
AP[®] World History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] WORLD HISTORY

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Short Answer Question 1

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

“Inner [and Central] Asia have long been seen as a zone of contact and transmission, a lengthy conveyor belt on which commercial and cultural wares traveled between the major civilizations of Eurasia. The nomads had an essential but largely unacknowledged role in this cultural traffic. While nomadic empires had as their primary objective the control and exploitation of sedentary subjects, their secondary effect was the creation of numerous opportunities for cross-cultural contact, comparison, and exchange.

Indeed, although nomads are normally included in the analysis of the political context of trans-Eurasian exchange, they are typically left out of the cultural equation. Here the great sedentary civilizations are placed at center stage, particularly when scientific and cultural transfers are under consideration. But, as we have seen, pastoral nomads were the chief initiators, promoters, and agents of this exchange between East and West [in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries].”

Thomas Allsen, historian, *Culture and Conquest*, 2001

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- a) Identify ONE specific historical example of a cultural exchange between nomads and non-nomads that occurred in the period before 1450.
- b) For the period 1450–1750 C.E., identify ONE development that changed the role that Central Asian nomads played in cross-regional exchanges as described in the passage.
- c) Explain ONE cross-cultural exchange that would challenge the assertion in the last sentence of the passage concerning the nomads’ role in cross-regional exchanges before 1450.

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.

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Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

Scoring Guide

0–3 points

- ONE point for identifying one specific historical example of a cultural exchange between nomads and non-nomads that occurred in the period before 1450
- ONE point for identifying one development in the period 1450–1750 C.E. that changed the role that Central Asian nomads played in cross-regional exchanges as described in the passage
- ONE point for explaining one cross-cultural exchange that would challenge the assertion in the last sentence of the passage concerning the nomads' role in cross-regional exchanges before 1450

Scoring Notes

General notes to raters:

- Students are responding to the question with a variety of examples of nomadic peoples and cultural exchanges and interactions between nomadic and non-nomadic peoples that may or may not appear in college or high school textbooks. We encourage all raters to use any materials necessary to verify the accuracy of any such examples before scoring the response.
- We ask that you use a broad interpretation of “nomad” to include groups such as the Mongols that were nomadic but created empires and used the institutions and traditions of sedentary societies to govern their empires. This interpretation also pertains to groups such as the Arabs, which included both nomadic and sedentary peoples and also included nomads who eventually settled down and became sedentary.

Examples of responses to part (a) that would earn credit:

- Cultural exchanges between nomads and non-nomads included the spread of stirrups and gunpowder.
- Contact with nomadic peoples led the Song dynasty of China to use warhorses from Central Asia.
- The spread of religions such as Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, or Zoroastrianism across Central Asia in the period before 1450 was facilitated by contact between nomadic and non-nomadic societies along the Silk Roads.

Examples of responses to part (b) that would earn credit:

- The decline of the importance of the Silk Roads changed the role of Central Asian nomads.
- The expansion of gunpowder empires, such as Russia and the Qing dynasty, led to the declining importance of Central Asian nomads in facilitating cross-regional exchange.
- European settlement of the Americas led to the declining importance of Central Asian nomads in cross-regional exchanges because trans-Atlantic contact became more important to global economic and cultural exchange.

Examples of responses to part (c) that would earn credit:

- Christianity was mostly spread by merchants and missionaries who came from sedentary societies.
- The spread of technologies like the compass or papermaking would challenge Allsen's claim that nomads were the chief promoters and agents of cultural exchange in Eurasia before 1450 because papermaking spread from China.
- Greek culture, philosophy, and science greatly influenced the development of Roman society, which challenges Allsen's argument that nomads were the chief agents of cultural exchange in the period before 1450.

