

DSST® INTRODUCTION TO MODERN MIDDLE EAST

EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. The exam covers core knowledge of 19th-century European impact; 20th-century Western influences; World Wars I and II; new nations; social and cultural changes (1900-1960); and the Middle East through the 20th century.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

I. Physical and Cultural Geography – 5%

- a. Topography and climate
- b. Demographics
- c. Ethnic groups
- d. Religions
- e. Languages

II. The Ottoman Empire (1500-1800) – 15%

- a. State traditions
 1. The Millets system
 2. The religious establishment
 3. Dynamic traditions
 4. The bureaucracy
- b. Opposition movements
- c. Economics and trade
- d. Social structure and social issues
- e. Changes in the 18th century

III. The Nineteenth Century – 20%

- a. Economic developments
 1. Changing trade patterns
 2. Changing agricultural patterns-the rise of monocultures
 3. Deindustrialization
- b. Political movements; state versus society
 1. Ottoman
 2. Egypt
 3. Iran
 4. The Gulf States
- c. Cultural change and conflict
 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
 1. Britain
 2. France
 3. Germany
 4. Austria
 5. Russia

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

REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were

used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these 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** provided **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

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

1. 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.
2. Burke, Edmund, III. *Struggle and Survival in the Modern Middle East*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, current edition.
3. Cleveland, William L. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, current edition.
4. Esposito, John L. *Islam: The Straight Path*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, current edition.
5. Fernea, Elizabeth Warnock. *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*. New York, NY: Doubleday, current edition.
6. Fisher, Sydney N., and William Ochsenswald. *The Middle East: A History*. New York: McGraw-Hill, current edition.
7. Goldschmidt, Arthur. *A Concise History of the Middle East*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, current edition.
8. Hourani, Albert H. *A History of the Arab Peoples*. Boston, MA: Harvard University Press, current edition.
9. Laqueur, Walter and Barry Rubin. *The Israel Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, current edition.
10. Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. London: Routledge, current edition.
11. Peretz, Don. *The Middle East Today*. New York: Praeger, current edition.

12. Sachar, Howard M. *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time*. New York, NY: Knopf, current edition.
13. Smith, Charles D. *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, current edition.
14. Spencer, William. *The Middle East*. Guilford, CT: Dushkin/McGraw Hill, current edition.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

1. Ahmed, Feroz. *The Making of Modern Turkey*. London: Routledge, current edition.
2. Gran, Peter. *Islamic Roots of Capitalism: Egypt 1760-1840*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, current edition.
3. Smith, Charles D. *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, current edition.

WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. Ahmad, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, current edition.
2. Badran, Margot and Miriam Cooke. *Opening the Gates: A Century of Arab Feminist Writing*. Indiana University Press, current edition.
3. Caesar, Judith. *Crossing Borders: An American Woman in the Middle East*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, current edition.

NATIONALISM

1. Gershoni, Israel and James Jankowski. *Rethinking Nationalism in the Arab Middle East*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, current edition.
2. Khalidi, Rashid, Lisa Anderson and Muhammad Muslih. *The Origins of Arab Nationalism*. New York NY: Columbia University Press, current edition.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

1. 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 AND OIL

1. Goldberg, Ellis Jay. *The Social History of Labor in the Middle East*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, current edition.
2. Yergin, Daniel. *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, current edition.

NOVELS

1. 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.
2. Kemal, Yashar. *Mehmet My Hawk*. Cambridge, CT: Harvard Books, 1998. A novel set in rural Turkey in the early 20th century.
3. Khalifeh, Sahar. *Wild Thorns*. Interlink Publishing Corp. Inc., 1989. A novel set in the West Bank.
4. Mahfouz, Naguib. *Midaq Alley*. New York, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1992. A novel set in Cairo in the 1930's.
5. Oz, Amos. *Fima*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1994. A novel set in Israel.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. These are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam. Other sample questions can be found in the form of practice exams by visiting our website at www.getcollegecredit.com/testprep.

Questions on the test require test takers 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)

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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. 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
6. 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
7. 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
8. 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

DSST EXAM CONTENT FACT SHEET – INTRODUCTION TO THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

- 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
9. 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
10. 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
11. 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
12. In 1924, women were formally granted legal equality in family law issues such as marriage, divorce and inheritance in which Middle Eastern county?
- 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

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education’s College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent	Introduction to the Modern Middle East
Level	Lower-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit	Three (3) semester hours
Minimum Score	400
Source	American Council on Education – College Credit Recommendation Service

ACE evaluations and credit recommendations have expired for this exam. As of December 31, 2014 DSST testing centers will no longer offer this exam.

Answers to sample questions: 1-D; 2-A; 3-C; 4-C; 5-C; 6-A; 7-A; 8-A, 9-C; 10-B; 11-C; 12-D; 13-B; 14-B.