

DETAILED EXPLANATIONS OF ANSWERS

PRACTICE TEST 1

Section I

1. **(B)**
Like Jefferson in the U.S. Declaration of Independence (B), Bolivar drew on Enlightenment ideals of natural rights in his famous letter. The Magna Carta concerned itself with limited the power of an absolute king (A), and the Communist Manifesto promoted the overthrow of an economic rather than political master (C). Voltaire's Philosophical Dictionary addresses religion, not politics (D).
2. **(A)**
Under Han Wudi, China enjoyed a time of technological and scientific advance, with inventions such as paper appearing for the first time. The emperor also instituted an exam system that drew heavily on Confucian content, strengthening the power of that philosophy within the imperial system. Widespread expansion brought new conquered states that paid tribute into the Chinese Empire (D). However, this expansion also made the borders more difficult to secure, and Hun attacks along the frontier became problematic in time (C).
3. **(D)**
Philosopher Karl Marx advocated the end of the capitalist system, believing that it exploited the working class in favor of the interests of the elite owners of the means of production (D). Marx did not object directly to industry or advanced transport (A), but rather to their control by industrialists; nor did he promote ascetic ideals (C). Although large companies and banks arguably engaged in abusive practices, Marx again railed primarily against the results of these actions rather than the simple growth of large companies (B).
4. **(A)**
As the Bantu migrated throughout eastern and southern Africa, they brought new agricultural techniques and iron technology (D) as well as their Bantu language (A). Swahili, one of these languages, remains a common tongue throughout the region. Although Europeans did later establish colonies in much of Africa, this had no relation to the Bantu migration (C). The Bantu did not expand north and west into Muslim regions (B).

5. **(C)**
The Italian traveler Marco Polo and the Muslim traveler Ibn Battuta both wrote about their experiences in the East, expanding knowledge of that place in their respective homelands (C). Although both helped to improve interregional connections, neither was primarily a trader (A). Neither man worked against governments (B). Although Battuta was concerned by the level of rights of Mongol women, Marco Polo spoke highly of their virtues (D).
6. **(D)**
Although laws were passed centuries later to bar interracial marriage in some countries (A), early European arrivals in the Americas frequently intermixed with native people and Africans. This resulted in the creation of new social and ethnic categorizations such as *mestizo* and *mulatto*. Discrimination (C) against native peoples did not necessarily decrease because of this, however, and the practice had no effect on the need for increasing amounts of slave labor.
7. **(B)**
Rome's system of roads was practically unparalleled in the classical world. The extensive network connected areas under Roman control, permitting the military and merchants ready access to the far-flung lands of the empire (B). Although this obvious sign of Roman ability may have deterred opposition, this was not the purpose of the roads, nor did it work in the long run (D). Roads were not built merely to justify taxation (C) or provide jobs to citizens (A).
8. **(A)**
Developed first by the Arabs, the astrolabe was a tool that allowed sailors to calculate the altitude of the sun and thus determine their latitude (A). The compass showed direction by indicating magnetic north (C). The new caravel ship was powered by wind rather than the motion of rowers (D). Overall improved cartographic skills helped correct maps, but did not rely directly on the astrolabe (A).
9. **(C)**
Peasants were vital to the feudal system as agricultural laborers on the land owned by lords and vassals (C). Higher-status members of society served as a military force (A). The feudal system was a rural, rather than urban, one (C). Peasants were typically tied to the land and were not educated enough for bureaucratic jobs (D).
10. **(C)**
The Acheamenid Empire divided its large territory into twenty administrative districts known as satrapies, each overseen by a governor (C). All of the satrapies ultimately came under the authority of the crown (A), but each province was not under the direct rule of the emperor (B). Although a military official helped oversee the affairs of each province, the satrapies were not under the thumb of the army (D).

