

Part 2: Social Studies

Bonus
Chapter

Chapter 9: U.S. History

Question

Question 1 relates to the following political cartoon that was first published in 1754 and is attributed to Benjamin Franklin.



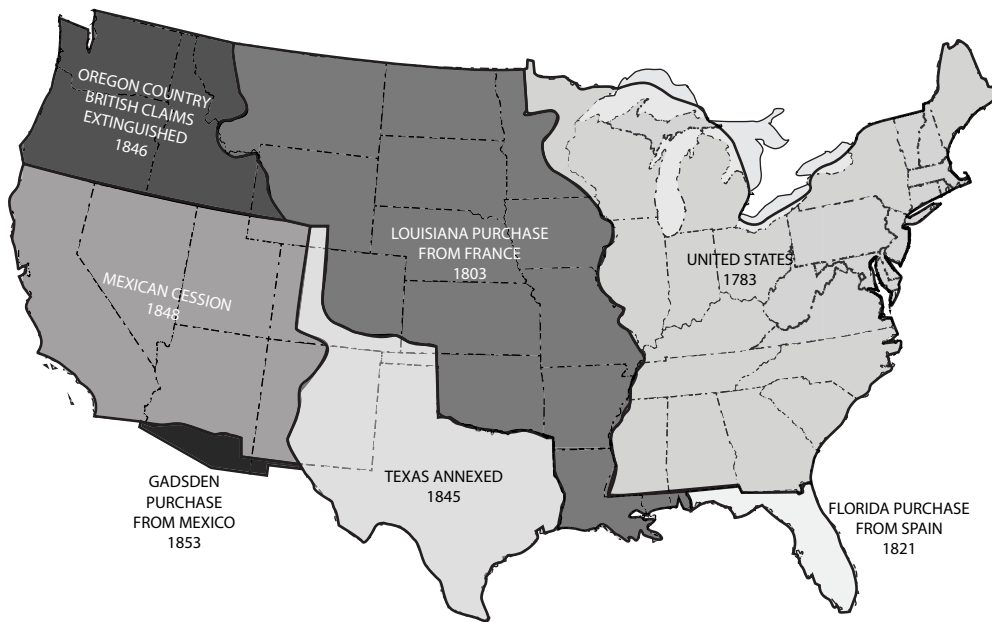
1. What is an underlying value of the cartoonist?
 - (1) A love of snakes
 - (2) Support for the American colonies
 - (3) Support for a divide-and-conquer strategy
 - (4) A belief that all snakes are ferocious
 - (5) A belief that humans should rise above snakes in their behavior

Answer

1. (2) An underlying value held by the cartoonists is support for the American colonies and a desire for them to succeed. The cartoon tells us little about Franklin's knowledge or view of snakes [(1), (4), and (5)] since the snake here is just a symbol for the united American colonies. Franklin was warning against a divide-and-conquer situation (3), not supporting it.

Question

Question 1 refers to the following map.



U.S. territorial acquisitions.

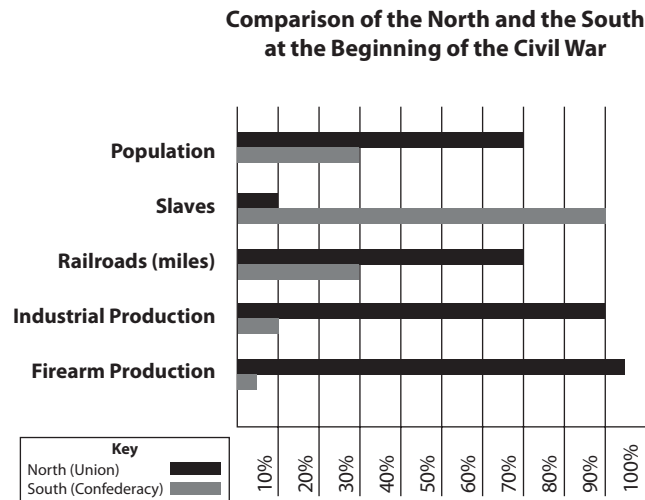
1. Which statement best summarizes the information shown on the map?
 - (1) It's only natural that the United States would expand across the continent.
 - (2) The United States took land formerly controlled by Native Americans.
 - (3) During the 1800s, the United States greatly increased the land area it controlled.
 - (4) The United States acquired its land by questionable means.
 - (5) The United States expanded by acquiring uninhabited land.

