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

It would be wrong to call the Ottoman Empire a purely Islamic state. It was not. It was a state that claimed some kind of an attachment, some kind of allegiance to Islam, but combined it with other forms of heritage from the Byzantine tradition or from the Turkic tradition that did not really correspond to Islam. So they always had this very, very pragmatic approach to Islam. — Professor Edhem Eldem, Bogazici University, NPR News, All Things Considered, August 18, 2004 14

This author is suggesting that during the Ottoman Empire

(1) religion was mingled with historic traditions
(2) most people belonged to minority religions
(3) rulers tried to separate politics from religion
(4) rulers operated under a strict set of laws

"The countries beyond the horizon and from the ends of the Earth have all become subjects and to the most western of the western or the most northern of the northern countries however far away they may be." — Ming dynasty official

The intent of this statement about the Ming dynasty was to

(1) demonstrate supremacy and strength in China
(2) control the Mongols
(3) stop European imperialism
(4) impose Chinese culture and slavery on neighboring countries

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

... In the 1930s, Sylvanus G. Morley of Harvard, probably the most celebrated Mayanist of his day, espoused [argued for] what is still the best-known theory: The Maya collapsed because they overshot the carrying capacity of their environment. They exhausted their resource base, began to die of starvation and thirst, and fled their cities en masse, leaving them as silent warnings of the perils of ecological hubris [overconfidence].... — Charles C. Mann, 1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus

According to this passage, what was a major question Morley was trying to answer about the Mayas in the 1930s?

(1) Why did the Mayas abandon their cities?
(2) What was the structure of the Maya governments?
(3) How did religious beliefs affect the Maya economy?
(4) Which neighboring city-state conquered the Mayas?
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.
Which heading best completes the partial outline below?

I. ____________________________
   A. Writings of Thomas Hobbes
   B. Divine right theory
   C. Centralization of political power
   D. Reign of Louis XIV

(1) Beginning of Global Trade
(2) Growth of Democracy in Europe
(3) Rise of Absolutism
(4) Age of Exploration

- Vasco da Gama discovered an all-water route from Europe to India.
- Ferdinand Magellan’s crew circumnavigated the globe.
- Issac Newton defined the forces of gravity.

These events relate most directly to
   (1) revised understandings of natural surroundings
   (2) questioning the benefits of the mercantile system
   (3) increased suspicion between different religions
   (4) development of new manufacturing techniques

- Spain mines silver in the Americas.
- The Dutch establish a colony in Southeast Asia.
- The English East India Company controls tea plantations in India.

Which policy is most closely associated with these events?
   (1) pacifism
   (2) mercantilism
   (3) nonalignment
   (4) containment
What is the best title for this diagram?

1. Encomienda System
2. Columbian Exchange
3. Silk Road
4. Open Door policy
Which statement is supported by the graph?

1. Little trade in enslaved Africans took place before the 1500s.
2. Slavery was most widely practiced in Sweden, Denmark, and Holland.
3. Conditions of slavery in Brazil were less harsh than those in the United States.
4. Most enslaved Africans were sent to the Caribbean and Spanish America.

• 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 answer on the diagram below and on your knowledge of social studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Estate</th>
<th>Second Estate</th>
<th>Third Estate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>Nobles</td>
<td>Middle class, peasants, city workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% of the people owned 10% of the land</td>
<td>2% of the people owned 25% of the land</td>
<td>97% of the people owned 65% of the land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Schwartz and O'Connor, Democracy and Nationalism, Globe Book Company (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, August 2007.

Which revolution resulted from the division of society shown in this diagram?

(1) Puritan (1642)
(2) French (1789)
(3) Mexican (1910)
(4) Russian (1917)
Base your answers on the chart below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Executions During the Reign of Terror

- Peasants: 28% (3,961)
- Upper Middle Class: 14% (1,964)
- Lower Middle Class: 11% (1,488)
- Clergy: 7% (920)
- Nobility: 8% (1,158)
- No Status Given: 1% (1,158)

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
A. Toussaint L'Ouverture declares Haiti independent.
B. Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen is written in France.
C. The thirteen colonies gain independence from Great Britain.
D. Simón Bolívar frees Colombia from Spanish rule.

What is the correct chronological order for these events?

(1) A → B → D → C
(2) C → B → A → D
(3) A → D → C → B
(4) D → C → B → A

- Toussaint L'Ouverture
- Bernardo O'Higgins
- José de San Martín

These individuals had their greatest impact on the

(1) unification of Italy
(2) Independence movements in Latin America
(3) Zionist movement
(4) Catholic Counter Reformation

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

I. ____________________________________________
   A. Ideas from the American Revolution spread.
   B. Enslaved persons burned sugar fields and rebelled against French slave owners.
   C. Toussaint L'Ouverture organized rebels.

