

**Answer Question 2 or Question 3 or Question 4.**

In your response, you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least two pieces of specific and relevant evidence.
- Use historical reasoning (e.g., comparison, causation, continuity or change over time) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt.
- Demonstrate a complex understanding of a historical development related to the prompt through sophisticated argumentation and/or effective use of evidence.

---

**2.** In the period circa 1200 to 1450, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism included ideas about social structures, gender roles, and political authority that influenced societies across Asia.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which one or more of these belief systems shaped societies and/or political systems in Asia during this period.

---

**3.** In the period circa 1450 to 1750, economic, political, and religious rivalries led many imperial states around the world to expand their territories and influence.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which economic rivalries were the primary motivation for the expansion of European empires during this period.

---

**4.** During the twentieth century, medical and scientific discoveries affected life expectancies, access to resources, and social and economic structures, which reshaped individual lives as well as entire societies.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which medical and scientific discoveries benefited individuals and/or societies during this period.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

## Question 2: Long Essay Question, Belief Systems and Societies in Asia

6 points

### General Scoring Notes

- Except where otherwise noted, each point of these rubrics is earned independently; for example, a student could earn a point for evidence without earning a point for thesis/claim.
- **Accuracy:** The components of these rubrics require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, essays may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 essays 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.

In the period circa 1200 to 1450, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism included ideas about social structures, gender roles, and political authority that influenced societies across Asia.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which one or more of these belief systems shaped societies and/or political systems in Asia during this period.

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row A Thesis/Claim (0–1 points)	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>		
<p><b>Responses that do not earn this point:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are not historically defensible.</li> <li>Only restate or rephrase the prompt.</li> <li>Do not respond to the prompt.</li> <li>Do not establish a line of reasoning.</li> <li>Are overgeneralized.</li> </ul> <p><b>Examples that do not earn this point:</b></p> <p><b>Provide a restatement of the prompt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Belief systems, such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism, shaped the political systems of Asia in the period 1200 to 1450.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Provide a historically defensible claim, but do not establish a line of reasoning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Buddhism spread from India to China via the Silk Roads.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Does not respond to the prompt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Islam expanded throughout Asia via trade.”</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Responses that earn this point:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a historically defensible thesis or claim about the extent to which belief systems shaped societies and/or political systems in Asia in the period during the period circa 1200 to 1450. The thesis or claim must either provide some indication of the reason for making that claim OR establish categories of the argument.</li> </ul> <p><b>Examples that earn this point:</b></p> <p><b>Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Rulers of various Asian states, including the Song Dynasty in China and the Khmer Empire in Southeast Asia, used Confucianism, Buddhism, or Hinduism to legitimize their rule.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt with analytic categories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“While the philosophy of Confucianism strengthened the Chinese state by maintaining imperial bureaucracy and social hierarchies, it also provided a justification for subjects to rebel against or even overthrow the ruling dynasty if they believed that it had lost the Mandate of Heaven.”</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Establish a line of reasoning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Confucianism shaped the culture of China by providing support for patriarchy.”</i> [Minimally acceptable thesis/claim]</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The thesis or claim must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion (which may not be limited to the first or last paragraphs).</li> <li>The thesis or claim must identify a relevant development(s) in the period, although it is not required to encompass the entire period.</li> </ul>		