11. **(D)**
As Vedic beliefs coalesced into Hinduism, existing structures such as the caste system took on religious import. The Brahmins argued that fulfilling one's duties to one's inherited caste was a religious necessity for a believer to move toward reunification with the universal spirit (D). The Untouchables were also Hindus (B), and the priests, rather than texts, were the primary sources of these ideas (C). Rulers did not use religion for purely bureaucratic purposes (A).
12. **(A)**
Early civilizations were believed to have relied on monumental structures like the ziggurat shown here for religious rituals and significance (A). Although the labor needed to construct such structures would have required high farm yields (C) and, likely, an organizing central authority (B), these are more complex interpretations that must be supported by additional facts. Historians do not especially connect monumental architecture to trade (D).
13. **(A)**
This excerpt was written by one of Athens' most important dramatists, Aeschylus, and is typical of the Greek literary style (A). Hindu sages contributed well-known epics such as the *Ramayana* (B), and Roman poets developed a separate body of literature influenced by, but not exactly the same as, that of the Greeks (C). This excerpt bears no relation to the Confucian Classics (D).
14. **(D)**
The First and Second Industrial Revolutions created a new bank of unskilled and low-skilled jobs in cities. These jobs attracted former farm workers by offering better wages, which contributed to a rapidly urbanizing Europe (D). Urbanization did not primarily result from taxation (A), rural revolts (B), or imperialism (C).
15. **(B)**
Maroons—former or escaped slaves—worked together to mount a revolt in Haiti (B) that led to that nation's independence and the abolition of slavery not long after. The French Revolution came about because of class struggle against the powerful nobility (A), and the American Revolution was based on political and economic ideals (D). Gran Columbia (C) was formed out of the territory of former Spanish colonies in Latin America, but failed, primarily due to its overly large geographic size.
16. **(A)**
New financial instruments such as the limited liability system and insurance policies spread the risk of investment in new business ventures, making it more attractive for investors and thus encouraging the growth of industrial concerns (A). The system did not shape shipping prices (B) or establish a going wage (C). Copyright and patent law protected intellectual property (D).

17. **(D)**
Canada's language divisions are a legacy of its development under both French and British control. Quebec, the nation's primarily French-speaking province, sometimes finds itself at odds with its more British-influenced, English-speaking counterparts, and nationalist tensions have even led to occasional propositions of separating formally (D). None of the other conclusions can be logically supported by the map.
18. **(A)**
The first leader of the Safavid Empire, Ismā'īl, did not tolerate the practice of Sunni Islam. He barred the practice after conquering Iran (A) in favor of the usage of Shi'a law and tradition. The Safavids fought the Ottomans, but Shi'a remained important in Turkey for some time. The Safavids had little influence over events in India (C) or North Africa (D).
19. **(D)**
Americans had no natural resistance to European diseases such as smallpox, and millions died from disease epidemics after Europeans arrived in the Americas. War (A) and enslavement (B) also certainly contributed to the population decline, but not to the same extent as disease. Few native people left the continent alive (C).
20. **(B)**
The U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was one of the deadliest military attacks in human history, killing more than 200,000 Japanese—mostly civilians—either immediately or over the course of a few years (B). Coming as part of World War II (A), the attacks did meet their intended purpose of forcing the Japanese to surrender (D). Although the attacks remain the first and only incidents of nuclear warfare, their untested nature is not the heart of the criticisms (C).
21. **(D)**
Neither Stalin's Five Year Plans nor Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward are classified as successes. Both programs collectivized farmland (C) with the intention of centralizing production and establishing quotas as part of a larger program of industrialization (B). Workers were unable to meet quotas, however, and environmental and other problems led to decreased yields and mass starvation (A). In the Soviet Union, rebellions emerged both among workers and within the Communist Party (D). Chinese peasants, however, tended to embrace communism.
22. **(C)**
Unusually among early civilizations, the Mesoamerican cultures of the Chavín and the Olmecs developed outside of major fertile river valleys—the Olmecs in what is now Mexico and the Chavín in what is now Peru (C). Although both groups did construct monumental architecture (A) and develop agricultural techniques (B), this was a common feature among other early civilizations as well. All the early civilizations listed engaged in religious practices of some type (D).

