
AP[®] World History: Modern

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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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.

(A) Identify ONE continuity in the political system of China in the period 1200–1750. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- China was ruled by an imperial system for the entire period.
- Chinese government depended on Confucian principles.
- The civil service exam continued to be used throughout this time period.
- China's government had a professional bureaucracy.
- Chinese governments continued to follow the dynastic cycle throughout this period.

(B) Identify ONE change in the political system of China in the period 1200–1750. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The Ming dynasty overthrew the Mongols.
 - The Qing dynasty overthrew the Ming dynasty.
 - China was ruled by multiple non-Chinese dynasties, such as the Jin, Yuan, and Qing.
 - The Mongols sometimes used the traditional examination system but did not allow Chinese officials to obtain high positions in government.
 - The Qing dynasty organized its military and administration according to the banner system.
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- (C)** Explain ONE way in which political continuities in China influenced the development of the global economy in the period 1200–1750. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The relative stability of Chinese governments helped make China a major producer of luxury goods for export to Afro-Eurasia.
- Chinese imperial policies encouraged the import of silver, first from Japan and then from the Americas.
- China’s stability and productivity encouraged the growth of trade routes such as the Silk Roads and the Indian Ocean that connected China with other parts of Afro-Eurasia.
- Chinese dynasties continued to demand recognition of their political superiority through the tribute-trade system, which restricted the trading activities of Asian and European merchants.

Total for question 3 3 points

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 continuity of the political system of China was Confucianism. This is because it was the principle of its imperial bureaucracy, and even when the Manchus took over, the civil service exam and Confucianism is still there. This shows how China continued to be an imperial bureaucracy even when new people came to power.

b) one change in China's political system was the brief stoppage of the civil service exam. While this didn't stick for long, in a series of reforms by an empress, the civil service exam wasn't required. This changed China's long-standing tradition of meritocracy.

c) one political continuity of China's involvement in the global economy was state-sponsored exploration. This can be seen with Zheng He's explorations, in which he traveled much of the world, which led to global connections and trade. This type of movement is also seen through their protection of the silk road and building of the Grand Canal. These things all helped facilitate trade and make China prosperous during this period. This shows how state-sponsored activity allowed China to become economically wealthy through trade.

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 continuity in the political system of China in the period 1200-1750 was their Communist run government. They never strayed from it for they believed that it was the best way to govern over their people. Aspects may have changed or ^{been} adapted to but they never went away with it for they could best control their people that way.
- b) one change in the political system of China in the period 1200-1750 was momentarily getting rid of the civil service exam during the Mongols rule. They did not like how this dictated who helped run the government and so they saw it fit to be changed.
- c) one way in which political continuities in China influenced the development of the global economy in the period 1200-1750 was how the government continually wanted silver and European goods. Which meant that overall they continued to trade with the outside world for they really wanted these goods and services. This developed ~~for~~ the global economy because they were participating in trade with other nations. They were bringing their own value to the economy and trading with others back and forth which boosted the economy overall.

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 continuity in the political system of China in 1200-1750 is the use of the civil service exam. This exam would determine one's capability of work in the government. This used continued over time as a way to select new government officials.

b. One change in the political system of China in the period 1200-1750 is Mao's use of totalitarianism during his reign. Mao Zedong implemented many economic, cultural, and political reforms at this time. The cultural revolution would silence critics as he made changes in attempt to restore China.

c. One way political continuities in China influenced the development of the global economy in the period 1200-1750 is China's contribution to production. During the period of immense trade, China was exporting as many goods as possible to contain mass amounts of silver. This would give China great wealth and would later influence the economy by the use of banks and new currency.

Short Answer Question 3

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

Overview

Students were asked to identify one continuity in the political system of China in the period 1200–1750. They then were asked to identify one change in the political system of China in the period 1200–1750. And, lastly, they were asked to explain one way in which political continuities in China influenced the development of the global economy in that same period. The question primarily addressed Topics 1.1., 2.1., and 4.4. of the AP World History: Modern Course and Exam Description.

Sample: 3A

Score: 3

- a) The response earned 1 point for identifying Confucianism as a political continuity in the period 1200–1750.
- b) The response earned 1 point for identifying the brief stoppage of the civil service exam in China due to reforms in the period 1200–1750.
- c) The response earned 1 point for explaining that state-sponsored activity such as the Chinese government’s involvement in the voyages of Zheng He, the protection of the Silk Roads, and the construction of the Grand Canal influenced the development of the global economy.

Sample: 3B

Score: 2

- a) The response did not earn a point because the discussion of China’s communist government is outside of the specified time period.
- b) The response earned 1 point by identifying the “momentarily getting rid of the civil service exam during the Mongols rule” as a change in the political system in China.
- c) The response earned 1 point by explaining that China’s government “wanted silver” and the trade that continued “boosted the economy overall.”

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

- a) The response earned 1 point for identifying the civil service exam as a political continuity in the period 1200–1750.
- b) The response did not earn a point because the explanation refers to Mao Zedong, whose rule falls outside the time period.
- c) The response did not earn a point because the explanation does not address a political continuity that influenced China’s role in global trade.