

2011 AP[®] WORLD HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

WORLD HISTORY

SECTION II

Part C

(Suggested planning and writing time—40 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—33 1/3

Directions: You are to answer the following question. You should spend 5 minutes organizing or outlining your essay.

Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with appropriate historical evidence.
- Addresses all parts of the question.
- Makes direct, relevant comparisons.
- Analyzes relevant reasons for similarities and differences.

3. Analyze similarities and differences in the rise of TWO of the following empires.

A West African Sudanic empire (Mali OR Ghana OR Songhay)

The Aztec Empire

The Mongol Empire

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 3 — Comparative Question

BASIC CORE (competence)

0–7 Points

1. Has acceptable thesis.

1 Point

- The thesis must include both a valid similarity and a valid difference in the **rise** of two of the empires.
- The thesis must be explicitly stated in the introduction or the specified conclusion of the essay.
- The thesis may appear as one sentence or as multiple sentences.
- A thesis that is split among multiple paragraphs or merely restates the prompt is unacceptable.
- The thesis may not be counted for credit in any other category.

2. Addresses all parts of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly.

2 Points

For 2 points:

- Identifies at least one valid similarity and one valid difference in the **rise** of the two empires.
- Discusses two empires but not necessarily evenly.

For 1 point:

- Identifies at least one valid similarity or at least one valid difference in the **rise** of the two empires.
- Discusses two empires but not necessarily evenly.

3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence.

2 Points

For 2 points:

- Must provide at least four pieces of relevant and accurate evidence.
- Includes at least two pieces of evidence from each empire.
- Includes at least one piece of evidence that specifically addresses the **rise** of an empire.

For 1 point:

- Must provide at least four pieces of relevant and accurate evidence.
- Includes at least one piece of evidence from each empire.

All evidence not specifically about the rise of an empire must be connected to characteristics of empire, e.g., religion, trade/economic systems, government, infrastructure, and /or military.

4. Makes at least one direct, relevant comparison between the empires.

1 Point

- To earn this point, the comparison must be made somewhere other than in the thesis, and it must also be a different comparison from the ones used to address a similarity and a difference.

The direct comparison may discuss either similarities or differences and may address characteristics of empires other than those related to the rise of empires.

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Question 3 — Comparative Question (continued)

5. Analyzes at least one reason for a similarity or a difference identified in a direct comparison.

1 Point

Subtotal

7 Points

EXPANDED CORE (excellence)

0–2 Points

Expands beyond basic core of 1–7 points. The basic core score of **7** must be achieved before a student can earn expanded core points.

Examples:

- Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis.
- Addresses all parts of the question thoroughly (as relevant): comparisons, chronology, causation, connections, themes, interactions, content.
- Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate thesis.
- Relates comparisons to larger global context.
- Makes several direct, relevant comparisons between or among empires.
- Consistently analyzes relevant similarities and differences in the rise of empires.
- Applies relevant knowledge of other regions or world historical processes.
- Recognizes nuances within empires.

Subtotal

2 Points

Total

9 Points