

Multiple-Choice Answers

1. (C)

Subsistence agriculture is the growing of food to feed just your own family. Extensive agriculture uses large amounts of land, as opposed to intensive agriculture, which tries to maximize yields from small amounts of land. (A) is using smaller plots of land; (B) and (D) are commercial, meaning they raise crops for sale, not just private use; and (E) involves the raising of animals for sale.

2. (B)

Vegetative planting, the process of simply cutting off a stem of another plant or dividing up roots of a plant, developed before seed agriculture (A). (C) is the modern economic system surrounding agriculture, (D) is the raising of animals by moving from place to place, and (E) is the use of scientifically created fertilizers and pesticides to increase crop yields.

3. (E)

Recombinant DNA splicing is part of the biorevolution during the third agricultural revolution. The other choices were all a part of the wave known as the second agricultural revolution, even (D), which was the closing in of public crops into private properties. This movement caused many people without land to move into the cities to find opportunity in the industrial sector; the enclosure of formerly public crops also led to increased efficiency, related to private property and direct responsibility.

4. (D)

Because of the dryer landscape of the plateau, farming is limited to pastoral activities such as nomadic movements of herders with their animals. (A) is found more in tropical and subtropical zones; (B) obviously, in climates commensurate with the Mediterranean zone; (C) in well-watered tropical zones; and (E) in less-developed regions with climates conducive to cash crop harvests targeted for export.

5. (E)

Swidden is another name of a field prepared by cutting down existing vegetation and then burning it to enrich the soil; the process is also known as slash-and-burn agriculture. (A) is the movement of animal herds to cooler highland areas in the summer to warmer, lowland areas in the winter. (B) are commercial flower farms and gardens; (C) is a system of agriculture where the land is distributed in one large plot of community farmland that all villagers work; and (D) is growing two crops on the same plot of land in a year.

6. (C)

Transhumance is the movement of seasonal nomads and their respective herds from highland to lowland pastures. (A) is subsistence farming that clears land by first slashing the vegetation and then burning it to prepare the soil for planting. (B) is farming wheat, figs, olives, and other crops in Mediterranean zones. (D) is farming that has both animals and crops on the

same, stationary farm. (E) is a farming technique that divides the farm into zones and plants varying seeds in each zone to prevent leeching the soil of its nutrients.

7. (E)

Greece's Mediterranean climate allows for wheat production but also for farming olives, figs, and other Mediterranean crops that can be highly profitable for the region's farmers, who often do not have extensive lands. Wheat production is dominated particularly by the United States, Canada, and France.

8. (E)

India's cultural taboo against eating beef is related to a Hindu belief that a divine power is vested in the cow. Hence, beef consumption is lowest in India than in the other states listed.

9. (D)

At the heart of von Thünen's conclusions is the variation of transportation costs associated with changing distances from the central marketplace. All other factors are held constant in the model, which results in concentric rings according to transportation costs. The remaining choices accurately state assumptions in the model.

10. (B)

As farming has become increasingly industrialized and corporate, the family farmer in the United States has become incorporated into larger farming aggregates. Thus, the number of family farmers has drastically declined as farms have been merged into corporate-owned operations within the industrialized agribusiness system that now constitutes the U.S. farming landscape. (A) is false because agriculture is still an integral part of the U.S. economy, employing in some facet more than 30 percent of U.S. workers. (C) is false because exports have increased since World War II. (D) is false as many consumed foods are of U.S. origin, especially wheat, meat, and dairy-based products. (E) is false because wheat production dramatically increased with the advent of Green Revolution hybrid seeds and improved farming technologies continually being implemented with the modern biorevolution.

11. (B)

Rubber was a cash crop focused on by colonizers to aid the colonizers' industrializing populations. It is still grown in former colonies like India, but it has also expanded to other countries such as China. The other choices were not cash-crop exports in former European colonies.

12. (C)

The original intent of the Green Revolution was humanitarian because it was funded by a charitable organization in the United States. Original researchers were sent to Mexico to try to help find a solution to boost Mexican harvests for the benefit of the Mexican people. What developed from their work was a set of technologies that diffused to other less-developed countries as means to boost global food supplies, intentionally in poorer regions. The other

arguments are common criticisms of the Green Revolution.

13. **(C)**

Biotechnology is an aspect of the third agricultural revolution that relies on scientific means to improve crop yields. (A) started humans on the path to growing their own food instead of collecting it; (B) used industrial advances to improve agricultural output; (D) is a system of agriculture in which the land is distributed in one large plot of community farmland that all villagers work; and (E) are large-scale farming operations specializing in the farming of one or two high-demand crops for export.

14. **(C)**

Boserup looked at subsistence farmers as having direct power over the food supply and responding to population changes by increasing or decreasing their farming efforts to meet food demands. In contrast, Malthus did not empower farmers with the ability to meet food demands made by what he saw was geometrically increasing population rates.

15. **(A)**

Soil erosion is the process of losing the nutrient-rich topsoil needed to raise crops. (B) is a field produced by slash-and-burn agriculture; (C) is the movement of animal herds to cooler highland areas in the summer and to warmer, lowland areas in the winter; (D) is the condition of having too few calories and nutrients in your diet; and (E) is the practice of rotating fields to allow the soil to replenish its nutrients.