REVIEW QUESTIONS

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. In what zone of von Thunen’s model would the fruit production method of farming best fit?
   (A) Market gardening
   (B) Dairy
   (C) Livestock fattening
   (D) Commercial grain
   (E) Livestock ranching

2. Which area of the world would most likely lead the others in the production of wheat?
   (A) Central Brazil
   (B) Interior Australia
   (C) Ukraine or Eastern Europe
   (D) Southeast Asia
   (E) Central Africa

3. What type of survey pattern of farming would be found in the Louisiana or Mississippi Delta region of the United States?
   (A) Township and range
   (B) Dispersed village
   (C) Metes and bounds
   (D) Nucleated format
   (E) Long lots

4. Which area of the world was the first to domesticate cattle, sheep, and goats?
   (A) Central America
   (B) Northeastern Africa
   (C) Northern China
   (D) Northeastern India
   (E) Northwestern South America

5. Which crop did Norman Borlaug use to initiate the Third Agricultural Revolution in Mexico?
   (A) Corn
   (B) Wheat
   (C) Rice
   (D) Sorghum
   (E) Manioc

6. Which of the following is NOT a form of commercial farming?
   (A) Grain farming
   (B) Fruit farming
   (C) Mediterranean agriculture
   (D) Livestock ranching
   (E) Slash-and-burn farming

7. Which was probably the first form of agriculture in human history?
   (A) Slash-and-burn farming
   (B) Seed agriculture
   (C) Hunting and gathering
   (D) Pastoral nomadism
   (E) Shifting cultivation

8. What is the primary difference between livestock ranching and livestock fattening?
   (A) Livestock fattening requires more human labor than livestock ranching.
   (B) Livestock ranching has more profit per head of cattle than livestock fattening.
   (C) Livestock fattening requires less feed per head of cattle than livestock ranching.
   (D) Livestock ranching requires more space than livestock fattening.
   (E) Livestock ranching requires more capital investment for feed products.
9. The majority of the world’s population that is involved in agriculture is involved in what type of agriculture?
   (A) Pastoral nomadism
   (B) Mediterranean agriculture
   (C) Shifting cultivation
   (D) Subsistence farming
   (E) Plantation agriculture

10. Von Thunen’s model revolves around which of the following fundamental principles?
    (A) The fertility of soil decreases as one moves away from the urban area or market.
    (B) Access to transportation improves as one moves closer to the urban area.
    (C) The climate in the area dictates the type of crops grown.
    (D) In the village system, farmers are involved in subsistence agriculture with an urban area serving as a center point for culture.
    (E) The farmers in the area are all involved in commercial agriculture, selling their products to a market located at the center.

11. Which of the following phrases would best fit the Second Agricultural Revolution?
    (A) The Second Agricultural Revolution saw the beginning of seed agriculture.
    (B) The Second Agricultural Revolution brought mechanization into the farming process.
    (C) The Second Agricultural Revolution prompted farmers to develop new crops.
    (D) The Second Agricultural Revolution allowed farmers to redesign crops to grow in nonnative climates.
    (E) The Second Agricultural Revolution meant more profits for farmers due to less human capital being needed.

12. The map above shows corn for grain production for selected U.S. states. Which conclusion can be made based on the map?
    (A) Corn is linked with the livestock-fattening region of the United States.
    (B) Corn is a high-bulk food and therefore must be grown closer to urban centers.
    (C) Corn is a staple food in the American diet.
    (D) Corn is not grown much in the West due to dietary preferences.
    (E) Corn is not that profitable a crop due to the influence of ethanol and other biofuels.

13. What is the process called of splitting existing plants into two and replanting both parts to propagates crops?
    (A) Seed agriculture
    (B) Aquaculture
    (C) Vegetative planting
    (D) Subsistence agriculture
    (E) Plantation agriculture
14. The Tuareg people of the Sahara and their animals seasonally migrate to the higher lands in the summer and the valleys in the winter. This is an example of
   (A) pastoral nomadism.
   (B) livestock ranching.
   (C) livestock fattening.
   (D) dairy farming.
   (E) transhumance.

15. Which statement accurately describes the recent trend(s) in agriculture in the United States?
   (A) The average size of farms is decreasing.
   (B) The number of family-owned farms continues to increase.
   (C) The total revenue of agricultural sales is becoming more concentrated in fewer large corporate farms.
   (D) The cost of converting a conventional farm into a farm growing certified organic crops is relatively quick and easy.
   (E) Sustainable farms make up only a small percentage of total agricultural sales and their numbers are declining.