Answer

1. (3) This map shows factual information about how the United States acquired land during the 1800s. Choice (3) best summarizes this information. Choices (1) and (4) state opinions not presented on the map, which shows only factual information. Choice (2) is a correct factual statement, but it is not one shown on the map, which ignores the land claims of Native Americans. The map doesn't give information about the inhabitants of the lands acquired by the United States (5); however, this statement is false since Native Americans and a few settlers from Spain, Russia, France, and Britain lived in the lands the United States acquired.

Question

Question 1 refers to the following bar graph.



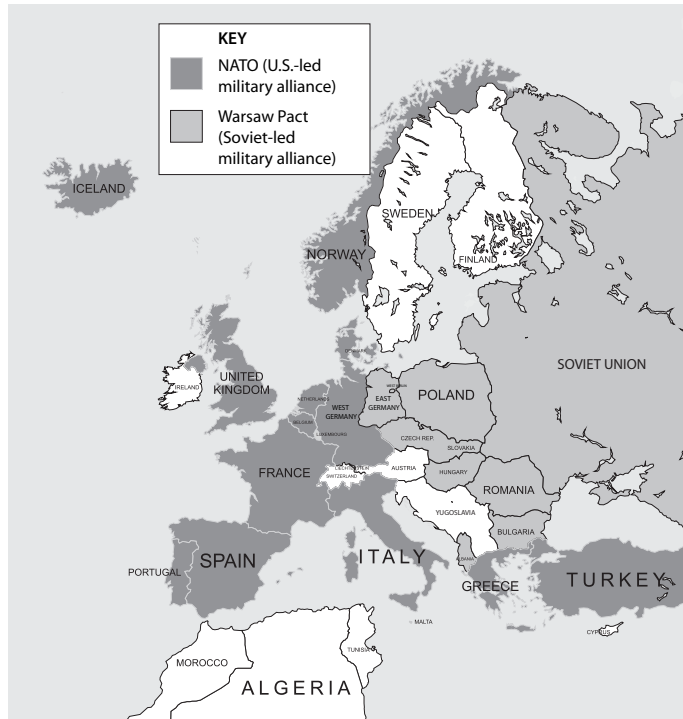
1. Which statement is the best overall conclusion regarding the information shown in the bar graph?
 - (1) The South had important advantages over the North in the Civil War.
 - (2) The war was not about slavery because both sides had slaves.
 - (3) In the Civil War, industrial production was the most important factor in determining the winner.
 - (4) The South could not possibly have had as many soldiers as the North since its population was so much smaller.
 - (5) In the Civil War, the North had important advantages that helped it emerge victorious.

Answer

1. (5) Overall, the bar graph shows that the North had several important advantages that helped it win the war. Statement (1) is contradicted by the bar graph. Statements (2), (3), and (4) each focus on just one piece of data from the graph and arrive at a questionable conclusion.

Questions

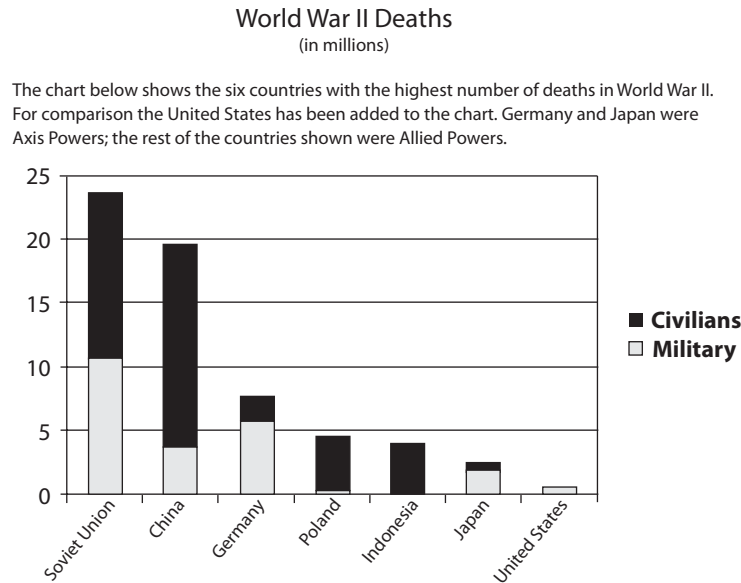
Question 1 refers to the following map.



