

2025



AP[®] World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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

A Identify one argument the author makes regarding tea production in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The cost of production in India fell compared to the cost in China.
- China was “dethroned” by India as the primary supplier of tea for England.
- The Chinese tea farmers were devastated due to the rise of the Indian tea industry.

B Describe one likely reason for the change in tea imports to Britain, as outlined by the author. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Britain’s colonization of India allowed it to expand tea production through plantations.
- One likely reason for the change in tea imports to Britain was because production costs in India were significantly lower than in China, making the Indian tea industry much more appealing to the British.
- Transportation costs from India to Britain were likely lower than transportation costs from China to Britain because of the shorter geographical distance.

C Explain how one additional piece of evidence, not included in the passage, would support the author’s claim that China “descended into a chaotic period” in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The 1900–1901 Boxer Rebellion against foreigners and the subsequent foreign intervention in China resulted in longer-term disorder and significant loss of life.

- The Opium Wars launched China’s “Century of Humiliation”, forcing China to sign a series of unequal treaties which destabilized the imperial dynasty.
 - The Revolution of 1911 forcibly ended the rule of the Qing Dynasty and started a prolonged period of political fragmentation, warlordism, and military conflicts within China.
 - The Chinese Civil War between the KMT and CCP was a bitter, decades-long conflict, exacerbated by Japanese intervention, which eventually became a full-scale Japanese invasion of China.
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1. A. The author makes the claim that India became Britain's largest supplier of tea between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This claim is backed up by the statistic that tea imports to Britain from China fell from 31 thousand tons in 1859 to seven thousand in 1899, while India exported nearly 100 thousand tons to Britain. The rapid decrease in tea exports in China and the substantial number of tons from India proves that India became Britain's supplier of tea.

B. One reason for the change in tea exports outlined in the excerpt is the lower cost of tea production in India compared to China. The author says that the cost of producing tea in China and India was roughly equal in 1872, but by 1913 the cost for Chinese tea rose substantially. This rise in cost is likely the reason why the majority of Britain's tea was imported from India, since tea was cheaper there than in China.

C. The author's claim that China descended into a chaotic period in the early 1900's is backed up by the fact that Britain was selling opium to China, and the violence it produced. Chinese officials seized a ship of opium owned by Britain, which started the Opium Wars, which led to the defeat of China and the Unequal Treaties, which gave western powers more trading ability and Spheres of influence in China. This started some chaos as the Boxer Rebellion took place, where Europeans and Chinese Christians were killed due to anti-Western sentiment largely caused by the devastating effects of opium.

1. One argument the author makes regarding tea production in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was that the India's tea industry had deeply impacted the stability of the country of China. The author says that since India had decreased their cost of production, they became Britains main supplier of tea which caused China's tea industry to crumble and decline. This decline led to instability in China.
2. One likely reason for the change in tea imports to Britain was that Britain wanted to buy cheaper product. Since India's tea was made with less production cost, it was more likely they sold larger amounts for the same price as China's normal amounts. Britain could receive more amounts of tea for the price of less with India which caused the change in their tea imports.
3. One additional piece of evidence that would support the author's claim of China descending into a chaotic period would be the Tienamen Square Protest. The Tienamen Square Protest was a nonvioelent protest held by educated students in China who were protesting against China's communist party in favor of a new Western government structure. This protest is important because it showed how China's population was revolting against the government causing political instability

A. One argument the author makes regarding tea production in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is that the rise of India's tea industry had a devastating impact on Chinese tea farmers which also affected the countries that China was supplying to.

B. One likely reason for the change in tea imports to Britain is most likely because Britain started putting taxes on their tea, making people buy it less. Therefore, Britain stopped needing as much. Another reason was through the Silk Road, China's trade routes like the Silk Road for example had bandits making it hard to import and export goods during this time.

C. During this time period many countries stopped doing deals with China because of the current political state and empire at the time. Many places didn't agree with China's ways of living.

Short Answer Question 1

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

Overview

NEW for 2025: The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses on AP Central*.

Sample: 1A

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 1

SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for Part A because it identifies India expanding tea production and becoming Great Britain's top supplier of tea as one argument the author makes in the passage.

The response earned 1 point for Part B. The response describes the lower cost of tea production in India as one likely reason outlined by the author for the increase of importation of tea from India, compared to the importation of tea from China.

The response earned 1 point for Part C because it explains multiple pieces of evidence not included in the passage that would support the author's claim that China "descended into a chaotic period." This evidence includes the problems created by the Opium Wars, the unequal treaties, and spheres of influence.

Sample: 1B

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 1

SAQ Part C Score: 0

Total Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for Part A because it identifies the decreasing cost of producing tea in India creating instability in China as one argument the author makes in the passage.

The response earned 1 point for Part B because it describes the low cost of Indian tea outlined by the author as one likely reason for the change in tea imports.

The response did not earn the point for Part C because it does not explain an additional piece of evidence that would have supported the author's claim that China "descended into a chaotic period" by the end of the nineteenth century. While the response discusses Tiananmen Square, that event is outside the time period of the prompt.

Short Answer Question 1 (continued)**Sample: 1C****SAQ Part A Score: 1****SAQ Part B Score: 0****SAQ Part C Score: 0****Total Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for Part A because it identifies that the development of India's tea industry harmed Chinese tea farmers as one argument the author makes in the passage.

The response did not earn the point for Part B because it does not describe a reason for the change in tea imports outlined by the author. The evidence about the Silk Road is outside of the time period. The response also discusses Great Britain's implementation of taxes on tea as a contributing factor, but this is historically inaccurate for China and India and is not addressed in the passage.

The response did not earn the point for Part C because it does not explain an additional piece of evidence that would have supported the author's claim that China "descended into a chaotic period" by the end of the nineteenth century.