AP World History
Multiple Choice Questions
600-1450 C.E. (Period 3)

(Borrowed and modified from Mr. Farshtey – AP World teacher)
Which of the following statements most accurately reflects a major difference between Arab expansion in the seventh century and Viking expansion in the ninth century?

A. Arab expansion relied most heavily on diplomacy, while Viking expansion relied most heavily on military might.
B. Viking expansion tended to occur in areas with few large urban centers, while the Arab expansion occurred in areas with comparatively large urban centers.
C. Arab expansion was financed by religious tithing, while Viking expansion was financed by profit from the silk trade.
D. Viking expansion was limited to Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, and Greenland, while Arab expansion was limited to the Arabian Peninsula and Persia.
E. Arab expansion relied heavily on the technology of the cannon, while Viking expansion relied heavily on dragon boats.
Which of the following is true of commerce in the Indian Ocean during the time period 600-1450 C.E.?

A. Chinese merchants dominated the trade routes of the Indian Ocean.
B. There was very little commercial activity in the Indian Ocean.
C. Merchants from Europe dominated the trade routes of the Indian Ocean.
D. Following the rise of the Mongols during the thirteenth century, the volume of Indian Ocean commerce fell sharply.
E. Indian Ocean commerce flourished and was conducted by a mixture of Asian, Middle Eastern, and East African merchants.
Which of the following lists three places Ibn Battuta, the fourteenth-century Muslim traveler, visited?

A. The Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Japan
B. The Arabian Peninsula, France, and India
C. India, Mali, and Persia
D. India, Persia, and Poland
E. England, Iraq, and Mali
C
Which of the following had the greatest manufacturing capacity during the time period 600 to 1450 C.E.? 

A. Japan  
B. India  
C. China  
D. Western Europe  
E. Russia
The term “samurai” describes men in feudal Japan who were most like the men in feudal Europe known as:

A. Lords of the manor
B. Catholic bishops
C. Serfs
D. Knights
E. Merchants
In the period between 600 and 1450, which of the following were two occupations pursued by large numbers of African and European women?

A. Midwife and healer
B. Military leader and farmer
C. Scribe and tax collector
D. Long-distance trader and merchant
E. Metalworker and textile manufacturer
Trade spurred the introduction of both Islam and Hinduism to what is now called:

A. Japan
B. Brazil
C. Pakistan
D. Indonesia
E. Saudi Arabia
Renaissance Italy and the Islamic Middle East after the decline of the Abbasid Empire in the mid-tenth century are important examples of which of the following?

A. Political unity and cultural creativity
B. Political fragmentation and cultural creativity
C. Political unity and the decline of religion
D. Political fragmentation and the decline of religion
E. Political unity and the rise of secularism
Which of the following statements about the Mongol Empire of the thirteenth century is true?

A. The invasion of Japan was attempted but was unsuccessful
B. The number of Buddhist and Muslims in Asia dropped significantly as a result of Mongol persecution
C. In China the Mongols eliminated the Chinese scholar-official class
D. The Mongols conquered Constantinople
E. Ibn Battuta’s writings describe in detail life in the court of Genghis Khan.
Which of the following was a common feature of most Asian and European philosophies during the period 600 to 1450 C.E.?

A. A close association with religion
B. Emphasis on experimental science
C. Reliance on ideas of individual freedom
D. Substantial scholarly exchange of ideas among all world cultures
E. Wide availability of printed books
A
After the expansion of Islam into Africa, an organized Christian presence remained in:

A. Egypt and Ethiopia
B. Morocco
C. Mauritania and Tunisia
D. The areas along the Silk Road
E. Algeria
Which of the following contributed to the Chinese government’s decision to stop voyages of exploration in the Indian Ocean in the early fifteenth century?

A. Armed resistance from Arab navies
B. Lack of sufficient Chinese goods for trade
C. The destruction of the Chinese fleet by typhoons.
D. Government concern with domestic problems and frontier security
E. Fear of the spread of the plague to China
Which of the following languages came into existence after 1000 C.E. as the direct result of expanding global trade patterns?

A. Arabic
B. Chinese
C. Latin
D. Sanskrit
E. Swahili
E
Marco Polo described which of the following at Kublai Khan’s court that he had not encountered in Europe?

A. The use of spies in foreign nations
B. The interest of the Khan in the international sea trade and European shipbuilding techniques
C. The use of paper money and coal and the practice of frequent bathing.
D. The attachment of the Khan to the use of horses for military purposes.
E. The austerity of the design of the Khan’s palace.
In the period between 600 and 1450, Indian Ocean trade differed from that of the Pacific Ocean in that it:

A. was more regional in nature.
B. involved contacts with the islands of Southeast Asia.
C. involved only spices.
D. involved competition among a more diverse group of traders.
E. involved commerce across large stretches of water.
In the period between 600 and 1450:

A. European women gained an increasingly greater role in political life.
B. African women were confined to domestic roles.
C. the Chinese custom of foot-binding began.
D. the practice of sati was abolished.
E. there were few role distinctions between women of elite and peasant classes globally.
C
Which was true of the Mongol Empire?