23. **(C)**
Xenophobia—the fear of foreigners—has influenced South Africa’s immigration and deportation policies in recent years, with the nation arrested and deporting thousands of migrant workers for what some consider discriminatory reasons (C). The nation officially ended apartheid (A) in the early 1990s. Xenophobia is less noticeable in the nation’s overall economic policy (B) and public health policies (D).
24. **(D)**
The primary effect of the emergence of the factory system was the concentration and specialization of labor. In the same way, the Neolithic Revolution (D) created a new pool of specialized workers. The end of slavery related more to the difference between free and forced labor than specialization (B). Manorialism tied peasants to the land in much the same way that the factory system tied workers to their jobs, but left workers less free (C).
25. **(A)**
Resolutions passed at the Seneca Falls Convention called for sweeping reforms in women’s legal, political, and social rights. Chief among these demands was the right to vote (B). Reformers also called for equality in politics (C) and educational opportunity (D). The women’s rights movement overlapped with the abolition movement, and attendees did not want women—or anyone—to have the right to own slaves (A).
26. **(D)**
The devshirme was a military conscription system used to form the Janissaries, an elite military force that owed its allegiance chiefly to the empire and the sultan (D). This practice helped Suleiman and other sultans control the Turkish nobility (B) and made many court officials beholden to no one, due to restrictions on marriage (A). The devshirme was not concerned with provincial administration (B).
27. **(C)**
Social Darwinism used the principles of scientific racism to argue that some people—white citizens of developed countries—were simply “fitter” for success than others. Twain criticizes that notion in this excerpt (C) by suggesting that people are the same regardless of levels of development. Marxism was a philosophy advocating that the working class oppose the employing class (A). Radicalism took this notion even further by calling for such measures as redistribution of property (B). Twain does not challenge the women’s rights movement by mentioning only men in this quote (D).
28. **(B)**
This illustration shows two of Japan’s famed samurai, or professional soldiers (B). The daimyo were the nation’s lords (A), and the shogun its chief military leader (C). Buddhist monks dedicated themselves to study and meditation, not warfare (D).

29. **(A)**
Under the Incan system of *mit'a*, men were forced to work for the government for a period of time as part of their payment for their land. The Spanish adopted this system (A) and used it to force native peoples to work in gold and silver mines. When this failed, the Spanish created their own *encomienda* system (B). Although all slaves were considered chattel (C), this was not a feature of native civilizations; nor was indentured servitude (D).
30. **(D)**
Daoism, or the study of “the way,” contributed several elements to Chinese culture at large. The principles of the movement of energy through the body contributed to the practice of acupuncture (A). Daoist studies of the use of herbs (B) and the creation of substances through alchemy (C) helped advanced overall Chinese knowledge. Daoists were not, however, involved in the creation of the exam system used to select members of the scholar-gentry (D).
31. **(C)**
The colonnades, lattice work, and arches of this building are typical of the Arabic influence brought to Spain during the centuries when it was under Muslim rule (C). Roman architecture was more massive (A), while the Columbian Exchange focused more on raw materials and crops than architectural styles (B). Spain’s maritime empire arose after the time of the construction of this building (D).
32. **(B)**
Muslim traders revitalized Roman-era trade routes, connecting Baghdad to the world and making it an economic and cultural capital (A) (B). Baghdad’s later decline helped Cairo become its replacement (C), but this took place after the Seljuk Turks conquered the caliphate (D).
33. **(B)**
The development of pastoralism and basic agricultural techniques allowed for greater crop production and food surpluses. These surpluses in turn allowed some members of early societies to specialize in jobs not relating to food production (B). The other choices present these developments out of order (A) (C) (D).
34. **(C)**
During and after the Renaissance, new forms of literature and drama ranging from the works of Shakespeare to the *kabuki* of Japan appeared, a sign of the overall rise in literacy worldwide. The success of the commercial elite (A) does not necessarily generalize to a broad shift. Immigrants to the New World (B) were not required to be literate. Although the Confucian scholar-gentry was well-educated (D), this does not extrapolate to a broad increase.

35. **(D)**
Pan-Arabism is the effort of leaders in the Middle East to operate a single unit. Although Pan-Arabism has agreed on many things—the decision to nationalize the Suez Canal, for example (C)—the existence of the state of Israel creates a strong regional conflict (D). Pan-Arabism arose well after World War I was fought in northern Africa (B). Shar'ia law is not a primary source of debate (A).
36. **(A)**
The Renaissance was a time of interest in the classical world. This painting shows a Renaissance artist's depiction of several Greek philosophers engaged in discussion (A), a reflection of this interest; Aristotle and Plato stand at the center. Contemporary philosophers did also seek to explore the natural world (B), but this is a secondary connection at best. No Renaissance nobles appear in the work (C), and the crowds of people are not involved in watching a theatrical production (D).
37. **(B)**
Both the Tang and Song suffered from major peasant revolts that stemmed from imperial tax increases (B). Nevertheless, the dynasties achieved other successes. New agricultural systems, tools, and crops (C) encouraged higher food production (A), and population growth helped cities and trade increase. This era was relatively free of devastating disease outbreaks (D).
38. **(A)**
By leasing out convicts as laborers, states could require private companies to provide food, housing, and other basic necessities, thus guaranteeing themselves a profit on the enterprise (A). Many convicts died on a job, and training in skills was not the goal (B). Convict laborers remained in the United States (C). Slavery had ended a few decades earlier, so this provided no incentive (D).
39. **(C)**
The legacies of European imperialism continue to shape and, largely, impede progress in Africa even now, decades after national independence movements began. Many African nations use a European tongue, such as Algeria's use of French (A). Colonial-era boundaries combined ethnic groups in ways that disregard their traditional alliances, contributing to genocide and regional conflict (B). Exploitation of resources and repression of people have contributed to continuing slow development throughout Africa (D). However, African nations do not retain sufficient ties with the European continent to have the right to apply for EU membership (C).
40. **(C)**
The Opium Wars began after the Chinese objected to British demands to export more opium—a highly addictive drug—into the nation. After a group of Chinese burned a shipment of opium in the hopes of protecting the health and sovereignty of their people,

