US History Regents Exam Questions: Interpreting Tables

1 Base your answer on the table below and your knowledge of social studies.

**Selected Statistics for Women
Who Worked Full Time in 1993**

Major Occupation Group	Percent of Men's Earnings
Professional	73.3
Sales and administrative support	70.4
Service	74.0
Craft and repair	67.3
Laborer	72.2

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Which statement is best suported by the data in the table?
1) Women earn more in service jobs than in craft and repair jobs.
2) Men can more easily find jobs that require little skill or education.
3) More women are working as professionals than as laborers.
4) A discrepancy exists between the earnings of men and women in similar jobs.

2 According to the chart, how did the percentage of working children between the ages of 10 and 15 change from 1890 to 1920?

Date	Percentage of Children Between the Ages of 10 and 15 Who Worked
1890	18.1
1900	18.2
1910	15.0
1920	11.3

3 Base your answer on the table below and your knowledge of social studies.

**Life Expectancy of Men and Women
in the United States**

Year	Men	Women
1900*	46.3	48.3
1950	65.6	71.1
1960	66.6	73.1
1970	67.1	74.7
1980	70.0	77.4
1990	71.8	78.8
1993†	72.1	78.9

* Based on 10 states and the District of Columbia,
Age 65 Data from 1900–1902 period
†Provisional data
Source: National Center for Health Statistics

A valid conclusion based on the data in the table is that
1) men have received better medical attention than women
2) Americans are healthier than people in any other country
3) the average life expectancy in the United States has increased steadily during the 20th century
4) most of the change in the average lifespan for men and women has occurred since 1950

4 Based on this chart, what conclusion can be drawn from comparing the earnings of women with the earnings of men in 1981?

Earnings by Occupation, 1981 Weekly Medians

	Women's Pay	Men's Pay
Clerical workers	$220	$328
Computer specialists	355	488
Editors, reporters	324	382
Engineers	371	547
Lawyers	407	574
Nurses	326	344
Physicians	401	495
Sales workers	190	366
Teachers (elementary)	311	379
Waiters	144	200

Source: Time, July 12, 1982

5 Based on this chart, what was *one* way that control of the port of New Orleans affected the United States economy?

Value of Produce From the Interior Received at the Port of New Orleans, 1816–1860

Time Period	Value in Dollars
1816–1820	61,432,458
1821–1825	75,675,672
1826–1830	107,886,410
1831–1835	143,477,674
1836–1840	220,408,589
1841–1845	266,614,052
1846–1850	425,893,436
1851–1855	671,653,147
1856–1860	827,736,914

Source: Douglass C. North, *The Economic Growth of the United States, 1790–1860,* W.W. Norton & Co., 1966 (adapted)

6 Base your answer on the chart below and your knowledge of social studies.

Rural and Urban Populations in the United States

Year	Rural	Urban
1860	25,226,803	6,216,518
1870	28,656,010	9,902,361
1880	36,059,474	14,129,735
1890	40,873,501	22,106,265
1900	45,997,336	30,214,832
1910	50,164,495	42,064,001
1920	51,768,255	54,253,282

Source: Bureau of the Census

Which generalization about population growth is supported by information in this chart?
1) For every census listed, rural population exceeded urban population.
2) By 1920, more people lived in cities than in rural areas.
3) The Civil War significantly slowed the rate of population growth.
4) Most urban population growth was due to people migrating from rural areas.

7 Base your answer on the table below and your knowledge of social studies.

Participation in High School Sports

School Year	Boys	Girls
1971–72	3,666,917	294,015
2003–04	4,038,253	2,865,299

Source: National Federation of State High School Associations (adapted)

The data included in the table suggest that since 1971
1) boys are losing interest in participating in sports
2) participation in sports by boys and girls is nearly equal
3) girls' participation in sports equals that of boys
4) girls' participation in sports is increasing at a faster rate than that of boys

8   Base your answer on the chart below and your knowledge of social studies.

ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF VOTING-AGE AFRICAN AMERICANS REGISTERED IN 1965 AND 1988		
STATE	March 1965	November 1988
Alabama	19.3	68.4
Georgia	27.4	56.8
Louisiana	31.6	77.1
Mississippi	6.7	74.2
N. Carolina	46.8	58.2
S. Carolina	37.3	56.7
Virginia	38.3	63.8

