M-Step™

Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress

5th

8th

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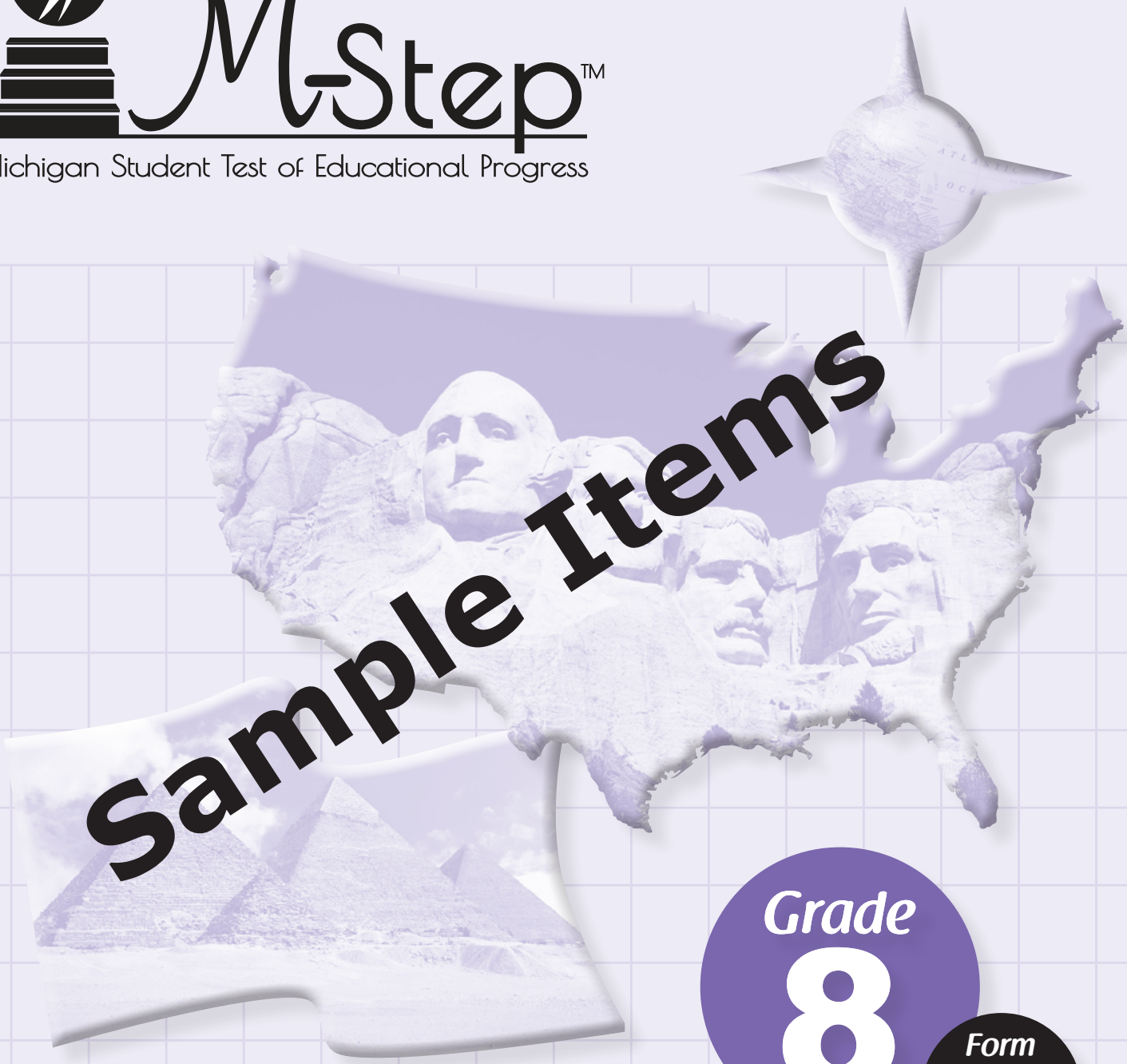


Sample Items

Grade 8

Form S

SOCIAL STUDIES

Spring 2015

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

The Michigan State Board of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Michigan State Board of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or handicap shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

The sample items included in this set can be used by students and teachers to become familiar with the kinds of items students will encounter on the paper/pencil summative assessments. The sample items demonstrate the rigor of Michigan's academic content standards. They are not to be interpreted as indicative of the focus of the M-STEP assessments; they are simply a collection of item samples. Every standard is not included in this sample set.