Which title best completes this partial outline?

(1) Causes for Bismarck's Rise to Power
(2) Factors of the Haitian Revolution
(3) Results of the Munich Pact
(4) Situations Contributing to the Zionist Movement
Strategies for Map-Based Multiple Choice Question

Map-based multiple-choice questions require that one carefully read each aspect of the map, including the title, labels, legend, and key.

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

1. View the map, paying particular attention to the title, labels, legend, and key.
2. Read the question asked.
3. Read each possible answer choice.
4. Review the map, looking for matches between one of the answers and the data presented.
5. 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.
Which letter identifies the region in the Andes Mountains where many Inca settlements were located?

(1) A  
(2) B  
(3) C  
(4) D

The letter C indicates an area of Latin America that was colonized mostly by the

(1) Dutch  
(2) Portuguese  
(3) English  
(4) French
The arrows on this map, "The African Diaspora," represent the
(1) development of trade routes in North Africa
(2) expansion of African kingdoms involved in the slave trade
(3) forced migration of African peoples from their homeland
(4) dependence by Africans on imports for economic development

Base your answer to question ___ on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.
Based on the information shown on this map, most manufactured goods were produced in

(1) the West Indies
(2) Europe
(3) English colonies
(4) Africa
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.
What is the most appropriate title for the map?
(1) The Industrial Revolution
(2) Imperialism in Africa
(3) The Age of Discovery
(4) Atlantic Trade Routes

Base your answer to question 46 on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.
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.
Strategies for Multiple Choice Questions Based on Visual Texts
(Political Cartoons, Photographs and Illustrations)

There are a variety of different visual text-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.

Political cartoon multiple choice questions require that you carefully read each aspect of the cartoon, including labels and captions. It is also very important to note different types of symbolism. After looking for all of these clues, put them together and try to make sense of them. You should ask yourself, “What is the message of this cartoon?”

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.
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

Source: Brian Gable, The Globe and Mail, Toronto, Canada (adapted)
The main idea of this 1992 cartoon is that

(1) Communism continues to threaten Western democratic nations
(2) Communism is losing its influence throughout the world
(3) Communist governments succeed best in nations with high standards of living
(4) most nations in Asia still follow the ideas of Marx and Lenin
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.

![Cartoon of a man walking on the word 'apartheid']

Source: Dennis Renault, The Sacramento Bee (adapted)

The main idea of the cartoon was that in South Africa

(1) the fall of apartheid ended racial tensions
(2) Nelson Mandela was unable to bring about political reform
(3) another Communist government lost power
(4) a significant step was taken toward racial equality
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.

What is the best title for this cartoon?

(1) "The Evils of Mechanization"

(2) "Preserve the Rain Forest"

(3) "A Dying Era"

(4) "Limit Population Growth"

The cartoon is concerned with the issue of

(1) human rights

(2) industrialization

(3) environmental conservation

(4) overpopulation
Base your answers on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

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 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

The main idea of the cartoon is that the crisis will
(1) be confined to the Middle East
(2) be controlled by Western democracies
(3) totally destroy the Islamic religion
(4) eventually affect the entire world

The crisis illustrated in the cartoon involves the
(1) internal problems in the Philippines
(2) border conflicts between Honduras and Nicaragua
(3) conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors
(4) flight of Afghan refugees into Pakistan
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.
This 1989 cartoon suggests that the governments of both China and East Germany

(1) removed the military from power
(2) allowed a shift in rule from autocracy to fascism
(3) gave people the right to decide how they would be ruled
(4) faced challenges in their ability to maintain communist government

Which event in China is symbolized by the "Lady with the Light" in this 1989 cartoon?

(1) Long March
(2) Great Leap Forward
(3) Cultural Revolution
(4) Tiananmen Square protest
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 the following question on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.

After 1956, strained relations between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China were often caused by

(1) disagreements over the meaning and goals of communism
(2) difficulties encountered in constructing the trans-Siberian railroad
(3) technological differences between the two nations
(4) China's reluctance to admit Russian workers into Manchuria
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
What is the main idea of the cartoon?

(1) The majority of people in China do not support the recent changes.
(2) China is improving its record on human rights.
(3) Economic freedom in China has not led to political reforms and freedom.
(4) China's system of criminal justice is based on Western traditions and laws.
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.
What is the main idea of this 1992 cartoon?

1. China's government opposes free-trade agreements with Western nations.
2. Deng Xiaoping personally opposed the introduction of capitalism to China.
3. The Chinese Government is more interested in improving trade than in respecting human rights.
4. China's economic system is meeting the needs of its people.