Division of Europe during the Cold War.

1. What opinion does the mapmaker have regarding the division of Europe?
 - (1) No opinion can be inferred since the mapmaker presents only facts.
 - (2) It was unfortunate that Europe was so divided.
 - (3) The Cold War division of Europe reflected the historical division between Western Europe and Eastern Europe.
 - (4) Eastern European peoples wanted to overthrow the communist governments of their nations.
 - (5) West Berlin was likely to become communist since it was located in the middle of communist East Germany.

Question 2 refers to the following bar graph.



2. What is the best conclusion from the graph regarding American deaths in World War II?
- (1) In modern warfare, large numbers of deaths generally occur among civilians as well as soldiers.
 - (2) American soldiers fought better than most soldiers in the war and thus suffered fewer deaths.
 - (3) The number of Americans who died in World War II was small compared to our allies, the Soviet Union and China.
 - (4) The American people took more precautions and thus fewer civilians died in World War II than in most other countries.
 - (5) Germany and Japan had about the same number of military deaths as the United States in World War II.

Answers

1. (1) The map presents only factual information and it is not possible to infer any opinion on the part of the map-maker. Statements (2), (4), and (5) are opinions for which there is no supporting evidence on the map. Regarding Statement (3), the map contains no information on the historical division of Europe so we don't know what the mapmaker thought about this point. In fact, the Cold War division of Europe did *not* follow historical divides; the Cold War divide (often called the "Iron Curtain") ran through the middle of Germany and left noncommunist West Berlin surrounded by communist East Germany.

2. **(3)** The data in the bar graph supports the statement that American deaths in World War II were small compared to the Soviet Union and China. Statement (1) is a valid conclusion derived from the chart in general, but it is not a true statement regarding American deaths (which is what the question asked). There is no information in the chart about how Americans fought (2) or about why American civilian deaths were low (4). In reality, many factors influenced the number of American soldiers who died in the war, and American civilian casualties were near zero simply because the war was not fought on American soil. According to the bar graph, Germany and Japan had many more military deaths than the United States (5).

Chapter 10: U.S. Government

Question

1. The president is responsible for foreign affairs. However, the Senate must approve any treaty the president negotiates by a two-thirds majority. This is an example of
 - (1) federalism.
 - (2) checks and balances.
 - (3) majority rule.
 - (4) separation of powers.
 - (5) constitutionalism.

Answer

1. **(2)** The U.S. government is characterized by a system of checks and balances in which each of the three branches of government can, in certain circumstances, block or check the power of one of the other branches. This is related to the separation of powers (4), but checks and balances goes beyond the simple separation of powers to allow a branch to step in and block one of the other branches. Federalism (1), the division of power between state and federal governments, does not apply since both the Senate and president are part of the federal government. The Senate blocking or approving a treaty is not directly related to the concept of majority rule (3). Constitutionalism (5), the idea that the power of government is limited to the powers the people have granted it, is also not directly relevant to the power of one branch to check another.

