

Chapter 22 Practice Test

Indicate whether the statement is true or false.

1. Lake Volta has been shrinking due to drought, desertification, climate change, and the damming of rivers that supply it.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. The use of heavy farm machinery, frequent tilling, and the clearing of forests have caused soil desalination in West Africa.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. The carrying capacity is the set of systems that affect how well a place or organization operates within a country.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. Poor sanitation in West Africa results in illness, premature death, and loss of productivity while people are sick or looking for health care.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. Mismanagement of natural resources in West Africa is partly a legacy of colonialism and the abandonment of traditional agricultural techniques.
 - a. True
 - b. False

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

6. A(n) _____ is a natural or artificial lake used as a source of water.
 - a. estuary
 - b. alluvial plain
 - c. canal
 - d. reservoir

7. Rapid population growth poses a danger to the environment of West Africa because it has put pressure on the _____, or the population that an area will support without undergoing deterioration of the land.
 - a. arability
 - b. density
 - c. carrying capacity
 - d. commercial farming

8. Another term for conflict diamonds is _____ diamonds.
 - a. war
 - b. rebel
 - c. strife
 - d. blood

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9. The _____ River is the main river of West Africa and an important commercial shipping route.
- Benue
 - Niger
 - Zambezi
 - Nile
10. What is the largest city in Africa?
- Cairo, Egypt
 - Nairobi, Kenya
 - Lagos, Nigeria
 - Accra, Ghana
11. Which of the following are examples of sanitation problems in West Africa?
- lack of toilets and poor transportation systems
 - polluted water supplies and poor communications systems
 - lack of toilets and polluted water supplies
 - poor transportation and communications systems
12. _____ has been shrinking due to drought, desertification, climate change, and the damming of rivers.
- Lake Volta
 - Lake Tanganyika
 - Lake Chad
 - Lake Malawi
13. Why is English widely spoken in Nigeria and the official language?
- There are more than 500 languages spoken in Nigeria.
 - The language of Nigeria's former colonizers, the French, has been banned.
 - It was once a British colony.
 - Nigeria is a dominion of the United Kingdom.
14. What is the only West African country that belongs to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- Guinea
 - Nigeria
 - Cote d'Ivoire
 - Senegal
15. The African _____ Zone, where the land changes from deserts to a tropical savanna, cuts through the northern part of West Africa.
- Transition
 - Tributary
 - Transfer
 - Transplant

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16. The expert _____ weavers of Ghana are known for kente, a brightly colored cloth consisting of bands of fabric sewn together.
- a. Hausa
 - b. Ibo
 - c. Ashanti
 - d. Yoruba
17. The lagoons and _____ swamps are important parts of the coastal ecosystem of West Africa because they provide food and shelter for fish, shellfish, mollusks, wildfowl, and marine mammals.
- a. cypress
 - b. mangrove
 - c. freshwater
 - d. bamboo
18. In general, literacy rates in West Africa are
- a. high compared to most other countries.
 - b. about average compared to most other countries.
 - c. low compared to most other countries.
 - d. impossible to determine due to the absence of record-keeping.
19. In Nigeria, the Greater Makurdi Water Works project is intended to address the problem of
- a. poorly irrigated fields.
 - b. desertification.
 - c. insufficient clean drinking water.
 - d. soil erosion.
20. Deforestation is a problem in West Africa that is caused primarily by logging and
- a. insect infestations.
 - b. drought.
 - c. clearing land for agriculture.
 - d. desertification.
21. What is the climate in the southern part of West Africa?
- a. tropical
 - b. dry
 - c. midlatitude
 - d. high-latitude