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
(adapted)

Which state had the largest increase in the percentage of African Americans registered to vote between 1965 and 1988?
1) Alabama
2) Georgia
3) Louisiana
4) Mississippi

9   Base your answer on the chart below and your knowledge of social studies.

Number of Americans Age 85 and Older

Year	(in millions)
1900	0.1
1950	0.6
1960	0.9
2000	4.2
2010*	6.1
2020*	7.3

*Projected

Source: Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics

Which statement is most clearly supported by the information in the chart?
1) Elderly men outnumber elderly women.
2) In 1960, more than 10 percent of Americans were age 85 or older.
3) The number of Americans living past the age of 85 is increasing.
4) In 1900, only 1 million Americans were age 85.

10   Base your answer on the chart below and your knowledge of social studies.

Immigration Before and After Quota Laws	From Northern and Western Europe	From Southern and Eastern Europe and Asia
Average annual number of immigrants before quotas (1907–1914)	176,983	685,531
Emergency Quota Act of 1921	198,082	158,367
Quotas in Immigration Act of 1924	140,999	21,847

Source: Thomas A. Bailey et al., *The American Pageant,* Houghton-Mifflin (adapted)

What was an effect of the immigration laws of 1921 and 1924?
1) reduction of immigration from southern and eastern Europe and Asia
2) establishment of equality among ethnic groups seeking entrance to the United States
3) increase in the total number of immigrants allowed to enter the United States
4) removal of restrictions from the nations of northern and western Europe

11   Based on these charts, state *two* trends related to industrialization between 1861 and 1910.

Selected Statistics Related to Industrialization

	Value of Manufactured Products	Employed in Manufacturing	
		Number of Males	Number of Females
1860	$1.9 billion	1.03 million	270,357
1870	$4.2 billion	1.61 million	323,506
1880	$5.3 billion	2.01 million	529,983
1890	$9.3 billion	2.86 million	503,089
1900	$12.9 billion	4.08 million	1.03 million
1910	$20.8 billion	8.84 million	1.82 million

Source: Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI,
and U.S. Census Bureau

United States Immigration 1861–1910

Decade	Total
1861–1870	2,314,824
1871–1880	2,812,191
1881–1890	5,246,613
1891–1900	3,687,564*
1901–1910	8,795,386

*Decline in numbers of immigrants due in part to the Depression of 1893.

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1998,* U.S. Government Printing Office

12 Based on these charts, state *two* effects of industrialization on the United States after the Civil War.

Urbanization, Railroad Mileage, and Industrialization of the United States, 1860–1900

	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900
Urban Population (millions)	6.2	9.9	14.1	22.1	30.2
% Urban Population	20%	25%	28%	35%	40%
Number of Cities with Population of 10,000+	93	168	223	363	440
Railroad Mileage (thousands)	30.6	52.9	93.3	166.7	206.6
Meat Packing Output ($ millions)	not available	62.1	303.6	564.7	790.3

Source: Gary Fields, "Communications, Innovations, and Networks: The National Beef Network of G. F. Swift"
(adapted)

Union Membership, 1870–1920

Year	Number of workers, age 10 and over (excluding agricultural workers)	Average annual union membership	Union membership as a percentage of the total number of workers outside agriculture
1870	6,075,000	300,000*	4.9%
1880	8,807,000	200,000*	2.3%
1890	13,380,000	372,000*	2.7%
1900	18,161,000	868,000	4.8%
1910	25,779,000	2,140,000	8.3%
1920	30,985,000	5,048,000	16.3%

* Figures for 1870, 1880, and 1890 are estimates.