Questions

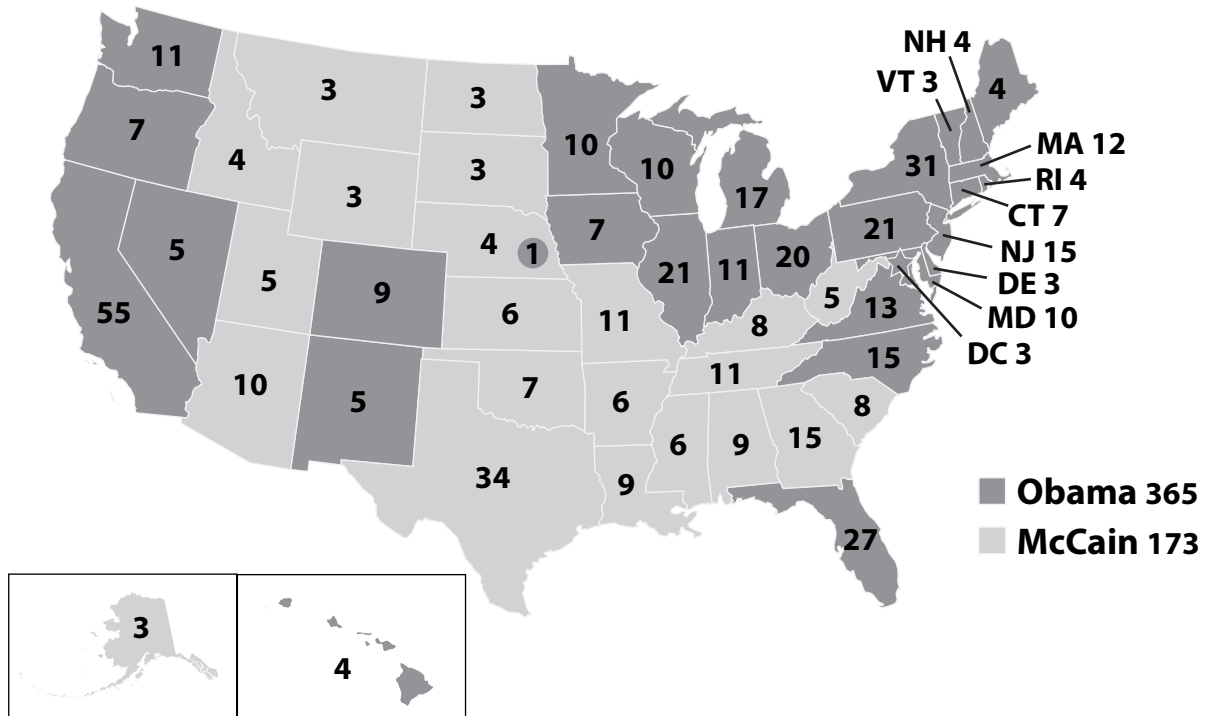
Question 1 refers to the following political cartoon.



Courtesy of William S. Wiist

1. What statement of fact is this cartoon based on?
 - (1) Money has too much influence in American politics.
 - (2) Abraham Lincoln was a good president.
 - (3) Changes should be made in how elections are financed.
 - (4) Running an election campaign for a major public office often requires millions of dollars.
 - (5) The amount of money a person or group can give a candidate should be limited.

Question 2 refers to the following map.



Electoral votes: 2008 presidential election.

2. According to the map, in what areas of the country was there the greatest support for Obama for president?

- (1) The Northeast and the West Coast
- (2) The South and West Coast
- (3) The Northeast and the South
- (4) The Midwest and the South
- (5) The Great Plains and the Northeast

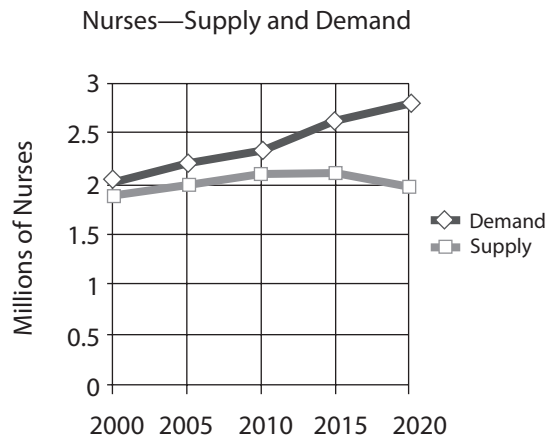
Answers

- 1. (4) In this question you are looking for a statement of fact. All the other choices are opinions. Words like *should*, *too much*, and *good* usually express opinions or value judgments, rather than facts.
- 2. (1) The map shows the greatest support for Obama came from the West Coast, the Northeast, and the Midwest. The other answer choices are incorrect because they include either the South or the Great Plains, where Obama generally did not do well.

Chapter 11: Economics

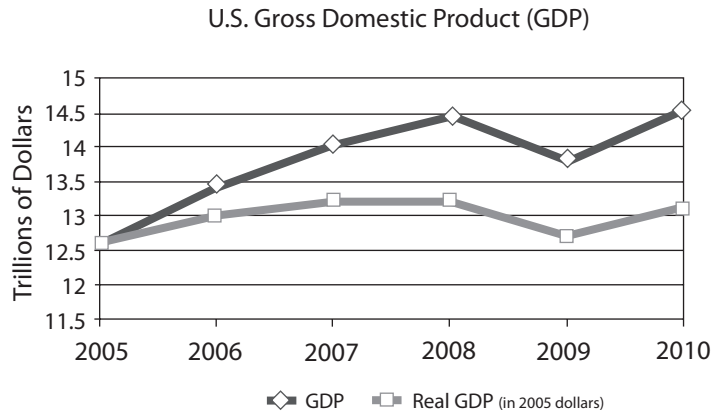
Questions

Question 1 refers to the following graph.



