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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST)

SN471

History of the Soviet Union

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST) SN471 , each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, SN471
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

What event in 1917 directly led to the Bolshevik seizure of power in Petrograd?

- ☐ A The signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with the Central Powers
- ☒ B The October Revolution, organized by the Bolsheviks to overthrow the Provisional Government
- ☐ C The abdication of Tsar Nicholas II following the February Revolution
- ☐ D The assassination of Tsar Alexander II by Narodnaya Volya revolutionaries

ANSWER **B**

WHY The October Revolution of 1917, led by Vladimir Lenin and the Bolshevik Party, was the armed uprising that overthrew the Russian Provisional Government and brought the Bolsheviks to power. The abdication of Nicholas II had occurred earlier in the February Revolution; Brest-Litovsk came after the Bolsheviks had already taken power; and Alexander II was assassinated in 1881, well before these events.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

Soviet economic policy under Joseph Stalin is most closely associated with which series of five-year plans?

- ☐ A Plans emphasizing consumer goods, light industry, and the gradual withering of the state
- ☒ B Plans introduced in 1928 that emphasized heavy industry, collectivized agriculture, and centralized state control
- ☐ C Plans introduced by Lenin in 1921 as a temporary retreat from full state control of the economy
- ☐ D Plans developed jointly with Western capitalist firms to industrialize the USSR through foreign investment

ANSWER **B**

WHY Stalin's first Five-Year Plan began in 1928 and prioritized rapid industrialization of heavy industry, forced collectivization of agriculture, and tight centralized economic planning. Lenin's 1921 retreat is the New Economic Policy (NEP), not the Five-Year Plans, and the Plans did not emphasize consumer goods or rely on joint Western development.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Which Soviet security agency, established in 1934, became the primary instrument of Stalin's Great Purge (1936–1938)?

- ☐ A The Cheka (All-Russian Extraordinary Commission)
- ☒ B The NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs)
- ☐ C The OGPU (Joint State Political Directorate)
- ☐ D The KGB (Committee for State Security)

ANSWER B

WHY The NKVD, headed during the Great Purge by Nikolai Yezhov, carried out the mass arrests, deportations, and executions of the 1936–1938 purges. The Cheka was its predecessor (1917–1922), the OGPU (1922–1934) preceded the NKVD, and the KGB was formed only in 1954, after Stalin's death.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

What was the significance of the Battle of Stalingrad (1942–1943) in the Soviet–German War?

- ☐ A It was the largest Soviet naval engagement of the war, fought entirely on the Black Sea.
- ☐ B It resulted in the immediate Soviet capture of Berlin and the end of the war in Europe.
- ☒ C It marked a decisive Soviet victory that halted the German advance and shifted the strategic initiative to the Red Army.
- ☐ D It was a German victory that opened the Caucasus oil fields to the Wehrmacht for the rest of the war.

ANSWER C

WHY The Battle of Stalingrad ended in February 1943 with the encirclement and surrender of the German 6th Army. The Soviet victory halted the German eastward advance and transferred the strategic initiative to the Red Army for the remainder of the war. The battle was primarily urban land fighting, not naval; Berlin fell in 1945; and the Germans never held the Caucasus oil fields.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following best describes the policy of 'containment' as practiced by the United States toward the Soviet Union after 1947?

- ☐ A A diplomatic effort to partition Germany into Soviet and Western occupation zones
- ☒ B A strategy of using political, economic, and military measures to prevent the further spread of Soviet influence and communist governments
- ☐ C An agreement to limit both sides' nuclear arsenals through bilateral arms-control treaties
- ☐ D A plan to reunify the European communist and capitalist economies under a single trade bloc

ANSWER B

WHY Containment, articulated in 1946–1947 by George F. Kennan and adopted in the Truman Doctrine, sought to check the expansion of Soviet power through diplomatic, economic, and military means rather than direct conquest or rollback. The partition of Germany was a wartime decision; arms-control treaties came later (e.g., SALT); and no such unified trade bloc existed.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

At the Twentieth Party Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1956, Nikita Khrushchev delivered a landmark speech that:

- ☐ A Officially introduced the doctrine of peaceful coexistence with the capitalist West.
- ☐ B Announced the Soviet decision to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact.
- ☒ C Condemned the personality cult and many of the repressive policies of Joseph Stalin, in what became known as the 'Secret Speech.'
- ☐ D Declared the completion of the building of communism in the USSR and the abolition of Soviet republics.

ANSWER C

WHY On February 25, 1956, Khrushchev delivered the 'On the Cult of Personality and Its Consequences' address, denouncing Stalin's purges, forced collectivization excesses, and cult of personality. It was not officially published but circulated inside the Party and precipitated de-Stalinization. The USSR did not withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, did not declare communism completed, and while Khrushchev championed peaceful coexistence, it was not the content of this particular speech.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

Which policy, associated with Mikhail Gorbachev, allowed Soviet-bloc governments in Eastern Europe greater freedom from Moscow's direct control and contributed to the revolutions of 1989?

- ☐ A Glasnost (openness) as applied specifically to military affairs
- ☐ B The Brezhnev Doctrine, reaffirming Soviet intervention in the Eastern bloc
- ☒ C **The Sinatra Doctrine, by which each Eastern-bloc country was effectively free to choose its own path**
- ☐ D Perestroika (restructuring) of the Warsaw Pact into a NATO-style alliance

ANSWER C

WHY The Sinatra Doctrine (so named because each satellite could 'do it their way') reflected Gorbachev's refusal to use force to keep the Eastern bloc aligned, contrasting sharply with the 1968 Brezhnev Doctrine. Glasnost referred mainly to openness and free discussion inside the USSR, and perestroika meant economic and political restructuring, not conversion of the Warsaw Pact into a NATO-style alliance.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

Which event is formally considered the legal end of the Soviet Union as a state?

- ☐ A The August 1991 failed coup attempt by hardline Communists against Gorbachev
- ☒ B **The signing of the Belavezha Accords in December 1991 by Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus**
- ☐ C Boris Yeltsin's resignation as president of the Russian Federation in 1999
- ☐ D The adoption of the Soviet Constitution of 1977 (Brezhnev Constitution)

ANSWER B

WHY On December 8, 1991, the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus signed the Belavezha Accords, declaring the USSR effectively dissolved and establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The August 1991 coup accelerated but did not itself dissolve the USSR; the USSR was formally dissolved by the Alma-Ata Protocol of December 21, 1991, building on the Belavezha Accords. Yeltsin's resignation came years later, and the 1977 Constitution had created the framework of the Brezhnev-era state, not its end.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following were forced deportations of entire ethnic groups carried out by Stalin's regime during World War II? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** The deportation of Crimean Tatars in 1944
- ☒ **B** The deportation of Volga Germans in 1941
- ☐ **C** The deportation of Armenians from the Nagorno-Karabakh region in 1946
- ☐ **D** The deportation of Czechs from the Sudetenland in 1938

ANSWER **A** • **B**

WHY Stalin deported the Volga Germans in August 1941 and the Crimean Tatars in May 1944, accusing both groups collectively of collaboration with Nazi Germany; they were exiled to Central Asia and Siberia, with high mortality. Armenians were not subjected to such a mass deportation, and the expulsion of Sudetenland Germans in 1938 was carried out by Nazi Germany, not the Soviet Union.