MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Questions 1-3 refer to the following excerpt.

The people of this island, and of all the others that I have found and seen, or not seen, all go naked, men and women, just as their mothers bring them forth... They have no iron or steel, nor any weapons; nor are they fit thereunto; not be because they be not a well-formed people and of fair stature, but that they are most wondrously timorous. They have no other weapons than the stems of reeds in their seeding state, on the end of which they fix little sharpened stakes. Even these, they dare not use; for many times has it happened that I sent two or three men ashore to some village to parley, and countless numbers of them sallied forth, but as soon as they saw those approach, they fled away in such wise that even a father would not wait for his son.... It is true that since they have become more assured, and are losing that terror, they are artless and generous with what they have, to such a degree as no one would believe but him who had seen it. Of anything they have, if it be asked for, they never say no, but do rather invite the person to accept it, and show as much lovingness as though they would give their hearts. And whether it be a thing of value, or one of little worth, they are straightways content with whatsoever trifle of whatsoever kind may be given them in return for it....

-- Christopher Columbus, Letter to Luis de Sant’ Angel

1. According to this letter, Columbus viewed the Indians’ military strength as
   A. extremely powerful due to their population.
   B. weak because of their primitive weapons.
   C. formidable because of overbearing persona.
   D. invincible because of their use of iron and steel.

2. Columbus’s description contradicts the idea of Indian savagery because
   A. he describes them as extravagant with well-designed wardrobes.
   B. he found them pompous with the use of their gold and silver jewelry.
   C. he claims they were innocent with their lack of clothing and appreciation of worthless gifts.
   D. he describes them arrogant with their rejection of Spanish gifts.

3. One reason that Columbus and his men were able to conquer the Indians was because
   A. they were timid and respectfully fearful of the Spanish.
   B. they were industrious.
   C. they were belligerent towards the Spanish.
   D. they did not believe the Spanish could overpower them.
Questions 4-6 refer to the following visual.

How the Savages Roast Their Enemies

SOURCE: A. DAGLI ORTI/DE AGOSTINI/GETTY IMAGES

4. Based on this image, how might one describe Native Americans' treatment of their enemies?
   A. an eye for an eye
   B. brutally savage
   C. fair and justified
   D. somewhat excessive

5. In what way might Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries have taken advantage of the ideas conveyed in this image?
   A. They could conquer enemies within Europe with this same savagery.
   B. The Europeans could bring the principles of civility to the New World.
   C. Europeans could use similar methods to brutally conquer the Native Americans.
   D. They could use this as a warning against taking similar actions.

6. Europeans believed that they were more civilized than Native Americans in the 15th and 16th centuries because
   A. they did not engage in violent conflict with their enemies.
   B. their lack of religious faith allowed them to think more rationally than spiritual Native Americans.
   C. they were able to live together in a community.
   D. they had more advanced military, political, and economic systems.

   A. Cortés appears weak while the Aztecs appear strong.
   B. Cortés's large army overpowered the Aztecs.
   C. Cortés is well equipped for victory while the Aztecs appear primitive.
   D. The Aztecs did little to contribute to their civilization's progress.

7. Cortés's victory over the Aztecs led to the establishment of prolonged Spanish presence in the Americas because
   A. he brought Spanish religious, cultural, and political ideas to a settlement in America.
   B. Spain was able to conquer the entire continent.
   C. his victory warned other Native Americans away from violent confrontation with Europeans.
   D. Spanish texts in Mexico City looking for the fountain of youth.
Questions 7-9 refer to the following visual.

De Agostini Picture Library/The Bridgeman Art Library

8. How did the artist portray the differences between Cortes and the Aztecs?
   A. Cortes appears weak while the Aztecs appear strong.
   B. Cortes’s huge army overpowered the Aztecs.
   C. Cortes is well equipped for victory while the Aztecs appear primitive.
   D. The Aztecs did little to contribute to their civilization’s progress.

9. Cortes’s victory over the Aztecs led to the establishment of prolonged Spanish presence in the Americas because
   A. He brought Spanish religious, cultural, and political ideas to a settlement in America.
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   C. His victory warned other Native Americans away from violent confrontation with Europeans.
   D. Spaniards came to Mexico City looking for the fountain of youth.
Questions 10-12 refer to the following excerpt.

On the Island Hispaniola...Christians perpetrated their first ravages and oppressions against the native peoples.... Among these gentle sheep, gifted by their Maker with the above qualities, the Spaniards entered as soon as soon as they knew them, like wolves, tiger and lions which had been starving for many days, and since forty years they have done nothing else... The Christians, with their horses and swords and lances, began to slaughter and practice strange cruelty among them. They penetrated into the country and spared neither children nor the aged, nor pregnant women, nor those in child labour, all of whom they ran through the body and lacerated, as though they were assaulting so many lambs herded in their sheepfold... They made bets as to who would slit a man in two, or cut off his head at one blow.... They tore the babes from their mothers' breast by the feet, and dashed their heads against the rocks. Others they seized by the shoulders and threw into the rivers, laughing and joking, and when they fell into the water they exclaimed: “boil body of so and so!” They spitted the bodies of other babes, together with their mothers and all who were before them, on their swords... They made a gallows just high enough for the feet to nearly touch the ground, and by thirtens, in honour and reverence of our Redeemer and the twelve Apostles, they put wood underneath and, with fire, they burned the Indians alive.

