HELLEN KELLER SCHOOL

PREPARATORIA BILINGÜE

HELLEN KELLER

PREPAHK
COLEGIO MULTICULTURAL HELLEN KELLER
CAMPUS AHUATLÁN

Incorporada a la SEP Clave:17PBH3318I

Ciclo Escolar: 2025 – 2026

1st Partial exam Mexican History 1 **Tuesday October 21st, 2025**

Teacher's name: TEACHER: GERMAN ALBAVERA CASILLAS

Student's name: _____Grade ____/_____

PART 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (30 Questions, 2 points each = 60 points)

Instructions: Circle the letter of the best answer for each question.

Section A: Olmec Civilization

1) When did the Olmec civilization emerge in Mesoamerica?
   a) a) 500 BCE
   b) b) 1500 BCE
   c) c) 2000 BCE
   d) d) 1000 BCE

2) The Olmec settled primarily in which modern Mexican states?
   a) a) Oaxaca and Chiapas
   b) b) Veracruz and Tabasco
   c) c) Yucatan and Quintana Roo
   d) d) Jalisco and Colima

3) What material were the famous Olmec colossal heads carved from?
   a) a) Limestone
   b) b) Granite
   c) c) Basalt
   d) d) Marble

4) How much can an Olmec colossal head weigh?
   a) a) Up to 10 tons
   b) b) Up to 20 tons
   c) c) Up to 40 tons
   d) d) Up to 100 tons

5) The Olmec colossal heads likely represent:
   a) a) Gods and deities
   b) b) Olmec rulers
   c) c) Warriors
   d) d) Common people

6) Which of these was NOT an Olmec contribution to Mesoamerican culture?
   a) a) Early writing system
   b) b) Calendar based on astronomy
   c) c) Wheel for transportation
   d) d) Trade networks

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7) The word "Olmec" comes from the Nahuatl word meaning:
   a) a) "Stone carvers"
   b) b) "Inhabitant of the rubber country"
   c) c) "People of the coast"
   d) d) "Mother culture"
8) Which was the earlier major Olmec site?
   a) a) La Venta
   b) b) Monte Albán
   c) c) San Lorenzo
   d) d) Teotihuacan
9) San Lorenzo reached its height around:
   a) a) 1500-1200 BCE
   b) b) 1150-900 BCE
   c) c) 900-500 BCE
   d) d) 500-200 BCE
10) What valuable materials did Olmec traders exchange?
   a) a) Gold, silver, and copper
   b) b) Jade, obsidian, and rubber
   c) c) Cotton, cacao, and salt
   d) d) Turquoise, shells, and feathers

11) Section B: Zapotec Civilization

12) When did the Zapotec build their capital city Monte Albán?
   a) a) 1500 BCE
   b) b) 1000 BCE
   c) c) 500 BCE
   d) d) 100 BCE
13) Monte Albán was located in which valley?
   a) a) Valley of Mexico
   b) b) Oaxaca Valley
   c) c) Tehuacan Valley
   d) d) Puebla Valley
14) How high above the valley floor was Monte Albán built?
   a) a) 500 feet
   b) b) 800 feet
   c) c) 1,300 feet
   d) d) 2,000 feet
15) At its peak, Monte Albán housed approximately:
   a) a) 5,000-10,000 people
   b) b) 15,000-30,000 people
   c) c) 50,000-75,000 people
   d) d) 100,000-150,000 people
16) Why was Monte Albán's mountaintop location strategically important?
   a) a) Better weather conditions
   b) b) Natural defense and views of farmland
   c) c) Closer to the gods
   d) d) Access to water sources
17) The Zapotec developed their own:
   a) a) Hieroglyphic writing system
   b) b) Alphabetic writing system
   c) c) Cuneiform writing
   d) d) Pictographic only system
18) What did the Zapotec build on hillsides to increase farmland?
   a) a) Canals
   b) b) Pyramids
   c) c) Terraces
   d) d) Reservoirs

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19) Section C: Population of the Americas

20) According to the Clovis First model, when did the first Americans arrive?

a) a) 8,000-10,000 years ago

b) b) 13,000-15,000 years ago

c) c) 20,000-25,000 years ago

d) d) 30,000-40,000 years ago

21) Which archaeological site in Chile challenged the Clovis First model?

