

**AP<sup>®</sup> WORLD HISTORY**  
**2014 SCORING GUIDELINE**

**Question 3**

**BASIC CORE** (competence)

**0–7 Points**

**1. Has acceptable thesis.**

**1 Point**

- The thesis must correctly address both a similarity and a difference in how TWO empires used religion to govern.
- The thesis must be explicitly stated in the introduction or the specified conclusion of the essay.
- The thesis may appear as one sentence or as multiple sentences.
- A thesis that is split among multiple paragraphs or merely restates the prompt is unacceptable.
- The thesis CANNOT count for any other point.

**2. Addresses all parts of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly.**

**1–2 Points**

**For 2 points:**

- Identifies at least one similarity **AND** one difference in the use of religion to govern in the specified empires.

**For 1 point:**

- Identifies one similarity **OR** one difference in the use of religion to govern in the specified empires.

**3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence.**

**1–2 Points**

**For 2 points:**

- Must provide at least five pieces of relevant and accurate evidence related to religions in the specified empires.
- At least one piece of evidence must be from each empire.

**For 1 point:**

- Must provide at least three pieces of relevant and accurate evidence related to religions in the specified empires.

**4. Makes at least one direct, relevant comparison in the way two empires used religion to govern.**

**1 Point**

- Makes at least ONE explicit and factually correct statement of similarity or difference in the use of religion to govern in the specified empires.

**5. Analyzes at least one reason for a similarity or a difference identified in a direct comparison.**

**1 Point**

- The analysis must explain the reason for a similarity or difference as it applies to both empires.

**Subtotal**

**7 Points**

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**Question 3 (continued)**

**EXPANDED CORE** (excellence)

**0–2 Points**

Expands beyond basic core of 1–7 points. A student **must** earn **7 points** in the basic core area before earning points in the expanded core area.

**Examples:**

- Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis.
- Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate the thesis.
- Relates comparisons to larger global context.
- Makes several direct, relevant comparisons between the ways empires used religion to govern.
- Consistently analyzes relevant similarities and differences in the way empires used religion to govern.
- Recognizes nuances in the way empires used religion to govern.

**Subtotal**

**2 Points**

**TOTAL**

**9 Points**

During the postclassical time period of History, before 1450, two new empires arose in the ~~Mediterranean~~ <sup>Eastern</sup> Mediterranean and the Middle East/North Africa, the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Caliphates respectively. The Byzantine, influenced by Christianity and the Islamic Caliphates, influenced by the teachings of Muhammad effectively established the regions through the use of their respective religions. The Byzantine and the Caliphates sponsored Christianity and Islam respectively as the state religions and established their head of state more or less as the key religious leader. Additionally, they used religion in their own ways as justification to spread their governance. The laws however were not similar. Byzantine laws were established upon Roman ones and the Muslims centered their laws on the Quran.

Religion was an important aspect of both societies and neither of the two empires failed to recognize it. Because of this, the heads of state in both empires, Emperor in the Byzantine and Caliph in the Caliphates were both established as the head religious figures. This similarity shows how both empowered their leaders control by associating them with the personal beliefs of their inhabitants and thereby giving them more areas to govern. As a political leader, dissent from the ruler could arise, but as a religious leader, the fear of violating individual beliefs would deter a worst and the spheres as a religious <sup>leader</sup> would allow more control over subjects. Both empires are similar in using religion in this way.

Additionally, both also used religion as a justification for expansion. When Islam began, it had a small base in Mecca before gaining larger support in Medina and Mecca. After the death of Muhammad, the idea of a Jihad, or holy war, was used as a reason to largely expand and spread their faith, and in turn their governance. From 630 C.E. they spread across North Africa and the Middle East. The Byzantine, similarly used Christianity as reason to expand. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the seat of Christianity, Rome was lost to

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Christians in the east. Emperor Justinian using the Christianity's desire to reclaim Rome used religious thoughts to justify and execute military assaults on lost land. By using Christianity as a reason to reclaim Rome, Justinian attempted to widen the area he governed, and though in the long the <sup>the</sup> Byzantine Empire loses the holdings they reclaim, the use of religion to justify a spreading governance is a ~~star~~ common thing both the Byzantines and the Caliphs share.

Though having their similarities with the role of religion in governance, ~~both~~ they differ in terms of their laws. The Byzantine Empire was initially the Eastern half of the Roman Empire. Because of this, their laws, while influenced by Christianity, were founded upon Roman principles. They had a Roman leader, (Emperor), they followed Roman laws, and ultimately worked their hardest to emulate Roman. In fact they didn't even see themselves as a new empire but as a continuation of Rome. They knew themselves as Romans, not Byzantines. On the other hand, Islamic law was based on Sharia law. You paid zakat, followed ideas of Islamic punishment and ultimately your laws were the Quran's laws. Though there was religious tolerance, ~~there~~ on non-muslims were implemented to promote conversion to Islam. Such religious religious fervor in governance is unparalleled by any other especially not the Byzantines. In the Islamic Caliphates, religious law governed while in the Byzantine Empire, Christianity only mildly influenced Roman idealized laws.

