

Veritas Academy's History & Heritage Test

Fall 2012

The following test questions are based on a variety of sources including The Christian Almanac (Grant & Wilbur) and America, Volume 1 (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. Far and away the most popular writer of the 19th-century, **this novelist (1771--1832)** crafted masterful historical fiction that revived the sagging patriotism of his fellow Scots? His prolific works also included epic poems, histories, biographies, and compilations of myths, tales, and legends. Late in his career he related the whole history of Scotland, not so much to the world as to his own grandson, in his warm, personal, and dramatic *Tales of a Scottish Grandfather* (1828).

2. "Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat." The saying superbly matches the man, **this New Yorker of Dutch ancestry (1858--1919)**, president of the U.S. (1901--1909)? The Harvard-educated Dakota rancher relished living, whether in contemplation or action, as few others have.

3. **This modern Ideology**, prominent in the wake of the Enlightenment, alludes linguistically to this world or age and demands total separation of church and state? It frowns upon granting a special public status or voice to any traditional sacred creed or institution as a violation of religious neutrality or the rights of unbelievers. Curiously, the ideology has triumphed both in communist countries, where overt persecution is the norm, and democracies where the will of the individual and/or the people reigns.

4. A Republican politician and former Ohio governor, **this U.S. president (1843--1901)** was assassinated by an anarchist in Buffalo, New York, on September 6, 1901? Like his fellow Republicans, his policies, including high tariffs to protect domestic industry, aimed to promote the interests of bankers, manufacturers, and the captains of mass commerce. As president he also succumbed to heavy pressure, economic as well as political, to go to war with Spain over Cuba (1898, Spanish-American War).

5. **This Scottish storyteller (1850--1894)** is best known for his *Treasure Island*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and *A Child's Garden of Verses*? To appease his accomplished father, he studied engineering & law hoping to be an attorney by day and a writer by night like his hero, Sir Walter Scott. He never managed to combine the professions, but he wrote prolifically in all genres including a brilliant essay defending Father Damien, the "Martyr of Charity" on Molokai, from criticism by a Protestant minister.

2.

6. “Just as beauty is all in the eye of the beholder, so then noise is all in the ear of the hearer.” So said **this avant-garde American composer (1912--1992)**, born in Los Angeles, in support of his odd belief that all sounds, irrespective of their source or occasion, constitute music? A proponent of random and sometimes bizarre improvisation, his *Four Minutes and Thirty-three Seconds* (1952) featured a performer seated merely in silence at a piano bench for the aforementioned time.

7. Contrary to popular Christian opinion today, **this eschatological era**, according to the New Testament, was inaugurated when Christ *first* came to earth (Heb. 1:1-4)? It started, writes Keith Mathison, “when His heel was bruised through His death on the cross and the Serpent’s head was crushed as Jesus walked out of the tomb.” Moreover, the era anticipates chiefly not a futuristic assault on the political state of Israel, but the worldwide spread of the gospel.

8. Before the crucial battle of San Jacinto against the Mexicans (1836), **this Texas founder (1793--1863)** urged his forces “to be men, be free men, that your children may bless their father’s name”? He also holds the unenviable distinction of being the only American governor to be run out of office in two states: Tennessee & Texas. In the latter instance, his fall resulted from his pro-Union/anti-Confederacy stance, though he declined Lincoln’s offer of troops to beat back Texas secessionists.

9. **This English translation of “panem et circenses”** captures the cynical ambition of the old Roman emperors who pacified the masses with cheap food and entertainment? There’s an allusion to the phrase in the contemporary young-adult novel (with its film adaptation) *The Hunger Games*, authored by Suzanne Collins. Ironically, Collins uses *Panem* to name a future North American nation intent on alternately starving and feeding its subjects in order to suppress them in their districts.

10. **This British parliamentarian (1912--1998)**, a classics scholar and Conservative Party stalwart, was the most polarizing political figure of postwar Europe? One of his speeches in 1968 provoked thousands to rally, many in his defense (mostly working-class Brits) and no small number to demand his arrest (the BBC likened him to Hitler). What stirred things up was the statesman’s dire warning about how high levels of non-European immigration were destroying the nation’s “historical and social composition.”

11. In the mid-1800s, **this phrase** signified how certain many Americans were of the full continental expansion, sooner or later, of their country? The phrase was first used by John O’Sullivan of the *New York Morning News*, who wrote of the sure prospect of free government spreading from “sea to sea” with the blessing of “Providence.” Others, like Calhoun of South Carolina, weren’t so sanguine about what infinite expansion might do to American liberty, not to mention whether free governments were best for everyone.

