
AP[®] World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Question 1: Short Answer Secondary Source**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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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)** Identify ONE economic development that would support Biran’s argument in the passage regarding the Mongols and the “integration of the old world.” **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The stability and size of the Mongol Empire led to the expansion of the silk road trade.
- Many cities in Afro-Eurasia grew larger and wealthier.
- Merchants could travel vast distances across Afro-Eurasia easier and more safely under Mongol rule.

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- (B)** Explain how ONE piece of evidence would **challenge** Biran’s argument regarding the Mongols and “the first chapter of a new era.” **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The new era only began when connections between Afro-Eurasia and the Americas were established.
 - The Mongol period only saw an expansion of previously existing trends in earlier decades and centuries.
 - The Mongol conquests destroyed as much as they benefitted peoples of Afro-Eurasia.
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(C) Explain how ONE intercultural transfer or exchange resulted from the Mongol conquests. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Under the support of Mongol rulers, religions, such as Islam or Buddhism, spread.
- Mongol conquests in Eurasia led to Mongol adoption of local religions and political practices.
- The Mongol unification of regions from China to the Middle East to Europe led to the spread of technologies, such as gunpowder, and pathogens, such as the plague.
- Mongol rule brought Islamic geographic, mathematical, and scientific knowledge to China.

Total for question 1 3 points

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

A) One economic development that supports Biran's argument is their protection of the Silk Road. The Mongols allowed merchants traveling on the trade route to be protected and safe from any harm. As a result, goods and culture were able to be transferred between the different continents.

B) One piece of evidence that challenges Biran's argument would be European maritime exploration. With the use of new technology such as ships, compasses, and lateen sails, European countries were able to travel distant places in shorter times. Although Mongol conquest led to interactions in their empire, maritime voyages played a more significant role in expanding one's influence and transporting ideas and goods, thus making it more worthy of being the start of a new era.

C) One intercultural exchange that resulted from Mongol conquest was the spread of religions. Due to the Mongols protecting travel across Eurasia, there were exchanges of goods, ideas, and religion. Christianity, Islam, and other religions made their way to different parts of the world thanks to the Mongols keeping the trade routes safe.

End of response area for Q1

0331800

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

- a) The Mongol rule of China in the 15th century and their taking over of the silk roads supports the argument that the Mongol period led to closer integration of the world. They made the silk roads safer than ever, facilitating more and longer-distance trade. This economic development led to the world cultures and goods being exchanged at a fast pace.
- b) The Mongols violence and brutality counters the argument that they led to world integration. When the Mongols were in their peak, they conquered entire civilizations by whiping out populations. This would only suppress various peoples and cultures throughout the world.
- c) The Mongol conquests resulted in trade from Africa to Eurasia. After gaining control over much of the silk roads, the Mongols safety measures and assistance to merchants allowed for trade between Africa and much of Eurasia.

End of response area for Q1

0334197



Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.
Do not skip lines.

- A.) One economic development supporting Britain's argument is the lateen sail. This allowed travel to be easier during this time period and proved to be useful.
- B.) One piece of evidence that challenges the argument is the discovery of the Americas. This started an entire new chapter with a new power house that would change the world.
- C.) The Mongol conquest took control over China and had a major intercultural transfer here. Many people were forced or influenced into the Mongol culture.

End of response area for Q1

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Short Answer Question 1

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

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to analyze a secondary source document related to the role and impact of the Mongols in the period 1200–1450. In part A students were asked to identify one economic development that supported the author’s argument about Old-World integration. In part B the students were asked to explain how one piece of evidence challenged the notion that Mongol expansion marked a new era. Finally, in part C students were asked to explain how one intercultural transfer or exchange resulted from Mongol conquests. This question primarily addressed Topics 2.1, 2.2, and 2.5 of the AP World History: Modern Course and Exam Description.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

- a) The response earned 1 point for identifying that the Mongols provided protection for merchants traveling on trade routes allowing for the transfer of goods and culture.
- b) The response earned 1 point for explaining how later European maritime exploration was more worthy of being the start of a new era than the Mongol conquests.
- c) The response earned 1 point for explaining how goods, ideas, and religion, including Christianity and Islam, were spread due to Mongol protection of trade routes across Eurasia.

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

- a) The response earned 1 point for identifying that the Mongols “made the silk roads safer than ever, facilitating more and longer-distance trade.”
- b) The response earned 1 point for explaining how “Mongol violence and brutality counters the argument that they led to world integration.”
- c) The response did not earn the point because while it addresses Mongol support for trade, it does not explain an intercultural exchange or transfer.

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

- a) The response did not earn the point because the invention and use of the lateen sail are not related to Mongol conquest and expansion.
- b) The response earned 1 point for explaining how the discovery of the Americas was the start of a new era, which challenges Biran’s argument.
- c) The response did not earn the point because although it identifies that the Mongols took control over China, it does not explain the intercultural transfer or exchange.