#3

Before 1450, the Islamic Caliphates and the Byzantine Empire both had similarities and differences in the way they governed. Islamic Caliphates in the Middle East and some parts of Africa shared aspects with the Byzantine Empire in government, also differences.

Islamic Caliphates in the period before 1450 and the Byzantine Empire both based their governments on religion. Islamic Caliphates created laws based on the religion of Islam and its holy book the Quran. While the Byzantine Empire based its political views on the religion of Christianity. The Byzantine Empire built churches where people can worship and learn about Christianity whereas Islamic Caliphates used the Sharia Law where equal punishment is given to criminals. As the Byzantine Empire used Christianity as justice, one could beg for forgiveness or confess and be forgiven.

The Byzantine Empire and Islamic Caliphates also shared differences such as who would rule. In Islamic Caliphates the ruler would be based on if the land contains

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

#3

a majority of Shittas or Shias. One believes that the successor should be one who shares the bloodline of Prophet Muhammad. Whereas in the Byzantine Empire Christianity would allow one who is dedicated to that religion to rule. The population will select one who could rule based on religion.

During the early 15<sup>th</sup> century Islamic Caliphates and the Byzantine Empire shared common comparisons and contrasts in the way they used religion to govern. Using laws from the nations religion to enforce justice and legal systems.

The Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Caliphates used similar and different ways to religiously govern before 1450. For example, a difference is that the Byzantine Empire was led by Christianity and the Islamic Caliphates was Muslim. Although different both had similarities such as the use of their God to control or rule the government.

They were different in that not only did they ~~base~~ base their government off of different religions but they forced the practice of only one religion. For example the ~~leader~~ leader in the Byzantine Empire was the Pope. The Pope made all decisions regarding to government issues. Whereas the Islamic Caliphates were not a part of the church and he governed the region.

Similarities between these two empires was that power ~~was~~ was given to the church rather than a government. Also that gods are used as a symbolic figure and the government is based off of those beliefs. Also all members of that society were forced to practice that religion or face consequences set ~~by~~ by the government which can result in the death of yourself and family. Another similarity is that both religions are monotheistic. ~~and both were~~

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Both the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Caliphate had many similarities and differences in the way they governed their empires using religion. From the Byzantine having one leader, the Pope, and the Islamic Caliphate having many, or the caliphate, and a ~~differs~~ similarity of forcing the religion upon civilians in that empire.



# AP<sup>®</sup> WORLD HISTORY

## 2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 3

#### Overview

The intent of this question was for students to identify and explain similarities and differences in the way two empires (Maurya/Gupta, Islamic Caliphates, Byzantine) used religion to rule until 1450. In particular, the question measured the historical thinking skill of comparison and contextualization (Skill 3) and Key Concept 2.1 (The Development and Codification of Religious and Cultural Traditions) and Key Concept 3.2 (Continuity and Innovation of State Forms and Their Interactions). The question assessed content and thematic knowledge of Periods 2 and 3, especially students' thematic understanding of the use of religion to rule.

#### Sample: 3A

**Score: 8**

The first paragraph combines several sentences to address a similarity in the way the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Caliphates used religion to establish rulers and regimes and a difference in the use of religion to establish laws (1 point). Similarity of rulers as religious figures is addressed in the second paragraph, and a similar use of religion to support conquest appears in the third paragraph, while a difference in the use of religion to create law is addressed in the fourth paragraph (2 points). Other similarities are found in the second paragraph, regarding the establishment of rulers as head religious figures, and in the third paragraph comparing the use of religion to justify expansion; the fourth paragraph explains a difference between the Byzantine secular laws only mildly influenced by Christianity as opposed to Islamic sharia law based directly on the Quran (1 point). Causes for similarities and differences include attempts to deter unrest and increase control over subjects, the use of religion to inspire military action to gain new land or reclaim lost land, and the secular nature of the Roman legal code compared to sharia law (1 point). There are nine pieces of valid evidence, five relating to the Islamic Caliphates and four relating to the Byzantine Empire (2 points). The essay earned all the core points, and it provided strong analysis to earn an expanded core point (1 point).

#### Sample: 3B

**Score: 4**

The attempted thesis does not adequately qualify similarities or differences in how empires used religion to rule. In the second paragraph, the student successfully addresses a similarity in the Islamic Caliphates' use of the Quran in law and the Byzantine use of religion to shape political views, but the attempt at addressing a difference fails to connect the use of religion to rule (1 point). The treatment of similarity in the second paragraph is also a direct comparison (1 point). The essay contains five pieces of valid evidence, three relating to Islam and two relating to Christianity (2 points).

#### Sample: 3C

**Score: 1**

This essay includes an attempt at a thesis in the first paragraph but inadequately ties differences in religion to how those religions were used to govern. Much of the paragraph is a restatement of the prompt. Attempts at similarity and difference are incorrect, even though the structure of comparison and contrast is in place. The essay contains three pieces of valid evidence (1 point).