

2024



AP[®] European History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Short-Answer Question 3

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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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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] Describe one similarity between Portuguese and Spanish overseas expansion in the period 1450 to 1650. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Both countries sought overseas sources of valuable luxury goods, such as gold and spices.
- Both countries made use of advances in military and maritime technology to support their exploration and conquest.
- Both countries' colonization efforts were centrally directed under control of the monarchy.
- Both countries spread Catholicism through the Jesuits and other religious orders [Portugal in Japan and China, Spain in the Americas].
- Both countries used systemic forms of violence to establish and maintain their power overseas.
- Both countries exploited the natural and human resources in their respective overseas colonies to enrich themselves.
- Both countries voluntarily and involuntarily introduced new diseases, flora, fauna, and goods in their respective overseas colonies.

[b] Describe one difference between Portuguese and Spanish overseas expansion in the period 1450 to 1650. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Spain became a great power in Europe, while Portugal did not become a great European power.
 - Portugal's empire was mainly in Africa, India, and East Asia; Spain's empire was mostly in the Americas.
-

- Portugal’s empire consisted mostly of coastal enclaves and trading posts; Spain conquered large areas of the interior of the Americas and established expansive colonies.
- Spain placed much greater emphasis on forcing its overseas subjects to convert to Catholicism.
- Spain conquered large empires in the Americas, such as the Inca and Aztec, while Portugal did not.

[c] Explain one reason why the rise of new Atlantic powers such as England, France, and the Netherlands led to conflicts in the 1600s and 1700s. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Religious divisions between Catholic and Protestant countries in Europe started to spill over into conflicts in their respective overseas colonies.
- The desire for access to luxury goods from overseas lands led to competition between the various European states.
- The wars of Louis XIV resulted in a coalition of powers assembling against him, and this conflict spilled into the colonies.
- Britain and the Netherlands took over large parts of Asia that had previously been under Portuguese control.
- The wealth of established Portuguese and Spanish colonies encouraged the newer powers to try to take or plunder them.
- Newer European powers resisted Spanish attempts to maintain a monopoly on colonization and trade in large areas of the world.
- The rise of mercantilist beliefs heightened competition for markets and resources.
- European countries sought to conquer new overseas territories in order to establish a balance of power in Europe.

Total for question 3 3 points

Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



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 similarity between the Portuguese and the Spanish exploration was that they were both state-sponsored. The historical context was that Isabella of Spain sponsored Columbus' to ~~find a route~~ journey to find a route to Asia and Portugal sponsored Magellan/Vasco de Gama to find a route to India. Therefore, the explorers of both the Spanish & the Portuguese were state-sponsored.

B. The Spanish explored the New World while the Portuguese set up a trading-posts in Africa & India/Asia. The historical context was the Treaty of Tordesillas that split the New World & Asia. Therefore, Spain explored the New World while the Portuguese explored the Africa & Asian lands.

C. The rise of new colonial powers like the Dutch & the English led to conflicts over trade routes in Asia. The historical context was that the Dutch East India Company and later the British East India Company wanted to secure trading relations with India to get spices. Therefore, the Dutch had to fight the Portuguese who had already set up a trading post-empire and the British had to fight the Dutch since no one wanted to lose the lucrative maritime route to India.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do **NOT** write your name. Do **NOT** write outside the box.

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Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



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 similarity between Portugese and Spain oversea expansion was that they wanted three things God, glory and Gold. They each wanted to spread Christianity to the natives of the land they conquered. They also wanted power the overtaking of far away areas allowed the two nations to gain territory making them more powerful and respected. Lastly ~~the~~ each wanted the economic gain that comes from new land in the form of both gold as well as ^{of the} ~~the~~ colonization of the area and gaining money from it through trade and taxation.
- b) One difference between Portugese and Spain oversea expansion is though portugese gained a few areas of new territory they didnt prosper as much as the Spain who were able to gain much new territory in the new world, colonize the area and become the leading exploring nation for quite some time leaving the portugese far behind them.
- c) One reason the rise of new colonial powers like England and Dutch republic led to conflicts is because of the nations unfair treatments towards the natives. All colonizing nations completely took over and destroyed native land causing the natives to get angry and attempt to fight back. However between Europes much more advanced weaponry and diseases they brought to the new world the conflicts were short lived and the natives were wiped out quick. To make matters worse the natives not yet dead were exploited for slave labor and tortured by the European nations.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

