Strategies for Text-Based Multiple Choice Question

There are a variety of different text-based multiple-choice questions which require you to read a text and choose the correct response from the choices available.

Regardless of format, the same strategy holds true for all text-based multiple-choice questions:

1. If it is a longer passage, you may first want to read the questions to give you a sense of what to look for as you read.
2. Read the text presented. Don’t forget to read the title, speaker, and year if given.
3. Contextualize the text in the period it is from. What do you know about the period or speaker? What events is this text connected to?
4. Read the question asked.
5. Read each possible answer choice.
6. Select the best answer based on your analysis.

On the following pages, we have featured multiple choice questions from NY State Regents exams. Like the Regents, the questions are in a rough chronological order.
“... Christian warriors, He who gave His life for you, today demands yours in return. These are combats worthy of you, combats in which it is glorious to conquer and advantageous to die. Illustrious knights, generous defenders of the Cross, remember the examples of your fathers who conquered Jerusalem, and whose names are inscribed in Heaven; abandon then the things that perish, to gather unfading palms, and conquer a Kingdom which has no end.”
— St. Bernard of Clairvaux

This statement was most likely used to encourage people to
(1) repel a Viking invasion
(2) stop advancement of the Huns in Europe
(3) join the Crusades
(4) force Russians to convert to Catholicism

Base your answer on the quotation below and on your knowledge of social studies.

“Come then, with all your people and give battle with all your strength, so that all this treasure shall not fall into the hands of the Turks... Therefore act while there is still time lest the kingdom of the Christians shall vanish from your sight... And in your coming you will find your reward in heaven...”
— Emperor Alexius Comnenus, quoted in The Dream and the Tomb

Which event is referred to in this quotation?
(1) Enlightenment
(2) French Revolution
(3) Glorious Revolution
(4) Crusades

“The Peace of God declared that feudal warfare could not take place on church property, and it promised sanctuary in churches and abbeys to fugitives from combat. The Truce of God forbade fighting from Wednesday evening until Monday morning, on holidays, and during the religious seasons of Christmas and Lent...”
— Medieval and Early Modern Times

This quotation implies that
(1) the church had considerable political power during this time
(2) war was limited to religious holidays
(3) religion was dictated by feudal law
(4) landlords determined when warfare took place
Strategies for Data-Based Multiple Choice Question

There are a variety of different data-based multiple-choice questions which require students to analyze information and choose the correct response from the choices available.

You may be asked to analyze data in a variety of different formats, including: reading passages, graphs, tables, outlines, quotation interpretation, and timelines.

Regardless of format, the same strategy holds true for all data-based multiple-choice questions:

- Read or view all of the data presented. Don’t forget to read the title and the key to fully understand the data being presented.
- Read the question asked.
- Read each possible answer choice.
- Review the data, looking for matches between one of the answers and the data presented.
- Select the best answer based on your analysis.

On the following pages, we have featured data-based multiple choice questions from NY State Regents exams. Like the Regents, the questions are in a rough chronological order.
What is the best title for this diagram?

1. Encomienda System
2. Columbian Exchange
3. Silk Road
4. Open Door policy

Source: Goldberg and Clark DuPré, *Brief Review in Global History and Geography*, Prentice Hall, 2002 (adapted)
The Ming emperor banned the building of large oceangoing ships in 1433. The Tokugawa shogun issued the Act of Seclusion in 1636. One way in which these historical occurrences are similar is that both led to increased

(1) social mobility
(2) globalization
(3) cultural diffusion
(4) isolation

Base your answer on the chart below and on your knowledge of social studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Philosopher</th>
<th>Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locke</td>
<td>Natural rights — life, liberty, property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montesquieu</td>
<td>Separation of powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltaire</td>
<td>Freedom of thought, expression, and religion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which period is most closely associated with the major ideas of these philosophers?

(1) Crusades
(2) Renaissance
(3) Reconquista
(4) Enlightenment

Which revolution was caused by the factors shown in this partial outline?