PART X

DIRECTIONS:

In this part, you will answer multiple-choice social studies questions. Some questions will ask you to read a passage, map, or other social studies-related information. Use that information with what you know to answer the question.

You must mark all of your answers in your **Answer Document** with a No. 2 pencil. You may underline, circle, or write in this test booklet to help you, but nothing marked in this test booklet will be scored.

Mark only one answer for each question. Completely fill in the corresponding circle on your **Answer Document**. If you erase an answer, be sure to erase completely. Remember that if you skip a question in the test booklet, you need to skip the answer space for that question on the **Answer Document**. If you are not sure of an answer, mark your **best** choice.

A sample question is provided for you below.

Sample Multiple-Choice Question:

Which economic activity is **most** important in Florida today?

A logging

B trapping

C growing potatoes and apples

D growing grapefruits and oranges

For this sample question, the correct answer is **D**. Circle **D** is filled in for the sample question on your **Answer Document**.

Once you have reached the word **STOP** in your test booklet, do **NOT** go on to the next page. If you finish early, you may go back and check your work. Check to make sure that you have answered every question. Do **NOT** look at any other part of the test.

WAIT

1 Which statement describes how the framers of the United States Constitution limited the power of the federal government?

A They divided the service branches of the armed forces.

B They divided power between the state and the territories.

C They divided the executive branch of the federal government.

D They divided power between the federal and state governments.

2 Which words in the Preamble to the United States Constitution suggest that the government has the authority to set up courts?

A establish justice

B insure domestic tranquility

C create a more perfect union

D provide for the common defense

3 In which physical region is terracing **most often** used in agriculture?

A coast

B mountain

C savannah

D tundra

4 Which characteristics do **most** countries with a market economy share?

A The people take jobs appointed to them.

B The government controls the businesses.

C The people run and own businesses.

D The government provides citizens with money and land.

