

Israel History and Current Events Multiple Choice Test Answer Key

1. What year was Israel founded?
 - (a) 1938
 - (b) 1947
 - (c) 1948
 - (d) 1967

2. When Israel declared its independence, the Jewish state
 - (a) was embraced by its Arab neighbors.
 - (b) was immediately attacked by the armies of five neighboring Arab countries.
 - (c) voted to expel all Arabs from the new state.
 - (d) feared attacks by its Arab neighbors and preemptively attacked them instead.

3. After Israel's War of Independence, Israel integrated nearly 600,000 Jewish refugees from Arab lands while many Arab states
 - (a) Put Arab refugees from what became Israel into permanent camps.
 - (b) Assimilated Arab refugees into their societies.
 - (c) Did their utmost to create a state of Palestine for Arab refugees.
 - (d) Encouraged their refugees to become citizens of Israel.

4. After Israel's War of Independence
 - (a) Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip, which was to have been part of the United Nations' planned new Palestinian Arab state.
 - (b) Jordan occupied the West Bank, which was to have been part of the U.N.'s new Arab state.
 - (c) Israel seized Gaza and the West Bank (Judea and Samaria).
 - (d) Both (a) & (b)

5. Who was Theodore Herzl?
 - (a) The first head of Haganah, a Jewish defense organization
 - (b) The first prime minister of Israel
 - (c) The first president of Israel
 - (d) The "father" of modern Zionism

6. The Balfour Declaration was a
 - (a) British promise to the Jews for a "national home in Palestine."
 - (b) British promise to the Arabs for an "national home in Palestine."
 - (c) U. N. promise to the Jews for an "independent state of their own."
 - (d) U. N. promise to the Arabs for another "independent state of their own."

7. The League of Nations Palestine Mandate
 - (a) Granted Great Britain control over Palestine to encourage “close settlement by Jews on the land.”
 - (b) Granted Great Britain control over Palestine to encourage “close settlement by Arabs on the land.”
 - (c) Granted the Jewish people an independent state in Palestine.
 - (d) Required Great Britain to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab controlled sectors.

8. The Palestine Liberation Organization was established in
 - (a) 1964 in order to take the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Israel.
 - (b) 1968 in order to take the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Israel.
 - (c) 1968 in order to seize the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Sinai from Israel.
 - (d) 1964 in order to establish a Palestinian state in place of Israel.

9. The 1967 Six-Day War
 - (a) Began with a surprise attack against Israel and ended with Israel in control of the Sinai, Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Golan Heights.
 - (b) Began with a preemptive strike by Israel against threatening Arab armies and ended with Israel in control of the Sinai, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights and eastern Jerusalem.
 - (c) Began with a preemptive strike by Israel against threatening Arab armies and ended with Israel being compelled to withdraw from the Sinai and the Gaza Strip.
 - (d) Began with a surprise attack against Israel and ended with Israel being compelled to withdraw from the Sinai and the Golan Heights.

10. United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 called on Israel to withdraw from
 - (a) all the land taken in the 1967 Six-Day War.
 - (b) unspecified land taken in the 1967 Six-Day War.
 - (c) unspecified land taken in the 1967 Six-Day War as part of negotiations establishing recognition by and peace with neighboring Arab countries.
 - (d) all the land taken in the 1967 Six-Day War as part of negotiations establishing recognition by and peace with neighboring Arab countries.

11. On Yom Kippur of 1973 Israel was surprised by attacks from
 - (a) Egypt and Syria.
 - (b) Egypt, Syria and Jordan.
 - (c) Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.
 - (d) Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

12. Israel invaded southern Lebanon in 1982
 - (a) Because Lebanese soldiers were attacking Jewish communities.
 - (b) Because Palestinian terrorists were attacking Jewish communities.
 - (c) Because Lebanese soldiers and Palestinian terrorists were attacking Jewish communities.
 - (d) To track down those responsible for assassinating Egyptian President Anwar Sadat the year before.

