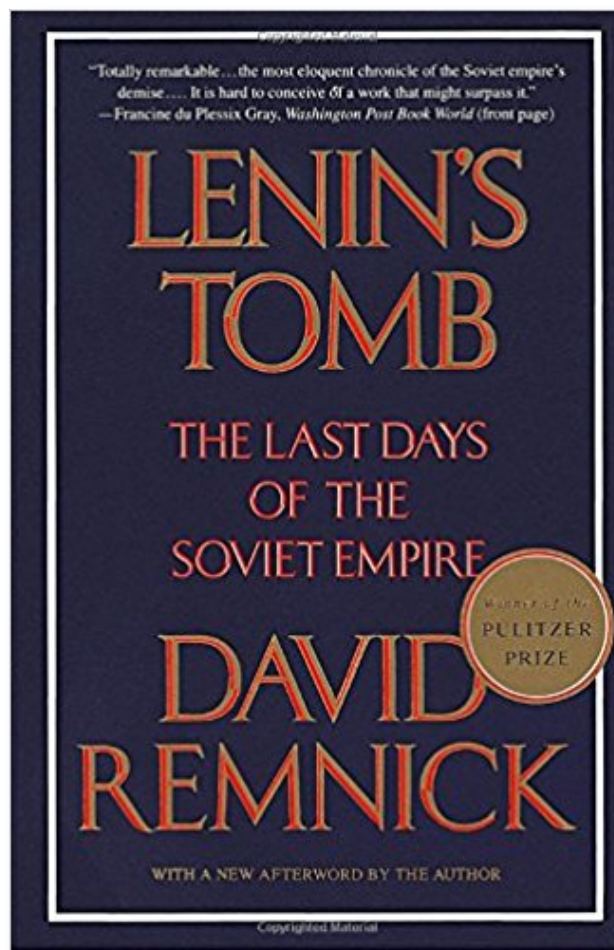




UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

Social Studies

District • 2018



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UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST

DISTRICT • SPRING 2018

Part I: General Knowledge

In the Shadow of the Red Bear: Russia and the former Soviet Union

(1 point each)

- At the end of 1929,, a campaign to “liquidate the _____ as a class” was launched by the government. By 1934, most of these prosperous farmers as well as millions of other peasants who had opposed collectivization, had been deported to remote regions of the Soviet Union or arrested and their land and property confiscated.

A. Cossacks	C. kulaks
B. serfs	D. bourgeoisie
- The class of academics, writers, artists, and other educated citizenry especially as a cultural, social, or political elite are referred to as the _____.

A. apparatchiks	C. intelligentsia
B. aristocracy	D. oligarchs
- The basin of the _____ River sprawls across about two-fifths of the European part of Russia and contains almost half of the entire population of the Russian Republic.

A. Karakum	C. Don
B. Dnieper	D. Volga
- Under Soviet law, status, rather than wealth, determined living standards. Secret laws provided lavish benefits for the _____; the top level government appointees at national and local levels.

A. nomenklatura	C. proletariat
B. Duma	D. Politburo
- Solidarity became the first independent _____ in a country belonging to the Soviet bloc. Solidarity was founded in 1980, was forcibly suppressed by the Polish government, and reemerged in 1989 to become the first opposition movement to participate in free elections in a Soviet-bloc nation since the 1940s.

A. labor union	C. military organization
B. political party	D. religious society

- Amateur parachutist
- Soviet cosmonaut in the early 1960s
- Member of the Supreme Soviet for 25 years
- Deputy Chair of the Parliament of Yaroslavl province