16. The process of growing crops in tropical areas for sale in more developed countries is what type of farming?
   (A) Slash-and-burn farming
   (B) Plantation agriculture
   (C) Intensive subsistence agriculture
   (D) Shifting cultivation
   (E) Commercial agriculture

17. The overgrazing of pasture areas in arid climates has caused which problem?
   (A) Global warming
   (B) Mass starvation
   (C) Desertification
   (D) Soil loss
   (E) Soil erosion

18. Farming in the United States, in particular, has experienced what pattern?
   (A) Movement to agricultural industrialization
   (B) Debt-for-nature swap
   (C) Tragedy of the commons
   (D) More sustainable yields
   (E) More work with intertillage practices

19. Why is double-cropping or even triple-cropping important?
   (A) It allows subsistence farmers to produce more income from selling their products.
   (B) It provides consumers with more choices of foods to eat.
   (C) It allows farmers the freedom to rotate crops without harming the soil.
   (D) It allows farmers to meet the demands of ever-increasing populations.
   (E) It gives producers the profit margins to meet demands of investors.

20. Three of the largest dairy regions in the United States are in the Northeast (New York and Pennsylvania), the Upper Midwest (Wisconsin and Minnesota), and California. What explains this phenomenon?
   (A) The transportation systems are much better in these areas.
   (B) The climates are more conducive to raising dairy cattle.
   (C) Large urban centers are located in each zone.
   (D) Industrial output is much greater due to the crops produced in these regions.
   (E) There are more milk drinkers in these parts of the country than in other parts.
ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. A
Fruit production would best fit the market-gardening zone in von Thünen’s model of agricultural land use. Fruits are bulky products that cost a lot to transport to the market, based on their weight and high spoilage rate. The rest of the answers would not fit fruit production in von Thünen’s model. Dairy is milk or milk products, such as cheese and yogurt. Livestock is not mentioned in the question, and fruit is not a commercial grain.

2. C
The area of the Ukraine and Eastern Europe is the world leader in the production of wheat. Its arid climate and fertile soil allows wheat to grow at an exceptional pace. The former Soviet Union, with its planned economy, also instituted the practice of growing wheat. This was done to feed the people of the former Soviet Union. Today, much of this wheat is still eaten in the area, but much of it is exported to surrounding countries as well. Ukraine exported over 6.5 billion tons of wheat in 2005 and 2006. Central Brazil and Southeast Asia cannot be correct, because those areas are too moist, and the other answer choices have large areas of uninhabitable land due to their desert-like conditions, making agriculture unproductive.

3. E
The only three land patterns found in the United States are the metes and bounds, township and range, and the long lots systems. The long lots system was used by the French to section off land in areas such as present-day Louisiana. Narrow lots would abut a river and extend back for up to a mile. Farmers would send their products to market by means of the river. This is the correct answer. The metes and bounds system was started in Great Britain and is still in use in most parts of New England. The township and range system is predominant in much of the Midwest owing to the vast expanse of fairly flat land. The township and range system is an easy way to divide the land and allocate ownership.

4. B
Northeastern Africa was the first area to domesticate cattle, sheep, and goats. All three of these animals diffused into Europe, which then colonized North and South America. Central America domesticated the turkey, llama, and alpaca, whereas Southeast Asia domesticated the dog, pig, and chicken.

5. B
Norman Borlaug initiated wheat production in Mexico, transitioning that country from a net importer of wheat to an exporter. The hybridization of wheat became a central component of the work of Borlaug, who went on to work with wheat in many different regions of the world.

6. E
This is a type of question that you will see rarely on the AP exam, but you will see it. The not questions offer answer choices that are all correct except for one. In this case, all of the answers are correct except slash-and-burn farming. Slash-and-burn farming is a subsistence agricultural practice that involves burning the debris off the land and using the resulting phosphates as fertilizer for the new soil.

7. C
Hunting and gathering was the first form of agriculture in the world, although it is not “farming” as we tend to think of it today. It involved the hunting of game species, such as buffalo, and the gathering of natural plant products, such as berries and other fruits. Seed agriculture didn’t develop until the First Agricultural Revolution. Pastoral nomadism involves the domestication of animals; before
domestication, animals were used, but they traveled in their herd naturally instead of being herded.

8. D
The difference between livestock fattening and livestock ranching is the space involved. Livestock ranching requires much more space than livestock fattening. Livestock fattening is usually done in some type of feedlot or in a small pasture. Livestock ranching, on the other hand, is done in huge range areas, where technology is used to track the animals. Choice (C) is not correct because livestock fattening does not involve less feed. Livestock ranching and fattening both involve the same amount of food. In livestock fattening, the food is generally bought by the farmer and fed to the cattle, while in livestock ranching, the livestock forage for food in their grazing areas.

