

College Admission

Rise-and-Fall-of-the-Soviet-Union

DSST Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union Exam (Dantes Subject Standardized Tests)

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Question: 1

What was Vladimir Lenin's attitude toward the arts?

- A. He limited the freedom of expression in the arts.
- B. He thought the arts should reflect socialistic beliefs.
- C. He encouraged the arts to flourish and grow.
- D. He outlawed artistic freedom.

Answer: C

Explanation:

This choice describes Lenin's attitude towards the arts. He even founded the New Museum of Western Art. Choice A is incorrect. He did not limit the freedom of expression in the arts. He did the opposite. Choice B is not correct, either. Lenin encouraged all types of styles, not just ones that reflected socialistic beliefs. Choice D is not correct: the event described here happened under Stalin's rule.

Question: 2

What was Gosplan?

- A. The Soviet governments organization for economic development
- B. The Soviet governments agriculture overseer
- C. The secret police's policy for suspected critics of the government
- D. The Soviet organization dealing with international governments

Answer: A

Explanation:

This is what the Gosplan was set up to do. It was also the primary developer of the governments five-year plans for the country. Choice B is incorrect. Economic development included agriculture, but this was only a part of what Gosplan did. Choice C is incorrect. Gosplan had nothing to do with the secret police. Nor did it have anything to do with dealing with international governments.

Question: 3

Joseph Stalin justified dekulakization as a way to

- A. Make the country more socialistic.

- B. Increase grain productivity.
- C. Improve relations with peasants.
- D. Allow more profit for farmers.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Dekulakization was meant to rid the country of rich peasants, by killing, deporting, and imprisoning them, which supposedly would result in a more socialistic country. Choice B is not correct. It does not describe the point of dekulakization, and dekulakization was not instituted to improve relations with peasants, since some were rich. It certainly did not allow more profit for farmers, so Choice D is wrong as well.

Question: 4

Under rationing, who received the most consumer goods?

- A. Stakhanovisms
- B. Party members
- C. Agricultural workers
- D. Industry workers in large cities

Answer: D

Explanation:

This is the group that received the most under the rationing system. Choice A is not correct. These people were high achievers, not necessarily industry workers. Choice B is not correct either. Simply being a party member did not mean receiving the most consumer goods. Agricultural workers received less than industry workers, especially those in major cities.

Question: 5

What was the NKVD?

- A. The Soviet Union's police organization from 1934 to 1946
- B. The Soviet Union's secret police after 1947
- C. The Soviet Union's secret police force from 1922 to 1934
- D. The Soviet Union's police organization prior to 1922

Answer: A

Explanation:

This police organization evolved during Stalin's Great Purge. Choice B is not correct. The GPU was the Soviet Union secret police during that time period. Choice C is incorrect, since the KGB was the police organization at that time. Choice D is incorrect: the name of the police organization at

that time was Chaka.

Question: 6

What group was the object of the Great Purge?

- A. The wealthy peasants
- B. People suspected of being against Stalin
- C. People who were not Bolshevik
- D. People who refused to participate in rationing

Answer: B

Explanation:

People suspected of not being completely in favor of Stalin were the group that the Great Purge targeted. However, many of these people were completely innocent. Choice A is not correct. Some of those targeted may have been wealthy peasants, but poor peasants were also targeted. Choice C is not correct. Many of those put to death were Bolsheviks and part of the revolution. Choice D is not the correct answer, either.

Question: 7

Which art style did Stalin NOT censor?

- A. Religious art
- B. Surrealism
- C. Expressionism
- D. Socialist realism

Answer: D

Explanation:

This style of painting was the only one that Stalin approved. The others were all deemed inappropriate in a socialistic society because they showed a freedom of expression. Social realism, however, promoted socialism and communism, and not the individuality of the artist. Choice A (religious art) would not have been permitted, since religion was outlawed by Stalin. The art styles identified in Choices B and C would have seemed too self-serving to Stalin.

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