

Veritas Academy's History & Heritage Test

Fall 2011

The following test questions are based largely on select articles from The Christian Almanac (George Grant & Gregory Wilbur) and America, Volume 1 (William Bennett).

The tests (season-by-season and year-by-year) form part of a modest effort to recover our civilizational inheritance: ancient and modern, sacred and secular, cultural and political. All are welcome to join us as we try to remember and, where it's due, honor those who have gone before us.



**“History is a certain kind of memory,
organized and supported by evidence.”**

-- John Lukacs --

1.

1. Often called the “father of history,” **this 5th-century BC researcher** attributed the surprising victory of the Greek republics over the Persian Empire largely to wise leadership and the courage of free men? He was probably the first to apply extensive research to the study of the past (the Greek word “historia” means research or inquiry), and he parted company with earlier myth-makers like Homer by stressing human and natural causes for events over supernatural ones.

2. **This name** identifies the kind of schools you have when centralized agencies standardize curricula, and community schools are merged into big systems run on an industrial or corporate model? In America, this process picked up steam in the early 1900s, championed by progressive theoreticians like Columbia’s John Dewey. The aim was to create individualists (divorced from religion, tradition, & local peculiarities) who would gladly lend their democratic consent to various national goals and programs.

3. A New York lawyer, planter, and statesman of distinguished ancestry, **this American Founder (1752--1816)** edited and revised the final draft of the U.S. Constitution and the famous words of its Preamble are his? He spoke more often at the Great Convention than any other delegate (173 times) and his leanings were aristocratic (the president and the Senate, he argued, should be elected for life). Literary scholar M.E. Bradford called him the “least sanguine of the Framers, but one of the most brilliant.”

4. According to English literary giant Samuel Johnson (1709--1784), the miniature questions and answers of **these Christian instructional booklets** “afford us a glimpse at the inner framework of the Western view of the world”? The first such booklets, apparently, were drafted by scholarly monks like Alcuin in the early Middle Ages. But it was the 16th-century (1500s) Reformation, via theologians like Luther and Calvin, that revived and advanced the highly effective teaching technique.

5. **This 5th-century BC Athenian official** wrote the famous History of the Peloponnesian War (431--404 BC), a work he never finished, abruptly dropping his account of what happened in the war’s twentieth year (411 BC)? His writing omitted supernatural causes entirely, and his antidemocratic bias profoundly influenced Western literature for over two millennia. Moreover, he is largely responsible for our tendency to make political and military affairs the sum total of history.

6. Succeeding to the presidency in 1881 after the assassination of Ohio's James Garfield, **this New York Republican (1830--1886)** surprisingly steered the U.S. away from a "spoils system" and toward the more merit-based Civil Service System for federal hiring and promotions? The move was surprising because the New Yorker had a reputation for luxurious living and the misuse of public office for his own and his friends' gain. In his one term as chief executive, he apparently amended some of his ways.

7. **This Anglo-American colony** can be traced to Sir George Calvert's conversion to Catholicism and his subsequent appeal to Charles I for permission to settle the north shore of Chesapeake Bay? Sir George died before any action was taken on his request, but a charter was eventually granted to Cecilius, his son, in 1634. Before long, however, Protestants outnumbered Catholics in the new colony, prompting authorities to decree a Toleration Act (1649) securing religious liberty to all professing Christians.

8. Late in 1862, just prior to the official release of his Emancipation Proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln used **this memorable phrase** to describe what he believed was at stake, what Americans "shall nobly save or meanly lose," in the Civil War? Lincoln's prose on this occasion, as on others, gave eloquent voice to a conviction that often goes by the name of "American exceptionalism." Its advocates believe the U.S. has been called (perhaps from above) to bear the torch of freedom for all nations.

9. Isaac Jogues was among the 17th-century French missionaries of **this Catholic order of priests and monks** who met martyrdom at the hands of North American Indians? Generally, the fearless French priests ventured throughout Canada and the Great Lakes region and had some success, notably among the Hurons. The Iroquois confederation, however, proved unreceptive to the visits of those they called the "black robes;" the Mohawks, for instance, tortured and tomahawked the saintly Jogues.

10. Surely, as author George Grant observed, **this New York Republican of Dutch ancestry (1858--1919)** was "America's most colorful and controversial president since Lincoln, the most versatile since Jefferson"? A polymath, he read everything in sight and wrote, seemingly, on every conceivable subject. The political controversy revolves around his extension of federal lands, his efforts to regulate big business ("malefactors of great wealth," he called them), and his bent for overseas expansion.

