Explanations for the Multiple-Choice Questions

1.1. B. The political idea that best reflects the perspective of President Calvin Coolidge in the passage is that government should be limited. A limited government would be an inexpensive government. Hence Coolidge opposed heavy taxes on citizens. He believed overtaxation hurt taxpayers, took money out of the private economy, and encouraged wasteful government spending.

1.2. C. The president most likely to share Coolidge’s sentiments would be Ronald Reagan. President Reagan also worked to limit the size of government and cut taxes. Reagan admired Coolidge and prominently displayed a portrait of him in the White House.

1.3. A. The ideas expressed by Coolidge were influenced by the widespread prosperity in the 1920s. Coolidge believed that the growing prosperity of most Americans was the result of keeping government out of the way of business and allowing people to keep more of their money by reducing taxes. His ideas proved popular with voters. Taking office after the death of President Warren Harding in 1923, he won election to the presidency in his own right in 1924. His Republican party kept control of Congress throughout the 1920s.

1.4. D. In the passage, Coolidge is reacting against the governmental policies of the Progressive Era. The Progressives greatly expanded the role of the government in the economy and in American life. This culminated in the policies of President Woodrow Wilson during World War I, when the government coordinated much of the economy and monitored what people said about the war. Following the war, there was a reaction against such control. Warren Harding successfully appealed to this sentiment with his call for a “return to normalcy” in 1920. Coolidge was Harding’s vice president and continued his policies.

2.1. A. de Bry in the image reflects the perspective that the natives of Florida are primitive and superstitious. The image shows the Indians worshipping a column erected by the French explorers, indicating that they thought the Europeans possessed special powers. The Europeans tended to regard the natives of America as heathens who had to be Christianized and subjected to the tutelage of their more advanced civilization.

2.2. D. The image is an expression of European curiosity about the wider world. This illustration is one of many that de Bry made picturing the peoples of the New World. In addition to looking for lands to conquer and new sources of trade, Europeans were interested in learning more about the world. This desire for learning was inspired by the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution.

2.3. C. The column erected by the French commander signified European desires to establish political control over new territories. The European powers competed to acquire new territories in the New World, which they hoped would be rich sources of valuable goods and trade.

2.4. B. European rivalries would lead to the French being driven from Florida by the Spanish. In 1564, French Protestants, called Huguenots, built Fort Caroline, near modern-day Jacksonville. The following year Spanish forces from St. Augustine destroyed the settlement. The French retaliated with an attack of their own but were never able to reestablish themselves in Florida.

3.1. B. A Progressive would be most likely to support the perspective expressed by Riis in the passage. The Progressives were middle-class reformers interested in addressing the problems created by the rapid industrialization and urbanization of the United States during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Many Progressives worked to ameliorate labor conditions for workers.

3.2. D. The situation faced by the young women in the passage is most directly comparable to that of Detroit autoworkers in the 1930s. The autoworkers also needed better wages and working conditions. They staged famous sit-down strikes in 1936 and 1937 to win recognition of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union.
3.3. A. Concerns like those expressed by Riis in the passage led most directly to laws regulating the working conditions of women. During the Progressive Era, laws were passed to protect women in the workplace. The great lawyer Louis Brandeis persuaded the Supreme Court to uphold a law mandating an eight-hour workday for women in *Muller v. Oregon* (1908).

3.4. C. Riis’s work as an investigator of the lives of the poor can most directly be associated with the muckrakers. Muckrakers were Progressive Era journalists who exposed corruption and social injustice in American life. Examples of muckrakers were Lincoln Steffens, who wrote about urban political machines, Ida Tarbell, who documented the history of John Rockefeller's Standard Oil, and Ray Stannard Baker, who explored the living conditions of African Americans.

4.1. D. The *Zenger Trial* was a landmark case concerning freedom of expression. Zenger was a newspaper editor who had published criticisms of the royal governor of New York. Brought to trial for seditious libel, the judge instructed the jury that the truth or falsity of what Zenger wrote was immaterial; the law held that printing unflattering commentary on a royal governor was enough to declare the defendant guilty. The defense lawyer Andrew Hamilton appealed to the jurors' love of liberty and asked them to oppose governmental tyranny. The jury voted to acquit Zenger. This case helped secure freedom of the press and freedom of speech in colonial America.