A. It was the largest maritime empire to that time.
B. It was characterized by efficient administrators.
C. It did not interfere with Islamic societies.
D. It caused Eurasian trade routes to move farther north.
E. It opened up trade relations between Russia and the West.
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.
The Mayan and Gupta Empires had in common:

A. The construction of ceremonial pyramids.
B. The independent discovery of the value of zero as a place holder.
C. Persistent pressure from invaders in frontier areas.
D. Central political organization.
E. The knowledge that the earth is round.
Which of the following is true of the bubonic plague?

A. It followed established trade routes.
B. It was a European phenomenon.
C. It affected West Africa.
D. It began in Europe and spread to China.
E. It died out completely after the fourteenth century.
The Mongols:

A. were capable administrators.
B. persecuted Christians and Muslims within territories they conquered.
C. are credited with the transmission of bubonic plague.
D. were interested in Asian territories.
E. moved main trade routes farther south into their southern Chinese territories.
According to Marco Polo’s accounts, what aspects of Mongol life fascinated him?

A. Their ability to ride days on end without eating.
B. The simplicity of the Khan’s residential palace.
C. The complexity of the Mongol language.
D. The beauty of Mongol churches.
E. The simplicity of the Mongol court.
In the thirteenth century, the most urbanized region in the world was:

A. Europe.
B. Russia.
C. Latin America.
D. China.
E. Australia.
The millet system in the Islamic empires:

A. was especially effective in India.
B. created cooperation among the ethnic groups of the Ottoman Empire.
C. was a system of slavery.
D. interfered with religious sentiment.
E. promoted nationalist sentiment within the Ottoman Empire.
The most significant effect of Russia’s conversion to Eastern Orthodox Christianity was:

A. the trade network that Russia’s acceptance of Christianity opened up for it.
B. the way it slowed the development of a Russian national identity.
C. the way the Church’s teaching that God vests power in the ruler strengthened the Russian tsars’ control over the state.
D. the power it gave the Eastern Church in dealing with the Roman Catholic Church.
E. its influence on Russian architecture.
C
Which of the following developments most directly resulted from the Crusades?

A. Growth of Italian city-states.
B. Spread of the Black Death.
C. Vasco da Gama’s voyage to India.
D. Columbian Exchange
E. Restriction of European traders to treaty ports.
All of the following are true of the major Amerindian civilizations in Central and South America prior to the arrival of Europeans except:

A. economies based on trade.
B. monumental building.
C. urban centers.
D. differentiation of labor.
E. social stratification.
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 manufactured goods.
The introduction of papermaking into Europe is an example of cultural diffusion:

A. From China by way of the Eurasian trade route.
B. From Japan by way of the Arab-Indian trade route.
C. Through the Columbian Exchange.
D. Through the Triangular Trade route.
E. From the Middle East as part of the Eurasian trade route.
A common stage in the early development of political units as diverse as England, France, China, Russia and Japan was:

A. manoralism
B. divine right monarchy.
C. constitutional monarchy.
D. feudalism.
E. anarchy.
A major area of contention between the papacy and secular rulers was the:

A. establishment of the Church of England by Henry VIII.
B. rulers’ determination to appoint Church officials in their nations.
C. heavy tithes the rulers placed on churches within their borders.
D. practice of trying clerics in secular rather than Church courts.
E. rulers’ disinterest in supporting the Crusades.
Which of the following reasons motivated both the Abbasids and the Mongols to expand their empires?

A. The conversion of non-believers to their faith.
B. The desire to attack first to keep invaders from their own territories.
C. The need to gain a port on the Baltic Sea.
D. The desire for wealth and plunder.
E. Population pressures within their own empires.
All of the following characteristics are true of the Tang and Song dynasties except:

A. Buddhism appeared in China for the first time.
B. The Confucian-educated scholar-gentry increased its power in government and society.
C. Artistic and scientific innovations flourished.
D. The subordinate role of women was symbolized by the practice of foot-binding.
E. The urban population continued to grow.
Which of the following best describes the spread of Islam in East Africa and Christianity in China?

