

SS.7.C.4.3 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	During which conflict did the U.S. declare war on Japan?	The correct response should identify an armed conflict between the U.S. and Japan where Congress declared war.
A	Korean War	Incorrect – Congress did not declare war during this conflict.
B	Vietnam War	Incorrect – Congress did not declare war during this conflict.
C	World War I	Incorrect – Congress did not declare war on Japan during this conflict, although Congress did declare war on Germany.
D	World War II	Correct – Congress declared war on Japan after the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.



SS.7.C.4.3 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	A country with very strong economic ties to the United States is allowing human rights violations to take place. Based on U.S. foreign policy, which is an appropriate first response?	Evaluate possible responses to a conflict with a foreign nation. The correct answer will describe a possible U.S. response to an international conflict.
A	Initiate a trade ban	Incorrect – Trade bans can be harmful to a nation’s economy so they are an unlikely first step with countries that have “strong economic ties to the United States.”
B	Initiate public protests	Incorrect – Private citizens, not the government, initiate public protests.
C	Initiate diplomatic talks	Correct – The Department of State usually initiates diplomatic talks before the United States takes more severe measures to resolve an international conflict.
D	Initiate a military operation	Incorrect – Military operations against a nation can be harmful so they are an unlikely first step with countries that have “strong economic ties to the United States.”



SS.7.C.4.3 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The statement below was made by President Barack Obama on August 18, 2011.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>What the United States will support is an effort to bring about a Syria that is democratic, just, and inclusive for all Syrians... We will support this outcome by pressuring President Assad to get out of the way of this transition, and standing up for the universal rights of the Syrian people along with others in the international community.</p> </div> <p>Source: Office of the White House Press Secretary</p> <p>What is the relationship between President Obama’s statement and U.S. involvement in Syrian political affairs?</p>		<p>Read and analyze the statement.</p> <p>Using evidence from President Obama’s statement, choose the response that best describes the reason for U.S. involvement in Syria’s political conflict.</p>
A	development of diplomatic alliances	<p>Incorrect – The text does not support this response. Alliances are friendly unions between nations, and there is no evidence in President Obama’s statement that he wanted to form an alliance with Syria. Instead, Obama said that he would “[pressure] President Assad to get out of the way.” Pressuring a nation’s leader to “get out of the way” is not a friendly action toward that nation’s leader.</p>	
B	support for the rule of law	<p>Correct – Rule of law means that everybody must follow the law, including government officials. President Obama stated that “the United States will support” action which supports a Syrian government that is “democratic, just, and inclusive for all Syrians.” President Obama also stated that he was willing to “[pressure] President Assad to get out of the way” as Syria transitioned to a new form of government, meaning that the U.S. would pressure Syria’s president to obey rule of law. Finally, President Obama stated that the U.S. will “[stand] up for the universal rights of the...international community,” which means that the U.S. will get involved in conflicts that threaten the rule of law and individual rights of people anywhere in the world.</p>	
C	economic development	<p>Incorrect – The statement does not support this response because economic development involves producing, buying, and/or selling goods and services; President Obama’s statement does not address Syria’s economy.</p>	
D	conflict resolution	<p>Incorrect – The statement does not support this response because President Obama did not mention peace or any opportunities for diplomacy between Syrian President Assad and the United States. Instead, President Obama stated that President Assad had to “get out of the way” or face pressure from the United States.</p>	

