Assessment: The Political Development of Imperial China

Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. Suppose four Chinese emperors are in the same dynasty. Which statement must be true about them?
   A. They were born in the same region
   B. They are members of the same family.
   C. They belong to the same political party.
   D. They use the same style of government.

2. Which phrase belongs in the empty box?

   - high taxes
   - forced labor
   - fights between warlords
   - rebellion ends Han dynasty

   A. foreign attacks  
   B. strong imperial rule  
   C. dishonest bureaucracy  
   D. civil service examination

3. To people who believed in the Mandate of Heaven, when was it all right to overthrow an emperor?
   A. never at any time  
   B. when he ruled badly  
   C. when he became unpopular  
   D. when citizens wanted a change

4. How was China after the Han dynasty like Europe after the fall of Rome?
   A. It adopted a different religion.  
   B. It was governed by harsh tyrants.  
   C. It grew rich through foreign trade.  
   D. It broke into separate kingdoms.

5. How did the Tang emperors after 618 build on the work of Sui emperors?
   A. They strengthened the central government.  
   B. They granted provinces more independence.  
   C. They kept aristocrats out of the bureaucracy.  
   D. They depended on the wisdom of foreign advisors.
6. Whom did the earliest emperors of China choose to help them govern?
   A. priests
   B. scholars
   C. foreigners
   D. aristocrats

7. Which dynasty first introduced civil service examinations?
   A. Han
   B. Song
   C. Tang
   D. Yuan

8. Some of the questions on the civil service examination were about
   A. poetry.
   B. science.
   C. business.
   D. mathematics.

9. If you wanted a job in government service under the Song dynasty, which of these would you have studied?
   A. the engineering of roads
   B. the laws of other nations
   C. the teachings of Confucius
   D. the languages of Europeans

10. How did the lives of some people from the lower classes change under the Song dynasty?
    A. They were forbidden to celebrate popular holidays.
    B. They stopped being required to serve in the military.
    C. They began having to do forced labor building canals.
    D. They gained an opportunity to become government officials.

11. In a meritocracy, selection of officials was based on
    A. birth.
    B. wealth.
    C. test scores.
    D. popular vote.

12. According to Confucius, rulers had a duty to
    A. expand the empire.
    B. treat all people equally.
    C. be kind to their subjects.
    D. ask everybody's opinion.

13. Whom did the emperor Kublai Khan trust most to hold government jobs?
    A. monks, because they were religious
    B. foreigners, because he was a foreigner
    C. soldiers, because they could keep order
    D. scholars, because they were educated
14. Which of the following was one reason why the Yuan dynasty could not fill all government jobs with Mongols?
   A. Many had become Muslims.
   B. Many could not read or write.
   C. Many lived in southern China.
   D. Many lacked military experience.

15. One weakness of China’s civil-service system was that it created a bureaucracy that valued
   A. wealth more than talent.
   B. idleness more than effort.
   C. freedom more than loyalty.
   D. tradition more than progress.

16. By the 1600s, the Chinese bureaucracy was unable to adapt to change. This contributed to the
   A. fall of the Ming dynasty.
   B. power of the aristocracy.
   C. rise in business and trade.
   D. overthrow of the Mongols.

**Applying Social Studies Skills**

Use the timeline and your knowledge of history to complete the sentences.

17. Of the four dynasties shown on the timeline, the one that ruled for the shortest time, was the ____________________ dynasty.

18. Several decades of chaos and division occurred between the _________________ and the _________________ dynasties.

19. Archaeologists found these artifacts:
   • A carved jade statue from about 800 C.E.
   • A pottery vase from about 1500 C.E.
   • A blue-and-white pottery plate from about 1350 C.E.
   • A green stoneware pot from about 1100 C.E.
   The artifact on this list that came from the Ming dynasty was the _________________________________.

Exploring the Essential Question: Which method of selecting officials led to the best leaders for China?

20. First, decide which method of choosing government officials you think led to the best leaders for China. Circle the word below that shows your choice.

aristocrats scholars foreigners

Next, suppose you are in China during a time when government officials were selected according to your chosen system. You are a strong candidate for a government position. Fill out the job application below to show your qualifications.

JOB APPLICATION FORM
Kind of job wanted: government official
Personal background (social class, nationality, etc.)

Experiences, skills, or other qualifications:

Explain briefly why you are a strong candidate for this position.

Explain briefly how and why China will benefit from hiring people like you.