1898: ‘Remember the Maine!’

The Spanish-American War was a historic turning point for the U.S. because it

a. severed ties between Cuba and the U.S.
b. led to the adoption of the Monroe Doctrine.
c. signaled the emergence of the U.S. as a global power.
d. led to the establishment of a standing Army.

Why did President William McKinley order the USS Maine into Havana’s harbor?

a. to keep an eye on U.S. investments in sugar, tobacco, and mining industries in Cuba
b. to respond to Spain’s declaration of war
c. to protect Cuba’s people against human rights abuses under Spanish rule
d. to help support Cuba’s independence

The Rough Riders were led by

a. William McKinley.
b. Theodore Roosevelt.
c. George Dewey.
d. John Hay.

What did the Monroe Doctrine declare?

a. that the U.S. was destined to stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific
b. that the U.S. should work to bring democracy to other nations
c. that the U.S. would step in if Europe interfered anywhere in North or South America
d. that the control of overseas colonies contradicted America’s foreign policy

Which of the following was NOT a result of the Spanish-American War?

a. The U.S. annexed Guam and Puerto Rico.
b. The U.S. purchased the Philippines from Spain.
c. Spain’s empire largely crumbled.
d. Cuba became a commonwealth of the U.S.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

1. Why was the U.S. government keeping a close eye on events in Cuba in the late 1890s?

2. What was “yellow journalism”? How did it influence American attitudes toward the Spanish-American War?

3. Who were the Rough Riders? Do you think such a group could form today? Why or why not?
PASSAGE-BASED READING: Reread the first two sections of the article: the introduction and the section under the heading “Causes of the War.” Then answer the following questions.

1. The purpose of the article’s first two paragraphs is to
   a. demonstrate that Spain was responsible for the explosion of the USS Maine.
   b. explain why the USS Maine was in the waters outside Havana, Cuba.
   c. compare the Spanish-American War with other conflicts in American history.
   d. establish that the explosion of the USS Maine helped propel the U.S. into the Spanish-American War.
   e. describe the Cuban rebellion against Spanish rule that was taking place in the late 1890s.

2. The word sensationalized in paragraph 3 of the article most nearly means
   a. presented in a way that damages a person’s reputation.
   b. exaggerated to arouse strong interest.
   c. stern or forbidding in style.
   d. classified or highly sensitive.
   e. substantiated by the facts.

3. According to the article, which of these events happened first?
   a. Theodore Roosevelt organized the Rough Riders.
   b. Spain sent a new military ruler to Cuba to put down a rebellion there.
   c. President McKinley ordered the USS Maine to Havana.
   d. The first major battle of the Spanish-American War was waged in the Philippines.
   e. The U.S. issued the Monroe Doctrine to warn European nations against interfering in North or South America.

4. This passage would best be described as an example of
   a. historical fiction.
   b. personal narrative.
   c. persuasive writing.
   d. expository writing.
   e. creative writing.

ESSAY

What long-term effects did the Spanish-American War have on U.S. foreign affairs?