11. **This term** stands for the substance of Roman Catholic criticism of both nationalism and internationalism, ideologies that followed in the wake of the French Revolution? Formulated by popes, including Leo XIII and Pius XI, in the late-1800s and early-1900s, the Church's teaching warned against larger jurisdictions swallowing up the functions of smaller ones (when the latter are capable of performing them). Other names for the same concept include decentralization and federalism.

12. The builder of the British Empire, **this prime minister ("the Great Commoner")** led his country to victory over France in the Seven Years War (1756--1763)? His daring strategy beat back his foreign rivals on the seas, in Europe, in India, in Africa, and of course in North America where the conflict was called the French and Indian War. Eventually made 1st Earl of Chatham, he was especially popular in America, not only for trouncing the French but also opposing fresh taxes on the colonies.

13. **This Virginian (1773--1833)**, whose name usually appears with the geographic attachment "of Roanoke," was an eloquent champion of states' rights in a career spanning three decades in the U.S. Congress (mostly in the House)? He opposed "entanglements" with foreign powers (of which Washington had warned in his Farewell), and he resisted endless western expansion too. "No government," he said, "extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, can be fit to govern me or those I represent."

14. Born in Dublin, Ireland, **this British parliamentarian (1729--1797)** is best known for his attack on idealistic political innovation and mere democracy in *Reflections on the French Revolution*? In the 1770s, he sided with the American colonies in their conflict with the Mother Country, and he used the phrase "a wise and salutary neglect" to describe Britain's historic indifference toward her Atlantic seaboard possessions, allowing them to govern themselves through their own homegrown assemblies.

15. If secession, however regrettable, is the ultimate expression of the states' rights school of American history, the penultimate is **this political act**? What it entails is a state's disavowal of a federal law in its jurisdiction (for constitutional reasons), pending some peaceful resolution of the conflict by all the parties concerned (including the other states). Calhoun may have been its supreme advocate, but both Jefferson and Madison set forth the basic idea in their Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions (1798).

4.

16. Nicknamed “God’s firebrand” by Calvin, **this Scottish Reformer (1505--1572)** was generously educated in the liberal arts and later ordained to the Catholic priesthood? His conversion to Protestantism was inspired by the preaching and martyrdom of George Wishart, and he spent years advancing the Reformation abroad (while in exile) as well as in his native land. His “Give me Scotland or I die!” (a cry to God for the Christianization of the whole land) was not uttered in vain.

17. Of Huguenot (French Calvinist) ancestry, **this South Carolina merchant (1724--1792)** served the new American republic as president of the Continental Congress and, later on, as a diplomat who was captured at sea by the British? We didn’t get him back until after the decisive Battle of Yorktown (1781), in a momentous prisoner exchange for General Cornwallis. Following his release, the persevering patriot was present for the Peace of Paris negotiations to end the Revolutionary War.

18. Despite its dubious origins in the early 1500s, British monarchs to this day retain **this bold religious title?** The honor was originally bestowed by Pope Leo X to King Henry VIII (r. 1509--1547) for his aggressive attack (in pamphlet form) on the life and doctrine of German Protestant Martin Luther. In a mind-boggling twist of fate, Henry later severed the bonds between English Christianity and Rome, and he became the authoritative head of a new (Protestant) Anglican Church by act of Parliament.

19. “I should sooner think of wrapping him up in cotton wool and putting him into my pocket, than sending him to contend with cannon ball.” So said Abigail Adams, not discerningly, of the frail appearance and soft-spoken manner of **this Scottish immigrant, America’s first naval hero?** In 1778, he took the Revolution to the shores of England and Scotland, and in 1779 his *USS Bonhomme Richard* emerged victorious over the *HMS Serapis* off Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, in the North Sea.

20. **This Scottish pastor and theologian (1600--1661)** is known for his *Lex Rex (Law is King)*, a book in which he argued for limits on governmental powers and against what was called “the Divine Right of Kings”? He also attended England’s Westminster Assembly (1640s) and contributed to its *Shorter Catechism*. It was said (in praise of his devotion to his rural parish) that, “He was always praying, always preaching, always visiting the sick, always catechising, always writing, and always studying.”

21. **This famous monk**, in the early 6th-century AD (500s), wrote a handbook or set of rules to govern Christlike life at Italy's Monte Cassino monastery? His rule, reflecting a practical sense of Roman moderation and avoiding the extreme asceticism of some of the eastern hermits, set up a balanced daily routine of prayer, study, labor, and rest. The vital contributions to Western culture of the various monasteries over the centuries would be hard to fathom apart from his influence.