6. All of the previous statements refer to ____.
- A. Leonid Brezhnev
B. Viktor Chernomydrin
C. Yuri Gagarin
D. Valentina Tereshkova
7. The ____ river rises in a small peat bog on the southern slope of the Valdai Hills west of Moscow, and flows in a generally southerly direction through western Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine to the Black Sea.
- A. Danube
B. Volga
C. Don
D. Dnieper
8. The term ____ is most closely associated with members of a number of guerrilla groups operating in Afghanistan that opposed invading Soviet forces and eventually toppled the Afghan communist government during the Afghan War.
- A. RSFSR
B. Jadids
C. Mujahidin
D. Basmachi Rebellion
9. At one time the richest man in Russia, ____ is an oil tycoon who was imprisoned in 2003 on charges of fraud and tax evasion.
- A. Viktor Yanukovych
B. Nikolai Ryzhkov
C. Andrei Zhdanov
D. Mikhail Khodorkovsky
10. Russians consider the Battle of ____ to be one of the greatest battles of their Great Patriotic War, and most historians consider it to be the greatest battle of the entire conflict. It stopped the German advance and marked the turning of the tide in favor of the Allies.
- A. Leningrad
B. The Volga
C. Petrograd
D. Stalingrad

11. The August Coup, attempted in 1991, against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was initiated to stop the _____ when members of the Politburo and the heads of the Soviet military and security services detained Gorbachev at his villa in the Crimea.
- A. signing ceremony for a new union treaty
 - B. closure of several KGB outposts in Eastern Europe
 - C. removal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan
 - D. agreement to disband the Warsaw Pact
12. In 1918, the Bolshevik Party was renamed the All-Russian Communist Party. Its basic unit was the workers' council better known as a _____.
- A. politburo
 - B. soviet
 - C. Duma
 - D. collective
13. Russian academic and de facto first lady of the Soviet Union, _____ rejected the virtual invisibility of her predecessors and came to embody many of the social and political changes wrought during the Glasnost Era. Her outspoken intellectualism, and high-profile presence made her popular abroad, but often drew criticism at home.
- A. Valentina Tereshkova
 - B. Larisa Bogoraz
 - C. Yelena Chukovskaya
 - D. Raisa Gorbachev
14. Until 1989, the Soviet Union denied the existence of the secret protocols being part of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact because they were considered evidence of its involuntary annexation of the _____.
- A. Baltic states
 - B. western half of Poland
 - C. majority of Finland
 - D. Eastern bloc
15. Emomali Rakhmonov, changed his name to Rakhmon in 2006 in an effort to “derussify” himself and his nation of _____. In 2015, the parliament gave him the title “Leader of the Nation” and awarded him immunity from prosecution.
- A. Kazakhstan
 - B. Turkmenistan
 - C. Tajikistan
 - D. Kyrgyzstan

16. As the center of the first eastern Slavic state, 1,000 years ago, _____ acquired the title “Mother of Rus Cities.” It was severely damaged during World War II, but by the mid-1950s it had been restored and in the second half of the 20th century it enjoyed a well-developed economic and cultural life.
- A. Moscow
B. Stalingrad
C. Kiev
D. St. Petersburg
17. The legislature of the Soviet Union was called the _____ and consisted of an upper house whose delegates were elected on the basis of population, and a lower house whose delegates were elected to represent the various nationalities.
- A. Central Committee
B. Presidium
C. Duma
D. Supreme Soviet
18. After right-wing leaders helped Josef Stalin defeat Trotsky and his left-wing supporters, Stalin adopted the left-wing economic policy of rapid industrialization and launched an attack on _____ and his right-wing associates, Nikolay Bukharin and Mikhail Tomsky. In 1936 and 1937, he was implicated in fabricated treasonous conspiracies and in early 1937 was arrested and expelled from the party. In March 1938, he was tried, convicted of treason, and executed.
- A. Len Karpinsky
B. Aleksei Rykov
C. Roy Medvedev
D. Anatoly Sobchak
19. In July 1998, President Boris Yeltsin made _____ director of the FSB (the KGB’s domestic successor), and shortly thereafter, he became secretary of the influential Security Council. In 1999, Yeltsin appointed him prime minister.
- A. Dmitry Medvedev
B. Yevgeny Primakov
C. Vladimir Putin
D. Yegor Gaidar
20. The _____ promoted both individual freedom and greater protection for the vulnerable in the Soviet Union. It simplified the divorce procedure by transferring contested divorces from the courts to local authorities. Either spouse could register a divorce without the partner's consent or even knowledge.
- A. Family Code of 1926
B. Soviet People’s Bill of Human Rights
C. 1991 Soviet Referendum
D. Komsomol Code of Obligations