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22. Which of the following is an important cash crop—native to Central America and South America—that was introduced to West Africa during the colonial period?
- a. sugarcane
 - b. taro
 - c. bananas
 - d. cacao
23. The primary aim of the Global Water Initiative is to
- a. improve access to clean water and sanitation.
 - b. halt the advance of desertification.
 - c. stop overfishing in ecologically vulnerable areas.
 - d. implement reforestation plans.
24. At the Berlin Conference in 1884 and 1885,
- a. Mansa Musa ceded his empire to Songhai.
 - b. European countries established colonial boundaries in Africa.
 - c. Liberia was granted independence.
 - d. Germany was forced to give up its colonial claims in Africa.
25. One political factor that has hindered change and economic efficiency in some countries of West Africa is
- a. corruption.
 - b. high taxes.
 - c. democratically-elected governments.
 - d. the socialist system.
26. Which of the following countries in West Africa is named after an early trading empire?
- a. Ghana
 - b. Gambia
 - c. Senegal
 - d. Liberia
27. What was the consequence of the European drawing of colonial boundaries such that they cut across ethnic boundaries?
- a. Colonized Africans learned the same European language.
 - b. Ethnic conflict occurred in postcolonial Africa.
 - c. French is widely spoken in West Africa.
 - d. Government corruption developed in postcolonial Africa.

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28. Government _____ is an obstacle to change and economic efficiency in West Africa and has a negative impact on social and economic development, as well as on the environment and resource management.
- efficiency
 - corruption
 - wastefulness
 - bureaucracy
29. In what country is it projected that the population will increase tenfold between 1950 and 2050?
- Cape Verde
 - Nigeria
 - Sierra Leone
 - Guinea-Bissau
30. Which of the following is a human-made lake that was created by damming a river and flooding some 700 villages?
- Lake Volta
 - Lake Malawi
 - Lake Chad
 - Lake Victoria
31. What is the primary way in which e-commerce has improved the lives of craftspeople that make items such as baskets and jewelry?
- They can buy items over the Internet.
 - They can track their orders online.
 - They no longer need to use raw materials found locally.
 - They can sell their products to customers all over the world.
32. Violent political conflicts in West Africa have frequently been financed by the unlawful sale of weapons or the illegal sale of
- land rights.
 - infrastructure systems.
 - national treasures.
 - natural resources.
33. Formed by the deposit of sediment over a long period of time, the _____ along the Senegal River is rich agricultural land.
- rift valley
 - river plain
 - steppe
 - delta

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34. Using planting pits to reclaim severely dry land is an example of applying _____ agricultural practices to reclaim severely dry land.
- nontraditional
 - new scientific
 - traditional
 - clear-cutting
35. When Europeans drew colonial boundaries for Africa at the Berlin Conference
- they established Liberia as an independent state.
 - they divided territory according to the dominant religious faith of a region.
 - they established the Congo as an independent state.
 - they mostly ignored existing African ethnic boundaries.
36. West Africa has tropical wet and dry forests, also known as tropical _____ forests, which receive rainfall for several months followed by dry and hot months.
- steppe
 - seasonal
 - savanna
 - Sahel
37. As part of the early empire of Mali, _____ became an important center of trade and scholarship.
- Songhai
 - Djennè
 - Lagos
 - Timbuktu
38. For what type of cloth are the Ashanti weavers of Ghana most famous?
- kente
 - batiste
 - muslin
 - voile
39. In the savanna of West Africa,
- there is frequent rain year-round.
 - there is a dry climate year-round.
 - there is little plant or animal life.
 - there is a wet season and a dry season.

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40. The rapid growth of many cities in West Africa has placed a burden on existing _____, such as telephone and transportation systems.
- a. substructure
 - b. telecommunications
 - c. infrastructure
 - d. arable land

