

Short-Answer Questions

Question 1

A successful response to this question must address the fact that these trade routes are the westerly ends of the Silk Roads and track their development throughout the periods mentioned in the question.

- a) Your answer should include TWO of the following:
- Consolidation of empires such as Persia, Greek states, and Rome to facilitate trade
 - Economic development of the Mediterranean basin in order to stimulate demand for Asian goods
 - Development of vessels suitable for trade between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.
 - Consolidation of steppe empires like those of the Parthians to protect overland trade to India through central Asia.
- b) Your answer should include ONE of the following:
- Empires became politically fractured (for example, Rome and the conquest of the Sassanid Empire of Persia by the Arabians).
 - Attacks by steppe peoples such as the Hunas in India, White Huns in Persia, and the Huns or Avars in Roman lands disrupted international trade routes.
 - Arab mastery of Indian Ocean trade increased seaborne trade's volume relative to overland trade.

Question 2

A good answer to this question must address the period from 600 to 1450 c.e. and major developments within this period, accompanied by specific historical examples. A successful answer must include THREE of the following:

- **Religion:** Empires like the Umayyad or Abbasid Caliphates, the Holy Roman Empire, and the Byzantine Empire all strongly relied on religion as a cohesive force and a way to legitimize the ruler in the eyes of the subjects.
- **Conquest and Warfare:** Empires like the Caliphates, the Mongols, the Aztecs, and many others relied on victory in war to build internal strength as well as legitimize the ruler in the eyes of the people.
- **Trade and Commerce:** The period saw the further formation of international trade routes and commerce. States like the Italian cities, the Hanseatic League, Song China, and many others stimulated commerce, which inspired cultural golden ages and generally high levels of prosperity that kept people content.
- **Technological Change:** Technologies like gunpowder helped states, especially Europe, strengthen their military power, while other technologies like the three-field system helped agricultural output grow.

- **Feudalism:** The period of time specified by the question is situated in the age of feudalism, a system of government in which rulers delegated land to vassals in exchange for the obligations of loyalty and military service. Feudal societies stretched from Europe to China, and the power dynamics between the ruler and his vassals swung from either extreme throughout the time period. A good example of this is France, where the nobility was more powerful than the King and caused a significant headache to ruling that realm. Only through powerful monarchs in later periods were nobles' ambitions curtailed.

Question 3

- a) Your answer should discuss how the portrait reflects attempts made by the Ottoman Empire to reform itself along Western lines. A good response must include ONE reason of the following:
- Ottoman military defeats at the hands of European powers in the previous century
 - Ottoman economic weakness and decline
 - The weakness of the position of the sultan with respect to the Janissary corps or the Grand Viziers
 - Ottoman technological backwardness with respect to Europe
- b) A good response must include ONE discussion of Ottoman efforts to Westernize themselves as supported by the painting. Responses can discuss Mahmud's military uniform or the Western column and draperies in the background as definite evidence of the acceptance of Western culture and art forms. Mahmud's stylish fez indicates some Ottoman conservatism.
- c) Your answer should discuss one of the many wars the Ottomans waged against European or Muslim powers in the time period. Responses may discuss the Ottoman wars against the Hapsburgs of Spain, Austria, or Portugal, Ottoman wars against Russia, Ottoman wars against Safavid Persia, or even the Ottoman alliance with France.

Question 4

- a) A good response should discuss some ways in which European colonists developed and exploited the lands of the Americas. Possible topics would include the plantation colonies of the Caribbean, the English Thirteen Colonies, or the Portuguese colony of Brazil.
- b) A successful response must discuss the violent relationship that marked certain European relationships with the natives of the New World. Possible topics would include the Spanish conquest of the Aztecs, Incans, and other such civilizations, the English wars against natives such as the Pequot War, or the eradication of native resistance in the Caribbean.
- c) To successfully answer (c), you need to justify your answer to either (a) or (b), but add evidence beyond what is presented in (a) and (b), and explain how your examples typify European interaction with the natives of the New World.