13. According to the Oslo Accords, Israel was to hand over major Arab cities for self-rule by the Palestinian Arabs and the PLO was to
- (a) Give up the use of terrorism.
 - (b) Stop incitement against Israel.
 - (c) Recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
 - (d) Both (a) & (b).
14. Yasir Arafat launched the so-called second *intifada* uprising after Camp David (July 2000), at which Israel and the United States offered Palestinian leaders
- (a) 97 percent of the West Bank, all of Gaza and a Palestinian capital in eastern Jerusalem.
 - (b) 50 percent of the West Bank, 50 percent of Gaza and a Palestinian capital in eastern Jerusalem.
 - (c) 97 percent of the West Bank, all of Gaza and restricted access to Jerusalem.
 - (d) 50 percent of the West Bank, 50 percent of Gaza and restricted access to Jerusalem.
15. Arabs called the 2000-2004 terror war the “al Aqsa intifada” because
- (a) The fighting began after Israeli Likud Party Chairman Ariel Sharon declared that he would tear down the al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.
 - (b) The fighting began after Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount, on which the al- Aqsa mosque sits.
 - (c) Israeli troops illegally entered the al-Aqsa mosque.
 - (d) Ariel Sharon refused to get clearance from Palestinian security forces before visiting the Temple Mount.
16. After attacks on Israelis began in September 2000
- (a) Israel returned fire against its attackers, using disproportionate force.
 - (b) Israel immediately reoccupied Palestinian territories it had evacuated as part of the Oslo process.
 - (c) Israel won U.N. condemnation of Palestinian aggression.
 - (d) Israel tried to negotiate a “two-state” settlement with Palestinian leaders at Taba in Egypt.
17. The U.N. conference held in Durban (September 2001) was meant to be dedicated to fighting racism. Instead it
- (a) Focused on bringing peace between Palestinian Arabs and Israelis.
 - (b) Focused on denouncing terrorism throughout the world.
 - (c) Became a forum for delegitimizing Israel and disseminating antisemitic charges.
 - (d) Singled out Israel as the only Middle East democracy, defending it against its defamers.
18. The Karine-A was
- (a) A ship that was part of a flotilla attempting to break Israel’s naval blockade of the Gaza Strip.
 - (b) A Palestinian Authority-operated vessel filled with Iranian-supplied weapons intercepted by Israel.
 - (c) The name of a disco blown up by Palestinian terrorists, killing 21 teenagers.
 - (d) The name of a hotel in Netanya blown up by Palestinian terrorists, killing 29 Israelis at a Passover Seder.

19. In spring 2002, during “Operation Defensive Shield”
- (a) Israel was falsely accused of massacres by Palestinian sources and many in the news media.
 - (b) Israeli troops re-entered Palestinian-ruled territories to eliminate terrorists and their bomb factories.
 - (c) Palestinian Authority police and Israeli security forces defeated Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists.
 - (d) Both (a) and (b).
20. In June 2002, U.S. President Bush called for
- (a) Immediate Israeli withdrawal from all the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem.
 - (b) A Palestinian state with newly elected leaders.
 - (c) A Palestinian state with elected leaders untainted by terrorism.
 - (d) A Palestinian state if Yasir Arafat promised to reform and Palestinian groups lay down their weapons.
21. In order to defend itself against terrorism during the second *intifada*, Israel
- (a) Carpet-bombed areas suspected of housing terrorists.
 - (b) Began building a West Bank security fence that would keep terrorists out.
 - (c) Petitioned the United Nations to send troops to Palestinian territories.
 - (d) Created an effective public relations campaign combating terrorism.
22. President Bush’s April 2004 letter to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
- (a) Repeated the president’s call for a new Palestinian state.
 - (b) Repeated that Israel immediately give up land for peace.
 - (c) Emphasized that Israel must withdraw to the 1949 armistice lines, sometimes called the pre-'67 war lines.
 - (d) Declared that new “facts on the ground” make withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines unrealistic.
23. Which of the following is *not* true about Mahmoud Abbas?
- (a) He denied the Holocaust in his doctoral thesis.
 - (b) He continued to claim the title of president of the Palestinian Authority into 2013 even though his term expired in January 2009.
 - (c) His effective jurisdiction spans both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
 - (d) His Fatah movement signed a unity agreement with Hamas in 2011.
24. In 2005, Israeli troops and civilians unilaterally withdrew from
- (a) Southern Lebanon
 - (b) The West Bank
 - (c) The Gaza Strip
 - (d) The Golan Heights

25. In 2006, Palestinian Arabs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank voted _____ into office as the leading party in the government of the Palestinian Authority.
- (a) Hezbollah
 - (b) Fatah
 - (c) Hamas
 - (d) The Palestinian People's Party
26. Fighting by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) in Lebanon in the summer of 2006 was brought on by
- (a) Hezbollah killings, kidnappings and rocket attacks on Israelis.
 - (b) Hamas killings, kidnappings and attacks on Israelis.
 - (c) Lebanon-based Fatah groups (Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade, etc.) attacking Israel.
 - (d) None of the above.
27. In August of 2008, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert offered Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas what percentage of the West Bank and Gaza Strip on which to create a Palestinian state?
- (a) 85 percent
 - (b) 90 percent
 - (c) 92 percent
 - (d) 97 percent
28. In 2008 "Operation Cast Lead" took place in
- (a) The Gaza Strip.
 - (b) The West Bank.
 - (c) Lebanon.
 - (d) The Sinai Peninsula.
29. Who became Israeli Prime Minister in March 2009?
- (a) Tzipi Livni
 - (b) Benjamin Netanyahu
 - (c) Ehud Olmert
 - (d) Ehud Barak
30. In Iran's 2009 elections, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
- (a) Won a clear victory without dispute from his challengers.
 - (b) Declared victory, though many suspected voter fraud.
 - (c) Tolerated protests from his challengers and their supporters.
 - (d) Proclaimed that the "vanished Imam" of Shiite Muslims would return to Tehran.
31. What was the result of the U.N.'s Goldstone report?
- (a) To provide an analysis of the December 2008-January 2009 Gaza Strip war.
 - (b) To equate the war crimes of Hamas and its allies with Israeli counter-terrorism operations.
 - (c) To ostracize Israel for allegedly committing crimes during "Operation Cast Lead."
 - (d) To investigate Arab governments' repression of their citizens.

