Garment Industry Labor Quiz

1. Which of the following is not a characteristic commonly associated with sweatshops?

A) Low wages  
B) Organized labor force  
C) Long hours  
D) Poor working conditions

2. What ultimately spelled the end of apartment-based garment factories in New York at the end of the 18th century?

A) Legislation  
B) Disease  
C) Improved technology  
D) Overproduction

3. What type of worker is often willing to work in sweatshop labor conditions?

A) Workers in desperate need of a job  
B) Illegal immigrants who may be anxious to avoid involvement with governmental agencies  
C) Workers who don’t speak English or have special skills  
D) All of the above

4. What important gains did “The Uprising” achieve?

A) Paid vacations for workers  
B) Increased public awareness about sweatshop conditions  
C) Higher wages for workers  
D) Encouraged workers to take action to improve their conditions

5. What factors led to the tragic deaths of the Triangle Factory Fire of 1911?

A) Workers are believed to have been locked in the factory  
B) Firefighters’ ladders and water from hoses could not reach the top floors of the building  
C) Many workers chose to jump from windows to their deaths rather than burn alive  
D) All of the above
6. Which was NOT a result of the Triangle Factory Fire of 1911?

A) The first workplace health and safety laws were passed
B) 146 people – mostly young immigrant girls – lost their lives
C) The owners of the factory were held criminally responsible
D) The role that strong unions could have in preventing such tragedies became clear

7. What have modern working conditions been like in many of L.A.’s garment factories?

A) Garment factories now use the latest technologies and rely less heavily on human labor
B) Most positions are now filled by college students rather than immigrants
C) Factories are similar to the sweatshops of the early 1900’s
D) Garment factory workers are paid minimum wage and participate in regular fire drills

8. What kind of power do factory workers have when they organize themselves?

A) Factory workers are the foundation of the garment industry and can strike or otherwise disrupt the production of goods until their demands for fair working conditions are met
B) They can break all production records through streamlined manufacturing systems
C) Factory workers can agree to produce their own garment designs and revolutionize the fashion world
D) They can collect thousands of dollars for charitable causes in the community

9. How have retailers in the past insulated themselves from responsibility for sweatshop labor conditions?

A) They’ve manufactured products themselves, without relying on sub-contractors
B) They said the workers are employees of the factories, not the retailers, and that the factories are solely responsible for worker conditions
C) They’ve pushed for legislation exempting them from responsibility
D) They’ve deported all illegal workers who complained about unfair working conditions

10. How can low price points set by retailers affect the wages of those who manufacture the product?

A) Low price points increase consumer purchasing power and fund paid vacations for factory workers
B) Low prices mean less product needs to be manufactured
C) Low price points set by retailers limit the funds available to pay sub-contractors, who in turn minimize labor costs in order to cover manufacturing expenses and protect profits
D) Low prices stimulate the development of new technologies to streamline the manufacturing process