the wars erupted. British victory in the wars and French involvement in the second conflict gave both of those nations greater trade control over China (C). Britain fought for the right to export opium to China, but not its own shores (A). China lost both trading power (B) and Hong Kong (D) to the British in the conflicts.

41. **(B)**
Increased trade in luxury goods revived long-distance trade, and as a result crops traveled from their homeland to new regions with compatible climates (B). The Crusades caused increased demand, but did not result from it (A). The Columbian Exchange arose during the Age of Exploration (C). Colonialism to attain raw materials did not arise for some time (D).
42. **(C)**
Mongol women were among the most independent of their era, fighting alongside men, retaining property rights, and even occasionally serving as interim rulers. Like them, Aztec women had the right to own and inherit property (C); unlike them, they lacked such privileges as military service (D). Aztec women, but not Mongol women, were particularly known as skilled weavers (C). Although women in places like India lost rights as Islam spread there, this problem did not affect either Mongol or Aztec women (A).
43. **(A)**
The Silk Road spread not only goods, but also diseases such as the bubonic plague. The resulting loss of life destabilized both the Roman and Han Empires, hastening their declines (A). Although the routes did generate tax monies (B), make traders rich (D), and provide a transportation route (C), none of these results contributed greatly to the empires' difficulties.
44. **(C)**
Although protest leaders such as Gandhi in India and Martin Luther King Jr., in the United States turned to peaceful methods of protest (A) (B), other groups employed violence against civilians to promote their political aims. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) was just one of many twentieth-century groups that relied on terrorism (C). Its nationalist goals did not, however, employ genocide or ethnic cleansing (D).
45. **(A)**
The Ottoman Empire had been declining for many decades before World War I finally brought about its collapse (A). The empire had long outlasted the creation of the devshirme conscription system (C) and survived attacks by the Safavids (B). Efforts to shore up Ottoman powers through the Tanzimat ultimately failed, but this was not the most direct cause (D).

46. **(B)**
Trade flourished under the Manchu (B) with silver flowing steadily into the country. Manchu efforts to lessen the gap between the peasantry and nobility failed due to rapid population growth on limited land (A). The expansionist Manchu were not isolationist (D). The preceding Ming dynasty had dedicated more resources to the support of the nobility (C).
47. **(C)**
Both the White Australia Policy and the Chinese Exclusion Act sought to halt, or minimize, or severely limit the immigration of Chinese and rights of Chinese immigrants (C). The Self-Strengthening Movement was a Chinese series of reforms meant to modernize that country (A). The Tanzimat reforms worked to Westernize and modernize the Ottoman Empire (D).
48. **(A)**
New agricultural technology in Europe led to greater crop yields, which supported a larger population. In contrast, declining global temperature during the Dark Ages had hampered crop yields and damaged city populations (C). Although the feudal system had been based on a rural farming society (A), the growth of the population encouraged people to gather in larger settlements and cities. There, an emerging class of artisans began the guild system (D).
49. **(D)**
The areas spared by the plague were the isolated places that had few major cities to draw traders or travelers (D). The map indicates that plague broke out in rough bands over time, not all at once (A), and that it moved largely from southeast to north and northwest, an opposite pattern than would be expected from Viking invasion (C). Muslim invaders failed to penetrate as far into the continent as the plague (B).
50. **(A)**
Both Gandhi and Nkrumah were nationalist leaders who sought to end imperial control over their homelands (A). Marcus Garvey was a Caribbean American who advocated African American separatism and helped inspire Pan-Africanism (B). Archbishop Oscar Romero called for reform and human rights improvements in Latin America (C). Slobodan Milosevic was a Balkan dictator (D).
51. **(C)**
The Tanzimat brought about a considerable level of Westernization in the Ottoman Empire (A), but failed to significantly help slow the decline of the Ottoman government (D). Reduced tariffs lessened protections on Ottoman artisans, raising competition from cheaper foreign goods and damaging their livelihoods (B). Greater tolerance for non-Muslims led to increased levels of nationalism among those groups (C) and led to greater tensions with conservation elements of Ottoman society (C).

