

## **Chapter 20 Practice Test**

*Indicate whether the statement is true or false.*

1. The region's most successful projects to combat the effects of desertification have been those led by international groups such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
  - a. True
  - b. False
2. Humanitarian aid that poured into the region following the drought of the mid-20th century resulted in beneficial water management practices.
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. Better water management will help to increase food security and reduce poverty.
  - a. True
  - b. False
4. Changes in demand and climate have decreased the availability of water in the Lake Chad Basin.
  - a. True
  - b. False
5. Most international agencies believe there is little that can be done to reduce the effects of desertification in the Transition Zone.
  - a. True
  - b. False

*Indicate the answer choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

6. What was the purpose of the Berlin Conference of 1884?
  - a. to regulate European colonization in Africa
  - b. to send humanitarian aid to drought-stricken Africa
  - c. to train Africans in water management and agricultural practices
  - d. to intervene in a civil war between warring ethnic groups in Africa
7. Which river is known by many names, all of which mean "great river"?
  - a. Volta River
  - b. Niger River
  - c. Nile River
  - d. Senegal River
8. Desertification is
  - a. the natural expansion of the Sahara.
  - b. caused by both human activities and variations in climate.
  - c. caused primarily by climate change.
  - d. easy to manage and reverse.

## **Chapter 20 Practice Test**

9. One of the legacies of the Transition Zone's colonial past is
  - a. its Muslim religion.
  - b. its forms of governments.
  - c. its countries' political boundaries.
  - d. its health care system.
10. Which statement about post-colonial Africa is true?
  - a. Most countries kept the boundaries created by colonial rulers.
  - b. Most countries reshaped their boundaries to reflect cultural, religious, and traditional boundaries.
  - c. People migrated to countries with large populations of their ethnic group.
  - d. Ethnic groups adopted the cultures and traditions of the majority population in their countries.
11. The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel is
  - a. a group of investors who promote tapping freshwater from aquifers.
  - b. a group of African countries working to bring more hydroelectric plants to the Transition Zone.
  - c. a group of African countries working to improve food security and manage the region's water, land, and natural resources.
  - d. a group within the United Nations working to reduce the effects of drought and desertification in the Transition Zone.
12. The International Atomic Energy Association is working with thirteen countries in the subregion to
  - a. promote understanding of the subregion's aquifers.
  - b. bring atomic energy to the subregion.
  - c. harness water power to create hydroelectricity.
  - d. create atomic testing zones in arid areas.
13. In what part of the Transition Zone are nuclear families rapidly replacing extended families?
  - a. urban areas
  - b. rural areas
  - c. countries along the eastern coast
  - d. countries along the western coast
14. An example of how the Great Green Wall will help to combat desertification is
  - a. it will block desert winds, which dry the soil.
  - b. it will plant drought-resistant grasses, which the wind will spread throughout the region.
  - c. it will add bacteria to sand dunes to harden the sand, which will limit further desertification.
  - d. it will create a huge grazing belt across Africa, which will prevent concentrations of livestock in small areas.
15. What is the topography of the Sahel?
  - a. mainly flat with a series of low rugged mountains along the east coast
  - b. mainly flat with a few rolling hills along the east coast
  - c. mainly flat with numerous deep basins and depressions
  - d. mainly flat with a series of plateaus

**Chapter 20 Practice Test**

16. Most people in the Transition Zone make their living by
  - a. farming and mining.
  - b. subsistence farming and oil production.
  - c. farming and working in manufacturing plants.
  - d. subsistence farming and semi-nomadic herding.
17. An example of successful water management being practiced in the Transition Zone is
  - a. restricting water use to alternate days.
  - b. recycling waste water.
  - c. collecting rainwater in basins.
  - d. using drip irrigation for farming.
18. Most people in the Transition Zone live in
  - a. nuclear families headed by a male family member.
  - b. nuclear families headed by a female family member.
  - c. extended families headed by a male family member.
  - d. extended families headed by a female family member.
19. A decade-olds conflict in Sudan that ended in 2005 was based on a dispute over
  - a. a border between north and south Sudan.
  - b. Islamic-oriented governments versus secular governments.
  - c. sacred sites in north Sudan.
  - d. access to water sources in south Sudan.
20. Which part of the Transition Zone receives the most rainfall?
  - a. north
  - b. south
  - c. eastern coast
  - d. western coast
21. Which statement about the Transition Zone's population is true?
  - a. While the Transition Zone has one of the largest populations in the world, population growth has begun to decline.
  - b. The Transition Zone is the most densely populated area of Africa.
  - c. The population of the Transition Zone is expected to double between 2020 and 2050.
  - d. The population of the Transition Zone is distributed evenly between most parts of the region.
22. A decades-long conflict between south and north \_\_\_\_\_ killed about 300,000 people.
  - a. Chad
  - b. Niger
  - c. Sudan
  - d. Senegal

