

2017 AP® WORLD HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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

DETAIL IMAGE FROM A SCROLL PAINTED DURING THE SONG DYNASTY, CIRCA 1100 C.E.



The Granger Collection, New York

The image shows (on left) Guo Ziyi, a Chinese general of the Tang dynasty, meeting with Uighur nomads on the frontier of China.

1. a) Identify and explain ONE way in which the interaction depicted in the image represents a continuity in Chinese imperial history.
b) Identify and explain ANOTHER way in which the interaction depicted in the image represents a continuity in Chinese imperial history.
c) Identify and explain ONE way in which the interaction between imperial China and Central Asian nomads changed after 1100 C.E.

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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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2017 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Short Answer Question 1

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

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- Identify and explain ONE way in which the interaction between imperial China and Central Asian nomads changed after 1100 C.E.

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Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

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 way in which the interaction depicted in the image represents a continuity in Chinese imperial history.
- ONE point for identifying AND explaining another way in which the interaction depicted in the image represents a continuity in Chinese imperial history.
- ONE point for identifying AND explaining one way in which the interaction between imperial China and Central Asian nomads changed after 1100 C.E.

Scoring Notes

Examples of responses to parts (a) and (b) that would earn credit:

- The Chinese imperial state, from the Han to the Tang, and, to some extent the Song, as it sought to expand its empire, came into contact with nomadic peoples from whom they continued to demand tribute and submission.
- Nomadic peoples, because of their pastoral lifestyles, continued to rely on settled Chinese people for finished goods and products that they were unable to produce themselves.
- Chinese imperial power, both economic and military, forced nearby nomadic peoples to submit, kowtow, and give tribute to the Chinese state throughout the period from the Han to the Tang and, to some extent, the Song dynasty.
- The Chinese imperial belief in their own cultural superiority led them to consistently depict nomadic peoples as inferior and needing to submit.
- Respectful relationships, identified in the drawing, between nomads and the Chinese represented Confucian ideals that were a continuity in imperial China.

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Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

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

- The tributary system, used by previous dynasties to pacify Central Asian nomads, was reversed by officials during the Qing dynasty, who used conquest and governance to dominate this region.
- Mongolian nomads gained control over the Chinese imperial state rather than merely seeking trade opportunities, reversing the role they played in previous centuries.
- The Khitan and the Jurchen, unwilling to maintain the old tributary relationship with the Chinese imperial state, defeated the Song, conquered portions of northern China, and forced the Song to pay tribute and recognize their dynasties as equals.