

2023

AP[®]



AP[®] World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

Inside:

Long Essay Question 2

- Scoring Guidelines
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- Scoring Commentary

Question 2: Long Essay Question, Mongol Expansion and Eurasia

6 points

General Scoring Notes

- Except where otherwise noted, each point of these rubrics is earned independently; for example, a student could earn a point for evidence without earning a point for thesis/claim.
- **Accuracy:** The components of these rubrics require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, essays may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 essays 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.

In the period circa 1200 to 1450, the expansion of empires such as the Mongol Empire facilitated trade and communication across Eurasia.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia during this period.

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria					
Row A Thesis/Claim (0-1 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.				
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes						
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Additional Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The thesis or claim must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion (which may not be limited to the first or last paragraphs). • The thesis or claim must identify a relevant development(s) in the period, although it is not required to encompass the entire period. 						

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
<p>Row B Contextualization</p>	<p>0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.</p>	<p>1 point Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.</p>
<p>(0-1 points)</p>	<p>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</p>	
<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an overgeneralized statement about the time period referenced in the prompt. Provide context that is not relevant to the prompt. Provide a passing phrase or reference. <p>Examples that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“Many empires developed in Eurasia before the Mongols formed their own empire and these empires affected peoples across Eurasia.”</i> <i>“The Silk Roads linked many cultures across Eurasia.”</i> 	<p>Responses that earn this point: Accurately describe a context relevant to the Mongol expansion or the peoples of Eurasia.</p> <p>Examples of relevant context that earn this point include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spread of new technologies and scientific ideas across Eurasia The continuing spread of religions, such as Islam, Christianity, or Buddhism The importance of Silk Road trade to commerce and culture across Eurasia The decline or military weakness of the Song dynasty and Muslim states, such as the Abbasid Caliphate or the Khwrazamian Empire Specific information about religious or philosophical traditions, such as Islam or Confucianism Feudalism or other information about social or political hierarchies The expansion of nomadic empires across Eurasia The expansion and development of the Jin Dynasty in Northern China The Crusades in the Middle East <p>Example of acceptable contextualization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“The Mongol empire under Chinggis Khan developed in the context of a Jin dynasty that, while militarily powerful, was beginning to experience internal discord and a weak ruler.”</i> <i>“The Mongols’ nomadic background made them great warriors.”</i> (Minimally acceptable contextualization) 	
<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question. To earn this point, the context provided must be more than a phrase or reference. 		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria					
<p>Row C Evidence (0-2 points)</p>	<p>0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.</p>	<p>1 point Provides specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.</p>	<p>2 points Supports an argument in response to the prompt using specific and relevant examples of evidence.</p>			
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes						
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Although the Mongols invaded Eastern Europe in 1241, their cultural impact was mostly limited to areas where nomadic influence was already strong.”</i> (Uses multiple, specific pieces of evidence to support the argument that the Mongols’ cultural impact in Europe was limited) • <i>“The Islamic world was substantially changed by the Mongol conquests. 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<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically, statements credited as evidence will be more specific than statements credited as contextualization. • If a response has a multipart argument, then it can meet the threshold of two pieces of evidence by giving one example for one part of the argument and another example for a different part of the argument, but the total number of examples must still be at least two. (For example, the Mongols contributed to the further spread of Islam among Turkic peoples; the Mongols spread gunpowder.) 						

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
Row D Analysis and Reasoning (0-2 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Uses historical reasoning (e.g., comparison, causation, continuity, and change) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt.	2 points Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes			

In the period 1200-1450, the Mongols had conquered large territories throughout Asia under Genghis Khan. As a result of their expansion, the Mongols were able to control trade throughout the entirety of their empire. They did this through their policy of Pax Mongolica, which promoted peace across their territory. This allows for the Silk Roads to thrive, as trading was very common during the time. People sought after luxury goods from other states, including silver, silk, and porcelain. Across the Silk Roads, the exchange of people and good left big impacts on societies and cultures throughout Eurasia. Without Mongol expansion, the Silk Roads may have been unable to thrive. The Mongols ensured safety for all people traveling the trade route, which made it very attractive to merchants from all over Eurasia. Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia during the period 1200-1450 by spreading religion, spreading technology, and spreading disease.