12. “Readers of poetry see the factory-village and the railway, and fancy that the poetry of the landscape is broken up by these; for these works of art are not yet consecrated in their reading.” Thus spoke **this New England Transcendental poet and essayist (1803--1882)** in a famous 1842 lecture in New York City? He was calling for an authentic national literature, distinct from that of Europe, to celebrate the everyday setting and experiences of Americans.

13. **This adjective**, when used in the ancient creeds to describe the church, is often mistaken to mean allegiance to the pope and Roman doctrine? What is really in view is the universal character of the church, Christ by His blood having “ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. . .” (Rev. 5:9). Thus the worldwide spread of Christianity fulfills what was spoken by the prophets: “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. . .” (Ps. 22:27).

14. Numbered with the Transcendentalists, **this Concord, Mass., writer (1817--1862)** spent a night in jail for refusing to pay a tax in support of the Mexican War? He helped edit *The Dial*, a temporary Transcendentalist journal, before withdrawing to a hut near Walden Pond (1845-1847) to relish nature more fully and devote himself to his literary calling. Besides a much-lauded magazine article on “Civil Disobedience” (1849), his claim to fame is his *Walden, or Life in the Woods* (1854).

15. Named after a congressional sponsor from Pennsylvania, **this bill** sought to curb the so-called Slave Power’s covetous scheme to gobble up the great Southwest? The bill dealt with any land the U.S. might gain as a result of the Mexican War, stipulating that no form of slavery or involuntary servitude would be tolerated there. It passed the House on more than one occasion (1846,47) but never got through the Senate, an indication of how divisive the war and western expansion had become.

16. Planned Parenthood's pioneer, **this social activist (1883--1966)** opened the first American birth control clinic in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1916? Her radical aim, inspired by the new "science" of eugenics, was chiefly to alter the reproductive habits and restrict the offspring of minorities and other "undesirables." Over time, her movement spawned a greater war against all reproduction in the West, facilitating the so-called sexual revolution with its feminist dream of a world without sex-role differentiation.

17. A forerunner of the Reformation, **this religious movement in northwestern Europe** was spearheaded by 14th-century Dutch reformer Gerhard Groote? The members of the movement lived out what they called *Devotio Moderna*, with its emphasis on education, translating the Bible into the vernacular (a region's native tongue), and assisting the poor. Fellow Dutchman Thomas à Kempis (d. 1471), famed author of *Imitation of Christ*, was among their many illustrious scholars.

18. A native of Waukegan, Illinois, a place often represented as "Green Town" in his tales, **this writer (1920--2012)** is best known for his *Fahrenheit 451* and *The Martian Chronicles*? His main themes concern the importance of remembering things past and perceiving the glory of everyday life. Both faculties (memory & wonder) are being "burned" from consciousness, his speculative stories suggest, by shallow and dehumanized moderns caught up in a technological frenzy.

19. **This 16th-century religious movement**, less a struggle over moral corruption in the church than erroneous doctrine, led to Western Christianity's severest schism? The movement insisted that the Bible alone is the infallible Word of God, and faith in the work of Christ alone brings about the justification of sinners (God declaring them righteous). The opponents of the movement, objecting strongly to its use of the word "alone," condemned such doctrines at their own Council of Trent (1545--1563).

20. A Russian-born anticommunist, **this American novelist (1905--1982)** influenced profoundly libertarianism and conservatism through works like *Atlas Shrugged* (1957)? Her atheist philosophy, Objectivism, touted the supreme virtue of individual self-interest or, frankly, selfishness ascertained by reason focused on what she called the real world. She even dismissed the bonds of family, faith, and community, equating these moral ties with the social chains forged by communism's mass collective enterprise.

21. **This N.Y. Whig senator (1801--1872)**, addressing in 1850 the controversy over the spread of slavery, said the final triumph of the free states was “irresistible”? He responded to Calhoun’s demand for equal representation of Southern interests by affirming the constitutional authority of Congress to deal with slavery however it wishes *in U.S. territories*. Moreover, he appealed above the Constitution to a “higher law” (natural law) to suggest Congress could abolish slavery even in the states.