Source: Irving Bartlett et al., *A New History of the United States*,
Holt, Rinehart and Winston,1975 (adapted)

13 According to this chart, what effect did the quota laws have on immigration to the United States?

Immigration Before and After Quota Laws	From Northern and Western Europe	From Southern and Eastern Europe and Asia
Average annual number of immigrants before quotas (1907–1914)	176,983	685,531
Emergency Quota Act of 1921	198,082	158,367
Emergency Quota Act Amended 1924	140,999	21,847
National Origins Act of 1929	132,323	20,251

— *Historical Statistics of the United States*

14 Base your answer on the chart below and your knowledge of social studies.

MEDIAN EARNINGS OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, 1960–1990				
Year	Women	Men	Women's Earnings as a Percent of Men's	Earnings Gap in Constant 1990 Dollars
1960	$ 3,257	$ 5,368	60.7	$ 8,569
1970	5,323	8,966	59.4	11,529
1980	11,197	18,612	60.2	11,776
1990	19,822	27,678	71.6	7,856

Source: Bureau of the Census

The data in this chart support the conclusion that between 1960 and 1990
1) government failed to pass laws that granted women equal access to jobs
2) the earnings gap between men and women was only slightly improved
3) women's earnings consistently increased faster than those of men
4) most higher paying jobs were still not legally open to women

15 Base your answer on the table below and your knowledge of social studies.

United States Trends in Farming, 1910 – 1960

Table A Number of Farms		Table B Number of People in Agriculture	
1910	6,406,000	1910	11,770,000
1920	6,518,000	1920	10,790,000
1930	6,546,000*	1930	10,560,000
1940	6,350,000*	1940	9,575,000
1950	5,648,000*	1950	7,870,000
1960	3,963,000*	1960	5,970,000
*Includes Alaska and Hawaii			

Source: United States Census Bureau (adapted)

Which situation is associated with the trends in agriculture shown in these tables?
1) Farm foreclosures decreased.
2) Farm size was substantially reduced.
3) Farm output declined.
4) Farmers became a smaller percentage of the labor force.

16 Base your answer on the table below and your knowledge of social studies.

CASUALTIES OF THE CIVIL WAR

	Union Troops	Confederate Troops
Total Troops	1,566,678	1,082,119
Wounded	275,175	194,000*
Died of Wounds	110,070	94,000
Died of Disease	249,458	164,000

— Garraty and McCaughey, *The American Nation,* Harper and Row, 1987;
*Shelby Foote, *The Civil War: A Narrative,* Vintage Books, 1986

Which statement is best supported by the data in the table?
1) The Confederate troops lost the Civil War as a result of their higher numbers of injuries and fatalities.
2) The Union army had better generals during the Civil War.
3) The Civil War had more casualties than any other war.
4) More soldiers died from disease than from wounds.

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Answer Section

1 ANS: 4   REF: 089847us
2 ANS:
overall a decline in the percentage of children working; at first there was a slight increase in the percentage of children working and then a decrease; decreased approximately 6.8%; went from 18.1% to 11.3%

REF: 0801IIIA3us
3 ANS: 4   REF: 019939us
4 ANS:
women got paid less than men for the same job; men got paid more than women for the same job

REF: 0802IIIA6us
5 ANS:
between 1816 and 1860, more goods from the interior went to New Orleans; the value of interior produce receipts at New Orleans increased steadily; easier for farmers to get their products to market; exports through New Orleans increased; it encouraged an increase in trade; it became a source of economic growth

REF: 0807IIIA1bus
6 ANS: 2   REF: 010321us
7 ANS: 4   REF: 010541us
8 ANS: 4   REF: 080744us
9 ANS: 3   REF: 011041us
10 ANS: 1   REF: 010821us
11 ANS:
value of manufactured goods rose from $1.9 billion to $20.7 billion/value of manufactured products increased; employment of both men and women in manufacturing generally increased during this period; immigrants continued to come to the United States in large numbers

REF: 0609IIIA1us
12 ANS:
railroad mileage increased; America's meat packing output increased; union membership increased in the early 20th century; number of cities with population of 10,000 or more grew; percentage of urban population increased; urban population increased

REF: 0609IIIA2us
13 ANS:
they reduced immigration from southern and eastern Europe and Asia and admitted more people from northern and western Europe

REF: 0602IIIA5us
14 ANS: 2   REF: 060344us
15 ANS: 4   REF: 060544us
16 ANS: 4   REF: 080510us