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AP® World History
Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

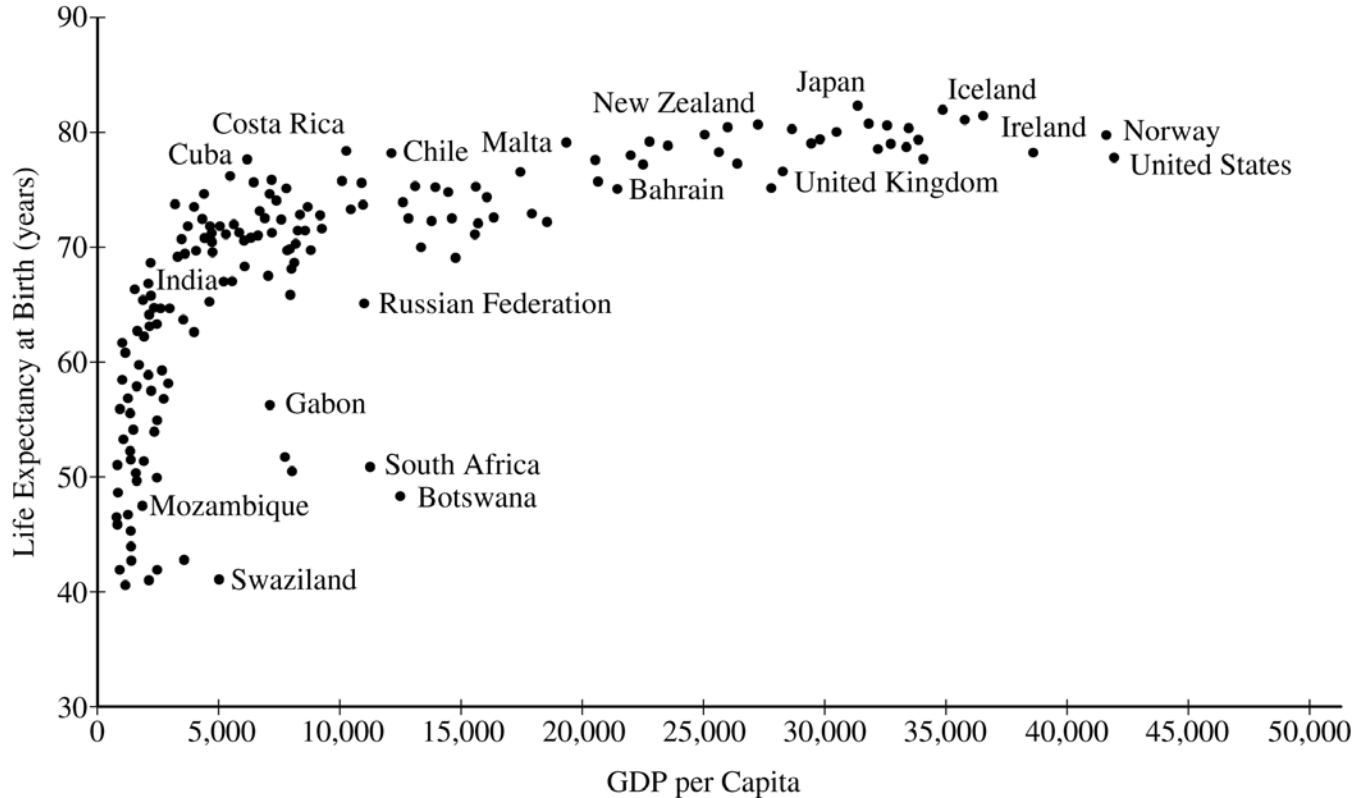## Inside:

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Short Answer Question 2

Use the graph below to answer all parts of the question that follows.

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH COMPARED TO GDP* PER CAPITA, 2005

Source: Adapted from Tim Jackson, *Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet* (London: Earthscan, 2009), p. 56.

*a measurement of a country's economic production in a given year

a) Identify ONE way that the data in the chart illustrate global economic <u>differences</u> between countries in the late twentieth century.

b) Identify ONE <u>similarity</u> (other than GDP per capita) that might account for the low life expectancies of some of the world's countries, as displayed in the chart.

c) Explain ONE way in which longer life expectancies in some of the world's countries, as displayed in the chart, have led to new political, economic, or social problems.

0–3 points

Score 3
Response accomplishes all three tasks set by the question.

Score 2
Response accomplishes two of the tasks set by the question.

Score 1
Response accomplishes one of the tasks set by the question.

Score 0
Response accomplishes none of the tasks set by the question.

Score NR
No response. Response is completely blank.

Scoring Guide

0–3 points
- ONE point for identifying one way that the data in the chart illustrate global economic differences between countries in the late twentieth century
- ONE point for identifying one similarity (other than GDP per capita) that might account for the low life expectancies of some of the world's countries, as displayed in the chart
- ONE point for explaining one way in which longer life expectancies in some of the world's countries, as displayed in the chart, have led to new political, economic, or social problems

Scoring Notes

Examples of responses to part (a) that would earn credit:
- The data show that the United States has a higher GDP than Swaziland.
- The chart shows that developed countries have higher life expectancies than underdeveloped countries.
- The chart shows that people in developed economies in the West and Asia live longer than people in underdeveloped countries because they have better access to modern medicine and vaccines.