One way Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia during 1200-1450 was by spreading culture. Along the Silk Roads, people were able to stop and exchange in trading cities, including Samarkand and Karakorum. In these trading cities, people were able to spread religion and culture. Various religions including Islam and Christianity were able to be spread throughout Eurasia. Oftentimes missionaries would leave their home in hopes of spreading their religion. The Mongols were very religiously tolerant which allowed for the spread of religion. The spread of religion is very important as religion can often be influential when it comes to statebuilding. Various religions in a region can lead to conflicts later on, including the Sunni vs Shi'a conflict in the Safavid and Mughal empires, or the Hindu vs Muslim conflict in India. Mongol expansion and control of the trade routes allowed religion to spread, which greatly impacted peoples and states within Eurasia.

Another way Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia was by spreading technologies. Many new technologies, including the compass and astrolabe allowed for efficient travel on the trade. In addition to that, these new technologies were often traded. These technologies improved knowledge and allowed for improved quality of life. Along with new inventions, commercial technologies became popular along the Silk Roads. New ways of transporting money, including banks and flying cash, made commercial activities much easier. Mobilizing money along with new transportation inventions allowed traveling to be much more accessible. This set the stage for the age of exploration, and the interconnected world of today. Navigational technologies such as the compass and astrolabe spread to Europe, which allowed for maritime exploration to thrive. The interconnected world improved economies throughout Eurasia. The expansion of the Mongols and the control of the Silk Roads affected the people of Eurasia by spreading technologies that improve the quality of life throughout Eurasia.

Another way Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia was by spreading disease. The exchange of people and goods across the Silk Roads was the main cause of the Bubonic Plague, that killed millions of people around the world. Europe was the most impacted by the plague, due to their dense population. As a result of the plague, the workforce in Europe was depleted. Production went way down, and workers demanded higher wages. Political structures in Europe began to fall apart, and the feudal system was no longer able to function. People in Eurasia were heavily impacted as many families were disrupted, and many people in society died. This was one of the main negative impacts of Mongol Expansion, and the Silk Roads. The huge trade network led to the spread of disease which killed many.

During this time, Euraisa was mostly living in harmony. Empires kept to themselves with little trade because the silk roads had recently gone out of use. It was fractured groups in different parts of the world. This changed with the entry of Mongol expansion. The Mongols started as a group of nomads in the early 13th century, but quickly grew to be one of the biggest empires in the world. They did this through their reintroduction on the Silk Roads trading route and their religious tolerance.

One of the Mongols main feats was opening up the silk roads for trade once again. The silk roads were a series of trade routes connection Euraisia. This greatly affected the people of eurasia because of their new ability to trade and spread ideas and culture. One example of this is the spread of mathematic ideas from India to the rest of the world.

Another way Mongol conquest affected the people of eurasia is through their religious tolerance. This tolerance also led to the spread of culture and religion. To go further in depth, when the mongols conquered, they didnt care about the people religion as long as the participated in helping the Mongols grow. This meant that when they furthered their expansion, the religions of all the people they picked up went where they went. When new people where picked up, they would be introduced to all of the culture and religion of the previously conquered people. For example, when the Mongols conquered some people of the Buddhist faith, they would go on to china and spread Buddhism there. This affected them because Buddhism soon became very big in china and they became one of the main hubs of Buddhism.

As the Mongols started to conquer more lands and empires as time passed by, it had a lot of effects for Eurasia. One of the ways that the Mongols affected the people of Eurasia was by facilitating trade routes for the people traveling in the silk roads and the permission that allowed them to still keep doing their religious ideals.

The Mongols affected the people of Eurasia in a good way because they had the advantage of the Silk Roads which the Mongols facilitated. Because of this, the Mongols were probably able to expand more and caused for communication to expand. It probably also caused for religion to travel in these ways. Another way the Mongols affected the people was that they let the people that they captured to let them still have their religion. Because of this, many were still able to keep on practicing and also caused a diffusion.

Long Essay Question 2

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

Overview

Students were asked to develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia in the period 1200–1450. The question primarily addressed content from Unit 2 in the course framework, while also providing students with opportunities to bring up content knowledge from Unit 1 to earn the contextualization point.

The question was mainly focused on the reasoning process of continuity and change, requiring students to evaluate the extent to which Mongol expansion affected or did not affect Afro-Eurasian societies.

Students were expected to present a historically defensible thesis, describe a historical context relevant to the prompt, use at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt, use that evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt, use historical reasoning skills to frame or structure their argument, and demonstrate a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt.

The phrasing of the question suggested but did not require responses to focus on the Mongol conquests' impact on trade and communications.

The phrasing of the question suggested but did not require that student responses address impacts on peoples that were conquered by the Mongols.

The question tested content primarily from Topics 2.2 and 2.5 of the course framework.