9. D
The majority of the world is involved in subsistence farming, using the land to sustain the population. A lot of labor is needed for subsistence farming, especially for intensive subsistence agriculture. Rice requires heavy, hard labor for the harvest to be successful. One of the choices, pastoral nomadism, takes place in arid areas where few people reside. Mediterranean agriculture is done in only a few areas of the world, where the climate is conducive for the growing of olives, dates, and grapes. Shifting cultivation is done in tropical areas, as is plantation agriculture; however, both of these forms of agriculture involve relatively few laborers. The only logical choice remaining is subsistence agriculture.

10. E
Von Thunen’s model must be applied to commercial farming. If applied to subsistence farming, it would lose its characteristic concentric rings around the market area; they would be replaced by a system of small lot holdings around the village center. Von Thunen made some assumptions in his model that everything in the rings of the circle would be consistent (i.e., transportation, climate, soil fertility would be the same as one moved from the market-gardening area out to the livestock ranching areas).

11. B
The Second Agricultural Revolution coincided with the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution mechanized industry and improved transportation for farmers, expanding the market area for their agricultural commodities. The First Agricultural Revolution introduced seed agriculture, meaning that choice A doesn’t work. The Third Agricultural Revolution, which is still underway, has genetically altered crops.

12. A
This type of question will require you to read the map and then apply some prior knowledge to the map. Looking at the corn-growing regions, we see that they are primarily located in the central northern regions of the United States. Knowing that most of the corn in the United States is used for animal consumption of some sort, we can infer that this region is linked with the livestock-fattening region. The other answers do not fit with the question. Corn is not a high-bulk food but rather a commercial grain and, according to von Thunen, can be grown farther from large urban centers. Dietary preferences do play a role, but although Americans eat a large amount of corn in their daily diets, the majority of it goes toward livestock fattening. The production of corn for ethanol production has led to increased prices for corn bushels, increasing farmers’ profits; the more demand for a product, the higher its price. This eliminates choice (E).

13. C
Vegetative planting involves splitting an existing plant and then replanting both halves to propogate
the plant. Seed agriculture is the other main form of planting. Seed agriculture involves harvesting the seeds of the plant and planting them. The other choices are simply methods of farming that could use either vegetative planting or seed agriculture.

14. E

The Tuareg are a nomadic population that lives in the southern Saharan region of Africa and practices transhumance. They seasonally take their herds to the highlands during the hot, dry season and bring them down to the valley during the cool, moist season. Two of the answers (livestock fattening and livestock ranching) deal with commercial agricultural, which does not migrate herds at all. Ranching involves livestock roaming in the pastures, but their movement is not a seasonal migration. Pastoral nomadism is a close second choice for this question. However, pastoral nomads move their herds regardless of the time of year. Transhumance refers to seasonal migration based on temperature variation during the year.

15. C

There are a number of trends in modern agriculture in the United States. First, the average size of farms is getting larger because small farms are being bought out by larger corporate farms. Second, small family farms are having difficulty staying in business and thus are often absorbed by larger, more profitable operations. Third, a small number of large corporate farms account for an increasingly large majority of revenue of total agricultural sales. The process to convert a conventional farm into a sustainable or organic farm is a lengthy and involved one. Presently, sustainable farms make up less than 5 percent of total agricultural revenue, but they are growing in number at a rapid rate.

16. B

Plantation agriculture survived beyond colonialism because the plantations continue to provide employment to many of the workers in less developed countries. Plantation agriculture has created an export economy in many of these areas, which normally would be involved in subsistence farming. Slash-and-burn farming is more associated with subsistence farming than exporting crops to more developed countries. Choices (A), (C), and (D) are all forms of subsistence agriculture. Commercial agriculture involves the sale of products, as does plantation agriculture, but the more descriptive answer is plantation agriculture.

17. C

Desertification is a major problem in arid climates where poor farming practices have meant the loss of productive farmland to the ever-encroaching desert. Plants and trees naturally prevent erosion. Herders allow their animals to eat the vegetation that holds back the sand from encroaching on productive agricultural areas. Mass starvation can result from desertification. Soil loss is part of the problem, but mostly the good soil is covered up by sand. When windstorms arise, productive soil is often lost.

18. A

The trend for the previous 20 to 30 years in U.S. agriculture has been toward agricultural industrialization. Farmers are now using more technology. The food chain has been made much more productive and efficient through this process. As a result, the food that you buy in the supermarket is less expensive. Organic products, which take more human labor to be produced, cost more. A debt-for-nature swap is the forgiveness of debt by more developed countries in return for less developed countries promising to set aside land as a natural habitat or national park.
19. D
By double- or triple-cropping, farmers can double or triple their profits. Also, increased production from growing two or three crops per year can support more people in a given area. Because of increased agricultural production, the world will see less starvation.

20. C
Von Thunen suggested that dairy regions must be close to large urban areas. The three largest dairy-producing regions in the United States are all close to major urban centers that depend on dairy products as part of their daily diet. Transportation systems are the same in all of these areas, with road systems developed enough to provide adequate transportation.