1. Which development would tend to *increase* the average wages paid to nurses?
 - (1) A robotic nurse is developed that can do 25 percent of a nurse's job at a cheaper hourly rate.
 - (2) Legislation is passed requiring nurses to have more years of education before they can work as nurses.
 - (3) More nurses are recruited in the Philippines to come to the United States to work.
 - (4) A cure for cancer is found, reducing the number of patients who need medical care.
 - (5) Nursing is seen by society as an equally honorable profession for men as for women.

Question 2 refers to the following graph.



2. Which conclusion is supported by sufficient evidence in the graph?
- (1) Poverty in the United States declined from 2005 until 2008, when a recession began.
 - (2) Of the years shown in the graph, the U.S. economy was at its peak in 2010.
 - (3) Between 2005 and 2008, most Americans became better off economically.
 - (4) The U.S. economy was larger in 2010 than in 2005.
 - (5) Supply and demand were in balance in 2005.

Answers

1. **(2)** Increasing the education required would reduce the supply of nurses entering the profession. This would have the effect of further widening the gap between demand and supply shown in the graph. Statements (1) and (4) would have the effect of reducing the growth of demand, thereby bringing supply and demand more into balance and reducing the pressure for rising wages. Statements (3) and (5) would have the effect of increasing the supply of nurses, which would also have the effect of bringing supply and demand more into balance and reducing the pressure for wage increases.
2. **(4)** The real GDP line shows that more goods and services were produced in 2010 than in 2005. From this information you can conclude that the economy was larger (produced more goods and services) in 2010. The graph does not show poverty levels (1), and you cannot conclude that just because the economy grew, poverty declined. In fact, most of the growth in the economy during this period was reflected in the incomes of the wealthier Americans, while incomes for most Americans stayed flat or declined. For the same reason, you can't jump to the conclusion most Americans were better off in 2008 than in 2005 (3). The economy peaked in 2007 and 2008, not 2010 (2); to measure economic growth, you need to use real GDP. GDP doesn't measure supply or demand (5). In this graph the two lines are at the same point in 2005 because 2005 dollars are being used to measure both unadjusted GDP and real GDP, so the two figures have to be the same.

Question

Question 1 refers to the following reading passage.

Socialism was in decline even before the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1992 brought an end to its government-run economy. Well before that event, China, the world's most populous socialist country, started economic reforms that broke up communal farms and encouraged free enterprise. And after the free-market economies of four "Asian Tigers" (Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Singapore, Hong Kong) demonstrated "miracle" economic growth (1960–90), most of the developing world started emulating them rather than socialist models. Even Western European countries have backed away from socialism and returned many government-run industries to private ownership. Today, only a handful of countries remain deeply committed to socialism and opposed to capitalism.

But should socialism die? If you value economic growth, capitalism wins hands down. But if you value an equitable distribution of wealth, the revival of a more socialistic approach with more government involvement may be a better alternative.

The situation in which the rich get richer and the poor remain poor now characterizes most market economies, from Russia to India to the United States. In the United States, the median family income level was in decline for years even before the real estate bubble burst and recession set in. Workers in the United States are getting lower wages, less job security, longer hours, and less health coverage than before. Allowing the economy to operate without government controls serves the rich but not the majority of the people. At some point, the government should step into the economic system to make sure the benefits flow not just to business owners but to the workers as well.

1. What value underlies the author's position?
 - (1) A government that governs least is best.
 - (2) Wealth should be distributed among many people rather than concentrated in the hand of a few.
 - (3) Money isn't everything.
 - (4) Working people are better people than the wealthy, who often don't even work.
 - (5) Wealthy people should support charitable organizations.

Answer

1. (2) The author's position is based on the underlying value that wealth should be distributed among many people rather than concentrated in the hands of a few. The value stated in (1) contradicts the author's position that government should get more involved. Nothing in the author's argument gives us a clue to her beliefs or values regarding charitable giving (5) or the importance of money for happiness (3). While the author believes working people deserve to be better rewarded by the economic system, nothing in what she says seems to indicate that she feels working people are better or worse people than the wealthy, whether or not they work (4).