52. **(B)**
The Warsaw Pact was a treaty alliance overseen by the Soviet Union that stood as a foil to the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) during the Cold War era (B). The Warsaw Pact included the Eastern Bloc, but did not seek to overthrow the Soviets (C). Nor did it exist solely to protect East Germany (D). Western Europe joined NATO with nations including the United States (A).
53. **(D)**
The padded horse collar allowed horses to take part in agricultural production by pulling carts. This, accompanied by other agricultural innovations, led to much greater crop yields and increased efficiency (D). The horse collar did not have any use in warfare (C), and other pack animals were already helping to move trade goods (B). Feudalism eventually declined for other reasons (A).
54. **(C)**
Russia became a large land-based empire during this time, thanks largely to the active efforts of tsars such as Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great. The adoption of gunpowder and cannons (B), along with the recruitment of the fierce Cossacks (D), made the Russian army a powerful conquering force. Increased trade helped the country acquire needed goods and generate wealth (A). Peter the Great's creation of the Table of Ranks helped support his own reign, but did little to actually expand the empire (C).
55. **(B)**
Globalization and free trade, aided by the policies of international groups like the IMF, have led to increased trade (A) and reduced tariffs (C) among global nations in the post-World War II era. However, the IMF does not actively insure against market failures or downturns (D). The pattern of single-resource production and export characterized the earlier industrial era as opposed to the modern era (A).
56. **(C)**
The map shows incidences of malaria, a disease most common in less developed, impoverished nations. Diabetes (A), obesity (B), and heart disease (D) are all lifestyle diseases. Although lifestyle diseases have been growing in developing regions, they remain primarily associated with wealthy, industrialized nations.
57. **(D)**
Two navigators of the school, Diaz and da Gama, successfully located and rounded the southern tip of Africa for the first time (D). Columbus, sailing on behalf of Spain, was the first European to reach the Bahamas (B). Trade routes to India already existed (A). The Northwest Passage, although long searched-for, did not actually exist (C).

58. **(A)**
The Yamato Kingdom of what is now Japan drew heavily on Chinese ideas and influences, readily seen in the Confucian principles shown in its constitution (A). This occurred despite the ruler's formal adherence to Buddhism (B). Christianity (C) and Islam (D) had not yet become particularly influential in the region during the seventh century.
59. **(B)**
Teotihuacán served as a major population center of Mesoamerica between about 300 BCE and 650 BCE. Architectural remains suggest that its early dominance over the region stemmed from its cultural and religious superiority (B). No evidence suggests that the city was a major military (A) or imperial (D) power. Trade flourished as a result of the city's preeminence, not as a founding cause.
60. **(C)**
Although the knights of Crusades failed to accomplish their stated goal of reclaiming the Holy Land (B), there were new cultural and technological exchanges between Europe and the East. Returning soldiers brought Eastern and Greek knowledge that had been lost back to Europe (C), and the luxury goods they acquired in the Middle East helped generate new demand for these items at home (A). Muslims remained in control of their holdings in the Middle East despite efforts by the Crusades (C).
61. **(B)**
Traditional sources of power and legitimacy often relied on gender, wealth, and religious approval. Because all states of this era followed a patriarchal social structure, men automatically had greater claim to legitimate rule than women (A). Power often stemmed directly from the amount of land and wealth one could command (C). Governments also relied on religious dicta to command authority (D). Of much less importance was education (B).
62. **(D)**
The lateen sail helped ships navigate waters with monsoon winds, such as those that formed the Indian Ocean trade lanes (D). As a maritime innovation, the lateen sail did little to encourage the growth of overland routes such as the Silk Road (B) or trans-Saharan caravan routes (C). The Columbian Exchange was a transfer of animals, crops, people, and diseases (A), not a formal series of overseas trade lanes.
63. **(D)**
The expansive Islamic Empire reached from parts of what is now Spain and Portugal (A) across northern Africa and as far east as India (C). One of the most significant cultures within this empire was the Abbasids (B). Although the Mongols traded with Islamic nations, they were not a Muslim-culture part of the empire (D).