5 Which core democratic value was violated when the Supreme Court ruled in 1857 that enslaved people were not citizens?

A Truth

B Equality

C Rule of Law

D Pursuit of Happiness

GO ON

6 Which item is an example of a private good?

A city bus

B family car

C school desk

D library book

7 Which type of business has a **main** goal of informing consumers about goods and services?

A advertising

B insurance

C banking

D transportation

8 What is the **primary** goal of entrepreneurs?

A assembling products

B managing employees

C hiring an accountant

D making a profit

9 Which economic institution represents worker negotiating contracts or salaries with employers?

A credit union

B labor union

C corporation

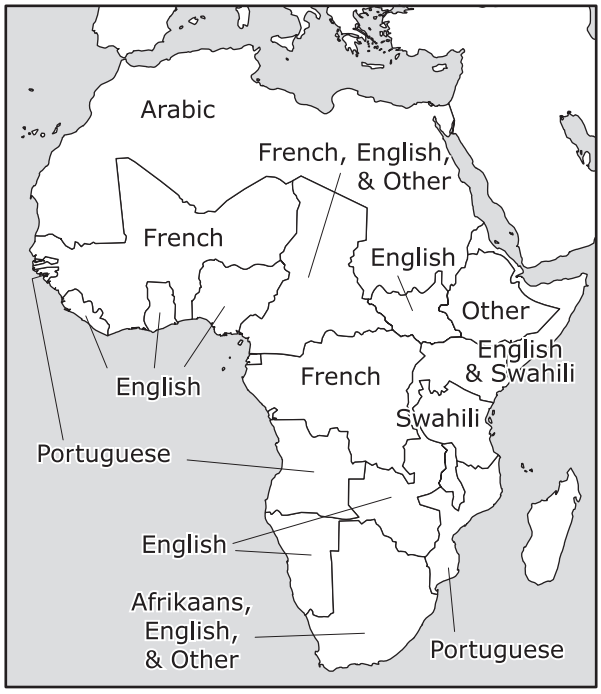
D bank

GO ON

10 Use the information and your knowledge of social studies to answer the question.

Colonization of Africa in 1910

Official Languages of Africa



Which term explains why the official languages in African countries originated in Europe?

A evolution

B revolution

C colonization

D industrialization

GO ON

11 The Great Compromise, made at the Constitutional Convention, is an example of which core democratic value?

A Patriotism

B Checks and Balances

C Pursuit of Happiness

D Liberty

12 Which change was a direct result of the Mexican War?

A Settlers moved to Oregon.

B Trade increased in Kansas.

C The United States acquired Florida.

D The United States acquired California.

13 Why did the Founders write this clause into the Constitution?

> The Senators and Representatives . . . and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by oath . . . to support this Constitution. . . .
>
> — United States Constitution, Article VI

A to hold elected officials accountable to the Constitution

B to secure the approval of the Constitution in the territories

C to confirm the authority of the individuals state governments

D to ensure that the law would protect the interests of citizens

14 Why was the Indian Removal Act of 1830 contrary to American ideals?

A It violated the idea of civilian control of the military.

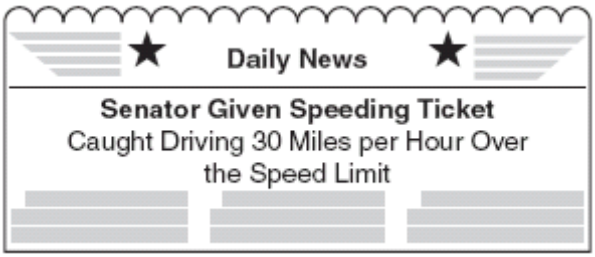
B It ignored the tradition of federalism.

C It disregarded the idea of patriotism.

D It neglected the concept of justice.

GO ON

15 Which core democratic value is represented in this example?



A Individual Rights

B Popular Sovereignty

C Rule of Law

D Separation of Powers

16 Which goal is held by the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies?

A to regulate trade relations

B to promote humanitarian values

C to create regional cultural exchanges

D to establish international economic ties

17 How are the Inuit people of Greenland similar to the Aleut people of Alaska?

A Both groups relay on animals for survival in the cold weather.

B The scarcity of water has taught both groups to be efficient.

C Both groups have migrated over time from higher latitudes.

D Warm climates help both groups to grow crops.

18 Which natural process shaped the Hawaiian Islands?

A the movement of continental glaciers

B the eruption of volcanoes

C the flooding of rivers

D the circulation of ocean currents

19 Which natural event frequently occurs in the Caribbean region because of the geography?

A earthquakes

B hail storms

C forest fires

D hurricanes

GO ON

20 Which **best** explains why Texas declared independence from Mexico?

A Settlers were not allowed to bring families to the region.

B Settlers could not make money.

C Settlers were not allowed to attend school.

D Settlers could not live constitutionally.

21 Which belief is expressed by President Abraham Lincoln in this quotation?

> A house divided against itself cannot stand.
>
> — Abraham Lincoln, 1858

A A Congress unable to admit new states will hurt its reputation.

B A nation with opposing opinions about slavery will not survive.

C A government unwilling to allow taxation will be conquered.

D A President who is in favor of slavery will not be reelected.

22 As a public service, police protection may be used by which group of people?

A citizens only

B taxpayers only

C anyone who pays service fees

D anyone who needs the service

23 Which role is fulfilled in the United States economy by businesses?

A providing skilled labor

B setting taxes and user fees

C producing goods and services

D funding employee retirement

24 Which economic prediction might be made if the price of gasoline were to double?

A Consumer use of pubic transportation services would decrease.

