

2017 AP® WORLD HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Use the passage below to answer all parts of the question that follows.

“First and most important in the early modern era [1450–1750 C.E.] is the intensified human land use in every world region. Rising human numbers put increasing pressure on the land. Almost invariably [human] expansion caused a reduction in the quantity and diversity of vegetation or, to put it in other terms, a reduction in biomass and biodiversity. That is, sedentary cultivation depended on selection of one or a few favored plant species . . . in place of a variety of grass, shrubs, and trees. . . . Agriculture was and continues to be the single most important means by which humans change the world’s lands and its ecosystems.”

John F. Richards, historian, *The Unending Frontier: An Environmental History of the Early Modern World*, 2003

2. a) Identify and explain ONE historically specific example of intensified human land use in the period 1450–1750 C.E. that would support the author’s argument.
- b) Identify and explain ONE historically specific example from the period before 1450 C.E. in which humans interacted with the environment in ways similar to those described in the passage.
- c) Identify and explain ONE late-twentieth-century development that likely explains historians’ interest in the subject of the passage.

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Answer all parts of the question that follows.

3. a) Identify and explain ONE way in which industrialization in the period circa 1750–1900 can be considered an economic turning point in global history.
- b) Identify and explain ONE way in which industrialization in the period circa 1750–1900 can be considered a political turning point in global history.
- c) Identify and explain ONE way in which industrialization in the period circa 1750–1900 can be considered a social turning point in global history.

AP[®] WORLD HISTORY 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Short Answer Question 2

Use the passage below to answer all parts of the question that follows.

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- Identify and explain ONE late-twentieth-century development that likely explains historians’ interest in the subject of the passage.

0–3 points

Score 3

Response accomplishes all three tasks set by the question.

Score 2

Response accomplishes two of the tasks set by the question.

Score 1

Response accomplishes one of the tasks set by the question.

Score 0

Response accomplishes none of the tasks set by the question.

Score —

Is completely blank

Scoring Guide

0–3 points

- ONE point for identifying AND explaining one historically specific example of intensified human land use in the period 1450–1750 C.E. that would support Richards’s argument.
- ONE point for identifying AND explaining one historically specific example from the period before 1450 C.E. in which humans interacted with the environment in ways similar to those described in the passage.
- ONE point for identifying AND explaining one late-twentieth-century development that likely explains historians’ interest in the subject of the passage.

AP[®] WORLD HISTORY

2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Short Answer Question 2

Scoring Notes

Examples of responses to part (a) that would earn credit:

- The establishment of plantation agriculture in the Americas after 1492 resulted in new forms of intensive agriculture for cash crops for export, such as sugar, that reduced the agricultural diversity of the region.
- The Aztecs altered the surrounding landscape through the use of *chinampas* in order to produce specific crops.
- The Columbian Exchange dramatically changed the biodiversity and expansion of agriculture in Ming and Qing China through the cultivation of sweet potatoes, maize, and potatoes.

Examples of responses to part (b) that would earn credit:

- The agricultural revolution in Mesopotamia resulted in intensive cultivation of cereal grains and use of irrigation, leading to increased salinization of the soil.
- Greater rice cultivation and the spread of cash crops like tea and cotton during the Song Dynasty led to transformation of the landscape to meet the economic needs of the rising merchant class.
- An agricultural revolution in medieval Europe led to the use of the three-field system, resulting in increased deforestation as more land was cleared for cultivation.

Examples of responses to part (c) that would earn credit:

- The Green Revolution's focus on increasing agricultural productivity in the 1960s led historians to consider other events or times when human agency also impacted the ecosystem.
- The growing environmental movement of the late twentieth century brought greater attention to the damaging effects of deforestation and pollution.
- The massive mobilization and relocation of people to increase agricultural production in China during the 1950s and 1960s led to environmental stresses.