

**Question 2, 3, or 4 (Long Essay)**

**Suggested writing time: 40 minutes**

**Directions:** 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 specific and relevant examples of evidence.
- Use historical reasoning (e.g., comparison, causation, continuity or change over time) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt.
- Use evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt.

2. In the period circa 1200 to 1450, the expansion of empires such as the Mongol Empire facilitated trade and communication across Eurasia.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia during this period.

3. In the period circa 1450 to 1750, rulers of land-based empires, such as the Mughal, the Ottoman, and the Safavid empires, used a variety of religious, political, and economic methods to legitimize and consolidate their power.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which a land-based empire successfully consolidated or expanded its power during this period.

4. In the mid- to late twentieth century, a variety of political, military, and nonviolent methods were used to bring about political and social change.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which an individual, group, or movement in the mid- to late twentieth century successfully challenged existing power structures during this period.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

## Question 2: Long Essay Question, Mongol Expansion and Eurasia

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the timed nature of the exam, essays may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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, the expansion of empires such as the Mongol Empire facilitated trade and communication across Eurasia.

Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia during this period.

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
<b>Row A</b> <b>Thesis/Claim</b>  <b>(0-1 points)</b>	<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>		
	<b>Responses that do not earn this point:</b> <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>	<b>Responses that earn this point:</b> Provide a historically defensible thesis or claim about the extent to which Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia during the period circa 1200–1450. The thesis must suggest at least one main line of argument development or establish the analytic categories of the argument.
	<b>Examples that do not earn this point:</b>  <b>Do not focus on the topic of the prompt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The Mongol conquests affected many things, including the environment.”</i></li> </ul> <b>Provide a historically defensible claim, but do not establish a line of reasoning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The Mongol conquests affected many of the peoples of Eurasia during this time period.”</i></li> </ul> <b>Provide a claim that is not historically defensible</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The most significant effect of the Mongols was the spread of the Mongol language across Eurasia.”</i></li> </ul>	<b>Examples that earn this point:</b>  <b>Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The Mongol conquest of China and the Middle East resulted in cultural syncretism between the Mongols and conquered peoples.”</i></li> </ul> <b>Establish a line of reasoning that evaluates the topic of the prompt with analytic categories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The Mongol conquests helped connect China to the rest of Eurasia not only due to the increase of Silk Road trade, but also by creating opportunities for the exchange of religions and scientific knowledge.”</i></li> </ul> <b>Establish a line of reasoning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The Mongol conquests destroyed many Eurasian cities.”</i> (Minimally acceptable thesis/claim)</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Notes:</b> <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>		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
<b>Row B</b> <b>Contextualization</b>	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
<b>(0-1 points)</b>	<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>	
	<b>Responses that do not earn this point:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide an overgeneralized statement about the time period referenced in the prompt.</li> <li>Provide context that is not relevant to the prompt.</li> <li>Provide a passing phrase or reference.</li> </ul> <b>Examples that do not earn this point:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Many empires developed in Eurasia before the Mongols formed their own empire and these empires affected peoples across Eurasia.”</i></li> <li><i>“The Silk Roads linked many cultures across Eurasia.”</i></li> </ul>	<b>Responses that earn this point:</b> Accurately describe a context relevant to the Mongol expansion or the peoples of Eurasia.  <b>Examples of relevant context that earn this point include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The spread of new technologies and scientific ideas across Eurasia</li> <li>The continuing spread of religions, such as Islam, Christianity, or Buddhism</li> <li>The importance of Silk Road trade to commerce and culture across Eurasia</li> <li>The decline or military weakness of the Song dynasty and Muslim states, such as the Abbasid Caliphate or the Khwarazmian Empire</li> <li>Specific information about religious or philosophical traditions, such as Islam or Confucianism</li> <li>Feudalism or other information about social or political hierarchies</li> <li>The expansion of nomadic empires across Eurasia</li> <li>The expansion and development of the Jin Dynasty in Northern China</li> <li>The Crusades in the Middle East</li> </ul> <b>Example of acceptable contextualization:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The Mongol empire under Chinggis Khan developed in the context of a Jin dynasty that, while militarily powerful, was beginning to experience internal discord and a weak ruler.”</i></li> <li><i>“The Mongols’ nomadic background made them great warriors.”</i> (Minimally acceptable contextualization)</li> </ul>
	<b>Additional Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question.</li> <li>To earn this point, the context provided must be more than a phrase or reference.</li> </ul>	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
Row C Evidence  (0-2 points)	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Provides specific examples of evidence relevant to the <b>topic</b> of the prompt.	<b>2 points</b> Supports an <b>argument</b> in response to the prompt using specific and relevant examples of evidence.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
