



Fact Sheet

INTRODUCTION TO THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that which is learned by students taking the course. The school may choose to award college credit to the student based on the achievement of a passing score. The passing score for each examination is determined by the school based on recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE). This minimum credit-awarding score is equal to the mean score of students in the norming sample who received a grade of C in the course. Some schools set their own standards for awarding credit and may require a higher score than the ACE recommendation. Students should obtain this information from the institution where they expect to receive credit.

CONTENT

The following topics, which are commonly taught in courses on this subject, are covered by this examination.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Physical and Cultural Geography A. Topography and climate B. Demographics C. Ethnic groups D. Religions E. Languages | <p>Approximate
Percent</p> <p>5%</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. The Ottoman Empire (1500-1800) A. State Traditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Millets system 2. The religious establishment 3. Dynamic traditions 4. The bureaucracy | <p>15%</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Opposition movements C. Economics and trade D. Social structure and social issues E. Changes in the 18th century | <p>Approximate
Percent</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> III. The Nineteenth Century A. Economic Developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing trade patterns 2. Changing agricultural patterns-the rise of monocultures 3. Deindustrialization B. Political movements; state versus society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ottoman 2. Egypt 3. Iran 4. The Gulf States C. Cultural change and conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues of women and gender 2. Urbanization 3. Religious developments 4. Language issues 5. Nationalism, including Zionism 6. The law and legal reform 7. Education 8. Emergence of new elites D. European imperialism in the Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Britain 2. France 3. Germany 4. Austria 5. Russia | <p>20%</p> |



	Approximate Percent
IV. The First World War and its Effects	10%
A. Political changes	
1. Solidification of liberalism	
2. Mandate system	
B. Economic shifts	
1. Emergence of oil	
2. Market disruption	
3. Emergence of national economics	
C. Turkey	
V. Building Independent States (late 1800's to 1960)	20%
A. Colonial States	
1. Mandates	
2. Egypt	
3. Israel	
B. Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia	
VI. Social and Cultural Changes 1900-1960	15%
A. Emergence of the left and Arab socialism	
B. Emergence of feminism	
C. Trends in Islam	
D. Nationalism	
E. Mass urbanization	
F. Landlessness/refugees	
G. Cultural developments	
1. Rise of the novel	
2. Newspapers	
VII. The Middle East from 1960 to the present	15%
A. Economic dependence-the oil regimes	
B. Emergence of United States influence	
C. Emergence and decline of Soviet influence	
D. Decline in legitimacy of the United Nations	
E. Rise of Islamists	
F. The issue of Israel and Palestine	
G. The water crisis	
H. Status of women	

Questions on the test require candidates to demonstrate the following abilities. Some questions require more than one of the abilities.

- Knowledge of basic facts and terms (about 70-80% of the examination)
- Understanding of concepts and principles (about 20-30% of the examination)
- Ability to apply knowledge to specific problems and situations (about 1-5% of the examination)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. The Maronites are a Christian sect found mainly in
 - (A) Turkey
 - (B) Egypt
 - (C) Jordan
 - (D) Lebanon
2. In the course of expansion, the early Ottoman Empire developed the Devshirme system, which entailed the
 - (A) conversion of Christian boys in order to train them as elite guards and administrators
 - (B) institutionalization of the traditional Turkish system of land tenure and ownership
 - (C) circumcision of boys of the royal family at age seven
 - (D) prohibition of mixed marriages
3. The height of Safavid power came under the reign of
 - (A) Shah Sultan Hussein
 - (B) Safi Shah
 - (C) Shah Abbas I
 - (D) Shah Tahmasp

4. Which of the following represent Ottoman legal reform in the 19th century?
- I. 1839 Reform Decree (Gulhane)
 - II. 1858 Land Law
 - III. 1876 Constitution
 - IV. 1841 Treaty of London
- (A) I and III only
 - (B) II and IV only
 - (C) I, II, and III only
 - (D) II, III, and IV only
5. New elites emerged in the 19th century Middle East as a result of
- (A) the establishment of new kinds of educational institutions
 - (B) widespread industrialization
 - (C) the elimination of mosque-based education
 - (D) government tax breaks for the middle class
6. Which of the following best describes the 19th century Ottoman reform movement known as the Tanzimat?
- (A) A program of economic and social changes intended to strengthen the empire
 - (B) A series of edicts issued by the Ottoman ruler emancipating all serfs in the empire
 - (C) A religious movement that rejected secularization and required strict adherence to Islamic law
 - (D) A blueprint for granting independence to the non-Muslim provinces of the empire
7. After the First World War, urban educated Arabs who had embraced Western concepts of freedom and self-determination were
- (A) disappointed and angry about Western nations' callous division of the "spoils of war"
 - (B) pleased by the assignment to France of mandates over Middle Eastern lands
 - (C) determined to play a greater role in governing the Ottoman Empire
 - (D) present in greater numbers in Saudi Arabia and Yemen than in Syria and Egypt
8. The most accurate and objective generalization about the treaties and agreements on the Middle East just before and after the First World War is that they
- (A) were designed mainly to thwart an expanding Bolshevik world revolution
 - (B) were primarily designed to protect religious minorities against Islamic persecution
 - (C) had the goal of carving up the middle east into Great Power spheres of influence
 - (D) followed the Wilsonian principles of self-determination
9. Which of the following mandates was first to win independence and to join the League of Nations?
- (A) Lebanon
 - (B) Iraq
 - (C) Palestine
 - (D) Transjordan
10. By 1924, all of the following nations had been formed from the former Ottoman Empire EXCEPT
- (A) Syria and Turkey
 - (B) Lebanon and Iraq
 - (C) Israel and Iran
 - (D) Transjordan
11. In the 1930's, Egypt did which of the following?
- (A) Regained control of the Sudan.
 - (B) Protested against German influence.
 - (C) Abolished capitulation rights.
 - (D) Established close ties with Italy
12. In 1924, women were formally granted legal equality in family law issues such as marriage, divorce and inheritance in which Middle Eastern country?
- (A) Saudi Arabia
 - (B) Egypt
 - (C) Jordan
 - (D) Turkey

