

AP World History Questions 1450-1750

“Sir, many of our people, keenly desirous of the wares and things of your Kingdom, which are brought here by your people, and in order to satisfy their voracious appetite, seize many of our people, freed and exempt men, and they kidnap even nobles and the sons of nobles, and our relatives, and take them to be sold to the Whites who are in our Kingdoms.”

The quotation above comes from a 1526 letter to a European monarch from a king located:

- a) on the eastern coast of Africa
- b) on the western coast of Africa
- c) on the Pacific coast of Central America
- d) on the Pacific coast of South America
- e) in the Pacific Islands

Answer: B

The economies of the southern colonies of colonial British America developed most like colonial economies in:

- Canada
 - The Dutch East Indies
 - The Caribbean and Brazil
 - Ireland and Scotland
- e) Massachusetts and New York

Answer: C

Between 1500 and 1800, Europeans were primarily interested in tropical colonies in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and in the Caribbean because:

- Large profits could be made from products like sugar, coffee, and pepper
 - The major European states were competing with each other for imperial hegemony
 - These colonies had strategic military importance
 - These areas had small populations and were thus easy to control
- e) Many Europeans were interested in getting away from Europe's wintry climate

Answer: A

Which of the following was the most important factor enabling the Spanish to defeat the Aztec Empire?

- The Spanish were able to field larger armies than the Aztecs
 - The Spanish were able to use their understanding of Aztec culture to create effective propaganda that weakened Aztec resistance.
 - The Spanish were able to exploit discontent within the Aztec state to trigger a revolt of the lower classes against the Aztec ruling class.
 - The Spanish were able to form military alliances with other indigenous peoples who were enemies of the Aztecs.
- e) The Spanish were able to devise effective countermeasures to the horse cavalry that formed the bulk of the Aztec army.

Answer: D

All of the following have been African contributions to cultures in the Americas except:

- a) African forms of religious observance
- b) African musical instruments
- c) knowledge of how to grow African crops
- d) African folklore
- e) African monetary systems

Answer: E

Which of the following are states that dominated the Mediterranean trade during the sixteenth century?

- a) Italian city-states and the Ottoman Empire
- b) The Byzantine Empire and the Ottoman Empire
- c) Spain and Portugal
- d) The Hapsburg Empire and France
- e) The Crusader states

Answer: A

The success of the European powers in penetrating the Asian trading system by 1600 can best be explained by the

- a) Asian demand for luxury goods
- b) European use of steam power
- c) high demand for European agricultural produce in China and India
- d) lower prices of European manufactured products
- e) opening of rich silver mines in Peru and Mexico

Answer: E

During the eighteenth century, which of the following reigned, but did not rule?

- a) The Ottoman sultan
- b) The king of France
- c) The Chinese emperor
- d) The Japanese emperor
- e) The Russian Tzar

Answer: D

In the period 1550-1750, most of the world's ten largest cities were located in which of the following regions?

- a) The Middle East
- b) Western Europe
- c) North Africa and southern Europe
- d) South Asia
- e) East Asia

Answer: E

Which of the following contributed most to the emergence of Russia as an expanding Eurasian power in the period between 1450 and 1750?

- a) Its absorption of traditions and technology from the Byzantine Empire and western Europe
- b) Its success in creating alliances with European powers to expel Turkish invaders from the south.
- c) The eradication of Islam from Central Asia
- d) The fall of the kingdoms of Poland and Prussia
- e) The use of its strong navy to acquire colonial holdings worldwide

Answer: A

Which of the following resulted from the arrival of western Europeans in India and China during the time period 1450 to 1750?

- a) The spread of infectious diseases in India and China and a drastic drop in their populations
- b) The establishment of small European enclaves in India and China
- c) A massive drain on silver and gold from India and China
- d) A great expansion in slave labor in India and China
- e) A major disruption of the economies of India and China

Answer: B

All of the following were characteristics of western Europe in the 1400s and 1500s except:

- a) the growth of capitalism
- b) the decline of the feudal system
- c) an increasingly urban population
- d) the development of improved weaponry
- e) the continued strength of the Roman Catholic Church

Answer: E

Which of the following statements best describes the relationship between European and Asian commercial interests in the 1500s?