**Chapter 20 Practice Test**

23. The Great Green Wall is a plan to create
- a “green” Sahara by planting trees and grasses in it.
  - a barrier of trees to stop the spread of the Sahara.
  - a belt of fertile land that can be used for agricultural purposes.
  - a “green” Transition Zone by using better crop varieties and irrigation processes.
24. Which country has some of the world’s largest deposits of uranium, as well as oil, gold, and coal?
- Niger
  - Chad
  - Sudan
  - Senegal
25. Which challenge makes it especially difficult to combat desertification in the Transition Zone?
- a rapidly growing population
  - religious and cultural traditions
  - lack of international assistance
  - lack of cooperation among countries
26. The average annual rainfall in the Sahel is
- 4 to 8 inches.
  - 8 to 12 inches.
  - 10 to 14 inches.
  - 14 to 18 inches.
27. Cheetahs, lions, and other wildlife roam for part of the year
- because they are migratory by nature.
  - to escape the high temperatures in the north.
  - to flee hunters during the peak hunting season.
  - to find water and vegetation when an area dries up.
28. To create water resources for livestock, boreholes and wells were drilled in areas that were previously unsuitable for livestock. What was the result of this plan?
- Animals refused to leave their traditional grazing areas for the new areas.
  - Manure from grazing livestock contaminated the water supply in the wells.
  - The wells attracted disease-carrying insects that damaged the livestock.
  - The new areas attracted larger herds than the area could feed, resulting in overgrazing.
29. In subsistence farming, a farmer
- receives compensation from the government to plant specific crops.
  - grows crops primarily to feed his or her family, selling any small surplus.
  - rotates crops every season to maintain soil fertility and prevent diseases.
  - plants fast-growing crops to take advantage of short growing seasons.

**Chapter 20 Practice Test**

30. Would a period of heavy rainfalls help the Transition Zone to combat desertification?
- a. Yes, because the water would be collected in reservoirs.
  - b. Yes, but it would only be a temporary solution.
  - c. No, because the ground is too dry to absorb the water.
  - d. No, because it would produce floodwaters filled with sand and dirt.
31. Which water project resulted in the flooding of more than 700 villages, forcing thousands of people to move to new homes?
- a. the Manantali Dam on the Bafing River
  - b. the Diama Dam on the Senegal River
  - c. the Grand Millennium Dam on the Blue Nile River
  - d. the Akosombo Dam on the Volta River
32. About how wide is the Transition Zone at its widest point?
- a. 125 miles
  - b. 250 miles
  - c. 650 miles
  - d. 3,700 miles
33. The Sahel is a \_\_\_\_\_ of vegetation that stretches 3,700 miles (6,000 km) from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean.
- a. circular area
  - b. broken line
  - c. narrow band
  - d. triangular zone
34. Which action would produce the best results toward combating desertification?
- a. limiting areas used for livestock grazing
  - b. creating large-scale farms near water sources
  - c. restricting agricultural activity to essential crops
  - d. adopting agricultural methods that put less stress on the land
35. The vegetation of the Sahel is
- a. low-growing grasses, shrubs, and acacia and baobab trees.
  - b. shrubs interspersed with evergreen forests.
  - c. rainforests, prairie grasses, and cacti.
  - d. low-growing grasses, cacti, and drought-resistant shrubs.
36. The Arabic word *Sahel* means
- a. desert.
  - b. border.
  - c. shore.
  - d. vast.

**Chapter 20 Practice Test**

37. When does most rain fall in the Transition Zone?
- February to April
  - May to August
  - September and October
  - November to January
38. The population of the Transition Zone
- is relatively small.
  - is rapidly growing.
  - has remained steady for the past 30 years.
  - has declined significantly in recent decades.
39. Why do residents of the Sahel welcome the harmattan?
- It is a cool, moist wind that signals the start of the rainy season.
  - It is a hot, dry wind that rids the air of its humidity.
  - It is a warm, moist wind that brings mild precipitation to coastal areas.
  - It is a cool, dry wind that decreases temperatures in the summer.
40. Lake Chad is being polluted by
- ore mines.
  - electronic manufacturers.
  - cotton and rice farmers.
  - tourists and livestock waste.

*Enter the appropriate word(s) to complete the statement.*

41. The Transition Zone's "coastline" of vegetation at the edge of the desert marks the region's transition from desert lowland to elevated plateaus typical of \_\_\_\_\_ topography.
42. Once one of the largest wetlands in Africa, the northern section of \_\_\_\_\_ dried up during a drought in the 1970s.
43. The damming of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1960s created a huge human-made lake in Ghana.
44. The Transition Zone transitions between the Islamic cultures of the north and the Christian and \_\_\_\_\_ cultures of the south.
45. The drainage basin of the \_\_\_\_\_ encompasses over 170,000 square miles (450,000 sq. km) and is managed by a multi-country organization.

