

23,000	Sewing needle
17,000	Spear-thrower
12,000	Bow and arrow
7,000	Ice Age ends: glaciers retreat

- 12 When Ice Age hunters invented the spear-thrower, they were able to hurl weapons faster and more accurately than they could barehanded.

How long ago is this innovation believed to have taken place?

- ☐ A) 7,000 years ago
- ☐ B) 17,000 years ago
- ☐ C) 27,000 years ago
- ☐ D) 10,000 years after the development of the sewing needle
- ☐ E) 10,000 years before the development of the sewing needle

- 13 Based on the table, which of the following lived first?

- ☐ A) Neanderthal
- ☐ B) Homo sapiens sapiens
- ☐ C) Homo sapiens neanderthalensis
- ☐ D) Homo habilis
- ☐ E) Cro-Magnon

- 14 An archaeologist unearths an ancient cave dwelling and several artifacts: a wall painting, a figurine, and a flute.

From this information alone, what can the archaeologist assume about the time when the cave dwellers were living?

The cave dwellers lived no earlier than

- ☐ A) 32,000 years ago
- ☐ B) 29,000 years ago
- ☐ C) 27,000 years ago
- ☐ D) 23,000 years ago
- ☐ E) 17,000 years ago

- 15 Excavated Ice Age villages in France show separate areas for cooking, butchering, and garbage disposal. Beads that were found in certain areas of camp also suggest the inhabitants had separate areas for making clothes.

What other artifacts, if found near the beads, might lend support to the idea of an Ice Age garment district?

- ☐ A) flutes
- ☐ B) needles
- ☐ C) figurines
- ☐ D) bowls
- ☐ E) arrows

Question 16 refers to the following information.

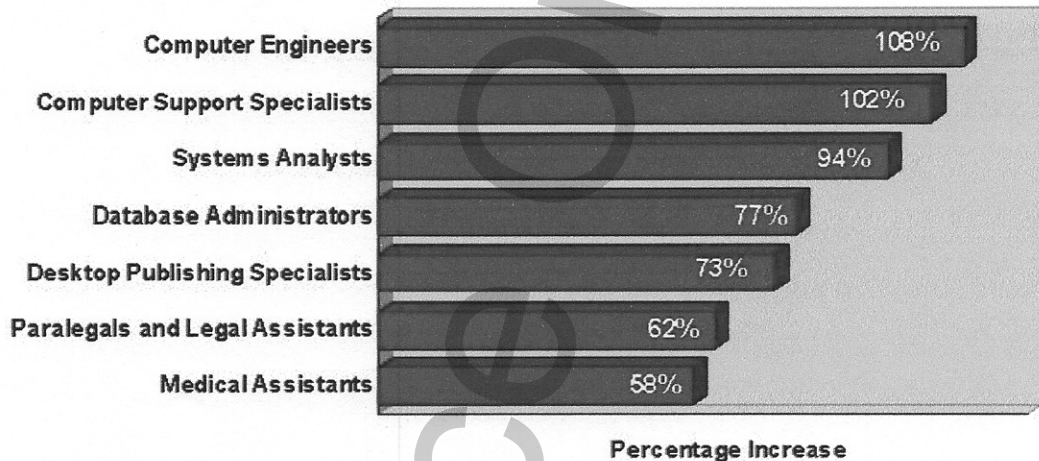
Our jury system is based on the idea that each jury member is qualified to weigh evidence and speak up for his or her interpretation of it. In actual practice, jurors do not treat each other as equals. In a study based on 49 mock jury trials, it was found that the social status of a juror was a strong factor influencing other jurors. The higher a juror's social status, the more influence he or she had.

- 16 Which of the following hypotheses does the study suggest?

- ☐ A) Jurors are seldom influenced by other jurors' social status.
- ☐ B) Social status is a factor in choosing who shall serve on juries.
- ☐ C) Jurors with lower social status may be persuaded by jurors with higher social status.
- ☐ D) Social status is the main factor influencing jurors.
- ☐ E) Jurors are less influenced by the evidence than by the accused person's social status.

Questions 17 through 19 refer to the following graph.

Fastest-Growing Occupations, 1998 - 2008



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

17 Which of the following occupations would NOT be considered one of the fastest growing from 1998–2008?

- ☐ A) efficiency expert
- ☐ B) legal secretary
- ☐ C) nurse's aide
- ☐ D) trial attorney
- ☐ E) Web site developer

18 Which of the following CANNOT be verified by information on the graph?

- ☐ A) In the ten years shown, the number of jobs for computer support specialists has more than doubled.
- ☐ B) Growth in jobs for computer support specialists far exceeded growth in jobs for editorial assistants.
- ☐ C) Between 1998 and 2008, it is projected that more jobs will have been added for computer engineers than for any other area of computer-related occupations.
- ☐ D) Between 1998 and 2008, the percentage of designated specialist occupations is projected to increase 175 percent.
- ☐ E) None of the occupations measured between 1998 and 2008 has shown a decline.