22. *Here is a stone which the feet of a few outcasts pressed for an instant; and the stone becomes famous; it is treasured by a great nation; its very dust is shared as a relic.* The quote above comes from the political classic Democracy in America (1835) by Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville (1805--1859). Tocqueville's 17th-century "outcasts" were in the habit of electing yearly (about 30 times) as their governor the noble William Bradford, and the stone the French scholar lauds is **this New England landmark?**

23. *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:* This exhortation from the pen of St. Paul begins Philippians 2:5-11, a well-known New Testament passage traditionally identified by **this Latin title (meaning "Hymn to Christ")?** The text is regarded by scholars as either a song or a creed dating back to the earliest centuries of Christian worship. But whatever its original use, the Pauline passage stresses Christ's exalted status, yet humble service, as true God and true man.

24. **This venerable North American outpost** served New France as its "Rock of Gibraltar" in the 17th-and-18th-centuries (1600s & 1700s)? Its sense of secure impregnability, both physical and spiritual, was so acute, in fact, that its cathedral was named Notre Dame des Victoires (Our Lady of Victories). All that would change, however, in the late 1750s when the French citadel was assaulted and brought to its knees by English forces under General James Wolfe.

25. *Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.* The lyric quoted above comes from the Canticle of Brother Sun composed by **this famous medieval saint (d. 1226)**, the founder of a great and enduring Catholic order of monks? He indeed, pointedly and publicly, stripped off the fancy garb his wealthy father gave him, but he never stripped himself of his love for all the fancy creatures of his God's making.

Answer Chest

Listed below are 50 potential answers -- the 25 correct ones and another 25 that are plausible but incorrect -- for the Fall 2011 History & Heritage Test. They appear in alphabetical order by first name or word.

The 25 correct answers are on the back page. They may also be found with the entire test booklet on our website at www.veritasacademy.org.

<p>Alexander Hamilton arbitration Athanasius of Alexandria Benedict of Nursia Bernard of Clairvaux Bunker Hill Monument Carmen Christi catechisms Charles Pinckney Chester A. Arthur Corpus Christi creeds Defender of the Faith Delaware Doctor of Theology Edmund Burke Francis of Assisi Franklin Roosevelt George Grenville Gouverneur Morris “government of, by, and for the people” Henry Laurens Herodotus Jansenists Jesuits</p>	<p>John Knox John Locke John Paul Jones John Randolph Livy Maryland Montreal nullification Plymouth Rock public schools Quebec City Richard Henry Lee Samuel Rutherford socialism state schools Stephen Decatur subsidiarity Tacitus Theodore Roosevelt “this last best hope of earth” Thomas Chalmers Thucydides William McKinley William Pitt, the Elder William Wallace</p>
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Up next (Winter 2012 Test): winter readings (Tuesday/Thursday) in The Christian Almanac (Grant/Wilbur), and America: The Last Best Hope, Volume 1, (William Bennett)

(some questions may be based on articles in *Tabletalk* or *Chronicles*, monthly periodicals devoted to biblical and/or culturally-conservative analysis)

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Answers to Fall 2011 History & Heritage Test

1. Herodotus
2. state schools
3. Gouverneur Morris
4. catechisms
5. Thucydides
6. Chester A. Arthur
7. Maryland
8. "this last best hope of earth"
9. Jesuits
10. Theodore Roosevelt
11. subsidiarity
12. William Pitt, the Elder
13. John Randolph
14. Edmund Burke
15. nullification
16. John Knox
17. Henry Laurens
18. Defender of the Faith
19. John Paul Jones
20. Samuel Rutherford
21. Benedict of Nursia
22. Plymouth Rock
23. Carmen Christi
24. Quebec City
25. Francis of Assisi

Whatever Happened to History?

The following is excerpted from Richard Weaver's 1959 essay, **Education and the Individual**. Weaver (1910-63) was a professor of English literature and rhetoric at the University of Chicago.

"History has always been a sobering discipline because it presents the story not only of man's achievements but also of his failures. History contains many vivid lessons of what can happen to man if he lets go his grip upon reality and becomes self-indulgent; it is the record of the race, which can be laid alongside the dreams of visionaries, with many profitable lessons. Yet the modern tendency is to drop the old-fashioned history course and to substitute something called 'social science' or 'social studies,' which one student has aptly dubbed 'social stew.' What this often turns out to be is a large amount of speculation based on a small amount of history, and the speculation is more or less subtly slanted to show that we should move in the direction of socialism or some other collectivism. Often this kind of study is simply frivolous; the student is invited to give his thought to the 'dating patterns' of teenagers instead of to those facts which explain the rise and fall of nations. There is more to be learned about the nature of man as an individual and as a member of society from a firm grounding in ancient and modern history than from all the 'social studies' ever put together by dreamy 'progressive' educators."

“The greatest advances in human civilization have come when we recovered what we had lost, when we learned the lessons of history.”
(Winston Churchill, 1874-1965)

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1.	14.
2.	15.
3.	16.
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6.	19.
7.	20.
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