iran and Saudi Arabia benefit from belonging to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
35. What is Zionism?
- 36. What is Shariah law?**
- 37. Why is Iran sometimes called a theocratic republic?**
- 38. What is an Ayatollah?**
- 39. What role do the people play in a government that is a monarchy like that of Saudi Arabia?**

40. Who is allowed to vote in Israeli elections?

41. How would you describe the economies of Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Iran?

42. The best description of Israel's economy today is _____

43. How has the Middle East's vast supply of oil affected the history of the region since the 1950s?

44. What three major religions have their origins in the Middle East?

45. Natural resources are not evenly distributed among countries. How is Southwest Asia an example of uneven distribution?

46. How have major rivers of Southwest Asia become a part of political conflict?

47. How has the use of chemical fertilizers affected water supplies in many countries in Southwest Asia?

48. Which countries are the most oil-rich in the Southwest Asian regions?

49. Which Southwestern country is the only TRUE example of a federal system of government?

50. What is the religion of most of the Arabs in Southwest Arab?

51. In which way can oil production have a negative impact on a country's economy?

52. How has Israel made up for its lack of natural resources?

53. In the Middle East, most of the tension is over what two things?

54. What is the difference between a religious group and an ethnic group?

55. What countries border the Gaza Strip?

56. What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

57. What does Israel specialize in that encourages voluntary trade?

58. Why do most economies in the world today operate somewhere between a market economy and a command economy?

59. What is the definition of economic specialization?

60. What happens to the price of oil when OPEC countries decide to reduce production of oil?

61. In what three industries has Israel made investments in capital goods?

62. What is anti-Semitism?

63. What is one reason the Iraqis have had difficulty forming a new government after the fall of Saddam Hussein?

64. Why is the Suez Canal so important to international shipping?

65. What two bodies of water are connected by the Strait of Hormuz?

66. Why are technologies like desalinization of drip irrigation not more widely used to reduce water shortages in Southwest Asia?