I. __________________________
   A. Bankruptcy of the treasury
   B. Tax burden on the Third Estate
   C. Inflation
   D. Abuses of the Old Regime

(1) Russian
(2) Mexican
(3) French
(4) Cuban
Base your answers on the chart below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Executions During the Reign of Terror

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peasants</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>3,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Class</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>4,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Middle Class</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>1,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Middle Class</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>1,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobility</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Status Given</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Dennis Sherman et al., eds., World Civilizations: Sources, Images, and Interpretations, McGraw-Hill (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, August 2006.

During which revolution did these executions occur?
(1) French
(2) Russian
(3) Chinese
(4) Cuban

Which statement is best supported by information found in this chart?
(1) Clergy were spared from the Reign of Terror.
(2) The Reign of Terror affected all classes equally.
(3) The Reign of Terror crossed social and economic boundaries.
(4) Peasants were the most frequent victims of the Reign of Terror.
Which conclusion about the slave trade in Africa is supported by this map?

(1) Most of the slaves came from eastern Africa.
(2) Few people were taken from Africa to other continents.
(3) Several European countries participated in the slave trade.
(4) The slave trade began in southern Africa.
Based on a comparison of these maps of South America, which conclusion is accurate?

(1) Many regions of South America gained their independence between 1790 and 1828.
(2) All of South America was independent by 1828.
(3) Spain continued to gain South American colonies in the 19th century.
(4) Between 1790 and 1828, South American political boundaries remained unchanged except for Brazil.

Which individual is most closely associated with the changes indicated on these maps?

(1) Emiliano Zapata
(2) Simón Bolívar
(3) Porfirio Díaz
(4) Pancho Villa

Base your answer to question 24 on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.
Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

**Russian Economy**

The main idea of this 1990s cartoon is that Russia is

1. deciding between a capitalist or a communist system
2. attempting to restore military power
3. expressing concern about how the rest of the world views its government
4. maintaining a balance between a civilian and a military government
Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

This 1992 cartoon refers to Russia's
(1) constant fear of invasion from the West
(2) tendency to establish totalitarian rule during a crisis
(3) attempts to settle foreign policy disputes
(4) current difficulty in establishing economic reforms
Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

The situation illustrated in the cartoon was mainly caused by the
(1) policies of the government of the Republic of South Africa toward blacks
(2) abundance of oil resources in the Republic of South Africa
(3) secession of the Republic of South Africa from the United Nations
(4) refusal of the Republic of South Africa to trade with other African nations
Base your answers on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Source: Jeff Koterba, *Omaha World Herald*, 2003 (adapted)

This 2003 cartoon illustrates the struggle between Palestinians and:

1. Iraqis
2. Hamas
3. Egyptians
4. Israelis

What is the main idea of this 2003 cartoon?

1. There are problems to resolve on the road to peace.
2. Colin Powell has removed the stumbling blocks to peace.
3. Both groups have reached agreement on the road map for peace.
4. The road to peace has been carefully mapped.
Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

What is the main idea of this 1994 cartoon?
(1) Israelis have become poorer because of their struggle with the Palestinians.
(2) Various economic problems continue despite Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza region.
(3) Israel is willing to invest large amounts of money in developing Gaza.
(4) Peace has finally come to the Gaza region.
Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

"Filthy Imperialist!"

Source: Emmwood, *Daily Mail*, September 23, 1963 (adapted)

Which two countries are represented by the characters arguing over the border?

(1) the Soviet Union and China  
(2) North Korea and Great Britain  
(3) China and Great Britain  
(4) the Soviet Union and North Korea
Base your answer to this question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Source: Brian Barling, Christian Science Monitor, March 30, 2006

The policies of which 20th-century leader helped to create the situation shown in this 2006 cartoon?

(1) Deng Xiaoping
(2) Kim Jong Il
(3) Aung San Suu Kyi
(4) Ho Chi Minh
Base your answer to the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

What is the main idea of the cartoon?

(1) The Chinese people are reconsidering their commitment to Communist principles.
(2) Educational opportunities are improving in China.
(3) The Chinese Government is encouraging the growth of small businesses.
(4) The literacy rate of the Chinese people needs to be improved.