Question

1. What would be an effect of the federal government requiring banks to keep more money on reserve to assure their solvency?
 - (1) The money supply would decline, slowing economic growth.
 - (2) Banks will have higher profits.
 - (3) Consumer spending would increase, spurring economic growth.
 - (4) The federal deficit would decline.
 - (5) Inflation would increase.

Answer

1. (1) This question requires you to apply what you have learned regarding monetary policy. If banks must keep more money on reserve, then they have less money to lend and lending will drop. Less money will be flowing into the economy in the form of loans, so the money supply will decline. This will slow spending and investment and, as a result, also slow economic growth. Since banks will need to keep more of their money idle, they will not be able to make as many loans and bank profits will decline (2). With loans more difficult to obtain, consumer spending will drop (3). This requirement for banks would not directly affect government expenditures but, as a result of bank profits being lower and economic growth slowing, government tax receipts would decline. This will cause the federal deficit to rise (4). Increased inflation is not a result of declining money (5); prices would rise more slowly or begin to drop.

Chapter 12: World History

Question

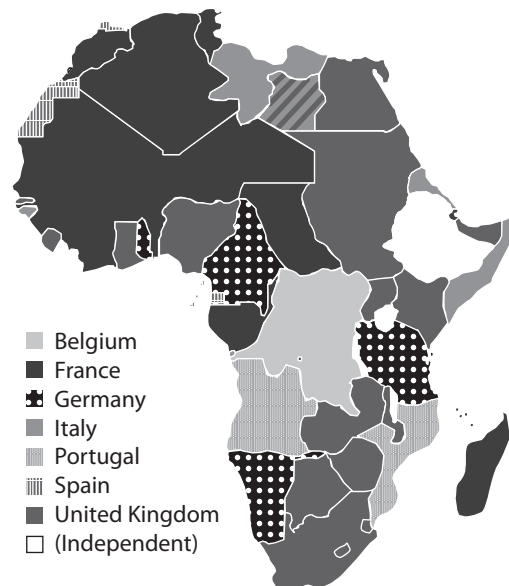
1. Which statement correctly states a similarity between Greek and Mayan civilizations?
 - (1) Neither the Greeks nor the Mayans studied astronomy.
 - (2) Both civilizations were collections of small city-states rather than a unified empire.
 - (3) They both developed large cities.
 - (4) Both civilizations were centered on maritime trade in the Mediterranean Sea.
 - (5) Neither civilization has had much influence on the world today.

Answer

- (2) Neither the Greeks nor the Maya developed a unified empire. Both Greeks and Mayans studied astronomy extensively (1). Unlike most classical civilizations, the Maya are not believed to have developed large urban centers (3). Of course, the Maya in Mexico and Central America were nowhere near the Mediterranean Sea and, in contrast with the Greeks, they had only a limited sea trade (4). Many Greek beliefs and ideas profoundly influence the world's civilizations and cultures today, while the influence of Mayan civilization is more limited to Guatemala and Mexico (5).

Question

Question 1 refers to the following map.



European Empires in Africa, 1914.

- Which nation could almost realize the dream of building a railroad through its territory all the way from the northern coastline (Mediterranean Sea) to the southern tip of Africa?
 - France
 - Britain
 - Germany
 - Belgium
 - Italy

Answer

1. (2) The map shows that Britain almost controls all of a route from the northern coastline of Africa (Egypt) to the southern tip of the continent. In fact, after the defeat of Germany in World War I, Britain took control of German East Africa, completing the chain of colonies stretching the length of Africa.

Chapter 13: Geography

Question

Refer to the following table to answer question 1.

The World's Largest Deserts*

Desert	Location	Size (square miles)	Selected Facts
Antarctic	The continent of Antarctica	5.4 million	With average annual precipitation of only 2–8 inches, Antarctica is the world's driest continent but, paradoxically, it contains most of the world's supply of fresh water.
Sahara	Northern Africa	3.3 million	Most of the Sahara, where the world's hottest temperature has been recorded, gets less than 1 inch of rainfall annually, but its Nile River Valley is lush and green year-round.
Arabian	Arabian Peninsula	900,000	Although the Arabian Desert is one of the hottest and driest areas of the planet, oases (sites naturally supplied with underground water) make it an important producer of dates.
Gobi	China and Mongolia	500,000	Most precipitation takes the form of snowfall in the Gobi Desert, where temperatures can drop to -40°F in winter.
Kalahari	Southern Africa	300,000	Although it only gets 3 to 7.5 inches of rainfall annually, areas of the Kalahari support an abundance of desert plants and wildlife.