	<b>Responses that do not earn points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a single piece of evidence.</li> <li>Provide evidence that is not relevant to the topic of prompt.</li> <li>Provide evidence that is outside the time period or region specified in the prompt.</li> <li>Repeat information that is specified in the prompt.</li> </ul> <b>Examples that do not earn points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Some Chinese learned the Mongol language in order to obtain high state positions.”</i></li> </ul>	<b>Responses that earn 1 point:</b> <u>Identify at least two specific historical examples</u> relevant to the Mongol conquests.  <b>Examples of evidence that are specific and relevant include the following (two examples required):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The spread of technologies, such as gunpowder or paper money</li> <li><i>Caravansera</i></li> <li>Formation and establishment of individual khanates</li> <li>Mongol rulers, such as Chinggis Khan or Khubilai Khan</li> <li>Black Death (bubonic plague)</li> <li>Cities destroyed by the Mongol conquests, such as Baghdad</li> <li><i>Pax Mongolica</i></li> <li>Specific information about Mongol conquests, such as their defeat of the Song Dynasty</li> <li>Specific information on the Silk Roads, such as improvement, security, passports, Yam (post) system, etc.</li> <li>Mongol conversions to local religions, such as Islam and Buddhism</li> <li>Mongol religious toleration and the spread of religion</li> </ul> <b>Example of a statement that earns 1 point for evidence:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The Mongol conquests led to the spread of technologies, such as gunpowder weapons, as well as knowledge such as Islamic science and math.”</i></li> </ul>	<b>Responses that earn 2 points:</b> <u>Use at least two specific historical examples</u> to support an argument regarding the extent to which Mongol expansion affected the peoples of Eurasia during the period circa 1200–1450.  <b>Examples that successfully support an argument with evidence:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Most of Europe did not experience much cultural change as a result of the Mongol conquests. Although the Mongols invaded Eastern Europe in 1241, their cultural impact was mostly limited to areas where nomadic influence was already strong.”</i> (Uses multiple, specific pieces of evidence to support the argument that the Mongols’ cultural impact in Europe was limited)</li> <li><i>“The Islamic world was substantially changed by the Mongol conquests. The Mongols conquered the Abbasid Caliphate, killed the caliph, and utterly destroyed many wealthy and powerful Eurasian trading cities.”</i> (Uses multiple, specific pieces of evidence to support the argument that the Islamic world was substantially changed by the Mongol conquests)</li> </ul>
	<b>Additional Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically, statements credited as evidence will be more specific than statements credited as contextualization.</li> <li>If a response has a multipart argument, then it can meet the threshold of two pieces of evidence by giving one example for one part of the argument and another example for a different part of the argument, but the total number of examples must still be at least two. (For example, the Mongols contributed to the further spread of Islam among Turkic peoples; the Mongols spread gunpowder.)</li> </ul>		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
<b>Row D</b> <b>Analysis and Reasoning</b>  <b>(0-2 points)</b>	<b>0 points</b> Does not meet the criteria for one point.	<b>1 point</b> Uses historical reasoning (e.g., comparison, causation, continuity, and change) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt.	<b>2 points</b> Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
	<b>Responses that do not earn points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May include evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to an argument.</li> <li>May assert the use of historical reasoning but does not use it to frame or structure an argument.</li> </ul>	<b>Responses that earn 1 point:</b> Must demonstrate the use of historical reasoning to explain the extent to which a land-based empire successfully consolidated or expanded its power during the period circa 1450-1750.	<b>Responses that earn 2 points:</b> May demonstrate a complex understanding in a variety of ways, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explaining the nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables.</li> <li>Explaining both similarity and difference, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both causes and effects.</li> <li>Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods.</li> <li>Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes.</li> <li>Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence.</li> </ul>
	<b>Examples that do not earn points:</b>  <b>Provide evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to an argument:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Ottoman armies used cannons.”</i></li> </ul>	<b>Using a historical thinking skill to frame or structure an argument could include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explaining the effects of centralizing administrative practices that increased the stability and wealth of a land-based empire.</li> <li>Explaining how changes in military organization or military equipment led to large territorial expansion in a land-based empire.</li> </ul> <b>Example of acceptable use of historical reasoning:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“Even though it preserved the power of the traditional Manchu nobility, the Qing dynasty also added elements of Chinese political culture based on Confucianism, which helped it achieve legitimacy and stability.”</i> (Uses causation to support an argument about Qing imperial administrative consolidation)</li> </ul>	<b>Demonstrating complex understanding might include any of the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explaining the nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables, such as explaining how the early Mughal emperors expanded their territory and centralized their administration, but the later Mughal emperors rapidly lost territory to a variety of indigenous elites as well as invaders. (Explains nuance and qualifies an argument)</li> <li>Explaining relevant and insightful connections across time and space, such as explaining how Turkish Muslim conquerors established massive land-based empires in the Middle East, Persia, and India through similar processes of combining cavalry and gunpowder in their armies, as well as establishing centralized administrations. (Explains relevant and insightful connections)</li> <li>Explaining both similarities and differences by explaining that the Ottoman and Mughal Empires tolerated religious diversity in their populations, but the Safavid Empire supported only Shi’a Islamic practices in Persia. (Explaining both similarities and differences)</li> <li>Corroborating an argument by demonstrating how the Ottoman Empire successfully centralized its administration and competed against expanding European maritime empires but failed to modernize and eventually fell far behind European industrial economies. (Corroborates multiple perspectives)</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Notes:</b> This demonstration of complex understanding must be part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.			