64. **(A)**
Perry arrived in an isolated Japan demanding that the nation begin trade with the United States. Under pressure, the nation agreed, and Japan was again opened to the world (A). The Tokugawa had kept Japan isolated (B). Later expansions in economics (D) and political power (C) marked Japan's emergence as a growing world power.
65. **(C)**
The coming of the railroad was a boon to factory owners and materials shippers, with its low cost and high speeds (C). The railroad damaged Indian cottage industries, however, (B) and hurt tribal civilizations in Africa (A). It also encouraged white settlement in the western United States, forcing Native Americans to give up their land and resources (D).
66. **(C)**
Fire was one of the seminal developments of early humans; it offered protection from predators, a way to cook food, and perhaps most importantly, a source of warmth that allowed early peoples to settle in less hospitable environments (C). Although boats (D) allowed early people to travel to these new locations, without fire, survival would have been impossible. Tools (B) and pastoralism (A) were important developments, but were not directly tied to population spread.
67. **(B)**
The Columbian Exchange was the transfer of goods, people, and cultural ideas among the Americas, Africa, and Europe. From Africa to the Americas came enslaved people (A), coffee (C), and okra (D), among other contributions such as chickens and bananas. Tobacco was a crop native to America (B).
68. **(B)**
Mercantilism was an economic philosophy that argued that colonies existed to provide raw materials and serve as markets for the home country (B). This underlaid Britain's colonial policy. Nationalism (A) is a feeling of extreme patriotism or support for one's own nation. Liberalism (C) is a belief in equality and freedom. Globalization (D) is the phenomenon of the world's economies and cultures growing together.
69. **(A)**
This film poster is for an early film produced by what would become India's massive Bollywood industry. This industry exemplifies the spread of popular forms of entertainment around the world during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (A). Although imperialism (B) and tensions between India and Pakistan (C) remain influential factors in India, this poster does not directly reference them. Indian women, like women in much of the world, have enjoyed legal and social gains over the past several decades (D).

70. **(A)**

The partition of India divided the Indian subcontinent into a majority Hindu India and a majority Muslim Pakistan. As a result, some Muslims were forced to leave their homes in the new India to settle in the new Pakistan (A); later, Bangladesh was formed from part of Pakistan (C). Religious toleration is, however, guaranteed in the Indian constitution (B). Nationalism was a driving force in Indian independence, which was achieved with the partition (D).

Section II

Sample Answer to Document-Based Essay

The causes of the conflicts in the Vietnam War were linked to both internal pressures of anti-colonialism and external pressures of the Cold War. Caught in the rapidly changing post-World War II world, the nation struggled to attain its independence as nationalism rebelled against imperialism. The growing tensions between the democratic and communist worlds placed this struggle into a larger context.

Before the Second World War, Vietnam (part of French Indochina) was colonized by the French. During World War II, it was occupied by the Japanese. After the war, Vietnam was returned to France. Soon after this, conflict broke out between anti-French Vietnamese and French forces with their own Vietnamese allies. The damages wrought by World War II contributed to an era of nationalist movements throughout countries occupied by Europeans. Even as Vietnam struggled to win independence, for example, African nations also joined together to throw off imperialist masters.

As seen in document #2, Ho Chi Minh, a French-educated communist leader in Vietnam, wanted the principles of the Atlantic Charter to apply to Vietnam. Among other things, the Atlantic Charter had called for peoples in the post-World War II world to be able to “choose the form of government under which they will live” (document #1). The United Nations Charter that Ho Chi Minh references, formulated in San Francisco near the end of the war, used similar language. Since the U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt had been the key person behind the Atlantic Charter, Ho Chi Minh wrote to the U.S. president (in 1946, Harry Truman) asking for assistance against the French colonizers. After all, the U.S. government had never been fond of the French and British empires. Ho Chi Minh also knew that independence movements were alive throughout the world.

In 1954, it seemed that the ideals of the Atlantic and San Francisco charters might go into effect in Vietnam. As we see in document #3, the Geneva Convention of that year called for elections in Vietnam that would allow for “free expression” of the Vietnamese peoples’ “national will.” But the elections called for at Geneva never took place. This is mostly because the world had changed significantly since the Atlantic and San Francisco charters. The most important change was the Cold War, which pitted noncommunist countries (led by the United States) against communist countries (led primarily by the Soviet Union). U.S. policy sought to limit Soviet influence, and as the articles suggest, Americans feared that communists would win these elections. This fear was probably based on a correct assumption. As the historians Van Der Kroef and Ennis made clear in their articles written in the mid-1950s (documents # 5 & 6), many Vietnamese saw communism as an alternative ideology to colonialism and its oppressive policies. Educated Vietnamese knew that the French Revolution had promoted “liberty, equality and fraternity,” but many Vietnamese did not believe that the French had brought these ideals to Vietnam.