* Deserts are areas of earth that get less than 10 inches of annual precipitation (rain, snow, hail).

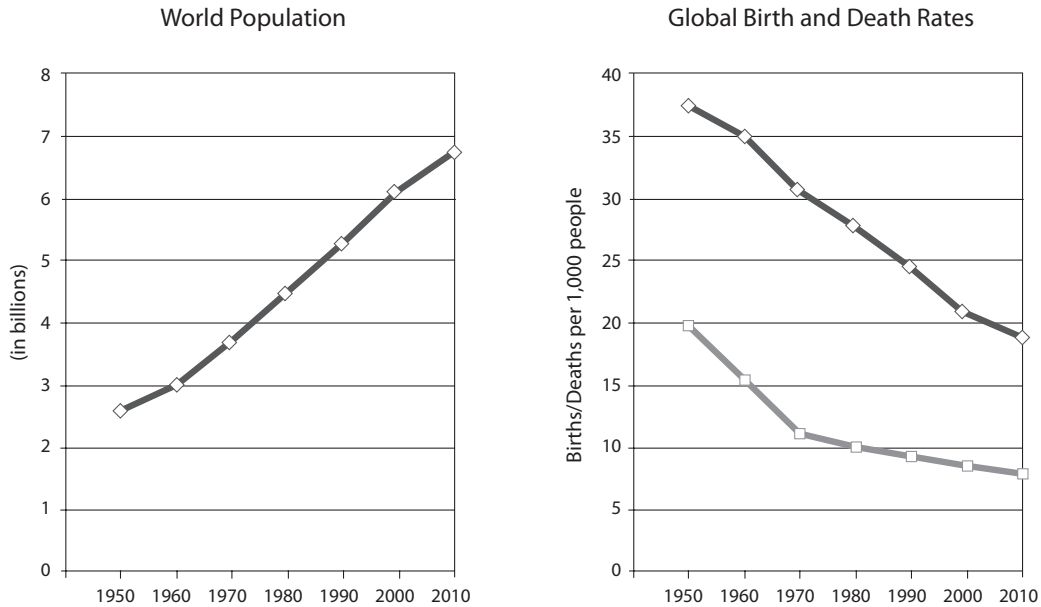
1. Which statement is supported by the facts presented in the table?
 - (1) Deserts are hot areas of the world.
 - (2) Deserts never have much vegetation.
 - (3) Deserts get relatively little precipitation.
 - (4) Antarctica is not a real desert.
 - (5) Deserts never have an abundant supply of water.

Answer

1. **(3)** Low precipitation is the defining characteristic of a desert. The information about each desert—as well as the table footnote—supports the statement that deserts don't get much precipitation. Facts provided about Antarctica and the Gobi Desert disprove statement (1). Statement (2) is contradicted by facts presented about the Saharan, Arabian, and Kalahari deserts. Although Antarctica (4) doesn't fit our usual idea of what a desert is, nothing in the chart indicates Antarctica is not a “real” desert; it fits the definition and is listed in the chart as the world's largest desert. Statement (5) is contradicted by facts presented about Antarctica, the Sahara, and the Arabian deserts.

Question

Question 1 refers to the following line graphs.



1. What will be the effect on world population growth as the worldwide fertility rate drops closer to the replacement level?
 - (1) The world's population will decline.
 - (2) The world's population will grow more slowly.
 - (3) The birth rate will begin to decline.
 - (4) There will be fewer young people to support an aging population.
 - (5) Population growth will immediately level off.

Answer

1. **(2)** If the fertility rate continues to decline and moves closer to the replacement level, the world's population will continue to grow but at a slower pace. Statements (3) and (4) are correct statements but the question asks for the effect on world population growth, not the effect on the birth rate or on social security systems. Population growth will not decline (1) or completely level off (5) as long as the birth rate remains higher than the death rate. Furthermore, any leveling off will not happen immediately. There is a time lag, since a high rate of population growth 20 years ago will mean a lot of women are currently entering their child-bearing years, causing the population to continue to grow for a while, even if the fertility rate is at the long-term replacement level.