Sample: 2A

Thesis/Claim: 1

Contextualization: 1

Evidence: 2

Analysis and Reasoning: 2

Total Score: 6

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for Thesis/Claim in the last sentence of the introduction with the claim that “Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia during the period 1200–1450 by spreading religion, spreading technology, and spreading disease.”

Long Essay Question 2 (continued)

B. Contextualization (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for contextualization. It can be found in various places, including the sentences immediately preceding the Thesis/Claim in the introduction: “Across the Silk Roads, the exchange of people and good left big impacts on societies and cultures throughout Eurasia. Without Mongol expansion, the Silk Roads may have been unable to thrive. The Mongols ensured safety for all people traveling the trade route, which made it very attractive to merchants from all over Eurasia.”

C. Evidence (0–2 points): 2

The response earned 2 points for evidence. Drawing on multiple specific pieces of evidence, the response argues that Mongol expansion led to cultural diffusion. Describing trading cities along the Silk Road such as Samarkand and Karakorum where people, and specifically missionaries, spread culture and religious beliefs. The essay recognizes Mongols as religiously tolerant and concludes the argument in the second body paragraph with “Mongol expansion and control of the trade routes allowed religion to spread, which greatly impacted peoples and states within Eurasia.”

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 2

The response earned 1 point for historical reasoning. Drawing on multiple pieces of evidence (compass, astrolabe, banking techniques, flying cash) the response argues that quality of life was expanded and that Mongol expansion “set the stage for the age of exploration” in later ages.

The response also earned 1 point for complexity because it provides a nuanced argument that the Silk Road also spread disease throughout Eurasia. It argues that “Europe was the most impacted by the plague, due to their dense population. As a result of the plague, the workforce in Europe was depleted. Production went way down, and workers demanded higher wages. Political structures in Europe began to fall apart, and the feudal system was no longer able to function.”

Sample: 2B

Thesis/Claim: 1

Contextualization: 1

Evidence: 1

Analysis and Reasoning: 1

Total Score: 4

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for thesis/claim in the last sentence of the introduction with a historically defensible claim that “They did this through their reintroduction on the Silk Roads trading route and their religious tolerance.”

Long Essay Question 2 (continued)

B. Contextualization (0–1 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for contextualization in the sentences preceding the Thesis/Claim, by stating that the Silk Roads “had recently gone out of use;” another creditable contextualization attempt is added with the statement that “The Mongols started as a group of nomads in the early 13th century, but quickly grew to be one of the biggest empires in the world.”

C. Evidence (0–2 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for evidence because the in the third paragraph, the response supports the argument that Mongol expansion/conquest furthered religious tolerance, conversion to Buddhism, and the spread of religion. The response does not earn a second point because while it attempts an argument about the spread of ideas and culture, the example that the Mongol conquest spread “mathematic ideas from India to the rest of the world” is historically inaccurate.

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for historical reasoning by making an argument explaining that the Mongol conquests affected peoples in Eurasia by fostering cultural exchange across Eurasia. This is supported in the phrase, “the Mongols conquered some people of the Buddhist faith, they would go on to China and spread Buddhism there. This affected them because Buddhism soon became very big in China and they became one of the main hubs of Buddhism,” which can be found in the third body paragraph.

The response did not earn the point for complexity. There is no attempt to demonstrate a complex understanding of how the Mongol conquests affected the people of Eurasia in the period circa 1200 to 1450.

Sample: 2C

Thesis/Claim: 0

Contextualization: 0

Evidence: 1

Analysis and Reasoning: 0

Total Score: 1

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 0

The response earned 1 point for thesis/claim. The response has a historically defensible claim in the first paragraph: “One of the ways that the Mongols affected the people of Eurasia was by facilitating trade routes fro the people traveling in the silk roads and the permission that allowed them to still keep doing their religious ideals.”

Long Essay Question 2 (continued)

B. Contextualization (0–1 points): 0

The response did not earn the point for contextualization. The statement preceding the Thesis/Claim, “[a]s the Mongols started to conquer more lands and empires as time passed by, it had a lot of effects for Eurasia,” is overgeneralized and is not relevant to the prompt.

C. Evidence (0–2 points): 1

The response earned 1 point for evidence by providing two specific examples of evidence related to the topic (“silk roads,” religious retention and diffusion). However, the evidence was not linked to a supporting argument.

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 0

The response did not earn the point for historical reasoning because it does not fully and effectively address the prompt.

The response did not earn the complexity point because it does not demonstrate a complex understanding of the topic of the prompt.