Some Vietnamese also feared that Vietnam would become communist. Among these was Ngo Dinh Diem, who saw the Geneva agreement as a “surrender” to the mostly communist

north (document # 4). Diem was by no means a democrat, but in the Cold War context, the most important thing to the United States was that he was anticommunist. So the United States supported Diem, believing (according to the “domino theory”) that if Vietnam became communist, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, and India would follow. As Diem said in 1954, “Soviet China” was poised to take over Vietnam. Evidence that this might have been true came from Ho Chi Minh’s own mouth: as we see in document # 6, he was grateful to the Soviet Union and China for their help at the Geneva talks.

Together, these tensions between nationalist anti-imperialists, willing to embrace communism to meet their needs, and strong anticommunists committed to keeping that ideology from spreading brought the nation into turmoil. Interpretation of this subject could be enhanced by adding a document describing the views of another Vietnamese person on the nation's government, such as a local newspaper editorial or letter. This would provide insight into what the people of the nation considered best—a nationalist communist government or a democratic one perhaps more linked to the era of imperialism.

Sample Answer to Change-Over-Time Essay

Over a period of several centuries, traders based in northern Africa developed a complex network of trade connections that linked them with the rest of the world via the Silk Road and trans-Indian Ocean trade routes. These traders—mostly drawn from the nomadic Saharan Berber people—became innovators of the trans-Saharan caravan route, which transferred the valuable goods and raw materials of Africa east. In return, traders took agricultural and manufactured goods from the Roman Empire, and, later, goods transported along the Silk Road and across the Indian Ocean back west to the increasingly rich kingdoms of West Africa. The trans-Saharan trade routes also provided a north-south avenue for goods to travel to and from the Bantu-dominated sub-Saharan African region. The development of new technology such as the domesticated camel eased northern Africa's rise as a major trading power.

Historians believe that trade took place across the Sahara from early times, with cities such as Carthage becoming prominent trading centers during the classical era. Even after the fall of Carthage to Rome as a result of the Punic Wars, the region remained important as a trading hub. Romans relied on northern Africa as a provider of wheat, and western regions mined salt and produced other valuable raw materials. Thus the trans-Saharan trade routes in these early times served as a connection between the growing holdings of the Roman Republic and the Mediterranean world with northern and western African kingdoms.

By about 100 CE, historians believe that the Berbers had adopted the camel for use as a desert pack animal. The Berbers domesticated the camel and created a special camel saddle, allowing this hardy creature to form the heart of large merchant caravans that began crossing the Sahara by the second century CE. Camels could carry over 500 pounds each and survive for more than a week without water, making them ideally suited to the desert trade. They remained vital to the trans-Saharan trading caravans for many centuries.

The rise of the Silk Road and, later, the Indian Ocean trade routes only helped support the trans-Saharan trade. The Silk Road rose at about the same time as caravans developed in northern Africa, meaning that traders could now acquire valuable luxury goods such as silk from Asia for trade in the west and pass their own salt, gold, and palm oil to the east. Although political turmoil and poor security sometimes undermined the importance of the Silk Road, northern Africa was perfectly placed to take advantage of the competing Indian Ocean trade routes. These naval routes connected Southeast Asia and India to eastern Africa and the Middle East via the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. African traders moving both north to south and west to east could buy and sell goods from coastal ports that moved along this route.

One especially important African city in the trans-Saharan trade was Cairo, Egypt. An ancient city, Cairo became the connecting point for traders traveling north from the interior of Africa, caravans coming from the west, goods from the Middle East, and other merchants from various parts of the world. This was particularly true after the Seljuk Turks conquered Baghdad—a major trading hub of the Muslim world—in 1055 CE. This brought about the end of the Abbasid caliphate that was based there, setting up Cairo as the primary trade hub for the entire Muslim world. Cairo's location on the Nile River meant that trade caravans could travel south along the river to the Red Sea, from which they could ship goods east using the Indian

Ocean trade routes. Because Muslim traders had advanced naval technology, their ships could carry large quantities of goods along these routes.