- a) Europeans took over the Asian trading network by force.
- b) The trading network in Asia was divided into three zones – Arab, Indian, and Chinese.
- c) Europeans imposed a monopoly system on the spice trade.
- d) Europeans abandoned any idea of colonizing or trading directly with Asians in favor of using Asian intermediaries.
- e) Europeans found, after trial and error, that the only way to benefit from the Asian trading network was to join it as a peaceful partner.

Answer: E

Ghana in the 900s and France in the 1600s
had which of the following characteristics
in common?

- a) Parliamentary government
- b) Divine monarchy
- c) Matrilineal descent
- d) Islam
- e) Trade based on gold and manufacturing
good

Answer: B

Which statement most accurately describes Peter the Great's approach to reforming Russia?

- a) He reorganized the bureaucracy but did not touch the military.
- b) He chose to adopt technological modernizations but did not reform the governmental structure.
- c) He adopted some aspects of western European political organization, such as political parties.
- d) His many reforms improved the life of the serfs, although he did not end the practice.
- e) He used his modernization efforts to tighten his control over the country.

Answer: E

Which of the following statements most accurately describes the differences between the Spanish and Portuguese empires in the Americas?

- a) Portuguese Brazil was more dependent on agriculture for its economic base than was Spanish America.
- b) The Catholic Church had more influence over developments in Spanish America than in Brazil.
- c) Portugal exercised direct governmental control over Brazil, whereas Spain put little structure in place to govern its colonies.
- d) Spanish America, unlike Brazil, developed a multiracial society.
- e) Spanish America had little in the way of local manufacturing, whereas Brazil became for the most part self-sufficient.

Answer: B

Which of the following was a problem common to the Abbasids, Ottomans, and Mughals?

- European seizure of the African and Southeast Asian trading networks.
- b) Western technology
- c) Lack of a shared land border with Europe.
- d) A rigid succession policy that invited conflict.
- e) The competing power structure of regional warrior aristocrats.

Answer: E

Triangular trade referred to the network connecting:

- a) East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and India
- b) The west coast of Africa, North America, and western Europe
- c) The west and east coasts of Africa and India
- d) India, Southeast Asia, and China
- e) China, the Middle East, and the southern European coast of the Mediterranean

Answer: B

All of the following were long-term causes of the Protestant Reformation except:

- a) religious wars in Europe
- b) the emergence of European nation-states
- c) the political power of the papacy
- d) the lax morals of many clergy
- e) the call by humanists to simplify Catholic practices

Answer: A

All of the following are true about the Enlightenment except:

- a) The Enlightenment spawned the Scientific Revolution
- b) According to the thinking of the Enlightenment, religion was based on superstition and should be discarded.
- c) Enlightenment thinkers believed in the power of reason to discover natural law.
- d) Enlightenment thinkers owed much to the earlier Scholasticism for their view of the value of education.
- e) The influence of the Enlightenment can be seen in the Latin American independence movements of the early 1800s.

Answer: D

All of the following were true of the Renaissance except:

- a) it was influenced by the Muslim occupation of Spain.
- b) it resulted from Mediterranean trade during the Crusades.
- c) it began after the development of regional states in Europe.
- d) it occurred as Byzantium was in decline.
- e) it featured a revival of learning that occurred throughout Europe in the fourteenth century.

Answer: E

Compared to European exploration in the Indian Ocean, that of the Chinese:

- a) used fewer and smaller ships.
- b) covered shorter distances.
- c) was designed to establish a military presence.
- d) gained strength after the mid-1430s.
- e) was an effort to spread Confucianism.