B Consumer demand for fuel efficient automobiles would increase.

C Households would consume fewer goods.

D Households would consume more fuel.

25 Which is an example of a public good that governments provide for all citizens?

A canned foods

B clothing

C interstate highways

D housing

GO ON

26 Which statement explains one reason why coffee is imported to the United States?

A It can be grown more efficiently in other countries.

B It is such a popular drink that there is a limited quantity.

C It is so widely used that most countries grow it.

D It can be manufactured using artificial materials.

27 Which outcome was a **main** goal of the European Union when it adopted the euro as its common currency?

A to increase tax rates

B to make trade easier

C to establish workers' rights

D to encourage humanitarian aid

28 Why has the habitat of the South American rain forest decreased?

A damage from hurricanes

B damage from earthquakes

C use of terrace and rotation farming

D use of slash and burn agriculture

29 Which document replaced the Articles of Confederation?

A Declaration of Independence

B Federalist Papers

C United States Constitution

D Northwest Ordinance

30 During the War of 1812, why were the British interested in controlling the Great Lakes?

A to maintain influence over the fur trade routes

B to establish friendships with Native Americans

C to maintain communication with the western troops

D to convince United States citizens to switch alliances

31 Why is Harriet Tubman remembered as a heroic woman?

A She published a newspaper about slavery.

B She was a Confederate spy.

C She led enslaved people to freedom.

D She was a Union nurse.

GO ON

32 Use the information and your knowledge of social studies to answer the question.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MICHIGAN

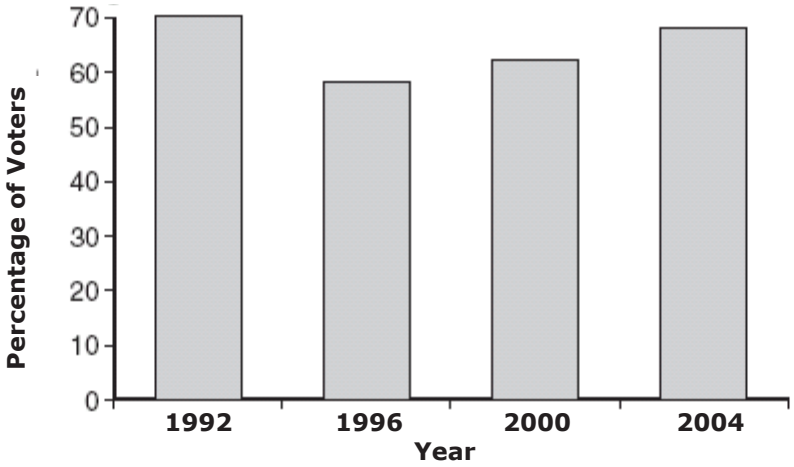
Voter Turnout in Michigan, 1992–2004

Year	Number of Registered Voters	Number of People Who Voted	Percent of Registered Voters Who Voted
1992	6,147,083	4,341,909	70.6
1996	6,677,079	3,912,261	58.6
2000	6,859,332	4,279,299	62.4
2004	7,164,047	4,875,692	68.1

Source: Michigan Department of State

The following outline of a bar graph was drawn to help describe the data in the table above.

Percent of Michigan's Registered Voters Participating in Presidential Elections, 1992–2004



If the voting trend established between 1996 and 2004 continues, what can be expected in Michigan's next presidential election?

A Voter turnout will be based on candidate support.

B Voter turnout will be greater than 68 percent.

C Voter turnout will be less than in 1996.

D Voter turnout will be at a record low.

GO ON

33 Use the information and your knowledge of social studies to answer the question.

> We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed . . . He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. . . . He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
>
> — The Declaration of Independence

Which characteristic of colonial rule led the colonists to distrust a strong central government?