**Chapter 20 Practice Test**

- a. Mali
  - b. Songhai
  - c. Kush
  - d. Axum
  - e. Mansa Musa
46. a trading empire in the western part of the Transition Zone during the 15th century that was overtaken by the Moroccans
47. a trading empire in Ethiopia from about A.D. 100 to A.D. 700
48. the ruler of an empire in the Transition Zone who gained fame for his pilgrimage to Makkah
49. a trading empire in the western part of the Transition Zone that flourished and spread Islam from the 13th to 16th century
50. an African empire that controlled Egyptian territory from about 2000 B.C. to about 1500 B.C. in what is now Sudan
- 
- a. Sahel
  - b. desertification
  - c. animist
  - d. Khartoum
  - e. sanitation
  - f. Timbuktu
  - g. clan
  - h. overgrazing
  - i. transition zone
  - j. nuclear family
51. an area in which the properties of the land undergo a radical change
52. a large group of people descended from the same ancestor
53. the disposal of waste products
54. the destruction of plant roots and compacting of soil caused by too many livestock being pastured in an area
55. a social unit made up of a husband, wife, and children
56. the destruction of land in arid and semi-arid areas caused by climate change and human activity
57. the traditional religious beliefs in which nature and objects, such as animals and mountains, are thought to have spirits
58. a wealthy trading center that once was part of the Mali Empire
59. a steppe region extending from Senegal to Somalia that receives little rainfall
60. the major city in Sudan where the Blue Nile River and White Nile River meet

## Chapter 20 Practice Test

- a. oral tradition
  - b. Senegal River
  - c. harmattan
  - d. delta
  - e. Lake Chad
  - f. Great Green Wall
  - g. domesticate
  - h. subsistence farming
  - i. Lake Volta
  - j. patriarchal
61. an area where a river slows down and spreads out into many smaller channels
62. a body of water that was once a major source of freshwater but is now significantly depleted by drought and demand
63. to tame, such as wild animals
64. one of the largest human-made lakes in the world
65. a hot, dry wind that blows from the northeast or east in the western Sahara
66. a way of growing crops that provides for the basic needs of a family with little surplus
67. a body of water that forms the border of Mauritania
68. to be headed by a male family member
69. the practice of passing down stories from generation to generation by word of mouth
70. a plan that calls for a wall of trees to divide the semi-arid Sahel from the Sahara

In 2012, a violent conflict broke out in northern Mali, causing over 450,000 people to flee the area. UN envoy Romano Prodi gave his perspective on such conflicts in the excerpt below.

*The UN official [Romano Prodi] said that the international community needs to take action to promote economic development in the region and to give the people of Mali the means to make a living. "Without development, it will not be possible to resolve the crisis in Mali. So we need to strengthen international solidarity," he said.*

—Siham Ali and Walid Ramzi, "UN Sahel envoy seeks Mali solution," November 20, 2012.

71. After reading this quote, do you agree with Prodi's view on what is needed to resolve this conflict? Write a paragraph explaining why or why not. Use details from the chapter to support your response.



**Chapter 20 Practice Test**

The table below shows the number of people in select countries in the Sahel who do not have secure food resources or are at risk of becoming food insecure. Examine the information and answer the question that follows.

<b>People in the Sahel region vulnerable to food insecurity, March 2012</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>Total numbers food insecure/in areas at risk</b>
Mauritania	700,000 food insecure, of which 290,000 severely
Mali	3,575,160 in communes at risk
Niger	6,112,738 food insecure, of which 1,916,855 severely
Burkina Faso	2,065,738 food insecure
Chad	3,622,200 food insecure, of which 1,180,300 severely
Senegal	850,000 food insecure
The Gambia	713,433 in areas at risk

Source: Oxfam, "Food Crisis in Sahel," 2012

72. Using information in the table and from the chapter, describe food insecurity in the countries shown. What else can you say about food insecurity in the Sahel based on this information and what you have learned from the chapter?

Ethnic conflict broke out in northern Mali in 2012, resulting in nearly half a million people fleeing their homes. UN envoy Romano Prodi gave his perspective on such conflicts in the excerpt above.

*The UN official [Romano Prodi] said that the international community needs to take action to promote economic development in the region and to give the people of Mali the means to make a living. "Without development, it will not be possible to resolve the crisis in Mali. So we need to strengthen international solidarity," he said.*

—Ali & Ramzi, "UN Sahel envoy seeks Mali solution," 2012

73. Read the quote above. Do you agree or disagree with U.N. Sahel envoy Romano Prodi's statement? Write a paragraph explaining why you think development is or is not the key to resolving conflict in Mali and other countries in the Transition Zone. Use details from the chapter to support your response.

**Chapter 20 Practice Test**

The table below shows the number of people in select countries in the Sahel who do not have secure food resources or are at risk of becoming food insecure. Examine the information and answer the question that follows.

<b>People in the Sahel region vulnerable to food insecurity, March 2012</b>	
<b>Country</b>	<b>Total numbers food insecure/in areas at risk</b>
Mauritania	700,000 food insecure, of which 290,000 severely
Mali	3,575,160 in communes at risk
Niger	6,112,738 food insecure, of which 1,916,855 severely
Burkina Faso	2,065,738 food insecure
Chad	3,622,200 food insecure, of which 1,180,300 severely
Senegal	850,000 food insecure
The Gambia	713,433 in areas at risk

**Source:** Oxfam, "Food Crisis in Sahel," 2012

74. Based on information in the table and from the chapter, how does food insecurity impact the human geography of the Sahel? What are the causes of this crisis and what is being done to resolve the problem?