Answer: C

Between 1450 and 1750, European voyages of exploration:

- a) were designed to break Italian and Muslim trade monopolies.
- b) were carried out without knowledge of oceanic conditions.
- c) were confined to the Atlantic Ocean.
- d) opened up trade relations with Polynesian islanders.
- e) set up African posts that opened up the interior of the continent to European exploration.

Answer: A

Which of the following was true of the cultures of Ming and Qing China?

- The concept of filial piety was abandoned.
- b) The custom of foot-binding became less frequent.
- c) The Chinese were introduced to American food crops.
- d) Both boys and girls were allowed to take the civil service exams.
- e) China developed an egalitarian society.

Answer: C

Between 1500 and 1800, the Islamic empires:

- a) abandoned the tradition of steppe diplomacy.
- b) failed to adapt to the urban areas of the lands they conquered.
- c) steadily strengthened in power.
- d) did not use gunpowder weapons.
- e) were ethnically diverse.

Answer: E

Which of the following products were brought to Europe through the Columbian Exchange?

- a. horses and potatoes
- b. horses and tobacco
- c. potatoes and sheep
- d. potatoes and tobacco
- e. sugar and tobacco

Answer: D

All of the following trends occurred in the decades after the outbreak of the bubonic plague in 1348 EXCEPT:

- a) fall in land values and rents
- b) rise in real wages
- c) reduction in the total land area under cultivation
- d) downward trend in the prices of manufactured goods
- e) decline in the demand for grain

Answer: D

Which of the following statements about the Renaissance is ***NOT*** accurate?

- A) The Renaissance challenged medieval intellectual values and styles
- B) The Renaissance encouraged a brasher spirit that may have helped create a new Western interest in exploring
- C) The Renaissance failed to develop any new ideas concerning political organization
- D) The Renaissance was built on a more commercialized economy
- E) The Renaissance had a southern and northern phase

Answer: C

Which of the following was NOT a characteristic of the Renaissance?

- re-emphasis on the culture of antiquity
- search for balance and proportion in politics
- the development of a historical and critical view of the world
- strong anti-Christian sentiment
- confidence in human rationality

Answer: D

Which of the following was the *primary* goal of Zheng He's expeditions?

- A) to eliminate foreign trade with China
- B) to establish Chinese trading cities on the Indian Ocean
- C) to impress foreign people with the power and might of the Ming dynasty.
- D) to establish diplomatic relations with the Muslim states trading on the Indian Ocean
- E) to offer military protection and support to Chinese merchants in the Indian Ocean

Answer: C

Chinese naval expeditions were abruptly ended in 1433 because

- A) Zheng He was suspected of building his personal power
- B) maintaining the fleet was considered a needless waste of national resources
- C) the voyages had led to several humiliating defeats
- D) the large Chinese vessels proved to be unseaworthy
- E) all of the above

Answer: B

What two nations began a maritime revolution that profoundly altered the course of world history?

- A) Portugal and Spain
- B) China and Japan
- C) England and France
- D) Germany and Russia
- E) Greece and Italy

Answer: A

The first European country to enter into direct trade with the Far East and establish colonies there was:

- Spain
- France
- Britain
- Portugal
- Holland

Answer: D

By the 16th century the center of commercial activity had shifted from the Mediterranean to the:

- Atlantic Ocean
- Red Sea
- Indian Ocean
- Baltic Sea
- North Sea

Answer: A

All of the following helped cause the Age of European Exploration EXCEPT:

- technological advances making long sea voyages possible
- the desire to spread Christianity
- the Mughals' continued encroachment into Central Europe
- European demand for eastern spices
- Ottoman expansion threatening access to the goods of the East

Answer: C

All of the following were causes of the Scientific Revolution EXCEPT:

- improvements in scientific instruments
- the contributions of medieval universities
- the recovery of classical scholarship during the Renaissance
- the challenges of navigation during long sea voyages
- the active support of the papacy

Answer: E

The ideas of the Enlightenment challenged the long-term assumptions about sovereignty and instead proposed that:

