CSET I: California History

For the most part, I think the Test Prep videos are a pretty good source of information. There were several questions about slavery and Black Americans that aren’t covered by TestPrep. Also, one on Mexicans in California that isn’t covered.

The TestPrep videos on California History are summarized in this PowerPoint. The photos from the Test Prep slides are outlined in blue. I’ve added maps and more photos.

Blue font is used for the CSET Domain information of what you need to know.

Green font and outlined text boxes are for questions on the test I took that were definitely covered in the TestPrep videos.

Questions in red are ones TestPrep didn’t cover at all.

Pink are areas TestPrep talked about, but didn’t hit the actual question asked, but gave info you could reason an answer from.

I’ve indicated what I think are the correct answers, and for those not covered by TestPrep, I’ve added info from the review books that contains the answers, or info about them.

Questions from the CA practice test on the CSET website are in purple.

Of the 26 history questions on the test, 8 multiple choice, and 1 essay were from California History. In one of the review books, someone who had taken the test said essentially the same thing. CA history has about 1/3 of the questions, but has the smallest amount of information to learn.
Domain 3: California History
3.1 The Pre-Columbian Period Through the Gold Rush

3.1a Candidates identify the impact of California’s physical geography on its history.
3.1b They describe the geography, economic activities, folklore, and religion of California’s American Indian peoples.

Video: California’s American Indian Peoples (1:38)

Native Americans came to North America from Asia, walking across the Bering Strait from Asia into Alaska. Then migrated throughout the continent.

At the time Europeans came to America, more Native Americans were in the area that became California than in other parts of the country. They were a Hunter Gatherer Society (hunted for game and gathered plants for food).

There were lots of natural resources in California. Fishing, hunting, gathered food. Main food source was wild Oak trees that produced acorns. Most Indians lived along the base of Sierra Mountains. They ground acorns into flour and leached out acidity by soaking in water. Wove baskets from plants so they could store the acorns in them.

Religion was polytheistic (worshipped multiple gods).

21. Why were more Native Americans living in California than other places in the US. Picked: mild climate and abundant food resources. (Think this is correct answer based on video.)
46. On the eve of European colonization, most of California's American Indians belonged to:

A. pastoral societies in which people domesticated herd animals for food and clothing.

B. horticultural societies in which people cultivated a variety of crops for consumption and exchange.

C. handicraft societies in which artisans produced a wide range of trade goods.

D. hunting and gathering societies in which people fished, hunted, and harvested wild plants.

22. Where were most of the American Indians living in California at the time the explorers arrived. Something about characteristic of Native Americans living in California before Europeans arrived. (These may have been 2 separate questions.) Picked: Tribal unit was highest level of organization (Think this is correct, based on info from REAcset below) Other answers: Most lived along the coast and fished. Living along coast. Settlements were where there was trade.

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3.1c They discuss the impact of Spanish exploration and colonization, including the mission system and its influence on the development of the agricultural of early California.

Video: Spanish Exploration, Colonization, and The Mission System (2:07)

Mission system had a religious and an economic impact on California. Spanish explorers crossed South America from the East Coast and came into California through Mexico. They established Missions 1) to spread Christianity to Native Americans, and 2) to exploit (use) the Native Americans as labor to grow food (agriculture). This didn’t work well. Native Americans didn’t want to convert, and Missions didn’t produce enough food to make it worthwhile. Later the Mexicans became independent of Spain and abolished the Missions (in the next video). Government gave the land to private people who had supported the government. These people became the Ranchero class and lived on Rancheros. They farmed and raised cattle. Pueblos = small towns. Presidio = fort/jail to maintain order and protect trade routes.