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AP[®]

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AP[®] United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Question 3: Short Answer No Stimulus**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

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- (A) Briefly describe one way that one Native American society adapted to its environment prior to European contact. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Great Plains Indians primarily relied on the American buffalo/bison for their survival as a source of food.
- Mohawks and other Iroquois nations adapted to their environments by becoming semi-sedentary hunters, gatherers, and agriculturists.
- Pueblo Indians built irrigation systems and adobe houses to address the arid conditions of what would become the Southwestern United States.
- Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest built canoes, totem poles, and plank houses using the vast amounts of trees in the region.
- Cherokee Indians relied on the fertile soil and temperate climate in the Southeast to engage in “three-sister farming.”
- Members of the Iroquois Confederacy used the vast amounts of trees to build long houses and access to rivers to fish and trap animals for their furs.
- The people of the Aztec and Inca empires built sedentary civilizations, utilizing the productive soil with plenty of water to build agricultural societies that produced enough wealth to build large marketplaces and urban infrastructures.
- Groups like the Cherokee relied heavily on corn, fish, bison/buffalo, and maintaining important generational knowledge about the environment for survival.
- Some Native American groups, particularly in the Great Lakes region, built extensive networks of earthen mounds for cultural and religious purposes.
- Aztecs altered the physical environment to make areas more habitable by creating floating gardens (chinampas).
- Eastern woodlands peoples altered the physical environment to make areas more habitable by burning forests to maximize hunting conditions.
- Terraced agriculture was used by the Inca in Peru due to the mountain ranges.

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- (B)** Briefly explain one similarity in how Native American societies in two regions adapted to European contact from 1492 to 1763. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Native American societies in the Northeast and Southwest welcomed European contact but then began to resist in order to preserve their lands and way of life.
- Groups in both the Great Plains and the Great Basin adapted their societies to center around access to horses introduced by Europeans.
- Native American societies in both New England and Middle colonies adopted guns, hatchets, copper kettles, and other manufactured items into their societies once they made contact with Europeans.
- Native American societies in French Canada and in the Middle colonies formed larger alliances with other Native American tribes in order to protect themselves from European invasion of their land.
- Algonquin and the Cherokees established extensive trade connections and networks with Europeans, ranging from rum to clothing.
- Both the Huron and Iroquois traded with the Europeans to get weapons so they could fight their enemies.

Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:

- Aztec, Inca, Pueblo, Zuni, and Hopi resistance
- Native American alliances during the Seven Years' War
- Pocahontas from Powhatan and La Malinche from Aztec

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- (C)** Briefly explain one difference in how Native American societies in two regions adapted to European contact from 1492 to 1763. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Some Native American societies responded through peaceful trade relations, such as in French Canada, compared to aggressive resistance, such as in some of the English colonies.
- Within French Canada Native American societies integrated French culture, whereas within New Spain, some Native American societies maintained sovereignty.
- The Plains Indians adapted European horses for hunting, while the groups in the Northeast continued to live by farming despite contact with Europeans.
- The Iroquois Confederacy made war on neighboring Indian groups to compensate for losses due to diseases introduced by Europeans (i.e., "mourning wars"), while Wendats (Huron) allied with the French.
- Some members of the Aztec elite entered into marriages with Europeans, while other tribes like the Pueblo refused assimilation.

Total for question 3 3 points

Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a) The pueblo people in the southwest adapted to their environment by building permanent structures of clay and stone into the side of cliffs, which are still around today. These buildings provided a refuge from the heat in the southwest, and led to the creation of permanent, sedentary societies.

b) Native people in both French Canada and Dutch New Netherland adapted to European contact by engaging in trade w/ those nations and coexisting economically. French Canada's fur trade w/ native peoples allowed the two groups to mutually benefit, natives getting finished goods, and encouraged peaceful coexistence. Very similarly, the Dutch traded w/ native peoples as well, trading furs and weapons. Even though these occurred in very different regions of NA, the native groups had similar interactions and goals from those interactions (trading, gaining goods, weapons.)