- true government stems from religious authority
- governments are bound to the will of the people
- the best form of government is a democracy
- all government is inherently unjust; humans are better off living in a state of nature
- church and state should be entirely separate

Answer: B

The Hanseatic League monopolized trade in the:

- Mediterranean Sea
- English Channel
- Baltic and North Seas
- Hanse Sea
- Adriatic and Black Seas

Answer: C

A result of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century was the:

- A) establishment of state churches in England, Scotland, and northern Germany
- B) separation of Church and State in France
- C) development of a uniform set of Protestant beliefs
- D) collapse of the temporal and spiritual power of the Pope
- E) all of these choices are correct

Answer: A

The Reformation influenced the development of the modern world primarily by:

- reducing the power of the state over the lives of ordinary people
- providing some justification for challenging the absolute authority of kings
- discouraging the growth of capitalism, which was criticized as being too worldly and materialistic
- believing in complete religious freedom for everyone
- forcing the Catholic Church to reform itself

Answer: B

The Spanish term *Reconquista* refers to which of the following:

- Spain's victory over the French in northern Italy
- the defeat of the Islamic states on the Iberian peninsula
- the long sought trade agreement with Portugal
- the beginnings of Habsburg rule in Spain
- the sailing of the Armada against England

Answer: B

Which of the following was the most significant factor in the rise of national states in Western Europe?

- the end of serfdom
- the acquiring of colonies in the New World
- the rise of the feudal nobility
- the need for protection from barbarian invasions
- the rise and support of the middle class

Answer: E

One of the most significant impacts of sugar cane production on global economies was

A) widespread deterioration in diet and nutrition

B) the increased demand for slave labor

C) increased demand for tea and coffee

D) increased demand for other luxury goods, such as porcelain

E) all of the above

Answer: B

In the New World, the Columbian Exchange generally resulted in

- A) the introduction of infectious diseases
- B) the staggering loss of indigenous populations
- C) the introduction of domesticated animals such as cattle and horses
- D) the introduction of food crops such as wheat
- E) all of the above

Answer: E

The labor system that compelled Indians to work in Spanish mines and fields in exchange for protection and Christian conversion was known as

- A) the *encomienda* system
- B) the hacienda
- C) slavery
- D) indentured servitude
- E) the *repartimiento* system

Answer: A

Which of the following was *not* a significant factor in Cortés's defeat of the Aztec empire?

- A) superior Spanish technology, especially swords, muskets, cannons, and horses
- B) a devastating smallpox epidemic
- C) the inadequate defenses of Tenochtitlan
- D) the resentment of many indigenous peoples to Aztec rule
- E) All of the above are factors

Answer: C

One significant difference in the administration of English colonies compared to their Spanish counterparts was

- A) the Spanish crown was less actively involved in the government of their colonies
- B) English governors were elected directly by the colonists, while Spanish viceroys were appointed by the crown
- C) Spanish colonies had powerful local assemblies, while the English did not
- D) English colonies were often financed by private investors, who retained control over colonial affairs
- E) the Church played a greater role in the administration of Spanish colonies

Answer: D

In spite of the ravages of the slave trade, the population of Africa actually increased in the eighteenth century due to

- A) European settlement of Africa
- B) resettlement of Asian workers in parts of Africa
- C) the introduction of new staple foods from the Americas
- D) improved health and life expectancy
- E) the cessation of intertribal warfare in Africa

Answer: C

The middle passage of the slave trade was

- A) the forced march of slaves through central Africa from their homelands
- B) the holding pens where African captives were held before sale to plantation owners
- C) the ship voyage across the Atlantic in the cargo decks
- D) the public auction of slaves in the Caribbean
- E) none of the above

Answer: C

On the plantations of the Caribbean and Brazil, slaves

- A) thrived because climate and diet were similar to Africa
- B) suffered heavy losses due to tropical diseases and brutal conditions
- C) quickly intermarried with the indigenous populations
- D) formed families and re-created kinship ties similar to those in Africa
- E) none of the above

Answer: B

How did the mining industries of the Americas stimulate global economic growth?