22. In an angelic vision upon a mount in 1224, **this celebrated medieval monk (c. 1181--1226)** was reportedly commanded to offer the divine gifts of poverty, chastity, and obedience to his brethren and the world? Even more mysteriously, when the angel departed the saint is said to have received the scars of Christ’s crucifixion, the sign of the stigmata, on his own body (the monk’s hands, feet, & sides). The saint, his sacrificial piety, and his supernatural encounter are truly the stuff of legend.

23. “With malice toward none; with charity for all. . .” This sentiment was spoken by Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1865, in **this reputedly conciliatory address?** In it Lincoln exhorted his countrymen not to judge one another, while confessing to be puzzled by those (slaveholders & their allies) who “should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces.” Thus the speech was perhaps less about healing wounds than justifying the terrible war.

24. “From the confines of Jerusalem and from the city of Constantinople a horrible tale has gone forth. An accursed people, a people utterly alienated from God, has invaded the lands of those Christians and depopulated them by the sword, plundering, and fire.” Thus spoke **this bishop of Rome** in 1095 at the Council of Clermont (south-central France) to initiate the Crusades against Muslim conquest & misrule in the Middle East. The crowd at Clermont responded to the papal call with a resounding “Deus Vult.”

25. One of the finest orators of the 19th-century, **this African-American abolitionist (1817--1895)** escaped slavery in Maryland in 1838 by disguising himself as a free black sailor traveling by train? When William Lloyd Garrison, founder of *The Liberator*, heard him speak, he hired him as official orator of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. His writings, especially the autobiographical narrative of his life (1845), were as polished and potent as his speeches.

Fall 2012 Test -- Take Two

Veritas students are expected to take the seasonal History & Heritage tests without benefit of a multiple-choice format. They should know the answers simply on the basis of the questions' content.

Nonetheless, for the convenience of family members & friends, an either/or framework for answers appears below:

1. Robert Burns / Walter Scott
2. Theodore Roosevelt / Franklin Roosevelt
3. Secularism / Objectivism
4. William McKinley / Benjamin Harrison
5. John Buchan / Robert Louis Stevenson

6. Charles Ives / John Cage
7. New Heavens & Earth / the Last Days
8. Audie Murphy / Sam Houston
9. Food & Fun / Bread & Circuses
10. R. Baden-Powell / Enoch Powell

11. Manifest Destiny / Divine Predestination
12. Walt Whitman / Ralph Waldo Emerson
13. Catholic / Apostolic
14. Herman Melville / Henry David Thoreau
15. Wilmot Proviso / Wilson Proviso

16. Margaret Mead / Margaret Sanger
17. Brethren of the Common Life / Band of Brothers
18. Ray Bradbury / H.G. Wells
19. Great Schism / Protestant Reformation
20. Anne Frank / Ayn Rand

21. Horatio Seymour / William Seward
22. Francis of Assisi / Bernard of Clairvaux
23. *Second Inaugural* / *First Inaugural*
24. Gregory VII / Urban II
25. Booker T. Washington / Frederick Douglass

Veritas Academy

6200 Linworth Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
(614) 885-2810 -- www.veritasacademy.org

Please check our weekly **History & Heritage Blog** on the Veritas website (www.veritasacademy.org) for 8 study lessons in preparation for the next test (Winter 2013). The weekly winter posts will begin in mid-December.

Correct Answers to Fall 2012 History & Heritage Test

1. Sir Walter Scott
2. Theodore Roosevelt
3. Secularism
4. William McKinley
5. Robert Louis Stevenson
6. John Cage
7. the Last Days
8. Sam Houston
9. Bread & Circuses
10. Enoch Powell
11. Manifest Destiny
12. Ralph Waldo Emerson
13. Catholic
14. Henry David Thoreau
15. Wilmot Proviso
16. Margaret Sanger
17. Brethren of the Common Life
18. Ray Bradbury
19. The Protestant Reformation
20. Ayn Rand
21. William Seward
22. Francis of Assisi
23. *Second Inaugural*
24. Urban II
25. Frederick Douglass

Prose & Poetry

For each season of the year, we endeavor to commit some verse or a prose selection to memory. There's no better way to relish the beauty and power of our native tongue or reflect deeply on the truth that makes us free.

Past selections have included David Middleton's "Of Magnanimity," Christiana Rossetti's "In the Bleak Midwinter," and William Cowper's "God Moves in a Mysterious Way."

This winter we'll try a poem written by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850--1894) in honor of Roman Catholic Sister Marianne Cope, who worked with the lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai in the late 19th-century as Father Damien had.

Families & friends are encouraged to join us in making poetry, song, and eloquent expression an enjoyable aspect of life in American homes again.