Part II: Primary Source Material

***Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire*, by David Remnick**

(2 points each)

21. In the wake of the disastrous coup attempt, some conservatives in the USSR were so shaken by the way it changed the world that they began to excuse it as a nonevent. Some believed in conspiracies theories about CIA involvement and Nikolai Ryzhov went so far as to call _____ a paid traitor.
- A. Mikhail Gorbachev
B. Vladimir Kryuchkov
C. Boris Yeltsin
D. Gennady Yanayev
22. Due to glasnost, the Exhibition of Economic Achievements was able to display “The Exhibit of Poor-Quality Goods,” that revealed how poor craftsmanship was a fact of life in the USSR. It was so prevalent that the leading cause of house fires was _____.
- A. malfunctioning toasters
B. poorly wired ovens
C. exploding television sets
D. overheating dryers
23. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s essay _____ encapsulated the struggle that people opposing the Soviet system faced. It recognized the difficulty of outright rebellion and pushed for people to at least refuse to cooperate with the state by not writing or teaching the government’s falsehoods.
- A. *Stalin Is with Us*
B. *The Red Wheel*
C. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*
D. *Live Not by the Lie*
24. Five months after the death of Josef Stalin, Andrei Sakharov began a personal and political conversion ignited by the _____.
- A. brink of nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis
B. detonation of the first Soviet thermonuclear bomb
C. reaction of the U.S. to the launch of Sputnik
D. imprisonment of both of his parents
25. After the collapse of the one-party system, Moscow’s Ilya Zaslavsky, told voters of the _____, “we will build capitalism in one district.” The promise echoed Stalin’s attempt to build “socialism in one country.”
- A. Lenin Square
B. October Region
C. Red Chapter
D. Southern Outpost

26. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn lived in Cavendish, _____ in exile for eighteen years before returning to Russia in 1994.
- A. Vermont
B. Rhode Island
C. New York
D. California
27. The youth in the USSR began to despise anything that smelled of official Soviet life. More and more the worst insult was _____. If you called someone this term you were saying they were narrow-minded, weak, lazy, and a hypocrite.
- A. dvornik
B. bomzhi
C. sovok
D. nashi
28. By the winter of 1990-91, Moscow became a fanatic's dream. It was the most exciting city for _____ since New York after the WWII.
- A. newspapers
B. sports
C. politics
D. television
29. The city of _____ in the Urals, became a legend of WWII often referred to as "Hitler's grave," because it produced the steel for 1/2 of the tanks and 1/3 of the artillery used to defeat the Nazis.
- A. Magnitogorsk
B. Ashkhabad
C. Spasskaya
D. Perm
30. According to the main human rights organizations in the Soviet Union and in the West, the last island of the gulag was a camp in the Ural Mountains near the city of _____
- A. Magnitogorsk
B. Ashkhabad
C. Spasskaya
D. Perm

“I would come home from working in Stalin’s archives, and I would be deeply shaken,” Volkogonov told me. “[Stalin] signed thirty lists of death sentences...altogether about 5,000 people, including many he knew personally, his friends. This was before their trials, of course. This was no surprise. This is not what shook me.”

31. According to General Dmitri Volkogonov, what really shook him was that Stalin ended this particular day of condemning thousands of Soviets and friends by ____.
- A. viewing a popular comedy in his private theater
 - B. visiting children at a local orphanage
 - C. giving a speech denouncing the brutality of capitalism
 - D. attending an extravagant party for the Communist elite
32. In 1990, the Moscow Party organization made what they hoped would be perceived as a generous and liberal decree. Celebrating and taking part in the annual communist holiday, ____ would be “completely voluntary.”
- A. May Day
 - B. Karl Marx’s birthday
 - C. V-E Day
 - D. Josef Stalin’s birthday
33. The author of *Lenin’s Tomb* refers to ____ as the Soviet Union’s proper, spiritual capital. It was an invention of the Kremlin and the NKVD, an administrative center for mass murder throughout the Kolyma region in eastern Siberia.
- A. Novocherkask
 - B. Yagunovsko
 - C. Magadan
 - D. Lubyanka
34. Events led people to point out ____ could be translated as “Wormwood” and quoted Revelations stating, “a great star shot from the sky, flaming like a torch; and it fell on a third of the rivers and springs. The name of the star was Wormwood; and a third of the water turned to wormwood, and men in great numbers died of the water because it was poisoned.”
- A. Sputnik
 - B. Khrushchev
 - C. Chernobyl
 - D. Gorbachev