— Bartolomé de Las Casas, “On the Island of Hispaniola”

10. Bartolomé de Las Casas’s account described
   A. the total disregard the Indians had for the well-being of the Spanish.
   B. the methods of torture the Indians would use against their Spanish captives.
   C. the monotheistic nature of the Indian religion.
   D. the willingness of the Spanish to use sheer brutality to subdue the Indians.

11. According to de Las Casas
   A. the natives never resisted the Spanish.
   B. not even women and children were spared of the Spanish brutality against the Indians.
   C. the Spanish only resorted to flogging to subdue the Indians.
   D. the Spanish only used the theme of Biblical obedience to control the Indians.

12. Bartolome de Las Casas’s report on Spanish abuses of the Indians led to
   A. dramatically better treatment of the Indians by Spanish conquistadores.
   B. the establishment of an international commission geared to eliminate mistreatment of the Indians.
   C. the creation of the “Black Legend” which highlighted the uniqueness of Spanish cruelty.
   D. no response by the Spanish monarchs including Queen Isabella.
Questions 13-15 refer to the following excerpt.

When Indian men get into an argument in their villages, they fist-fight until exhausted, then separate. Sometimes the women will go between and part them, but men never interfere. No matter what the disaffection, they do not resort to bows and arrows.... All these [plains] tribes are warlike, and have as much strategy for protection against enemies as if they had been reared in Italy in continual feuds.... Whoever fights them must show no fear and no desire for anything that is theirs.... I believe these people see and hear better and have keener sense in general than any in the world. They know great hunger, thirst, and cold, as if they were made for enduring these more than other men, by habit and nature.

--Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, The Journal and Ordeal of Cabeza de Vaca

13. How did Cabeza de Vaca’s describe the Native Americans he encountered?
   A. They were war-like savages.
   B. They were unable to settle differences among members of their tribe.
   C. They were distinctly different from Europeans.
   D. They were well trained, aware, and structured.

14. Cabeza de Vaca’s comments differed from others explorer of his time because
   A. the Native Americans he encountered defeated him and his men.
   B. he focused on women’s rights in the Americas.
   C. he acknowledged the Native Americans’ strengths and abilities.
   D. he admired the Native Americans’ spirituality.

15. The exploration of Cabeza de Vaca proved that
   A. the natives were eager to establish permanent friendly relations with the Europeans.
   B. gold and silver was plentiful in land north of Mexico.
   C. a great harbor existed in northern California.
   D. peaceful relationships between Europeans and natives depended on the actions and intentions of both sides.
Questions 16-18 refer to the following excerpt.

...wee sawe two companies of boates of wilde men going from one land to the other... One part of the which came to the said point, and a great number of the men went on shore making a great noise, beckening unto us that wee should come on land... but because we had but one onely boat, wee would not goe to them... they seeing us flee, prepared two of their boats to follow us... wee would not stand to their courtesie, but made signes unto them that they should turne back, which they would not do, but with great furie came toward us... and because they would not away from us by any signes that we could make, we shot off two pieces among them, which did so terrifie them...The next day part of the saide wilde men with nine of their boates came to the point and entrance of the Creeke.... We being advertised of their comming, went to the point where they were with our boates: but so soone as they saw us, they began to flee, making signes that they came to trafique with us.... We likewise made signes unto them, that we wished them no evill.... Which when they saw, they also came on land, and brought some of their skinnes, and so began to deale with us, seeming to be very glad to have our iron wares and other things... They gave us whatsoever they had, not keeping any thing...

--Journal of Jacques Cartier on meeting the Micmac Indians

16. Upon encountering the Micmac Indians on their boats, Cartier regarded them to be
   A. highly civilized and sophisticated.
   B. essentially wild men.
   C. as advanced as the Spanish or French.
   D. extremely aggressive and warlike.

17. The impression that Cartier had from the exchange of gifts with the Micmacs was
   A. they were extremely generous people.
   B. they did not appreciate the French offerings.
   C. they could not be trading partners.
   D. the Micmacs were reluctant to trade gifts.

18. The exploration of Jacques Cartier along the St. Lawrence River led to
   A. the establishment of English claims in present-day Canada.
   B. a lucrative fur trade with the Indians in that region.
   C. the discovery of New York and Manhattan Island.
   D. a prolonged period of peace between Europeans and Native Americans.
Questions 19-21 refer to the following visual.

Universal Images Group/Getty Images

19. Based on this picture, the English defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 was remarkable because
   A. the English had no home base in the Americas to return to after the battle.
   B. as an island nation, England had the most powerful navy in the world.
   C. the Spanish Armada seemed to overpower the English navy.
   D. Spanish explorers were better able to navigate international waters.

20. Queen Elizabeth’s support for Francis Drake’s ventures contributed to this battle because
   A. his piracy enriched the English government at the expense of the Spanish.
   B. he established claims to California for the English.
   C. his discovery of North Carolina led to the establishment of England’s first settlement.
   D. he established control and the English settlement of St. Augustine.

21. England’s defeat of the Spanish Armada was a turning point in its history because
   A. England and Spain became allies after the battle.
   B. the defeat drastically diminished Spain’s presence in the Americas.
   C. it proved the military might of a Protestant nation.
   D. the subsequent growth in England’s sea power made it a major world player.