Examples of responses to part (b) that would earn credit:
- Poor water and food quality contribute to the low life expectancies in some of the countries shown in the chart.
- Formerly colonized countries shown in the chart might find it difficult to improve sanitation infrastructure and medical care because of economic imperialism.
- The lack of access to quality medical care and vaccines is a reason for the low life expectancies in some of the countries shown in the chart, particularly with the emergence of epidemic diseases such as AIDS and malaria.

Examples of responses to part (c) that would earn credit:
- Countries with long life expectancies have people who are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases, which strains the healthcare system.
- Longer life expectancies in the countries shown in the chart have led to an increased economic burden on a decreasing population of working-age citizens, creating social and political tensions.
- In Western European countries such as Norway and the United Kingdom, longer life-expectancy rates have created political controversy as a result of those governments' commitment to social welfare programs.

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a) One way the data in the chart illustrates global economic differences is the difference in GDP per capita between the Global North and Global South. ~~For example,~~ in relation to life expectancy. For example, countries like the United States have high GDP per capita AND life expectancy, while India and similar countries have low GDP per capita AND lower life expectancy.

b) One similarity that might account for the low life expectancies of some of the world's countries is the presence of diseases like malaria. These diseases are rampant in tropical climates in parts of Africa and South America, and kill thousands annually, decreasing life expectancy.

c) One way in which longer life expectancies in some of the world's countries have led to economic problems is a unbalanced ratio between elderly retirees who no longer work and younger workers. These unbalanced ratios exert more pressure on social programs like pensions and healthcare, due to the ~~lack of~~ fewer amounts of taxable income and productivity governments can gain from working citizens.

End of response area for Q2

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

a) The data in the chart illustrates global economic differences between countries in the late twentieth centry because of the start differences between developing countries and developed countries. This differentiation was due to states of economic degredation in previously imperialized nations. These nations were left in corruption and ruin, like the African countries shown, and they lacked proper recourses to have good life expectancy like developed countries (mainly Europe and the U.S.). This is all due to Imperialism.

b) One similarity that acounts for low life expectancies is that these countries were previously imperialized or colonized. These countries like South Africa (British colony) and India (also British Colony) were in decline, filled with corruption, poverty, and in dept, when Europeans decolonized and left. This similarity acounts for the massive treand of low life expectancy in previously colonized/imperialized countries, who are not in great standing today.

c) Life expectancy in richer world countries has led to major population decline. In countries like Japan and the United Kingdom where life expectancy is very high, there is a larger population of elders than ever before. There is a trend toward having less children also. This is in part because it is so expensive to live in these countries that parents can't afford to have more than one or two children. This trend will grow in the future, leeding to a slowing population growth.

End of response area for Q2

2C

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 2 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

A) The chart illustrates the connection between GDP and life expectancy at birth in varying countries across the world. The chart shows differences between the countries economies and their economic successes by using the countries GDP. GDP is a global indicator of the strength of countries economy and by outlining the countries GDP we can compare the global economic standing.

B) One similarity between the countries that have low life expectancies outside of GDP would be a shared history of colonialization and violence. All countries had been under an imperial rule of some sort and when their occupiers left replacing the government resulted in turmoil. Continued violence can lead to lower standard of living and lower life expectancy.

C) With more people living longer finding ways to care for aging citizens is a huge problem globally. Assuring that aging citizens have income into their later years and they have access to healthcare and nursing homes is an issue. More people living longer means citizens wait to retire. The usual turnover and opening of positions is not happening creating a shortage of jobs. These economic issues have put a strain on countries especially Japan and the United States.

End of response area for Q2

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Short Answer Question 2

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

Overview

For this short-answer question, students were expected to analyze the data in the chart to identify global economic differences between countries and identify a factor that might account for low life expectancy at birth in some of the countries displayed on the chart. Furthermore, students needed to explain how longer life expectancy in some countries has led to political, social, or economic challenges. Students were expected to demonstrate the ability to analyze data and the understanding of the relationship between the global economy in the late twentieth century and shifting demographic, political, and social trends. The question addressed Key Concepts 6.1 and 6.3 in the AP World History Curriculum Framework and the historical reasoning skills of Comparison and Causation.

Sample: 2A
Score: 3

a) The response earned 1 point because it uses the data in the chart to identify the difference in life expectancy between countries in the "Global North" that have higher GDPs and countries in the "Global South" that have lower GDPs.

b) The response earned 1 point because it identifies the presence of tropical diseases, like malaria, as a factor that accounts for low life expectancy in some countries.

c) The response earned 1 point because it explains how countries with long life expectancy may experience an unbalanced ratio of working age and elderly retiree populations that creates an economic strain due to increasing demands for social welfare programs, including healthcare, which require greater taxation to support.

Sample: 2B
Score: 2

a) The response earned 1 point because it uses the chart to identify the economic differences between developing postcolonial African countries that lack resources and economically developed Western countries that benefitted from imperialism.

b) The response earned 1 point because it identifies the corruption and poverty experienced by postcolonial countries as they became independent as a factor that may account for low life-expectancy rates.

c) The response did not earn the point because it does not explain how an increased elderly population has led to a higher cost of living and slow population growth in wealthier countries such as Japan and the United Kingdom.

Sample: 2C
Score: 1

a) The response did not earn the point because it explains how GDP is used but does not use the data in the chart to identify an economic difference between life-expectancy rates of the countries included in the chart.

b) The response did not earn the point because it does not identify a specific way in which a history of colonization contributes to low life expectancy in some countries as displayed in the chart.

c) The response earned 1 point because it explains the issue of providing income and healthcare for aging populations and the resulting economic strain for countries that have long life-expectancy rates.