“When we say that we are rehabilitating someone, as if we are mercifully forgiving him for the sins of the past, this smells of cunning and hypocrisy. We are not forgiving him. We are forgiving ourselves. It is we who are to blame that others lived for years both slandered and oppressed.” –August 20, 1990

35. Who made this statement on television the same day that Gorbachev signed a decree rehabilitating anyone repressed in the twenties through fifties?
- A. Boris Yeltsin
B. Vaclav Havel
C. Aleksandr Yakovlev
D. Andrei Sakharov

Part III: Supplemental Readings

Country Profiles

(3 points each)

36. Krubera Cave in the western part of _____ is the deepest known cave in the world. At 2,197 meters, it is the only known cave on earth deeper than 2,000 meters.
- A. Georgia
B. Estonia
C. Russia
D. Ukraine
37. Conflict between ethnic Romanians and the Russian-Ukrainian majority in Trans-Dniester erupted upon independence from the USSR in 1991. About 1,500 died in the conflict when Trans-Dniester separatists fought for independence from _____ in 1992.
- A. Armenia
B. Lithuania
C. Moldova
D. Azerbaijan
38. Despite threats of terrorist attacks, complaints about poor preparations, and the international condemnation for their anti-gay law, Russia kicked off the costliest Olympic Games in history in February 2014 in the Black Sea resort town of _____.
- A. Samara
B. Yalta
C. Odessa
D. Sochi
39. Nikita Khrushchev’s downfall stemmed from his decision to place Soviet missiles in _____ and then, when challenged by the U.S., backing down and removing the weapons.
- A. Turkey
B. Cuba
C. Afghanistan
D. Poland

40. Which of the following currencies is **NOT** matched correctly with its country?
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Ruble - Russia | C. Lari - Georgia |
| B. Krugerrand - Estonia | D. Tenge - Kazakhstan |
41. Which of the following capitals is **NOT** matched correctly with its country?
- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| A. Chisinau - Moldova | C. Astana - Kazakhstan |
| B. Tallinn - Estonia | D. Dushanbe - Turkmenistan |
- I. Kyrgyz people become nominal subjects of Chinese empire
 II. Tulip Revolution forces President Akayev from power
 III. Kyrgyzstan acquires its present name and declares independence
 IV. Area of modern Kyrgyzstan incorporated into Russian empire
42. Put the preceding events in correct chronological order from earliest to latest.
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. IV, I, II, III | C. I, IV, III, II |
| B. II, I, IV, III | D. I, II, IV, III |
43. In March 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin dispatched troops to _____, citing the need to protect ethnic Russians and Russian citizens from extremists, referring to the anti-government protestors whom he called “thugs.”
- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| A. Crimea | C. Grozny |
| B. Dagestan | D. South Ossetia |
44. A mix of Turkic and Mongol nomadic tribes migrated to this region by the 13th century, but were rarely united as a single nation. _____ was eventually conquered by Russia in the 18th century and became a Soviet Republic in 1936.
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A. Kazakhstan | C. Azerbaijan |
| B. Armenia | D. Georgia |
45. _____ is a landlocked republic of hilly plains lying east of the Carpathian Mountains between the Prut and Dniester rivers and sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine.
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. Armenia | C. Azerbaijan |
| B. Lithuania | D. Moldova |

ESSAY PROMPT:

NOTE: Contestants who do not write an essay will be disqualified. Any essay that does not demonstrate a sincere effort to discuss the assigned topic will be disqualified. The rankings of essays will be based primarily on how well the topic has been addressed. A focused, concise and specific essay beats a vague and rambling essay. Proper grammar and organization should be used to aid clarity, but should not be considered a major factor in scoring. Cover as many corners of the issue as practical. Avoid including personal editorialized opinions, as more than enough information on the subject has been published.