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Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3

Question 4



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 similarity between portuguese and spanish overseas expansion in the period 1450 to 1650 were both countries motives to explore. ~~B~~ Both countries were expanding for more ~~to~~ gold, to evangelize and spread the word of god, and to have the glory of expansion and takeover as many countries and find as much land as possible.

b. one difference between portugese and spanish overseas expansion in the period 1450-1650 was that Ferdinand and Elizabeth sent out Columbus ~~for~~ for a portugese funded mission, and the spanish denied his exploration goals. Columbus was denied by the spanish, but he was given the opportunity to find a faster route to Asia, and he ended up claiming the Americas for Portugal.

c. one reason why the rise of new colonial powers such as England, France, and the Dutch Republic led to conflicts in the 1600s and 1700s was the new idea of Nationalism and the competition between each country to have the most gold, glory, and bring the most people to god. Each country wanted higher divinity than the other and they were all looking to expand their country. Many of these countries were all competing for land as these ideas sparked from Nationalism and expanding ones country over for.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

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Short Answer Question 3

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

Overview

Responses to part (a) of the prompt were expected to offer a minimally accurate description about the similarities between Portuguese and Spanish overseas expansion in the period 1450 and 1650. Many successful responses described how both explorations were state-sponsored enterprises; sought to establish access to rich trade routes in the Americas, Africa, and Asia; spread Catholicism with the help of missionaries and colonists; and committed systemic violence against indigenous populations to achieve their goals.

Responses to part (b) of the prompt were expected to offer a minimally accurate description about the differences of Portuguese and Spanish overseas expansion in the period 1450 and 1650. Many successful responses described how Portuguese overseas expansion was primarily concentrated in Africa and Asia, while the Spanish empire was mostly in the Americas; the Portuguese empire consisted of mostly coastal enclaves and trading posts, while Spain conquered and colonized expansive land masses; and that Spain placed greater emphasis on forcing its indigenous subjects to convert to Catholicism.

Responses to part (c) of the prompt were expected to offer a minimally accurate explanation of why the rise of new Atlantic powers led to conflicts (European and global) in the 1600s and 1700s. Many successful responses described how religious divisions between Catholic and Protestant countries spilled over to conflicts overseas; the desire for luxury and other goods inspired other European powers to seek colonial conquest overseas, increasing the likelihood of military competition and violence; and the adoption of mercantilism as the standard approach to colonial-state economies.

Sample: 3A

Score: 3

The response earned the point for part (a) with its description of Portuguese and Spanish exploration being state-sponsored enterprises in search of trade routes to Asia. The inaccurate statement about Portuguese royal sponsorship of Magellan's search for a route to the Indies did not count against the response since it correctly mentions Da Gama.

The response earned the point for part (b) with its description of Spanish exploration in the New World and the establishment of Portuguese trading posts in Africa and south Asia as a result of the Treaty of Tordesillas.

The response earned the point for part (c) by explaining that concerns over access to rich trade routes in south Asia and the Spice Islands led to several military conflicts between the Portuguese, Dutch, and English.

Short Answer Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3B

Score: 2

The response earned the point for part (a) with its description of Portuguese and Spanish colonists' shared desire to spread Christianity to indigenous populations overseas. It further explains that both powers embraced the pursuit of "God, Glory, and Gold" as part of their colonial enterprises.

The response earned the point for part (b) with its description of Spanish hegemony in the New World and emergence of Spain as a leading European nation, while Portugal failed to conquer large tracts of territory and lagged behind Spain in the competition for overseas domains.

The response did not earn the point for part (c) because it does not explain how Europeans' violent treatment of indigenous populations overseas led to conflicts between new Atlantic powers.

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

The response earned the point for part (a) with its description of Portuguese and Spanish overseas expansion being primarily motivated by a pursuit of gold and luxury resources, a desire to evangelize, and a collective search for glory.

The response did not earn the point for part (b) because its description about the monarchy denying Christopher Columbus an opportunity to serve the Spanish Empire is not an accurate difference between Portugal's and Spain's colonial projects between 1450 and 1650.

The response did not earn the point for part (c) because it does not explain how new ideas of European nationalism led to colonial conflicts overseas. Its use of nationalism also falls outside the time frame of the question (1600–1700).