- A) Mining increased the demand for labor, sparking the growth of an Indian middle class
- B) Mineral ores from Mexico provided the raw materials for European manufacturing
- C) The sale of slaves to the mines by the Portuguese resulted in the Portuguese spending their wealth throughout Europe and Africa
- D) The Spanish *quinto* (profit from tax on mineral products) circulated throughout European and Asian markets
- E) all of the above

Answer: D

The economic theory of mercantilism would be consistent with which of the following statements?

- A) economies will prosper most when trade is restricted as little as possible
- B) colonies are of little economic importance to the mother country
- C) it is vital that a country imports more than it exports
- D) tariff barriers should be avoided as much as possible
- E) a government should seek to direct the economy so as to maximize exports

Answer: E

An indentured servant differed from a slave in that he or she

A) received wages for their work

B) worked for a limited period of time, usually 7 years, to repay passage to America

C) was used only for agricultural work

D) was held in servitude for life

E) was ineligible for the 50 acres of land given under Virginia's head-right system

Answer: B

Spanish colonization of the New World was characterized by all of the following **EXCEPT**

A) ruthless exploitation of the Native Americans

B) establishing African slavery in the Americas

C) reliance of large families as settlers.

D) introduction of the horse to America

E) the creation of large agricultural plantations

Answer: C

European exploration of the Americas resulted in all of the following **EXCEPT** the

- A) introduction of new products to the Americas
- B) spread of European diseases, such as smallpox, to the Native Americans
- C) introduction of new products to Europe
- D) development of unified resistance by the Native Americans to European settlement
- E) mixed-race peoples in Mexico and Central America

Answer: D

The Mughal Empire is distinguished from the Ottomans and Safavids mostly because it was

- A democracy
- A Hindu land ruled by Muslims
- Not very war-like
- Heavily influenced by the Chinese
- Still controlled by the Mongols

Answer: B

Why did the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires decline simultaneously?

- Inability to adjust to the changes in military technology and the world economy
- Natural disasters
- The bubonic plague
- Declining birth rates combined with fertility problems
- A religious prohibition against banking

Answer: A

After the period of civil wars ended in Japan,

- Japanese leaders fragmented into many feuding castes
- Korea invaded
- China invaded
- Japanese leaders established the Tokugawa Shogunate, a centralized military government
- Japanese leaders resigned, thus allowing a true democracy to form

Answer: D

What European organization was a transmitter of science and technology to China?

- Society of Jesus, or Jesuits
- Teutonic Knights
- The Royal Scientific Society
- Order of the Cross
- Knights Templar

Answer: A

The princes of Muscovy organized a movement of conquest and expansion against the

- Japanese
- Chinese
- Koreans
- Golden Horde
- Tibetans

Answer: D

How did the growth of a centralized Russian Empire affect the peasants?

- Peasants became serfs, people who were tied to the land.
- Peasants were deported and sent to gulags.
- Peasants could move freely at any time to improve their lot in life.
- Peasants' standard of living improved to a "middle class" level.
- It gave the peasants the vote.

Answer: A

The Janissaries were

- Slave women who lived in the sultan's harem
- Christian boys taken from conquered territories and raised as special forces
- Regional administrators, who were granted autonomy in exchange for loyalty
- Armored, light cavalry
- Eunuchs in service to the sultan

Answer: B

Peter the Great's program of westernization included

- The first secular system of education in Russian history
- Building a powerful, modern army
- State sponsorship of new industries
- Inviting skilled foreign workers to Russia
- All of the above

Answer: E

The isolationism of the Tokugawa government included

- Forbidding Japanese from going abroad
- Forbidding Chinese and Dutch merchants from trading at Nagasaki
- Forbidding scholars of neo-Confucianism from teaching in Japan
- Banning all foreign religions such as Confucianism and Buddhism
- All of the above

Answer: A