“The elements of social corrosion that emerged in recent years had a negative effect on society’s spiritual temper and imperceptibly sapped the lofty moral values that have always been inherent to our people and in which we take pride.

This fundamental change of direction is necessary, since we simply have no other way. Today there is a need to state once again what we mean by restructuring.

Restructuring means resolutely overcoming the processes of stagnation...and creating a reliable and effective mechanism of accelerating the social and economic development of Soviet society.

Restructuring means reliance on the vital creativity of the masses, the all-round development of democracy...and the expansion of openness, criticism and self-criticism in all spheres of the life of society.

We want to transform our country...where the working person...can enjoy all the benefits of material and spiritual culture, where his children’s future will be secure, and where he will possess everything he needs for a full, meaningful life.”

- Mikhail Gorbachev, Report to the Plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee. January 27, 1987

Mikhail Gorbachev was an ardent believer in Leninist values and the socialism that was intended to deliver the benefits of those values to the Soviet people. He also believed that the USSR had to change in order to survive. Perestroika and glasnost were his hopes for making the necessary modernizations to the Soviet Union. Describe the policies he put in place and the short and longer-term impacts they had in various aspects of Soviet life including, but not necessarily limited to politics, the press, culture, and economics.

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Answer Key

Part I (1 point each)

1. C
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. A
6. D
7. D
8. C
9. D
10. D
11. A
12. B
13. D
14. A
15. C
16. C
17. D
18. B
19. C
20. A

Part II (2 points each)

21. A (pg. 512)
22. C (pg. 203)
23. D (pg. 33)
24. B (pg. 166)
25. B (pg. 307)
26. A (pg. 541)
27. C (pg. 335)

28. A (pg. 376)
29. A (pg. 213)
30. D (pg. 270)
31. A (pg. 406)
32. A (pg. 325)
33. C (pg. 423)
34. C (pg. 244)
35. C (pg. 304)

Part III (3 points each)

36. A
37. C
38. D
39. B
40. B
41. D
42. C
43. A
44. A
45. D

Points contestants could mention in their essay:

Perestroika/Restructuring and Glasnost/Openness were both championed by Gorbachev after he became General Secretary of the Communist party in March 1985. He began with implicit glasnost as he was the first leader to admit the Soviet economy was stalling. He fully articulated these concepts at the 27th Party Congress in early 1986. Economic and political restructuring were his main goals though a change in

military priorities (disarmament and increased detente) can also be associated with aspects of perestroika and glasnost. The '87 Law on State Enterprises & '88 Law on Cooperatives greatly reduced central planning of industries and allowed limited private business & ownership. Gorbachev also loosened control and planning of foreign trade and allowed the initial foreign investments in the economy. These changes raised the interest of foreign capital in the USSR and birthed a new attraction to business within its borders, but had marginal immediate positive effects. Price controls still existed which undercut the ability for change. At the '88 CPSU's 19th Party Conference, Gorbachev launched reforms to reduce party control of the government and creating more local autonomy. In Dec. '88, the Congress of People's Deputies was approved as the new legislative body. It dramatically increased the people's involvement in government, but began the demise of the Party's political monopoly and it's eventual end as a major influence. Glasnost decreased censorship and allowed more freedom of information (often harmful to the government & especially it's past) to be printed, broadcast and created. It led to the screening of controversial films, publishing of banned works by dissidents and a critique of the government on new programs and an explosion of new publications. The influx of liberalism was meant to paint Gorbachev & the Party as benefactors, but ultimately strengthened the opposition to them and any continuation of previous controls. These cultural changes & new social discourses on history & the future were further inspired by the influx of Western influences that pushed Soviets (especially younger ones) even further away from the acceptance of anything other than complete change.