19

A job seeker shows the graph to an employment counselor and asks if it indicates that there are more jobs available for computer support specialists than there are for medical assistants.

Which of the following is the counselor's best response?

- ☐ A) There are 44 percent more jobs as a computer support specialist than there are for medical assistants.
- ☐ B) This graph does not show the number of jobs in any category, only the percent of increase.
- ☐ C) While 102 percent of the jobs are for computer engineer positions, only 58 percent of the jobs are for medical assistants.
- ☐ D) There are actually more jobs available in desktop publishing than there are in systems analysis.
- ☐ E) The number of computer support jobs is expected to increase by 102 percent, while the number of jobs for paralegals and legal assistants will increase by only 58 percent.

Question 20 refers to the following information.

The Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states:

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for

obtaining witnesses in his favor; and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

20 Which situation below would be prohibited by the Sixth Amendment?

- ☐ A) The accused is denied bail.
- ☐ B) The accused agrees to forgo a jury trial and pleads guilty to a lesser charge.
- ☐ C) A person's home is searched by police who have not obtained a warrant.
- ☐ D) The accused cannot afford an attorney and is denied one.
- ☐ E) The judge refuses to allow the press into the courtroom.

21 Which of the following is NOT a legal document?

- ☐ A) a U.S. passport
- ☐ B) a library card
- ☐ C) a birth certificate
- ☐ D) a social security card
- ☐ E) a driver's license with a photograph

Question 22 refers to the following information.

A Wage and Tax Statement, also known as the W-2 Form, is prepared for you by your employer and is sent to you after the first of the year. Your W-2 is a summary of how much money you earned for the year and the amounts that were withheld for state and federal taxes. It also reflects additional deductions or credits for specific types of job categories, health care, tips, and family situations. You receive a W-2 Form from each employer you have had during the year. These Wage and Tax Statements are used when preparing your state and federal income tax returns.

a Control number		22222	Void <input type="checkbox"/>	For Official Use Only OMB No. 1545-0008	
b Employer identification number			1 Wages, tips, other compensation		
10-0000003			\$ 29,204.40		
c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code			2 Federal income tax withheld		
XYZ Corporation 2656 W. Summerdale Ave. Evanston, IL 60202			\$ 4380.66		
d Employee's social security number			3 Social security wages		
123-45-6789			\$ 29,204.40		
e Employee's first name and initial			4 Social security tax withheld		
Patricia F.			\$ 730.11		
Last name			5 Medicare wages and tips		
Smith			\$		
f Employee's address and ZIP code			6 Medicare tax withheld		
170 New Port Lane Palatine, IL 60067			\$		
13 Statutory employee			7 Social security tips		
<input type="checkbox"/>			\$		
14 Other			8 Allocated tips		
<input type="checkbox"/>			\$		
15 State			9 Advance EIC payment		
Employer's state ID number			10 Dependent care benefits		
IL			\$		
16 State wages, tips, etc.			11 Nonqualified plans		
\$			12a See instructions for box 12		
17 State income tax			12b		
\$			\$		
18 Local wages, tips, etc.			12c		
\$			\$		
19 Local income tax			12d		
\$			\$		
20 Locality name					

Form **W-2** Wage and Tax Statement 1991

Copy A For Social Security Administration—Send this entire page with Form W-3 to the Social Security Administration; photocopies are not acceptable.

2002

(Rev. February 2002)

Cat. No. 10134D

Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service
For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.

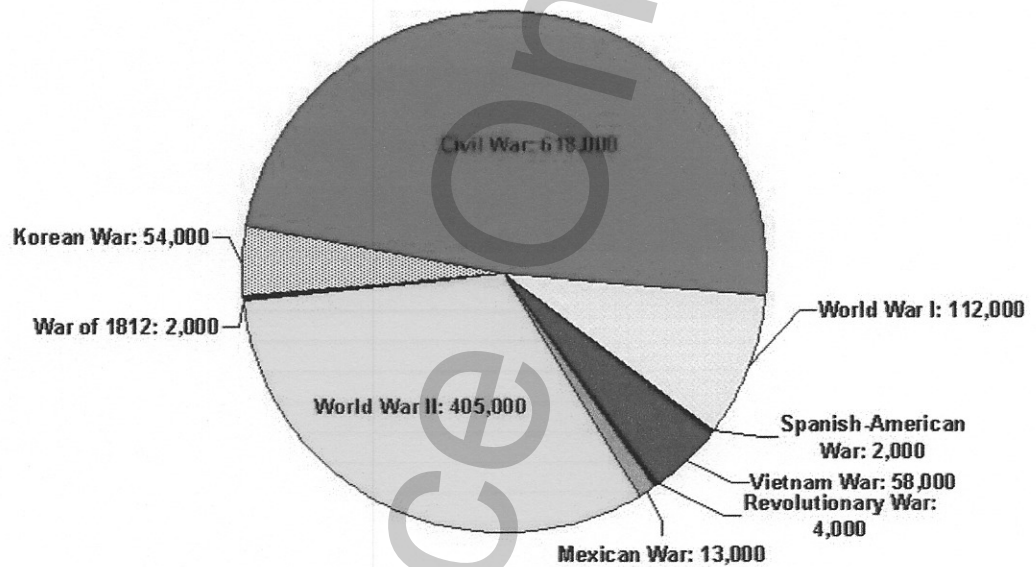
Do Not Cut, Fold, or Staple Forms on This Page — Do Not Cut, Fold, or Staple Forms on This Page

