TASC Social Studies Sample Test Items
This chart is the stimulus for Items 1 and 2. The chart lists some examples of international organizations and their functions. The use of charts in social studies allows students with varying educational abilities the opportunity to demonstrate social studies knowledge and skills.

Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ — Sample Items, Social Studies

This item requires students to use a chart to retrieve information about an international organization whose formation has had significant impact on events in world and United States history.

**Answer Key:** A  
**DOK:** 2  
**Explanation for Correct Response:**
While all answer choices are organizations listed in the chart, only answer choice A was formed in response to a common threat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations (UN)</td>
<td>An international organization established to maintain global peace and to promote social progress and human rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)</td>
<td>A military and political alliance of countries in Europe and North America formed to counter Soviet expansion by agreeing to act together in the defense of all member nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)</td>
<td>A group of mostly Arab nations that sell oil to other nations and work together to regulate the price and supply of oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union (EU)</td>
<td>A group of European nations established to coordinate monetary and economic policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Trade Organization (WTO)</td>
<td>An international organization dealing with the rules of trade among nations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Item 1**

Which of these organizations was formed to prevent a common threat?

- A  NATO
- B  OPEC
- C  EU
- D  WTO
This item requires students to use information in a chart to summarize the governmental concept of how nations interact.

**Answer Key:** C  
**DOK: 3**  
**Explanation for Correct Response:** While all answer choices are related to some of the organizations listed in the chart, only answer choice C summarizes all of the information in the chart.

**Item 2**

Which of these would be the best title for the chart?

A  International Defense Organizations  
B  International Economic Organizations  
C  Examples of Ways Nations Cooperate  
D  Examples of Ways Nations Combat Poverty
Item 3

Look at the photograph. Then answer the question.

This photograph, taken at the Civil Rights March on Washington in 1963, shows a group of people carrying signs for equal rights, integrated schools, decent housing, and an end to bias. Which amendment protects the actions shown in the photograph?

A. The First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech and assembly.
B. The Fifth Amendment, which guarantees due process of law.
C. The Fifteenth Amendment, which gave all men, regardless of race, the right to vote.
D. The Nineteenth Amendment, which gave all citizens, regardless of gender, the right to vote.

Social Studies

Answer Key: A
DOK: 2
Explanation for Correct Response:
While all answer choices describe amendments that expand the rights and protections of citizens, only answer choice A identifies the amendment to the United States Constitution that allows people to engage in the activities shown in the photograph.

Source: The Library of Congress
Study the political cartoon. Then answer the questions that follow.

The United States acquired some of the island territories shown in the cartoon as a result of a

A war with Spain  
B treaty with France  
C treaty with Mexico  
D war with Great Britain

Answer Key: A  
DOK: 2  
Explanation for Correct Response:  
All answer choices are ways the United States historically acquired territory, but only answer choice A is related to the cartoon.
In the second item in this set, students use their analysis of the cartoon to determine the point of view of the cartoonist and to select a statement most consistent with that viewpoint (RH.11-12.2).

**Answer Key:** D  
**DOK:** 3  
**Explanation for Correct Response:** All answer choices are plausible opinions about United States expansionist policy during the given time period, but only answer choice D conveys the central idea of the cartoon.

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**Item 5**

Which statement would the cartoonist most likely agree with?

A. The United States should be cautious when acquiring new territories.

B. The United States should only add territories that improve the American economy.

C. The United States should only add territories when the native population needs assistance.

D. The United States should continue to acquire territories in order to increase American influence.

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**Social Studies**
Read the information in the box. Then answer the question that follows.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

—Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution

Which of these describes why the Tenth Amendment was added to the United States Constitution?

A to restrict state power over the people
B to limit the power of the federal government
C to allow citizens to participate in a direct democracy during local elections
D to allow states to invalidate federal laws that they felt were unconstitutional

Social Studies
Read the excerpt. Then answer the questions that follow.

When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty. There is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers.

—Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, 1748

**Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ – Sample Items, Social Studies**

**Items 7 and 8 relate to this excerpt from an influential Enlightenment philosopher, who had a significant influence on the founders of the United States. Students have the opportunity to integrate the information provided with prior content knowledge of basic government principles.**

**Answer Key: C**

**DOK: 2**

**Explanation for Correct Response:**
While all answer choices are principles of the United States government, only answer choice C is described in the excerpt.

**Item 7**
Which principle of the United States government is described by this excerpt?

A  individual rights
B  popular sovereignty
C  separation of powers
D  separation of church and state
Baron de Montesquieu was an Enlightenment philosopher. Enlightenment philosophy in the 18th century challenged traditional authority and called for a society based on liberty, equality, and human reason. Which statement describes an effect of the Enlightenment in Europe?

A. It led to increased restrictions on individual rights.
B. It led many countries to introduce democracy to their colonies.
C. It led to increased peacetime cooperation between governments.
D. It led many citizens to demand more rights from their government.

Answer Key: D
DOK: 2
Explanation for Correct Response:
Only answer choice D correctly describes an effect of the excerpt and other Enlightenment ideas in Europe.
Item 9

Read the list in the box. Then answer the question that follows.

- Ethnic conflicts
- Militarism
- Colonialism
- Imperialism
- Secret alliances

Which of these is the best title for the list in the box?

A. Causes of World War I
B. Causes of the Cold War
C. Causes of the Revolutionary War
D. Causes of the Russian Revolution
This item asks students to recall the definition of an economics term. The item may be more challenging than some items requiring students to recall knowledge, as all answer choices are related to ways income or revenue is earned.

**Answer Key: D**

**DOK: 1**

**Explanation for Correct Response:**
Only answer choice D provides the correct definition of the economic term profit.
Look at the graph. Then answer the question that follows.

Which of these explains how the changing demand for energy in China and India will most likely affect consumers in the United States?

A. Consumers in the United States will see prices for goods increase because the demand for energy will rise.

B. Consumers in the United States will have higher energy costs because the demand for energy will decrease.

C. Consumers in the United States will have lower energy costs because new energy resources will be created to meet the rising need.

D. Consumers in the United States will see prices for goods decrease because suppliers will need to use less energy to produce goods.

Answer Key: A

DOK: 3

Explanation for Correct Response:
Only answer choice A accurately predicts the effects of increasing energy consumption on consumers in the United States.
This item requires students to associate some geographic features with the appropriate region to demonstrate knowledge of physical characteristics and the division of Earth’s surfaces into regions. Students need to classify the answer choices by matching a region to its physical characteristics.

**Answer Key:** A  
**DOK:** 2  
**Explanation for Correct Response:**  
While all answer choices are related to some of the features in the list, only answer choice A is a geographic region that possess all the features in the list.

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**Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ – Sample Items, Social Studies**

**Item 12**

Read the list in the box. Then answer the question that follows.

- Hot, dry climate
- Low precipitation
- Deserts created by mountains and winds
- Large amounts of oil and natural gas

Which geographic region is described by the list in the box?

A  Middle East  
B  Great Plains  
C  Southeast Asia  
D  Amazon River Basin

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**Social Studies**
Look at the chart. Then answer the question that follows.

Based on the chart, what was the main reason European countries established colonies in North America in the 1600s?

A to spread democratic ideals
B to control trade routes to Asia
C to convert native populations to Christianity
D to gain control of valuable natural resources