

Quiz 8 (Chapter 17) Answers

Multiple-Choice Answers

1. (E)
Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm on January 16, 1991, when President George H.W. Bush announced, “The world could wait no longer....” U.S. air and sea forces together with U.N. coalition allies utilized the high-tech weapons of the U.S. Allied forces to free Kuwait and appeared to have crushed the Iraqi army in a 100-hour ground offensive. Immediate steps were taken to coordinate efforts with the U.N. (A), protect Saudi Arabia (B), impose economic sanctions (C), and designate these efforts Operation Desert Shield (D).
2. (A)
“Reaganomics” was the term coined for President Ronald Reagan’s supply-side economic policies. Reagan believed that the way to repair the shattered economy he inherited from the Carter administration was to cut federal spending on domestic programs while at the same time cutting taxes for the wealthy and for corporations. The “supply-side” theory advocated by Reagan asserted that by cutting taxes to businesses and to the rich, money would be freed up for future investments and the creation of new jobs. This investment income would offset the initial loss of tax revenue caused by the tax cuts. Eventually, through the creation of new jobs and investments, the money freed up by tax cuts to the rich would “trickle down” to the middle-classes and the poor. While this sounded good on paper, it never worked out quite as well in real life. Yes, the tax cuts did spur investment, but the investments often didn’t translate into jobs that paid well. The “trickle-down” was uneven and often quite limited. Many wealthy people pocketed the money rather than investing it. Still, new jobs were created and the nation began an economic expansion that has lasted into the 1990s.
3. (C)
The SALT I Treaty indicated U.S. acceptance of the concept of Mutual Assured Destruction. It was ratified by the U.S. Senate (D)—unlike the SALT II Treaty—but did not bring substantial reductions in the number of missiles on either side (A), nor did it require the Soviet Union to reduce the number of its missiles to a level of equality with the United States (E). It discouraged the deployment of defensive weapons (B).
4. (D)
President Reagan chose the conservative jurist Sandra Day O’Connor to be the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court. Ruth Bader Ginsberg (B) was the second woman to sit on the court. Madeleine Albright (C) became the first female Secretary of State, Ann Richards (A) was governor of Texas, and Dee Dee Meyers (E) was at one time the press secretary to Clinton.

5. (D)

Most Americans were angered about the Iran-Contra affair not because of the illegal funding of the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, but because of the shipment of arms to Iran for Iranian help in releasing American hostages in Lebanon. Despite the fact that the support for the Contra rebels involved direct violations of Congressional restrictions, which was a more serious legal concern than shipping arms to Iran, Congress had changed its rules several times regarding aid to the Contras and many Americans felt they should be supported, regardless of what Congress said.

This is not to say that Americans were not upset by the illegal aid to the Contras. Many Americans opposed any aid to the Contras and to find out it had been done illegally by members of the government outraged many. But the level of rage and the numbers of people outraged did not come close to matching the anger felt over the “arms for hostages” aspects of the affair.

6. (D)

What got Nixon into trouble was his involvement in covering up White House involvement with the entire Watergate Affair. What began as a third-rate burglary by a group of unknowns became a national scandal when the burglars’ connections with the White House became public. Nixon actively involved himself in trying to prevent White House involvement in Watergate from reaching the public and it was this effort that ruined his presidency.

Had Nixon admitted White House involvement from the beginning, firing those involved, and making a public apology for the “excesses” of his underlings, he probably would have completed a successful second term. However, he and his advisors felt that the damage from Watergate could be contained if White House involvement was kept secret. Documents were shredded, records were changed, people were paid off, and Nixon was involved every step of the way. When the press finally began unraveling the mystery, Nixon continued to deny involvement and continued the cover-up. When it was revealed that the White House had a taping system that had recorded Nixon’s conversations during the period in question, Nixon refused to release the tapes. Eventually, in April 1974, under increasing pressure and surrounded by growing stacks of incriminating evidence, Nixon released edited versions of the tapes. This move sparked even more controversy because the edited portions of the tapes included suspicious gaps where crucial conversations should have been.

Finally, under Supreme Court order, Nixon handed over unedited tapes which, combined with the other evidence, confirmed Nixon’s involvement in a massive, illegal cover-up of the Watergate Affair. Nixon, facing impeachment, was forced to resign in disgrace. Later, he was pardoned before being brought to trial by his successor, President Gerald Ford.

7. (E)

While many people would argue, because of the highly publicized hostage crisis, that

Carter's greatest difficulties were with his Middle East policy, the Camp David Accords, which many consider Carter's greatest success, were a central part of those policies. Carter's Central American policies, while somewhat criticized at home, were considered successful by most Central American experts. The Panama Canal Treaty and other Carter policies focused on human rights, earning him tremendous respect among Central and South American leaders.

Domestically, Carter's greatest successes were in the areas of energy and land conservation. Carter was determined to develop new alternative sources of energy to free the United States from dependence on foreign oil. He was also a naturalist determined to protect the environment. His funding of alternative fuels research and of the Environmental Protection Agency were positive moves of which most Americans approved.

Carter's biggest failure was in economic policy. While it can be argued that many of the economic calamities which befell Carter were not entirely his fault, as many of the country's economic difficulties can be traced back to Nixon's and Johnson's policies, Carter still failed to effectively deal with them. Carter was determined to cut federal spending and reduce the federal deficit in an effort to control rising inflation. Unfortunately, his policies resulted in increasing unemployment, higher interest rates, and continued inflation. By 1979, the prime lending rate reached a historic high of 20 percent. Home mortgage rates reached 16 percent in many areas, putting many people out of the home buying market and sending the housing industry into a tailspin. Unemployment rose to over 7.5 percent and inflation was approaching 14 percent annually.

