

Chapter 2- Latin American economic history Test bank

Multiple Choice:

1. Large land holdings in Latin America during the colonial period were known as:
 - a. mitas.
 - b. tierras grandes.
 - c. presidios.
 - *d. latifundias.
 - e. none of the above
2. In colonial Latin America the term for the tax levied by Spain was:
 - a. mita.
 - b. economienda.
 - *c. repartida.
 - d. aduana.
 - e. miercoles.
3. Which of the following is related to the difficulty of raising taxes in Latin America?
 - a. mita
 - *b. repartida
 - c. ecomienda
 - d. triangular trade
 - e. none of the above
4. The labor system used in colonial Latin America where workers could supply labor in order to pay their taxes was known as the _____ system.
 - a. econmienda
 - b. repartida
 - *c. mita
 - d. triangular
 - e. none of the above
5. Which nation was the Mita system used in?
 - *a. Peru
 - b. Brazil
 - c. Mexico
 - d. Costa Rica
 - e. Columbia

6. Which of the following was used to procure unpaid labor by the colonial authorities?

- *a. the mita system
- b. repartida
- c. amalgamation
- d. the Kuznets system
- e. none of the above

7. Which of the following was not involved in triangular trade?

- a. slaves
- b. trade goods such as cloth and cooking utensils
- c. rum
- d. sugar
- *e. oil

8. Which of these was not an important agricultural commodity produced during the era of triangular trade?

- a. Tobacco
- b. Cocoa
- c. Sugar
- *d. Wheat
- e. Indigo

9. Which of the following stressed the importance of a trade surplus?

- a. latifundia
- b. minifundia
- c. longitude
- d. triangular trade
- *e. mercantilism

10. Trade in Latin America was distorted by:

- a. mitas.
- b. latifundia.
- *c. mercantilism.
- d. low transportation costs.
- e. none of the above

11. The Treaty of Tordesillas had the largest influence on which country in Latin America?

- a. Mexico
- b. Panama
- *c. Brazil
- d. Peru
- e. Costa Rica

12. Which of the following is associated with Portuguese control of Brazil?

- a. mercantilism
- b. colonial benevolence
- *c. Treaty of Tordesillas
- d. slaves
- e. none of the above

13. The Brazilian equivalent of the latifundias were:

- *a. fazendas.
- b. pampas.
- c. mitas.
- d. repartidas.
- e. none of the above

14. Sugar, tobacco, and slavery were most closely associated with which country in colonial Latin America.

- *a. Brazil
- b. Colombia
- c. Mexico
- d. Peru
- e. Panama

15. Total migration to Latin America between 1492 to 1830 was _____ million.

- a. 2.0
- b. 4.2
- c. 4.5
- *d. 6.6
- e. 8.2

16. About ____ million slaves crossed the Atlantic from 1492 to the 1830s.

- a. 3.2
- b. 7.5
- c. 6.8
- d. 5.9
- *e. 4.5

17. The period of postcolonial turmoil in Latin America started in:

- a. 1775.
- *b. 1820.
- c. 1840.
- d. 1870.
- e. 1890.

18. Fazendas are associated with which country?

- a. Mexico
- b. Peru
- c. Paraguay
- d. Chile
- *e. Brazil

19. Engerman and Solokoff (1997) posited that if a country had an abundance of commodities, this could lead to the existence of:

- a. an extractive state.
- b. laws and institutions that protected the power of elites
- c. heavy spending on education
- d. large investments in infrastructure
- *e. a and b

20. According to Maddison, the GDP in North and South America were roughly equivalent in what year?

- a. 1800
- b. 1500
- c. 1900
- *d. 1700
- e. 2000

21. Which of the following was not a factor that led to the independence movements of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in Latin America?

- a. Taxation
- b. Top administrative position being held by those born in Spain
- c. Issue of land distribution
- *d. Women's suffrage
- e. none of the above

22. In what time frame did most of Latin America gain independence?

- *a. Early 1800s
- b. Late 1700s
- c. Late 1800s
- d. Early 1900s
- e. Mid 1600s

23. Which of the following is not associated with Brazil?

- *a. The War of the Pacific
- b. Treaty of Tordesillas
- c. slavery
- d. sugar
- e. fazendas

24. The European country with the most economic influence on Latin America during the Golden Age was:

- a. France
- *b. the UK
- c. Italy
- d. Germany
- e. Spain

25. The Golden Age of Latin American economic history was:

- a. 1790-1820.
- b. 1820-1850.
- *c. 1870-1920.
- d. 1930-1950.
- e. 1970-1990.

26. The Golden Age in Latin America corresponds to:

- a. the late 17th century.
- b. the early 18th century
- c. the early 19th century
- *d. the late 19th century
- e. none of the above

27. The Golden Age was fueled by:

- a. Import Substitution Industrialization
- *b. Commodity booms
- c. Protective tariffs
- d. Mercantilism
- e. Import quotas

28. Which countries fought a war over guano?

- a. Bolivia
- b. Chile
- c. Peru
- *d. all of the above
- e. none of the above

29. At the beginning of the twentieth century, economically speaking, Argentina was roughly equal to what nation?

- a. Belgium
- b. Japan
- *c. Australia
- d. Canada
- e. China

30. Urbanization in Latin America can be attributed to:
- a. relatively high wages in urban areas.
 - b. relatively low wages in rural areas.
 - c. poor infrastructure, education, and health care in rural areas.
 - *d. all of the above
 - e. none of the above

31. The Lost Decade occurred in the ____.
- a. 1870s
 - b. 1930s
 - c. 1950s
 - d. 1960s
 - *e. 1980s

Essay questions:

1. How did the existence of natural resources coupled with Spanish colonial rule tend to retard growth of GDP in Latin America?
2. Describe the link between the discovery of gold and silver in Latin America and the beginning of the encomienda system.
3. Describe triangular trade.
4. How did mercantilism affect Latin America?
5. How can the current problems of weak public education and poor infrastructure be traced to developments in colonial Latin America?
6. Explain the differences between the colonial experience in Brazil and the rest of Latin America. What accounts for this difference?
7. Why are institutions important for economic development in Latin America?
8. What factors led to the rapid economic growth of the Golden Age?
9. How did ISI affect Latin America?
10. What is meant by the term "Lost Decade"?