32. What happened as a result of Prime Minister Netanyahu's ten-month freeze on Israeli construction in existing West Bank (Judea and Samaria) communities?
- (a) PA President Abbas showed his willingness to negotiate.
 - (b) Abbas insisted on a permanent building freeze including Jewish neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem as well as the West Bank before beginning negotiations.
 - (c) Netanyahu offered to extend the freeze another ten months.
 - (d) Israel authorized construction of new settlements.
33. What was the purported purpose of flotillas bound for the Gaza Strip?
- (a) To bring individuals to shop in the new Gaza malls.
 - (b) To increase tourism.
 - (c) To provide humanitarian aid for Palestinian Arabs.
 - (d) To aid Palestinian fishermen with new equipment.
34. What happened in Itamar in March of 2011?
- (a) Itamar was the first West Bank community to have a building freeze.
 - (b) Israelis built a new outpost.
 - (c) Palestinian terrorists murdered five members of a family.
 - (d) Jewish settlers destroyed Arab olive groves.
35. Which of the following statements did Judge Goldstone retract about his report in his April 2011 Washington Post Op-Ed piece?
- (a) Israel committed crimes against humanity.
 - (b) Hamas committed crimes against humanity.
 - (c) Both Israel and Hamas committed crimes against humanity.
 - (d) Israel and Hamas accidentally killed civilians, but neither committed war crimes.
36. In April 2011 Hamas and Fatah
- (a) Joined into one political party.
 - (b) Signed a unity agreement.
 - (c) Agreed to recognize Israel.
 - (d) Both revised their charters to delete support for terrorism.
37. "Nakba Day" refers to
- (a) What Palestinian Arabs call "the catastrophe" of Israel's establishment in 1948.
 - (b) What Palestinian Arabs call the "setback" of losing the 1967 Six-Day War.
 - (c) What Palestinian Arabs call the "yearning" for a new Palestinian state.
 - (d) The establishment by Great Britain of Trans-Jordan (now Jordan).
38. On what key issue did U.S. President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu disagree on in 2011 regarding a Palestinian state?
- (a) A West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinian state should be based on pre-1967 armistice lines.
 - (b) Israel and a Palestinian state both deserve "secure and recognized borders."
 - (c) Arab refugees cannot be absorbed into Israel.
 - (d) Iran should not acquire nuclear weapons.

39. What did Israel give in exchange for the freedom of Israeli prisoner of war Gilad Shalit?
- (a) An agreement on sharing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and a future Palestinian state.
 - (b) A pledge to construct a hospital in Gaza City.
 - (c) The release of ten Palestinian Arab prisoners from Israeli jails and the promise to release others.
 - (d) The release of more than 1000 Palestinian Arabs prisoners from Israeli jails.**
40. What is the Iron Dome system?
- (a) An Israeli-developed high-altitude barrier to protect sensitive crops from harmful radiation and heat.
 - (b) An Israeli-designed and developed anti-missile system.**
 - (c) The name of a computer virus.
 - (d) A new protective cover for the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem.

**Israel History and Current Events Multiple Choice
Answer Key**

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| 1. | c | 21. | b |
| 2. | b | 22. | d |
| 3. | a | 23. | c |
| 4. | d | 24. | c |
| 5. | d | 25. | c |
| 6. | a | 26. | a |
| 7. | a | 27. | d |
| 8. | d | 28. | a |
| 9. | b | 29. | b |
| 10. | c | 30. | b |
| 11. | a | 31. | b |
| 12. | b | 32. | b |
| 13. | d | 33. | c |
| 14. | a | 34. | c |
| 15. | b | 35. | a |
| 16. | d | 36. | b |
| 17. | c | 37. | a |
| 18. | b | 38. | a |
| 19. | d | 39. | d |
| 20. | c | 40. | b |