a) a) Paisley Caves

b) b) Meadowcroft Rockshelter

c) c) Monte Verde

d) d) Folsom

22) The coastal migration hypothesis suggests early peoples:

a) a) Walked across the Bering land bridge

b) b) Used boats to follow the Pacific coastline

c) c) Crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Europe

d) d) Migrated through the ice-free corridor

23) The Beringia land bridge existed during:

a) a) The Medieval Warm Period

b) b) The Little Ice Age

c) c) The last Ice Age

d) d) The Holocene epoch

24) Where were Clovis points first discovered?

a) a) Arizona

b) b) Texas

c) c) New Mexico

d) d) California

25) Pre-Clovis sites suggest humans arrived in the Americas as early as:

a) 10,000-15,000 years ago

b) 15,000-18,000 years ago

c) 20,000-30,000 years ago

d) 40,000-50,000 years ago

26) Kennewick Man was discovered in which state?

a) a) Oregon

b) b) California

c) c) Washington State

d) d) Alaska

27) Multiple origin theories propose that the Americas were populated through:

a) a) A single migration event

b) b) Several distinct migration events

c) c) Spontaneous development

d) d) Only coastal routes

28) Which hypothesis remains highly controversial and lacks substantial support?

a) a) Beringia land bridge

b) b) Coastal migration

c) c) Trans-Atlantic crossing from Europe

d) d) Multiple waves from Asia

29) The ice-free corridor was between which two ice sheets?

a) a) Greenland and Arctic

b) b) Laurentide and Cordilleran

c) c) Antarctic and Patagonian

d) d) Rocky Mountain and Cascade

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30) Modern genetic studies suggest at least how many major ancestral populations contributed to Native American diversity?

a) a) One

b) b) Two

c) c) Three

d) d) Five

31) Current scientific consensus suggests the primary founding population crossed from Asia via Beringia approximately:

a) a) 10,000-12,000 years ago

b) b) 13,000-15,000 years ago

c) c) 20,000-25,000 years ago

d) d) 30,000-35,000 years ago

PART 2: OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS (10 Questions, 4 points each = 40 points)

Instructions: Answer each question in 3-5 complete sentences. Use specific details from the readings.

31. **Why was the Gulf Coast a good location for the Olmec civilization? Explain at least three reasons.**

32. **What advantages did the Zapotec gain by building Monte Albán on a mountaintop? Describe both defensive and practical benefits.**

33. **How did both the Olmec and Zapotec civilizations modify their environments to support agriculture? Give specific examples for each civilization.**

34. **What evidence suggests the Olmec had a well-organized society? Discuss their achievements in construction, art, and trade.**

35. **Explain two pieces of evidence that support the single origin theory of American population.**

36. **Describe how pre-Clovis archaeological sites challenge the traditional Clovis First model. Name at least two specific sites.**

37. **What role does genetic evidence play in current understanding of Native American origins? Discuss both supportive and complicating factors.**

38. **Why are the Olmec often called the "mother culture" of Mesoamerica? What did later civilizations inherit from them?**

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39. **Compare and contrast the geographic environments of the Olmec and Zapotec civilizations. How did each adapt to their specific location?**

40. **Explain the coastal migration hypothesis. Why do many scientists now accept this as a probable pathway for early Americans?**

PART 3: CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS (3 Questions)

Instructions: Choose ONE question to answer in a well-developed essay of 2-3 paragraphs (8-12 sentences minimum). Use specific evidence and examples to support your argument.

Question 41 (25 points): Analyze the strengths and limitations of both single origin and multiple origin theories for the population of the Americas. In your analysis, consider archaeological evidence, genetic data, and the implications of each theory for understanding Native American cultural diversity. Which theoretical framework do you find more convincing and why?

Question 42 (25 points): How do indigenous oral traditions and traditional knowledge systems contribute to or conflict with scientific theories about American population origins? Discuss the importance of incorporating multiple ways of knowing in archaeological and anthropological research. What challenges might arise when integrating different knowledge systems?

Question 43 (25 points): Both the Olmec and Zapotec civilizations demonstrate sophisticated adaptation to their environments. Compare how geographic factors influenced the development of these two civilizations. Consider factors such as topography, climate, natural resources, and agricultural potential. How did environmental differences lead to different cultural achievements and social organization?

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