**Social Studies Mid-term Study Guide (Review), 2015-2016**

**Unit 1**

**SS7G8a**

* An ethnic group is a group of people who share a common set of characteristics such as language, customs, traditions, some physical features etc . . . A religious group is a group of people who share a common set of beliefs in a supreme being(s).

**SS7G8b**

* Ethnic groups are not defined by a religion or political borders. They practice a diversity of religions usually.
* In the Middle East, Arabs mostly practice Sunni Islam with some who practice Shia Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. The Kurds mostly practice Sunni Islam while a minority practices other religions in the region. The Persians are mostly Shia Muslims with some practicing Sunni Islam and Zoroastrianism.

**SS7G8c**

* When comparing Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, there are a few things they have in common. For example, all three originated in the Middle East, all are monotheistic, and all consider Abraham a patriarch in their faith. In addition, all three consider Jerusalem a holy city, although for different reasons.

**SS7G8d**

* The religion of Islam split shortly after Muhammad’s death due to a disagreement on who should succeed him as leader of the Muslim community. Thus, the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam were created. The Sunnis believe a successor needed to be appointed and based on leadership qualities making him a political leader while the Shia believed Muhammad had picked a successor and those who follow should be descendants of Muhammad, making him both a religious AND political leader.
* The United States has found itself tangled up in the conflict between the two sides as the US has gotten involved in the region.

**SS7G7b**

* Industrial centers/cities (and as a result more people) are usually located near the coast or rivers for the purpose of hydroelectricity, shipping and receiving resources and goods, and for waste dumping reasons.

**SS7G6a**

* The water sources in the Middle East are unevenly distributed (some countries have some while others have very few) and can lead to conflict over their use, especially when some countries build dams which adds to the problem. Water pollution can be a problem as well due oil spills from drilling, refineries, and shipping leaking into rivers and water supplies causing health hazards and economic problems.

**Unit 2**

**SS7H2a**

* After WWI and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, a power vacuum was created and the land of the Ottomans (except modern day Turkey) was turned over to European countries (mostly the British and French) as mandates. Political borders were decided by European powers without consideration of the political, ethnic, religious, and historic connections in the region. This forced rival groups together and split others up. As a result, conflict has followed in the years since.

**SS7H2b**

* There were four main reasons for the creation of Israel in 1948 by the United Nations. Anti-Semitism, prejudice and hatred of Jews, grew throughout Europe in the 1800s and early 1900s. An extreme example of this was the Holocaust, the murderous plan of Adolf Hitler, which was another reason. A third reason was Zionism, the movement of Jews back to the holy land looking for a nation of their own. The fourth reason was that religious connection to the land of Palestine (later called Israel) the Jews had. All of these reasons led the Jews back to the region in pursuit of a safe and independent land of their own.



**SS7G5a&b (Unit 1)**

1. Afghanistan

2. Iran

3. Iraq

4. Syria

5. Lebanon

6. Israel

7. Egypt

8. Saudi Arabia

9. Kuwait

10. Persian Gulf

11. Strait of Hormuz

12. Arabian Sea

13. Red Sea

14. Suez Canal

15. Euphrates River

16. Turkey

17. Tigris River

17

16

7

**Unit 2 continued**

**SS7H2c**

* The creation of Israel/partitioning plan of the United Nations created conflict in that area between the Jews and the Palestinian Arabs who had been living there and lost land as a result. The two groups are different religiously and ethnically and both claim a right to the holy land. This conflict continues today.

**SS7H2d**

* The United States has become more involved in the Middle East over the past few decades. Examples are the Persian Gulf War which started after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait for oil; the Invasion of Afghanistan which was the US response to the 9/11 attacks, looking for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda leaders; and Operation Iraqi Freedom which began when President George W. Bush’s administration believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and did not want them to get in the hands of terrorist organizations.
* The main reasons why the US is so involved in Middle Eastern events include to ensure the flow of oil out of the Persian Gulf/Middle East to the US and rest of the world, the concern over the spread of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, to support democracies in Israel and Iraq, and to promote justice and human rights.

**Unit 3**

**SS7E5a**

* There are three basic types of economic systems. A market economy is where business owners and consumers make the economic decisions of what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce. A command economy is where the government makes these decisions. A traditional economy is where local customs and traditions determine these things.

**SS7E5b**

* In reality, all economic systems are mixed economies that fall somewhere on the economic continuum (range) between pure market and pure command. In today’s global economy, it is necessary for both business owners and government involvement. How much of each determines its place on the continuum.

**SS7E5c**

* The countries we discussed in class, from our standard, would be located as shown below on the continuum.

 ------------------------------------- X ---------------- X --------------------------------- X ---------------------------------

 pure Israel Turkey Saudi Arabia pure

 market command

**SS7E5d**

* In a market economy, business owners and consumers make the economic decisions. So, we can conclude that there would be more entrepreneurs (business owners) in economies that were more market. As a result, we can also conclude from the continuum above that Israel would have the highest percentage of entrepreneurs of the three countries shown and Saudi Arabia the fewest.

**SS7E6a**

* Specialization is when a country focuses a majority of its resources on a certain product or industry. This encourages trade between countries because a country should produce higher quality products in an area that it specializes in. Specialization also encourages trade because you must then trade for the things you want or need and don’t produce yourself because of all the resources you put into your area of specialization.