The trans-Saharan trade routes also gained importance with the rise of powerful West Africa trading empires in the Middle Ages. Ghana, Mali, and Songhay built strong empires based on their resources of salt, which they traded with other kingdoms along the trans-Saharan route for gold. The king of Ghana, for example, became known as the “king of gold” as a nod to this trade. After Ghana fell to Mali in about 1076 CE, the latter empire continued the salt-for-gold trade. One of its rulers, Mansa Musa, became extremely wealthy from this trade, and the arrival of his pilgrimage caravan in Cairo caused so much gold to flood the city that it suffered from inflation for decades. The later Songhay relied on the trans-Saharan routes in the same way as their predecessors until their decline in the sixteenth century. The trans-Saharan trade routes also shaped this region through the introduction of Islam, which Berbers forced upon Ghanaians. The religion took hold in the region, and the city of Timbuktu—well known thanks to the stories carried by traders—became a center of Muslim culture and learning.

Although the exact trade practices changed over the centuries in northern Africa, trade of regional goods such as salt and gold flourished throughout this entire time. Technological, political, and cultural changes could not end the continuity of trade as a vital piece of the northern Africa puzzle.

Sample Answer to Comparative Essay

Although separated by thousands of miles and seemingly alien cultures, Western Europeans and Japanese of the Middle Ages lived under rather similar social structures. These structures grew out of the need of rulers to call upon a fighting force and reflected the dominance of the agriculturally based barter system of the era.

During the Middle Ages in both Western European nations and the East Asian nation of Japan, the feudal system—called the shogunate in Japan—came to dominate social structures. The same basic concept underlay social organization in both places. A highly placed lord or king in Europe or, in Japan, an emperor or shogun, relied on a series of vassals to provide military and administrative services. These vassals, called knights in Europe and daimyos in Japan, provided military service and agricultural support to their lords in exchange for a grant of land. Vassals then relied on peasants at the bottom of the social hierarchy to provide agricultural labor and rents to support them. This three-tiered structure was the heart of both nations' social systems.

Some features were, however, unique to each region. European vassals swore oaths of loyalty to their lords for only relatively short periods of time; periods of service could be as brief as six weeks out of the year. Yet the costs of outfitting a vassal with armor and battle gear were great, so vassals were expected to provide not only military service if called upon, but also to ransom their lords if they were taken captive in battle. Vassals had to be wealthy in their own right in order to uphold their part of the bargain. They thus developed into powerful figures themselves, and in time agreements such as marriages could require the approval of a lord. The right marriage could give a vassal greater status than his lord, a situation lords obviously tried to avoid.

In Europe, vassals were eventually required to swear a vow of liege homage that granted one particular lord preeminence in the levels of support. This arose because vassals had the right to swear loyalty to more to one lord; if those lords then warred against each other, the vassal was not obliged to side with one or the other. Liege homage established a clear order of precedence in that respect. In contrast, the Japanese ruler did not require daimyos to swear an oath of loyalty at all. This meant that Japanese vassals retained a higher overall level of independence from the shogun.

The Japanese system, however, demanded a high level of personal honor and responsibility from its participants. Japanese daimyos had their own paid professional fighting forces made up of fierce warriors called samurai. The samurai did swear an oath of loyalty to daimyos, and held themselves to strict moral codes based on Confucian ethics. This social ideal was so strict that samurai who betrayed their loyalty to their daimyo committed ritual suicide to restore their honor. Daimyos thus commanded great amounts of respect and social status regardless of their abilities to consolidate power through marriage or other family connections.

Both European and Japanese vassals maintained their status through reliance on peasant labor. In Europe, peasants were tied to the land, but were unable to own it; in Japan, peasants did have the right to own land, although high property taxes meant that few wanted to do so. These workers dedicated their efforts to performing agricultural labor for the vassals they

served. Although the vast majority of people belonged to the peasant class in both places, they sat at the very bottom of the social ladder.

Thus, although European and Japanese societies may have seemed quite different to a casual outside observer, their similarities in social structures ran quite deep. Both nations shared a dependence on the feudal system with its tiers of lords, vassals, and peasants. Both nations valued loyalty, albeit in somewhat different ways. European vassals formally swore oaths of loyalty to lords, while Japanese daimyos were themselves the ones who received oaths from their professional samurai soldiers. Differences also extended to minor variations in the rights of peasants. Yet overall, the social structures of the two regions during this period were more alike than different.