4.2. A. Andrew Hamilton assumes that Americans have more freedoms than people in other countries. Hamilton appeals to the natural rights enjoyed by free men and to the liberties accorded to British subjects. He urges the jurors to vindicate these rights against arbitrary power “in these parts of the world at least,” indicating a sense that Americans are freer than people living elsewhere.

4.3. B. The *Zenger case* can best be compared to government efforts to prevent the publication of the Pentagon Papers in 1971. Daniel Ellsberg, a former Defense Department official, leaked a secret Pentagon study of the origins of the Vietnam War to the *New York Times*. The Nixon administration went to court to stop the newspaper from publishing these documents. Ultimately, the Supreme Court upheld the right of the newspaper to publish the Pentagon Papers in *New York Times Co. v. United States* (1971). This decision was a strong affirmation of First Amendment protections for a free press.

4.4. C. Hamilton's success in the *Zenger case* most directly reflects a long tradition of self-rule in the colonies. Hamilton's argument to the jury assumed a lack of deference on the part of the jurors toward established authority. This reflected a century during which the colonies had been largely self-governing. Hamilton correctly expected that the jurors knew that they had rights and would feel free to defend them. This tradition of self-government would be very important during the political crisis leading to American independence.

5.1. B. The perspective of Thomas Nast's cartoon is that the government is not adequately protecting freed slaves. Nast was worried that Southern whites working through organizations like the Ku Klux Klan were returning the South to places where African Americans were oppressed. He notes that in some ways the situation is worse than it was under slavery, with the terroristic Klan lynching freedmen and burning schools.

5.2. D. The situation described in the cartoon most directly resulted in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision. *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) ruled that separate but equal facilities for whites and African Americans were constitutional. This court case reflected a retreat on the part of the government in protecting African-American rights in the South that began with the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Many in the North grew tired of trying to force Southern whites to accept African-American rights. While *Plessy v. Ferguson* paid lip service to equality, in reality Southern whites were able to impose Jim Crow laws on African Americans.
5.3. C. The Southerners in the cartoon wanted a “Union” characterized by sovereignty centered in the states. The doctrine of states’ rights had been used before the Civil War to protect the institution of slavery. Following the end of Reconstruction, Southerners would invoke states’ rights to justify the enforcement of Jim Crow laws.

5:4. A. The ideas in the cartoon reflect continuities in debates about civil rights. Thomas Nast, at a late stage in Reconstruction, was worried about African-American rights. His cartoon was a plea for the enforcement of laws passed to protect African Americans, including the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

6.1. C. The nomination of Geraldine Ferraro for vice president was most directly a continuation of increased economic and political opportunities for women. The women’s movement of the 1960s was remarkably successful in altering people’s expectations for women. Large numbers of women entered the workforce in the 1970s and 1980s and flourished in fields that had previously been largely closed to them. Ferraro’s nomination was an emblematic first for women in politics.

6.2. D. The political ideas expressed by Ferraro in the passage most directly reflect those of New Dealers of the 1930s. Ferraro was a liberal Democrat. Like the New Dealers of Franklin Roosevelt’s day, she believed that government could be used to help the ordinary in a country dominated by the wealthy and big business. She opposed President Ronald Reagan’s efforts to limit the size of government and deregulate business.

6.3. A. The ideas expressed by Ferraro would have most directly strengthened opposition to the administration’s arms buildup. During the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan increased the size of the American military to carry on the cold war with the Soviet Union from a position of strength. Like many liberal Democrats, Ferraro opposed the size of this increase in military spending, preferring to spend money on domestic social programs.

6.4. B. Geraldine Ferraro can most directly be compared to Sandra Day O’Connor. In 1981, O’Connor became the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court, after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan. Like O’Connor, Ferraro was blazing new trails for women in the 1980s.

7.1. A. The situation described in the passage led most directly to the Homestead Act. Like the people Parkman met on the Oregon Trail, many Americans regarded the West as a land of opportunity. In 1862, Congress passed the Homestead Act. This law encouraged western settlement, giving people title to 160 acres of land if they lived on it for five years and made improvements.