**SS7E6b**

* A tariff is a tax on imported goods and is used to make money/revenue or to protect domestic companies that produce similar goods.
* A quota is a limit on the quantity of goods and is used to protect domestic companies that produce similar goods.
* An embargo is an elimination of trade with another country in an effort to hurt their economy to a point where they change a policy or political action. Examples include the embargo put on Iraq for invading Kuwait at the start of the Persian Gulf War and the embargo put on South Africa to get them to remove apartheid laws.

**SS7E6c**

* OPEC is the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Their purpose is to control the supply and price of oil. Not all Middle Eastern countries are members, and not all members are Middle Eastern countries.

**SS7E6d**

* Oil is the major export of Saudi Arabia to many different countries. Saudi Arabia’s international trade in oil is made much easier by a system to exchange currencies between countries.

**SS7E7c and SS7G7a**

* The presence of oil has had a huge impact on the countries who have it (it is unequally distributed—some countries have it; others do not). They rely on it and oil products to boost their GDP and national income. A majority of it is found in the countries surrounding the Persian Gulf.

**SS7E7a and SS7G8e**

* GDP per capita is one measure of a country’s standard of living. Investing in human resources (education, training, and healthcare) is one way to improve the standard of living in a country.

**SS7E7b**

* Investing in capital resources (factories, machines, technology) is another way for a country to increase its GDP. This helps countries/companies mass produce goods and technologically advanced goods to raise the GDP.

**SS7CG4a**

* Governments distribute power three basic ways. A unitary power distribution is when there is one central authority who has the power such as the king of Saudi Arabia.
* A confederation power structure is when several regional groups with a common interest share power such as the Arab League or United Nations.
* A federal power distribution is a combination of the two. It is when one central authority shares power with the regional groups such as the United States.

**SS7CG4b**

* Citizen participation is defined three basic ways as well. In an autocratic society, one person has all the power, and citizens have few if any rights and freedoms (citizen participation).
* In oligarchic society, power is in the hands of a small group, and citizens’ rights are limited.
* Finally, in a democratic society, the ultimate power is in the hands of the people through free elections, and citizens enjoy many rights and freedoms.

**SS7CG4c**

* There are two types of democracies. In a parliamentary democracy, the leader is chosen by and belongs to the legislative branch. In a presidential democracy, the leader is chosen by the citizens directly and belongs to a separate/executive branch.

**SS7CG5a**

* Of the countries we discussed in class—Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Israel—it is Israel’s government who provides freedoms to its people similarly to the United States.

**Unit 4**

**SS7G2**

* Water pollution in Africa is certainly a problem. The government often turns a blind eye to industrial waste in many parts of the continent because they do not want to hurt struggling economies even further, cutting into profits.
* The biggest factor in water pollution, especially in rural areas, is bacteria produced in standing water which are used as water sources in many cases.
* Deforestation is another environmental issue on the continent of Africa. This loss of trees and other vegetation can lead to erosion, unfarmable soil, and flash floods.
* Yet another environmental issue in Africa is desertification, or the expansion of the desert. Deforestation and drought, among other factors, can cause desertification which then reduces the amount arable land available to farmers which can lead to famine.

**SS7G3**

* Desertification has its biggest impact on the Sahel. This arid region sees the desert expanding into its once rich farmland forcing farmers to move on a regular basis. Reforestation, replanting of vegetation, is being tried in some places to try and keep the desert from expanding further.

**SS7G4b**

* We talked about four ethnic groups in Africa and the diversity of their religions—all four practice a variety of religions. However, each group has a majority that has a certain set of beliefs. The majority of Arabs practice Sunni Islam. Many Ashanti have traditional beliefs, often including supernatural things or witchcraft. A majority of the Bantu practice traditional beliefs such as animism. And finally, many Swahili practice a combination of Islam and traditional beliefs.

**Unit 5**

**SS7H1a**

* Europeans colonized and partitioned the continent of Africa at the Berlin Conference in 1884. The reasons they wanted to colonize were for natural resources for their Industrial Revolution, nationalism, to secure new markets and trade routes, and out of “moral duty.” The process was made easier/possible by technological advancements they invented to help them take over the continent.

**SS7H1b**

* The nationalist movements in Kenya and Nigeria achieved independence but in different ways. Violence was used in Kenya. After receiving independence, Kenya’s leader turned the government into a dictatorship. Years of poverty, government corruption, and collapsed infrastructure followed.
* Nigeria gained their independence more peacefully; however, a civil war broke out a few years later due to disagreements on how to run the government.

**SS7H1c**

* Apartheid was a system of racism and segregation in South Africa during the 1900s which enabled the minority white South Africans to maintain control of government and of the majority black South Africans through a series of unequal and unfair laws.
* Two men get the most credit for helping to abolish Apartheid. F.W. deKlerk was the white President who started to do away with the Apartheid laws in 1989. Nelson Mandela was the equal rights activist and a leader of the ANC, African National Congress, who spent 27 years in prison but kept working toward Apartheid’s end while imprisoned. He was set free in 1990, and became the first black South African President in their history as a result of the first free elections in the country.

**SS7H1d**

* Pan-Africanism was a worldwide movement to end colonialism in Africa. It achieved three things: creating more unity among Africans worldwide, increased a sense of nationalism among African countries, and led to the creation of the African Union (AU). Some leaders include W.E.B. DuBois and Marcus Garvey.

**SS7G1a&b (Unit 4)**

****

1. Egypt 2. Sudan 3. Nigeria 4. South Sudan

5. Democratic Republic of Congo 6. Kenya 7. Zimbabwe 8. South Africa

8

5

2

1

7

3

6

4