c) While groups in the southwest fought back against European control, groups in the Northeast allied with Europeans to destroy other native groups. The Pueblo revolt was the most successful example of native resistance, kicking the Spanish out of Pueblo territory on their own to preserve their culture, which caused the Spanish to be more accommodating when they returned. The Pequot war in the NE was fought between the Pequot vs the Mohegan and the British. The Mohegan wanted to destroy other native culture to gain control of British trade, and did so, instead of trying to preserve it and resist.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a) One way that Native American societies adapted to its environment prior to European contact was the ~~use~~ utilizing the natural resources in their regional areas. The ancient Aztec civilization used a huge lake as a form of safety & protection for their city by creating a civilization in the direct center so it was highly inaccessible for people unfamiliar with the area; they also used this lake water to irrigate their crops. The Incan civilization also used the mountain ranges in South America to make their society inaccessible and safe as well.

b) One similarity in how Native American societies adapted to European contact was by introducing trade relations with them. Many Northern tribes would trade furs for metals & weapons. ~~On~~ On the other hand southern tribes located in South America would offer things like gold to the Europeans some of which included Spanish conquistadors.

c) One difference in how ~~the~~ Native societies adapted to European contact was in terms of enslavement. In North America the relations between Europeans & Natives was mostly docile with a few exceptions. However, in the southern part of the Americas Europeans like the Spanish conquistadors implemented things like the encomienda system which was a form of enslavement & used for labor purposes to benefit the Europeans.

Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4** on this page only. Do **NOT** write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

3. a) One way that native american society adapted to its environment was to build complex irrigation systems. Native american societies like the aztecs were able to build many water ways and complex irrigation system which led to blossoming empires that had lots of agriculture.
- b) One similarity in how native american societies adapted to Europeans was to form allies with them. ~~Lewis and Clark~~ When the spanish arrived to the americas native american tribes would form allies with the europeans in order to gain more strength over other native american societies.
- c) One difference in how native american societies adapted with Europeans is that some had violent interactions and others had peaceful. Many native american societies in north america participated ⁱⁿ ~~with~~ the fur trade which increased european economies.

Short Answer Question 3

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

- Responses were expected to describe how Native American societies adapted to different environmental conditions prior to European encounters.
- Responses were expected to explain a similarity and a difference in how Native American societies from two regions adapted to European encounters from 1492–1763.
- This question primarily addressed Topics 1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 2.5, and 3.2.

Sample Identifier: 3A

Score: 3

The response to part (a) earned 1 point by describing how the Pueblo people developed housing within the cliffs of the Southwest, which demonstrated how the Native American society adapted to its environment.

The response to part (b) earned 1 point by explaining how Native American societies in French Canada and Dutch New Netherland developed trade relations with European colonists, exchanging furs for weapons.

The response to part (c) earned 1 point by explaining the difference between how Native Americans in the Southwest and Northeast responded to European encounters. The response identifies the Pueblo Revolt, a form of resistance seeking to halt Spanish colonization, as differing from the development of an alliance between the Mohegans and the British against the Pequots in New England.

Sample Identifier: 3B

Score: 2

The response to part (a) earned 1 point by presenting how the Aztec people utilized the lake around their capital city to irrigate crops, which demonstrates how the society adapted to its environment prior to European contact.

The response to part (b) earned 1 point by presenting a qualified trade development that occurred as a result of European contact. In the northern part of the Americas, many Native Americans traded furs with Europeans for metal goods and weapons, while in South America, exchange with Europeans involved gold.

The response to part (c) did not earn a point because it presents a European response to Native American encounters, focusing on policies implemented by Europeans that impacted Native American societies.

Short Answer Question 3 (continued)

Sample Identifier: 3C

Score: 1

The response to part (a) earned 1 point by describing the Aztec people's use of irrigation systems to aid the development of their society.

The response to part (b) did not earn a point because it only explains one Native American society's response to European encounters through developing alliances with Europeans.

The response to part (c) did not earn a point because it does not provide two Native American societies and their attempts to adapt to European contact.