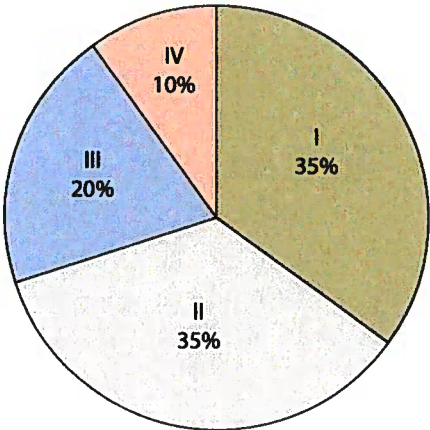


Social Studies

Test at a Glance	
Test Name	Social Studies
Time	70 minutes
Number of Questions	60
Format	Multiple-choice questions
	Content Categories (Approximate Percentage of Questions)
	I. History (35%) II. Civics/Government (35%) III. Economics (20%) IV. Geography (10%)
	Process Categories A. Interpret and Apply B. Analyze C. Evaluate and Generalize

About This Test

The Social Studies test provides evidence of a candidate's ability to use social studies content knowledge as well as analyze and evaluate various kinds of social studies information. The test uses materials from a variety of content areas, including history, political science, geography, and economics. Primary documents, posters, cartoons, timelines, maps, graphs, tables, charts, and reading passages may be used to present information. The questions may ask candidates to distinguish statements of fact from opinion; recognize the limitations of procedures and methods; and make judgments about the reliability of sources, the validity of inferences and conclusions, and the adequacy of information for drawing conclusions. This test may contain some questions that will not count toward your score.

Depth of Knowledge Levels (DOK)

Each test question is assigned a Depth of Knowledge Level (DOK). The levels refer to the cognitive demand that the test questions require to answer correctly.

The DOK are listed below along with a brief explanation or some examples of the DOK performances.

- Level 1 – Recall: test takers recall a term, concept or fact or identify specific information contained in a stimulus.
- Level 2 – Skill/Concept: test takers process or interpret information about people, places events or concepts.
- Level 3 – Strategic Thinking: test takers make inferences or draw conclusions about events or issues.
- Level 4 – Extended Thinking: test takers synthesize information and reveal higher-order thinking through complex reasoning.

The examples listed do not cover all the expected behaviors for the DOK levels.

The Test Framework

The Social Studies test framework is organized into broad areas of content, called **Content Categories**.

Each **Content Category** is further divided into **Content Category Descriptors**. The **Content Category Descriptors** describe in greater detail the skills and knowledge eligible for testing.

In addition to knowing and understanding the social studies content explicitly described in the **Content Category Descriptors**, candidates also will answer questions that may involve one or more of the **Process Categories**. Each **Process Category** is further divided into **Process Category Descriptors**.

The **Content Category Descriptors** are numbered under each **Content Category** starting below. The **Process Category Descriptors** are numbered under the Social Studies **Process Categories** section on the next page.

I. History

1. *Analyze historical sources and recognize perspectives (e.g., political cartoons, letters, documents)*
2. *Identify interconnections among the past, present, and future*
3. *Understand specific eras in U.S. and world history, including the people who have shaped them and the political, economic, and cultural characteristics of those eras (e.g., River Valley Civilizations, Classical Civilizations, Age of Exploration, American Revolution, Early National Era, Civil War and Reconstruction, Gilded Age, World War I, Great Depression and New Deal, World War II, Cold War)*

II. Civics/Government

1. *Understand the role of the citizen in a democratic society, including rights and responsibilities, and informed participation (e.g., voters, officeholders, political party members, public meetings, petitions)*
2. *Recognize the structure and functions of different levels of government in the United States, including concepts of power and authority (e.g., powers reserved to states, constitutional principles, implied powers)*
3. *Understand the purposes and characteristics of various governance systems, with particular emphasis on the U.S. government (e.g., republic, democracy, parliamentary, monarchy, communism, founding documents)*

III. Economics

1. *Recognize fundamental economic concepts, including principles of supply and demand (e.g., scarcity, needs and wants, competition)*
2. *Understand government involvement in the economy, including comparative economic systems and globalization (e.g., fiscal and monetary policy, trade barriers, labor markets)*
3. *Understand consumer economics (e.g., savings, interest rates, credit, advertising, choice)*

IV. Geography

1. *Understand concepts and know terminology of physical and human geography*
2. *Use geographic concepts to analyze spatial phenomena and discuss economic, political, and social factors (e.g., regions, borders, migration, standard of living, cultural diffusion)*
3. *Interpret maps and other visual and technological tools, and analyze case studies (e.g., contour maps, population pyramids, climographs)*

Social Studies Process Categories

Each **Process Category** is further divided into **Process Category Descriptors**. The **Process Category Descriptors** are numbered under each **Process Category** below.

A. Interpret and Apply

1. *Make inferences or predictions based on data or other information*
2. *Infer unstated relationships*
3. *Extend conclusions to related phenomena*

B. Analyze

1. *Distinguish among facts, opinions, and values*
2. *Recognize the author's purpose, assumptions, and arguments*

C. Evaluate and Generalize

1. *Determine the adequacy of information for reaching conclusions*
2. *Judge the validity of conclusions*
3. *Compare and contrast the reliability of sources*

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I.N. 823252