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

- a) The Mongols allowed for the cultural exchange of gunpowder. Gunpowder was used in ~~the~~ the non-nomadic Tang and Song dynasties. However, when the nomadic Mongols arose and began to conquer various expanses of land such as central Asia and Eastern Europe, the spread gunpowder to places like the Abbasid caliphate, which was ^{non-}nomadic.
- b) The Age of Exploration changed the role of Central Asian nomads. Sea-based trade, especially the Indian Ocean Basin, became more prominent, and Central Asian nomads didn't have access ~~to~~ to this network. Because of this, Europeans such as the Dutch and Portuguese began to dominate trade, and therefore, cross-cultural exchanges occurred through Europeans.
- c) Arab traders also played a large role in cross-regional exchanges ~~that~~ before 1490. The Islamic Empire spanned Afro-Eurasia, dominating both Silk Road and Indian Ocean trade. While they were not nomadic, they contributed to the spread of the decimal system ~~from~~ ^{from} India, which is why it is now referred to as Arabic numerals.

End of response area for Q1

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

a.) One example of the exchange between nomads and non-nomads before 1450 is the spread of the Turkish language and customs throughout Eurasia spread through contact of nomadic farmers to large urban cities.

b.) One development that effected the role of Central Asia nomads in cross-regional exchange is the reopening of the Silk road by the Mongol empire. This allowed trade of technology and culture to flow throughout the area once again.

c.) One cross cultural exchange that would challenge the nomads role in cross-regional exchange is the spread of Islam through Islamic merchants to areas in India (making a large Islamic population in the Indian area which would lead to conflict with Hindus in the same areas).

End of response area for Q1

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

- a) One example of trade/cultural exchange between nomads & non-nomads was the Mongols introducing the saddle to Europe. It spread through invasion, conquest, and along the silk road. Europeans adopted it because it allowed for an easier way to ride animals.
- b) During this period the Mongols re-opened many old trade routes of the silk road thus facilitating trade & cross regional exchanges. Because they were nomadic they were able to be a link between Europe & Asia and re-ignite old trade routes.
- c) The Byzantine Empire was still trading with Africa and India during this time despite all of them being non-nomadic empires. They had their own trade routes and did not rely on nomadic tribes to help with cross cultural exchanges.

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

For this short-answer question, students were prompted to interpret an argument from a secondary source and to identify or explain examples of cultural exchange between nomads and non-nomads that occurred before 1450, which could be religious, linguistic, or technological in nature. In addition, students were to identify one development that changed the role of Central Asian nomads in cross-regional exchanges in the period 1450–1750 C.E., typically expressed as a consequence of improvements in maritime technology and trade that diminished the role of nomads. Lastly, students were to explain one cross-cultural exchange before 1450 that would challenge the statement in the last sentence of the passage, which claims that pastoral nomads were the chief instigators and promoters of exchange between East and West before 1450. The question addressed Key Concepts 3.1, 3.2, and 4.1 in the AP World History Curriculum Framework, the historical reasoning skill of Contextualization, and the disciplinary practice of Analyzing Historical Evidence (secondary sources).

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

- a) The response earned 1 point for identifying the fact that the Mongols facilitated the spread of gunpowder.
- b) The response earned 1 point for identifying the fact that the expansion of maritime trade in the Indian Ocean basin reduced the importance of Central Asian nomads in cross-regional exchanges because nomads did not have direct access to the maritime networks.
- c) The response earned 1 point for its discussion of how non-nomadic Arab merchants spread Arabic numerals.

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

- a) The response earned 1 point because it identifies the fact that the Mongols helped spread Turkic languages and customs in Eurasia.
- b) The response did not earn the point because the Mongols “reopening” of the Silk Road occurred outside of the specified time period 1450–1750.
- c) The response earned 1 point because it explains that non-nomadic Muslim merchants helped spread Islam to India.

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Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

- a) The response did not earn the point because the Mongols did not introduce the saddle to Europe.
- b) The response did not earn the point because the expansion of the Mongol Empire and its effect on Silk Road trade are out of the specified time period 1450–1750.
- c) The response earned 1 point for discussing Byzantine trade with Africa and India in the period before 1450.