7.2. C. The actions of the people in the passage most directly reflect the influence of Manifest Destiny. During the 1840s publicists popularized the idea of Manifest Destiny, that Americans would spread their democratic institutions across the North American continent. This idea helped justify the Mexican War. It also helped inspire American settlement in the Oregon Territory, where the United States disputed a boundary line with Great Britain. Thousands of settlers followed the Oregon Trail to the Oregon Territory.

7.3. B. The experiences of the people encountered by Francis Parkman can most directly be compared to the Pilgrims. The people Parkman met suffered many hardships as they traveled west. The Pilgrims also suffered a great deal, including a starving time, before their colony began to prosper.

7.4. D. Thomas Jefferson had most directly anticipated and desired the movement described by Parkman. Jefferson wanted to see a United States dominated by independent farmers. Land was necessary to fulfill this vision, so Jefferson was intensely interested in the West. Jefferson swallowed his constitutional scruples to purchase the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and then sent Lewis and Clark on an epic journey to explore it.

8.1. C. The perspective of Senator George McGovern’s speech reflects the opinion that American bombing in Vietnam was a failure. Operation Rolling Thunder began in 1965 as a carefully calibrated bombing campaign designed to pressure the North Vietnamese
regime to halt its support for its war against the South Vietnamese government. By 1967, it was becoming increasingly clear that bombing would not dissuade the North Vietnamese from carrying on the war. The American intervention into the war with a growing number of troops on the ground led the North Vietnamese to match this with a buildup of their own forces in South Vietnam.

8.2. A. The sentiments expressed in the speech most directly influenced the passage of the War Powers Act of 1973. Congress passed this law over the veto of President Richard Nixon. Hoping to prevent another situation like Vietnam where presidents involved the United States in a war without direct approval by Congress, this act required the president to notify Congress within two days of sending troops into combat. Unless Congress authorized the action, these troops would have to be withdrawn after 60 days.

8.3. D. The sentiments expressed in the speech most directly reflected the widespread popular attitude of the 1960s that government statements about Vietnam could not be trusted. As the war ground on without resolution, despite optimistic statements coming from the administration of President Lyndon Johnson, some commentators began to talk about a “credibility gap.” Evoking memories of John F. Kennedy’s political campaigning about a perceived “missile gap” with the Soviet Union, some now pointed to a gap between what the administration said and the truth.

8.4. B. Political discord during the Vietnam War most closely resembled the political dissensions during the Mexican War. Just as with Vietnam, there was significant opposition to the Mexican War. Many Americans thought it was an unjust war of aggression, and some thought it was intended to open up new territories to slavery. Prominent Americans who opposed the Mexican War included Congressman Abraham Lincoln and writer Henry David Thoreau.

9.1. A. The ideas expressed in Phillis Wheatley’s poem most directly reflect the influence of the First Great Awakening. The First Great Awakening was a revival of religious fervor in the American colonies during the middle of the eighteenth century. It emphasized the need for salvation and a direct personal relationship with God. This religious movement spread to many slaves. Wheatley in her poem expresses her gratitude for her conversion to Christianity.

9.2. B. The continuity in American history most directly reflected in Wheatley’s poem is debates over social justice. Wheatley makes a gentle case for human rights in her poem. She reminds her readers, almost exclusively white, that Africans can become Christians. The equality of all races in Christ could be a radical message in the 1770s.

9.3. C. The literary success of Phillis Wheatley led most directly to questions about the moral justification of slavery. Wheatley’s critically acclaimed poetry contradicted racist assumptions that Africans were intellectually inferior. Wheatley, a slave who benefitted from an education, and who wrote poetry modeled on the best English forms, demonstrated that Africans, even slaves, possessed the same potential as white Europeans.

9.4. D. The point of Wheatley’s poem can best be compared to Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech. Like King’s speech, Wheatley’s poem emphasizes the essential equality of all people and reminds readers that skin color should not be a barrier to unity. Just as King wanted all Americans to join together in equal enjoyment of their constitutional rights, so Wheatley urged all people to come together in Christian harmony.