TEXES CORE SUBJECTS EC–6 (391) · SUBJECT EXAM III: SOCIAL STUDIES 903

Complete Guide to Passing Social Studies 903

5 Practice Questions — One Per Competency

With Full Answer Key & Explanations

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How to Use This Practice Set

This PDF contains one original practice question for each of the 5 competencies on the TExES Social Studies 903 exam. Read each question carefully, select your answer, then check the highlighted correct response and explanation below it. These questions mirror the format and difficulty of real exam items — treat each one like it counts.

1. Competency 001 — Social Science Instruction
2. Competency 002 — History
3. Competency 003 — Geography and Culture
4. Competency 004 — Economics
5. Competency 005 — Government and Citizenship

Tip: Cover the answer key with a sheet of paper while you work through each question. The correct answer is highlighted in green with a checkmark.

Question 1 of 5 Competency 001 — Social Science Instruction

A third-grade teacher wants students to understand cause and effect using a historical event. Which approach best aligns with social science instructional practice?

A Having students memorize a list of key dates and events from the textbook chapter

B Showing a documentary and asking students to copy down the narrator's main points

C ✓ **Providing primary source documents and guiding students to identify causes and effects**

D Reading the textbook passage aloud while students underline unfamiliar vocabulary terms

EXPLANATION

Primary sources plus guided analysis is the core of social science instruction — students engage with evidence and construct understanding rather than receive it passively. Memorizing dates is rote recall without conceptual understanding. Copying a documentary's points is passive. Reading aloud with vocabulary focus addresses language, not historical thinking.

Question 2 of 5 Competency 002 — History

Which of the following best explains why Texas remained an independent republic for nearly a decade after winning independence from Mexico in 1836 rather than immediately joining the United States?

A ✓ Annexing Texas would intensify the national debate over the expansion of slavery

B The Republic of Texas had signed peace treaties with Mexico that prohibited annexation

C Texas lacked the minimum population required for statehood under the U.S. Constitution

D Most Texans preferred independence and consistently rejected U.S. annexation proposals

EXPLANATION

Annexing Texas — a slaveholding republic — would add a massive slave state and inflame the sectional conflict already dividing Congress. Annexation waited until 1845 when political conditions shifted. No such peace treaty with Mexico existed. The Constitution has no population minimum for statehood. Most Texans actually wanted annexation — the republic was financially struggling.

Question 3 of 5 Competency 003 — Geography and Culture

A second-grade teacher wants students to understand how physical geography influences economic activity in Texas. Which of the following best illustrates this relationship?

A ✓ Ranchers in the Great Plains region raise cattle because of the flat, grassy terrain and open range

B Most Texans work in the petroleum industry regardless of which region of the state they live in

C The population of Texas is distributed evenly across all four major physical regions

D Farmers across all regions of Texas grow identical crops due to statewide agricultural policies

EXPLANATION

The Great Plains Panhandle has flat, open grassland ideal for cattle ranching — the physical environment directly drives economic activity. Option B overstates oil employment and ignores regional variation. Texas population clusters in cities, not spread evenly. Crops vary sharply by region: cotton in the Panhandle, rice along the Gulf Coast, timber in East Texas.

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Question 4 of 5 Competency 004 — Economics

A government sets a maximum price on gasoline that is below the current market equilibrium price. Based on principles of supply and demand, which outcome is most likely?

A Producers will increase gasoline output to take advantage of rising consumer demand

B Consumer demand for gasoline will fall because buyers respond negatively to price controls

C ✓ **A shortage will develop because the quantity demanded will exceed the quantity supplied**

D The market will quickly self-correct and reach a new equilibrium at the lower price

EXPLANATION

A price ceiling below equilibrium is artificially low — consumers want more at that price, producers supply less, and a shortage results. The 1970s U.S. gas lines are the classic real-world example. Option A is backwards: low prices reduce producer incentive. Option B is wrong: low prices raise demand, not lower it. Option D is wrong: the ceiling blocks the market from self-correcting upward.

Question 5 of 5 Competency 005 — Government and Citizenship

The Supreme Court's ruling in Marbury v. Madison (1803) established which fundamental principle of the United States government?

A The President has authority to appoint Supreme Court justices without Senate confirmation

B Congress may override a presidential veto with a simple majority vote in both chambers

C ✓ **Federal courts have the power to strike down laws that conflict with the Constitution**

D Citizens may appeal any federal court ruling directly to the Supreme Court for review

EXPLANATION

Marbury v. Madison established judicial review — the Supreme Court can strike down any law that violates the Constitution. Chief Justice John Marshall wrote the opinion in 1803 and it remains the foundation of all U.S. constitutional law. Option A is wrong — Senate confirmation is required. Option B is wrong — a veto override needs two-thirds, not a simple majority. Option D is wrong — the Court has discretionary review and chooses which cases to hear.

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