22 Based on the Wage and Tax Statement shown, which of the following profiles does NOT fit with this statement?

- ☐ A) a 28 year-old married truck driver
- ☐ B) a 65 year-old customer service representative with three grandchildren
- ☐ C) A 19 year old college student working weekends as a waitress
- ☐ D) a 39 year-old divorced administrative assistant
- ☐ E) a 45 year-old data processor with one married son

Question 23 refers to the following graph and information.

Battle Deaths in Major U.S. Wars



Dates of Some Major U.S. Wars:

Revolutionary War: 1775–1783
 Civil War: 1861–1865
 World War I: 1914–1918
 World War II: 1939–1945
 Vietnam War: 1964–1975

23 Which of the following is a conclusion that can be drawn from the graph and information?

- ☐ A) The number of war deaths is directly related to the number of years a war is fought.
- ☐ B) Factors other than the length of a war determine the number of war deaths.
- ☐ C) The earlier the war, the more deaths there were.
- ☐ D) Battles fought on the ground cause more deaths than battles fought from the air.
- ☐ E) The War of 1812 was probably about the same length as the Spanish-American War.

Questions 24 and 25 refer to the following information.

Governments get money mainly through taxes. To increase their revenues, governments may increase tax rates. Sometimes this works, but sometimes the effect is the opposite; higher taxes can actually cause revenues to fall.

24 How could raising a sales tax result in less rather than more revenue for a particular state?

- ☐ A) When a state raises taxes, it receives less money from the federal government.
- ☐ B) When a government raises taxes, more people have to get second jobs.
- ☐ C) A higher sales tax is difficult for poorer people to pay.
- ☐ D) An increased sales tax may raise the cost of goods so much that consumers won't buy as much.
- ☐ E) Many states have a sales tax but no income tax.

25 A representative is defending the idea that higher taxes can result in less revenue.

Which of the following facts could be offered as evidence?

- ☐ A) A single taxpayer earning \$15,000 is in the 15 percent tax bracket while one earning \$25,000 pays 28 percent.
- ☐ B) Nevada has the second highest sales tax (6.5 percent) but ranks 36th in property taxes collected per person.
- ☐ C) States with high taxes on cigarettes lose millions of dollars a year when bootleggers bring in cigarettes to sell from states with lower taxes.



TASC Test Social Studies Practice Items

TASC Test Social Studies Practice Items

Use these items to practice for the TASC Social Studies subtest. Once you reach the end of the test, check your responses against the answer key provided. Take the time to read the information preceding the answers to understand what you'll need to know and be able to do to prepare yourself to pass the TASC test. In the following multiple-choice questions, please circle the correct answer.

Good luck preparing for the TASC test!

Look at the chart and answer the questions that follow.

Organization	Functions
United Nations (UN)	An international organization established to maintain global peace and to promote social progress and human rights
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	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
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	A group of mostly Arab nations that sell oil to other nations and work together to regulate the price and supply of oil
European Union (EU)	A group of European nations established to coordinate monetary and economic policies
World Trade Organization (WTO)	An international organization dealing with the rules of trade among nations

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

- A NATO
- B OPEC
- C EU
- D WTO

Social Studies



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

Social Studies



TASC Test Social Studies Practice Items

- 15** In the United States, eligible voters cast ballots in a number of different types of elections. Match the type of election with the description of a voter participating in it by dragging the description to the appropriately labeled area.

A man votes for a slate of candidates who will represent his political party in an upcoming election.

Drop Area 1

“General”

A woman votes on whether to remove a public official from office.

Drop Area 2

“Initiative”

A man votes on a proposed law that was suggested by voters in a voter petition drive.

Drop Area 3

“Primary”

A woman votes for candidates to fill a variety of public offices.

Drop Area 4

“Recall”

Social Studies