

# World Studies

## Exam Options and Study Guide

### **OPTION A Historical Literacy Exam**

Answer multiple-choice questions designed to measure your comprehension of 7 texts. Each text is historical in nature, but the text-type varies: Some are primary sources, others are secondary; some are informative, others persuasive; some date back many centuries, others are contemporary. You will have access to all seven texts in advance. You may annotate the texts and use your annotations to guide your thinking on the exam.

### **OPTION B Semester Content Exam: Content Retention**

Answer multiple-choice *validity questions* that will measure your retention of content related to these topics:

- a) Constitutionalism, Authoritarianism, and structures of government
- b) Israel and Palestine: Conflict in the Holy Land
- c) The Rwandan Genocide of 1994
- d) Economic Systems: Capitalism, Communism, and Socialism
- e) The Philosophies of Plato and Lao-tzu: Caves, objects, forms, and ☯

### **OPTION C Wisdom Table**

Answer three of the free-response questions below. These critical thinking questions are designed measure the depth of your thinking. Each answer should offer a full analysis of the subject in response to the prompt, as well as a careful justification of any ideas or claims you present. You may prepare your answers in advance. You may collaborate with others, but your written answers must be individually crafted.

1. The artist Tupac Shakur adopted the alias Makaveli after reading and studying the teachings of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Italian political philosopher Niccoló Machiavelli. Given Tupac's desire to succeed in a competitive music industry, why would the ideas of Machiavelli appeal to him? Read excerpts from Machiavelli's most famous work The Prince. Establish the philosopher's key ideas about success: What does it take to *make it*? Then draw a connection to Tupac: Why would these ideas have captivated the rapper? Explain *every* point you make. For added credit, offer lyrics from any of Tupac's works after 1995 and illustrate how those lyrics reflect the influence of N. Machiavelli.
2. History, geography, and politics: Explain why the conflict in the Holy Land between Jewish Israelis and Arab Palestinians (most of whom are Muslim) is so complicated. a) Unpack each group's claim to the land (discuss their ancestral rights to the land, and identify sites that are historically significant to each group). b) Explain how the geography and politics of Palestine complicate the peace process. c) Explain how the settlement patterns of Jewish Israelis in the West Bank complicates the peace process.
3. Trace the history of the Rwandan genocide through the 10 stages of genocide, as authored by the international organization *Genocide Watch*.
4. How would Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the authors of *The Communist Manifesto*, evaluate MNPS' grading system? Your answer should evaluate the economics of our current system (from the perspective of Marx and Engels), propose an ideal system, and present and justify a next-step plan to transition from the current system to the ideal system.
5. Look up and examine the song lyrics to "Both Sides Now" by the Joni Mitchell. Then discuss how the ancient philosophers Plato and Lao-tzu would respond to the song. Justify all of your ideas by making connections between *The Allegory of the Cave* and the *Tao Teh Ching* and "Both Sides Now."