A the powerful influence of the Protestant Church

B the excessive abuses of power by the British King

C the respected position of the British soldiers

D the excessive land ownership by the Royal Legislatures

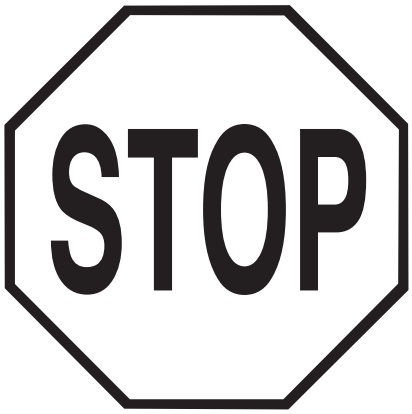
34 How can the legislative branch of the United States government check the power of the President?

A by supervising the presidential elections

B by declaring laws unconstitutional

C by overriding a presidential veto

D by appointing federal judges



You have been working on Part X.

If you finish early, you may go back and check your work for Part X only.

Do NOT work on any other part of this test until you are told to do so.

Item Number	Correct Answer	Standard/ Benchmark	Description
1	D	8 - U3.3.6	Creating New Government and a New Constitution: Bill of Rights and Limited Government
2	A	8 - U4.1.4	Establishing a National Judiciary and its Power: Establishing Courts
3	B	7 - G1.3.1	Geographical Understanding: Fundamental Themes
4	C	6 - E1.1.1	The Market Economy: Individual, Business and Government Choices
5	B	8 - U5.1.4	Civil War and Reconstruction: Sectional Tensions
6	B	6 - E1.1.1	The Market Economy: Businesses and Private Goods
7	A	6 - E1.1.1	The Market Economy: Businesses and Private Goods
8	D	7 - E1.1.1	The Market Economy: Entrepreneurship and Profit
9	B	7 - E1.1.1	The Market Economy: Labor Unions and Avoiding Loss
10	C	7 - G4.4.1	Patterns of Human Settlement: Cooperation and Conflict
11	B	8 - U3.3.4	Creating New Government(s) and a New Constitution: Issues and Compromises
12	D	8 - U4.2.3	Regional and Economic Growth: Westward Expansion
13	A	8 - U3.3.7	Creating a New Government and a New Constitution: Important Documents and Limited Government
14	B	8 - U4.2.3	Regional and Economic Growth: Westward Expansion
15	C	7 - C1.1.1	Purposes of Government: Nature of Civic Life, Politics, and Government
16	B	7 - C4.3.2	The U.S. and World Affairs: Conflict and Cooperation Between and Among Nations
17	A	6 - G5.1.1	Environment and Society: Humans and the Environment
18	B	6 - G3.1.1	Physical Systems: Physical Processes and Ecosystems
19	D	6 - G3.1.1	Physical Systems: Physical Processes and Ecosystems
20	D	8 - U4.2.3	Regional and Economic Growth: Westward Expansion
21	B	8 - U5.2.3	Civil War: Lincoln’s Presidency

Item Number	Correct Answer	Standard/ Benchmark	Description
22	D	7 - C1.1.1	Purposes of Government: Government Service
23	C	7 - E1.1.2	The Market Economy: Individual, Business and Government Choices
24	B	7 - E1.1.1	The Market Economy: Individual, Business and Government Choices
25	C	7 - E2.3.1	The National Economy: National Government and the Economy
26	A	7 - E3.1.1	International Economy: Economic Interdependence
27	B	7 - E3.1.4	International Economy: Economic Interdependence
28	D	6 - G5.1.1	Environment and Society: Humans and the Environment
29	C	8 - U3.3.1	Revolution and the New Nation: Creating a New Constitution
30	A	8 - U4.1.2	Expansion and Reform: Challenges to an Emerging Nation
31	C	8 - U4.3.2	Expansion and Reform: Reform Movements
32	B	8 - P4.2.2	Citizen Involvement: Voting
33	B	8 - U3.3.3	Revolution and New Nation: New Government and New Nation
34	C	7 - C3.6.1	Structure and Functions of Government: Characteristics of Nation-States

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