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

41. The _____ Highlands is a mountainous plateau that include the Nimba Range, the Loma Mountains, and the Tingi Mountains.
42. Recently, a project was begun to try to harvest the trees that were submerged when human-made Lake _____ was created.
43. The _____ River is the third longest in Africa and has two deltas, a vast inland delta and a delta where the river empties into the Atlantic Ocean.
44. Once the second-largest wetland in Africa, Lake _____ has shrunk by about 90 percent.
45. With a surface area of 218 square miles (566 sq. km), the _____ Lagoon is the largest lagoon in West Africa.
- a. reservoir
 - b. lagoon
 - c. griot
 - d. Lake Volta
 - e. carrying capacity
 - f. tropical forest
 - g. conflict diamonds
 - h. fishery
 - i. Sahara
 - j. Lagos
46. gems mined in war-torn areas and used to finance wars
47. a place for catching marine life
48. the artificial water feature formed by the Akosombo Dam
49. a natural or artificial lake used as a source of freshwater
50. the largest desert in Africa
51. the natural vegetation found in southern West Africa
52. a traditional oral historian, storyteller, singer, and musician of West Africa
53. a shallow body of water that is separated from the ocean by islands, which lie parallel to the shoreline
54. the most populous city in Africa
55. the maximum population of any given species that an environment can sustain

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- a. Global Water Initiative
 - b. e-commerce
 - c. cacao
 - d. African Transition Zone
 - e. Nigeria
 - f. infrastructure
 - g. Cote d'Ivoire
 - h. erosion
 - i. river plain
 - j. Mount Cameroon
56. the wearing away of a surface
57. the set of systems that affect how well a place or organization operates, such as telephone or transportation systems, within a country
58. a program that works to improve access to clean water and sanitation
59. an important cash crop in West Africa that was introduced during the colonial period
60. an active volcano and the highest point in West Africa
61. the area in which the climate shifts from the desert of the Sahara to tropical forest further south
62. buying and selling on the Internet
63. the world's leading exporter of cacao
64. a flat expanse of land formed by the deposit of sediment over a long period of time
65. the only West African country that belongs to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- a. Liberia
 - b. Ghana
 - c. Nigeria
 - d. Sierra Leone
 - e. Mali
66. Mansa Musa was this empire's most famous ruler.
67. This country was established by formerly enslaved persons from the United States.
68. This was an early empire that prospered through its location between the salt mines of the Sahara and gold mines to the south.
69. This country has the most oil reserves in West Africa.
70. Conflict diamonds financed a civil war in this country in the 1990s.
71. Read the table and answer the question that follows.
- According to the table and information from the chapter, which countries are projected to be the most urbanized by 2050? What are the effects of rapid urbanization? Write a paragraph explaining your answers.
72. In a paragraph, explain how conflict diamonds have fueled conflict in West Africa.
73. In a paragraph, explain how economic and political factors have led to the mismanagement of natural resources in West Africa.

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74. Although Nigeria has the potential to be a wealthy nation, most of its people are poor. The potential wealth its oil reserves could bring to the people of Nigeria has not produced a high standard of living. Read the quote and answer the question that follows.

“Nigeria has been subverted by the very thing that gave it promise—oil, which accounts for 95 percent of the country’s export earnings and 80 percent of its revenue. In 1960, agricultural products such as palm oil and cacao beans made up nearly all Nigeria’s exports; today, they barely register as trade items, and Africa’s most populous country, with 130 million people, has gone from being self-sufficient in food to importing more than it produces.”

—Tom O’Neill, “Curse of the Black Gold,”

National Geographic Magazine, February 2007

Based on the quote and information from the chapter, write a paragraph explaining how Nigerian oil has affected the country’s economy and standard of living.

75. Read the table and answer the question that follows.

According to the table and information from the chapter, which countries have experienced the most urbanization since 1950? What factors have caused this trend? Write a paragraph explaining your answers.

76. Although Nigeria is rich in oil reserves, this valuable natural resource has created many problems in the country. Read the quote and answer the question that follows.

“Oil fouls everything in southern Nigeria. It spills from the pipelines, poisoning soil and water. It stains the hands of politicians and generals, who siphon off its profits. It taints the ambitions of the young, who will try anything to scoop up a share of the liquid riches—fire a gun, sabotage a pipeline, kidnap a foreigner.”

—Tom O’Neill,

“Curse of the Black Gold,”

National Geographic Magazine, February 2007

Based on the quote and information from the chapter, write a paragraph explaining how Nigeria’s oil wealth has had negative effects on the country.