AP® Human Geography
2001 Sample Student Responses

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1W-A1of3 Score 12

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The Green Revolution marked the development of new technologies that allowed both greater crop yield and agricultural success. The development of fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemical products has enabled farmers to have more successful outputs. Furthermore, these advances in technology have contributed to a greater focus on commercialized farming whereby agricultural practices are becoming increasingly extensive.

Although the Green Revolution has had a global impact, its influence has been especially noteworthy in the rice crops of Asia as well as in crops of the Indian subcontinent. In each of these areas, the Green Revolution has helped feed rapidly growing populations. However, not all areas in these regions have benefitted equally, and poverty remains a problem in many villages throughout eastern Asia and the subcontinent of India.

The success of the Green Revolution relies on governmental infrastructure as well as a social structure willing to adjust to change. Governmental infrastructure is necessary to provide the foundation for the distribution of new technologies. Only with government aid can farmers in less-developed

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or developing countries truly access all the necessary tools. Yet, even with any type of governmental system, the success of the Green Revolution is also dependent on the culture of the people themselves. Taking advantage of the full range of technologies requires, in many cases, an abandonment of those traditional farming techniques - techniques that have often been with people of certain areas for generations. These people must be ready and willing to use new technologies and techniques for the Green Revolution to succeed.

Two factors that could limit the long-term success of the Green Revolution are the economic instability of a nation and the potential for the overuse of land. Economic instability could prevent farmers from gaining the materials they need. Since competition in global markets is intense, smaller farmers are greatly disadvantaged by a weak national economic structure. Thus, for the Green Revolution to sustain itself, some kind of stable economic foundation must exist. Meanwhile,

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There are hazards associated with the excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemical agents. Such abuse of the land could lead to desertification or salination and inhibit the Green Revolution's success.

In this sense, the ability of the Green Revolution to benefit all countries and peoples depends on a variety of factors. Political stability and cultural adaptability are essential. Yet, even with the presence of these features, the Green Revolution faced many challenges, among them the economic stresses of new technology and the potential for damage to the environment.

1WB 1 of 2 Score 10

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The Green Revolution was also known as the Third Agricultural Revolution. During this time period, new strains of rice and other agricultural products were developed and technology improved agriculture almost everywhere.

Before the 1945-1985 time period, famine and overpopulation plagued the world. When scientists developed a new strain of higher-yielding rice, it was known as "miracle rice". More highly technological equipment was also developed in this time period, making it faster and easier for people around the world to recieve adequate food.

The Green Revolution had a significant impact on crop yields in Southeast asia and in the United States, in which rice and grain consumption, respectively, are high.

Countries that wish to benefit from the impact of the Green Revolution must be willing to forgo traditional practices in order to accept new technological advances in farming. Traditional methods may be slow and limiting.

The political arena in a country must also be willing to accept changes in the farming industry. The government can not control every aspect of the

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Green Revolution, and must be willing to distribute the materials and products equally. The government must also be willing to fund new technological efforts.

If a regim was to undergo a severe climate change, the new high yielding crop may not survive. Such crops are designed to function properly under specific conditions, and if a change in the conditions were to occur, crops would surely be sensitive to their environment.

A region must also have a stable economy in order to sustain higher technology and better farm equipment. If a country's economy was to decrease to recess, it could not afford the luxury of new equipment, jobs for importers and exporters, and scientific knowledge to produce new crop strains. The new crops would run out and the country would be left to cope with famine.

1 w.c 1 of 1 Score 7

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The development of agriculture, economically and technologically, between 1945 and 1985 has been deemed the "Green Revolution". This revolution has led to the production of high-yield crops due to the advancement in ability and capability of crop farmers. Advances in machinery used for bulk harvest and the range of irrigation systems used has catalyzed this revolution in agriculture. The Green Revolution has had a significant impact on crop yields in the grassy heartland of America and in the Middle East where agricultural development was neccessary for betterment of the economy.

Certain political conditions are neccessary for success of the acricultural practices. The government must be involved in free trade, in order to ensure their crop yields are fully consumed/used. Politics must support agriculture by enforcing ~~less strict~~ more open immigration laws, ensuring labor where neccessary.

The agricultural practices/technologies may be limited in success as the environment suffers greatly from continuous farming. The soil, if over-used, will be stripped of the nutrients needed to produce full crop yields. In relation to Malthus' theory, food is arithmetic and population growth is geometric, thus, regardless of high crop yields in the future, we will eventually outgrow our supply of food, regardless of advancement in agricultural practices or technology due to the "Green Revolution."