Carter's political opponents created a new measuring standard called the "misery index" to rate how poorly the nation's economy was doing. None of Carter's efforts seemed to affect the downwardly spiraling economy. When the Iran hostage crisis hit, Carter's presidency was already in ruins. Carter's failure to free the Iran hostages simply added to the public perception of his ineptitude and was symbolic of the collapse of his leadership. While people remember the hostage crisis, had the nation's economy been relatively healthy, Carter's image would have probably been much different. People might have been more willing to see the hostage crisis as not being his fault. With the economy in shambles, it was easy to add the hostage crisis as one more thing to blame on Carter's incompetence.

8. (B)
After forcing Iraq out of Kuwait and seeing the multinational force advance into Iraq itself, all within a mere four days into the ground war, President George H.W. Bush ordered the end of offensive actions in the Gulf, stating that liberating Kuwait was the single objective of the United Nations resolution. Some criticized Bush for this, noting that he could have continued into Baghdad and removed Hussein from power. But Bush remained firm in his conviction that the goals had been accomplished and that they weren't to remove

Hussein from power (E) or alter Iraq's government (A) or interfere with Iraq's economic (C) or class structure (D).

9. (D)

The federal budget deficit, which was driven up by the high costs of Social Security, defense, and payments on the national debt, was not seriously challenged by the Congress or the President. A recession was further deepened by a drop in military spending. Unemployment reached 7.8 percent, an eight-year high, and the GNP declined. Bush's promise, "Read my lips, no new taxes," was believed broken. The average growth rate while Bush was in office was less than 0.5 percent. Although inflation was low, the recurring theme of the Clinton campaign was, "It's the economy, stupid!" Domestic (A) and foreign (B, C, E) division and strife did not capture the attention of the American voter.

10. (A)

After he was overthrown by revolutionary forces in 1978, the Shah of Iran, then residing in Mexico, asked for permission to enter the United States to receive cancer treatment. President Carter was warned that admitting the Shah to the United States, for any reason, would look to the Iranians like America still supported the Shah's regime and would lead to trouble. However, other advisors told Carter that the United States owed the Shah a large debt of gratitude for the favors he had done for America and also for the lack of decisive support from the U.S. when his government was overthrown. Carter had previously refused to grant the Shah exile in the United States, but when he was told of the Shah's need for cancer treatment, he decided to allow the Shah to enter the U.S. on humanitarian grounds. As had been predicted, the Iranians were infuriated by this. On November 4, 1979, young Iranian males, backed by their government and claiming to be students, seized the American embassy compound and took 76 hostages, 62 of whom were held for more than a year. It was the beginning of one of the worst nightmares in American foreign policy, and it helped ruin Carter's presidency.

11. (C)

The percentage of farm workers dropped from about 40 percent in 1900 to less than 5 percent in 2000. As the United States became a more industrialized and urban nation in the twentieth century, the need for farm laborers decreased. While the United States was mainly an agricultural nation throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, by the beginning of the twenty-first century, farming was not a major sector of the American workforce. All of the other options are either incorrect or cannot be concluded from the evidence of the graph.

12. (A)

Fertility and mortality rates are below their long-term averages. The record number of births after World War II (B) could have been replicated by subsequent generations, but were not. The fertility level in the U.S. has been less than the replacement level of 2.1

children per female since 1972. Work opportunities and better contraception (C) will cause this to continue despite the baby “boomlet.” Immigration rates (D), legal and illegal, increase the non-aging population. The definition of family today (E) includes unmarried women with children. In 1994, 33 percent of children were born to unmarried women. Although immigration increases, life expectancy of the aging population (A) has been aided by proper health care and likely will be increased because of the influence of the medical research institutions, and developments in bioengineering and gene therapy.

13. (B)

On September 27, 1994, at the Capitol Building, Newt Gingrich and Republican House candidates pledged to pass a Contract with America, which called for legislation to lower taxes, increase defense spending and pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Concern regarding the return of Reaganomics and an increased budget deficit did not influence the majority of the voters. Health care reform (A) had failed to materialize in 1994 and had little chance in 1995, when the interest on Capitol Hill shifted to a balanced budget. The welfare legislation (C) taken up was welfare reform. The Republican House sought decreases in education funding (D). Opposition to unfunded mandates and affirmative action did not lead to new civil rights measures (E).

14. (C)

The rapid democratization of the Soviet bloc would cause an avalanche of change. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics would break up into separate nations and a Russia pressured by threats of further disintegration. Later, (A) the rise of nationalism in areas of repression would cause the outbreak of civil wars and independent attitudes. The communist party in many countries would be repudiated. Although (B) there was concern about nuclear weapons, it was not as great as concern during the “cold war.” Henry Kissinger (D) worked during the Nixon administration. President Bush made no concerted effort to combat AIDS (E).

15. (D)

The Iranian hostage crisis (B) played a key role in President Carter’s defeat in the 1980 election. The state of the economy and the high inflation rate (A) was a primary domestic issue during the Carter administration. During the 1970s, the American economy experienced both an increasing rate of inflation and a slowing of economic growth. This combination of rising inflation and rising unemployment was called stagflation and fostered a growing resentment of big government spending (C). As the liberal consensus began to disintegrate in the 1970s, and the shift toward conservatism grew (E). President Carter’s foreign policy was based on human rights and aroused global concern and helped make human rights an international issue. He was responsible for the Camp David Accords, the 1978 peace agreement reached between the leaders of Egypt and Israel.