13. Hamas draws its support from the
- (A) absence of female participation in the intifada
 - (B) perceived failure of the national struggle
 - (C) growing prosperity of Muslims on the West Bank
 - (D) alliance with the Palestine Liberation Organization

14. After the Second World War, all of the following provided evidence that the Middle East would experience the effects of intense Soviet-United States rivalry for many decades EXCEPT

- (A) Soviet pressures on Turkey in regard to the eastern provinces and the Straits
- (B) Soviet and United States attitudes toward the partitioning of Palestine
- (C) the 1945 Tudeh uprising in Tabriz with the help of Soviet troops then occupying northern Iran
- (D) the announcement of the Truman Doctrine and the provision of United States aid to Greece and Turkey

STUDYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

The following is a list of reference publications that were being used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. Appropriate textbooks for study are not limited to those listed below. If you wish to obtain study resources to prepare for the examination, you may reference either the current edition of the following titles **or** textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference **more than one textbook** on the topics outlined in this fact sheet. You should **begin by checking textbook content against the content outline** included on the front page of this Fact Sheet **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study. Textbooks may be found at the campus bookstore of a local college or university offering a course on the subject.

Sources for study material suggested but not limited to the following:

Andersen, Roy R., Robert F. Seibert, and Jon D. Wagner. *Politics and Change in the Middle East: Sources of Conflict and Accommodation*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, current edition.

Burke, Edmund, III. *Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, current edition.

Cleveland, William L. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, current edition.

Esposito, John L. *Islam: The Straight Path*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, current edition.

Ferne, Elizabeth Warnock. *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqui Village*. New York, NY: Doubleday, current edition.

Fisher, Sydney N., and William Ochsenwald. *The Middle East: A History*. New York: McGraw-Hill, current edition.

Goldschmidt, Arthur. *A Concise History of the Middle East*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, current edition.

Hourani, Albert H. *A History of the Arab Peoples*. Boston, MA: Harvard University Press, current edition.

Issawi, Charles. *An Economic History of the Middle East and North Africa*. New York, NY: current edition.

Laqueur, Walter and Barry Rubin. *The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, current edition.

Mansfield, Peter. *The Arabs*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, current edition.

Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. London: Routledge, current edition.

Peretz, Don. *The Middle East Today*. New York: Praeger, current edition.

Sachar, Howard M. *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time*. New York, NY: Knopf, current edition.

Smith, Charles D. *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, current edition.

Spencer, William. *The Middle East*. Guilford, CT: Dushkin/McGraw Hill, current edition.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Individual Countries

Ahmed, Feroz. *The Making of Modern Turkey*. London: Routledge, current edition.

Gran, Peter. *Islamic Roots of Capitalism: Egypt 1760-1840*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, current edition.

Smith, Charles D. *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, current edition.

Women in the Middle East

Ahmad, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, current edition.

Badran, Margot and Miriam Cooke. *Opening the Gates: A Century of Arab Feminist Writing*. Indiana University Press, current edition.

Caesar, Judith. *Crossing Borders: An American Woman in the Middle East*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, current edition.

Nationalism

Gershoni, Israel and James Jankowski. *Rethinking Nationalism in the Arab Middle East*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, current edition.

Khalidi, Rashid, Lisa Anderson and Muhammad Muslih. *The Origins of Arab Nationalism*. New York NY: Columbia University Press, current edition.

Ottoman Empire

Gerber, Haim. *State, Society and Law in Islam: Ottoman Law in Comparative Perspective*. New York, NY: State University of New York Press, current edition.

Labor

Goldberg, Ellis Jay. *The Social History of Labor in the Middle East*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, current edition.

Oil

Yergin, Daniel. *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, current edition.

Novels

Adnan, Etel. *Sitt Marie Rose*. Post-Apollo Press, 1990. A novel set in Lebanon at the time of the Civil War which explores issues of women's roles and vulnerabilities during war.

Kemal, Yashar. *Mehmet My Hawk*. Cambridge, CT: Harvard Books, 1998. A novel set in rural Turkey in the early 20th century.

Khalifeh, Sahar. *Wild Thorns*. Interlink Publishing Corp. Inc., 1989. A novel set in the West Bank.

Mahfouz, Naguib. *Midaq Alley*. New York, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1992. A novel set in Cairo in the 1930's.

Oz, Amos. *Fima*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1994. A novel set in Israel.

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials for the American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and evaluated the DSST examination development process. The American Council on Education has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course	
Equivalent:	An Introduction to the Modern Middle East
Level:	Lower level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit:	Three (3) semester hours
Source:	ACE Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials

INFORMATION

Colleges and universities that would like additional information about the national norming, or assistance in local norming or score validation studies should write to: DSST Program, Prometric, 2000 Lenox Drive, 3rd Floor, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

It is advisable that schools develop a consistent policy about awarding credit based on scores from this test and that the policy be reviewed periodically. Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.