

Milestones in Global Trade History

Trade And Commerce History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which ancient trade network, established during the Han Dynasty, was primarily used for the exchange of silk, spices, and precious metals between China and the Mediterranean?

A) The Amber Road

B) The Silk Road

C) The Trans-Saharan Route

D) The Incense Route

2. The Hanseatic League, which dominated maritime trade in Northern Europe from the 13th to the 17th century, was centered in which city?

A) Lübeck

B) Amsterdam

C) Bruges

D) Bergen

3. What was the primary function of the 'bill of exchange' developed by Italian merchants during the Middle Ages?

A) To pay for royal taxes

B) To facilitate credit and avoid carrying large amounts of bullion

C) To register guild members

D) To establish maritime insurance laws

4. The Dutch East India Company (VOC), founded in 1602, holds the historical distinction of being the first company to do what?

A) Issue public stock shares

B) Use paper currency

C) Trade exclusively in gold

D) Establish a factory in the Americas

5. Which 18th-century economic theory advocated for the accumulation of gold and silver reserves through a positive balance of trade and protectionist tariffs?

A) Physiocracy

B) Mercantilism

C) Keynesianism

D) Laissez-faire

6. During the 14th century, which Italian city-state became the financial hub of Europe, introducing the 'florin' as a stable international currency?

- A) Venice
- B) Genoa
- C) Florence**
- D) Milan

7. The 'Triangular Trade' route in the 17th and 18th centuries primarily connected which three regions?

- A) Europe, India, and China
- B) The Americas, Africa, and Europe**
- C) Japan, Australia, and the Pacific Islands
- D) Russia, Scandinavia, and the Middle East

8. Which technological innovation, popularized in the 1950s by Malcom McLean, revolutionized global commerce by standardizing the shipping process?

- A) The steam engine
- B) The shipping container**
- C) The telegraph
- D) The GPS navigation system

9. What was the primary purpose of the 'Corn Laws' in 19th-century Britain?

- A) To promote free trade
- B) To impose tariffs on imported grain to protect domestic farmers**
- C) To fix the price of bread in London
- D) To subsidize the export of corn to the colonies

10. The 'Great Depression' of 1929 was exacerbated globally by which U.S. tariff act, which led to retaliatory trade barriers?

- A) The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act**
- B) The McKinley Tariff
- C) The Dingley Tariff
- D) The Fordney-McCumber Tariff

11. Which historical entity, established in 1948 as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), later evolved into the World Trade Organization?

- A) The World Bank
- B) The IMF
- C) The WTO**
- D) The League of Nations

12. The 'Bread and Circuses' policy of Ancient Rome was supported by grain shipments primarily arriving from which province?

A) Gaul

B) Egypt

C) Hispania

D) Britannia

13. What commodity was the main driver of the 'Tulip Mania' financial bubble in the Netherlands during the 1630s?

A) Spices

B) Silk

C) Tulip bulbs

D) Wool

14. The 'Clipper ships' of the mid-19th century were specifically designed for the rapid transport of which time-sensitive good?

A) Tea

B) Coal

C) Timber

D) Heavy machinery

15. Which currency became the global 'reserve currency' following the Bretton Woods Agreement of 1944?

A) British Pound

B) U.S. Dollar

C) Gold Standard

D) Euro

16. The Fugger family of Augsburg gained immense economic power in the 16th century primarily through their involvement in what?

A) Textile manufacturing

B) Banking and copper mining

C) Spice trading

D) Colonial governance

17. In 1860, the Cobden-Chevalier Treaty between Britain and France was a significant step toward what?

A) Global protectionism

B) Free trade

C) The creation of the Euro

D) The establishment of a naval blockade

18. The 'South Sea Bubble' of 1720 was a famous financial crash caused by speculation regarding which country's trade monopoly?

- A) Spain
- B) France
- C) Britain**
- D) Portugal

19. What were 'staple ports' in the medieval English wool trade?

- A) Ports where all export wool had to be sold to authorized merchants**
- B) Ports used only for military purposes
- C) Ports that prohibited the import of foreign goods
- D) Ports where ships were repaired

20. Which global trade route, historically known as the 'Tea Route,' linked China with Russia across the Mongolian plateau?

- A) The Trans-Siberian Route
- B) The Tea Horse Road**
- C) The Karakoram Highway
- D) The Siberian Tea Way

21. The 'Gold Standard,' a monetary system where a currency's value is directly linked to gold, was largely abandoned by most countries during which period?

- A) The Victorian Era
- B) The 1930s**
- C) The Enlightenment
- D) The Post-Cold War era

22. Which early form of commerce involved the exchange of goods without the use of a common currency, often between disparate cultures?

- A) Barter economy**
- B) Credit-based trade
- C) Gift economy
- D) Feudalism

23. The 'Navigation Acts' passed by the English Parliament were designed to achieve which objective?

- A) Restrict colonial trade to English ships and markets**
- B) Encourage unrestricted global commerce
- C) Promote the growth of the Dutch merchant fleet
- D) Abolish all import taxes

24. During the Middle Ages, the 'Champagne Fairs' in France served as an essential hub for what?

A) Military training

B) The exchange of textiles and spices between northern and southern Europe

C) The coronation of kings

D) The publication of academic texts

25. Which invention allowed merchants in the 17th century to calculate complex interest and trade values much faster, facilitating international finance?

A) The astrolabe

B) Logarithms

C) The printing press

D) The steam turbine