A. Neither religion made inroads in the cities of interiors of either area.
B. Christianity was confined to the cities in China, while Islam made converts in the interior through the Swahili trading network.
C. Islam had a decided impact on the trading centers of East Africa but little impact on the interior, whereas Christianity had little impact on either urban or rural areas in China.
D. Through the trans-Saharan trading network, Islam reached West Africa, but Christianity, with its reliance on priests, did not travel as easily along.
E. The East African trading centers became a blend of African and Islamic society and culture.
C
All of the following were characteristics borrowed by Kievan Russia from the Byzantine Empire except:

A. the orthodox Church version of Christianity
B. art and architectural styles
C. having the church dependent on the state.
D. a large and highly trained bureaucracy.
E. the concept of divine monarchy.
The placing of upper-class Russian women into quarters separate from men was an outgrowth of Russia’s contact with:

A. the Mongols
B. the Byzantine Empire
C. the Chinese
D. the Abbasids
E. Indian traders
The Aztec civilization’s militaristic tone and use of human sacrifice was based on the earlier culture of the:

A. Inca
B. Maya
C. Mound Builders
D. Toltec
E. Khazars
The term *sinicization* refers to

A. the rise of a religion combining Christian, Zoroastrian and Buddhist ideals
B. the influence of Platonic thought on early Christianity
C. the ravages of disease
D. the spread of Chinese culture
E. the belief that disease was caused by excessive human sinning
Commerce was a key mode of exchange between which of the following pairs of political entities?

A. The Mayan Empire and the Song dynasty
B. Ghana and the Mongol Empire
C. Japan and the Byzantine Empire
D. The Crusader states and the Fatimid caliphate.
E. Venice and the Aztec Empire.
The success and timing of trade though the Indian Ocean basin largely depended upon

A. controlling the actions of Turkish pirates  
B. forming a lasting trading partnership with China  
C. understanding the rhythms of the monsoon winds  
D. the Indian desire to purchase pepper from the Romans  
E. the invention of a revolutionary sailing vehicle
What dynasty, along with the Sui, re-established and improved Chinese civilization after the fall of China’s classical civilization?

A. Ming
B. Shang
C. Qin
D. Song
E. Tang
All of the following empires are postclassical empires EXCEPT

A. Tang China
B. Ummayad Caliphate
C. Byzantine Empire
D. Persian Empire
E. Mongol Empire
Constantinople and Malacca both became powerful commercial states primarily because of their

A. talented merchant class
B. strategic location
C. laissez-faire economic policies
D. military technology
E. silver mines
Why did the Mongols refrain from attacking central Europe in 1241?

A. The death of the Great Khan  
B. The conversion of the Great Khan to Christianity  
C. The conversion of the Great Khan to Buddhism  
D. Massive military buildup in Europe  
E. They turned attention to Korea
What important cultural movement rejected Buddhism while adapting some of its themes to the predominant thought which stressed family duty and honor?

A. Neo-Confucianism  
B. Daoism  
C. Shinto  
D. Zen Buddhism  
E. Sikhism
In Japan, from the Heian period until the Tokugawa period, emperors

A. shared powers with the Shinto priests.
B. seldom wielded any real political power.
C. required the Mandate of Heaven to maintain power.
D. came from constantly changing lineages.
E. maintained tight political control.
Which of the following best compares European and Chinese merchants in society during the early 15th century

A. European merchants were bound to their lords in the feudal system and Chinese merchants were from the noble class.
B. Merchants in Europe were important to the revival of long distance trade gaining status and wealth, while Chinese merchants used their wealth to buy higher status for their families.
C. Chinese merchants were guaranteed government support while European merchants were independent persons of the towns.
D. European monarchs favored alliances with nobility against merchants and merchants under the Ming dynasty were favored over scholar gentry.
E. The Confucian order highly respected profit making and European Christianity considered profit making sinful.
The Turkic expansion under Timur the Lame disrupted all of the following regions EXCEPT

A. Persia.
B. India.
C. China.
D. southern Russia.
E. the Fertile Crescent.
In what ways were the civilizations in Mesoamerica before 1000 C.E. more sophisticated than those in North America?

A. In the former, social structure was more complex, astronomical knowledge was greater, and architectural skills were more advanced.
B. In the former, Christianity was already practiced.
C. Mexican and Central American civilizations never practiced human sacrifice, while societies in North America did.
D. The former civilizations adopted democracy, while the latter used tribal rule.
E. In no ways, because the North Americans had more advanced social structures.
In the five centuries after the year 1000 C.E. the peoples of the eastern hemisphere

A. cut off contact with the rest of the world because of the ravages of disease.
B. fell under the control of the expanding empires of the western hemisphere.
C. traveled and interacted more intensively than ever before.
D. fell dangerously behind the rest of the world in science and technology.
E. united into the largest empire the world had seen since the time of Rome.
C
Which factor helps explain the scientific and literary achievements of the Muslims during their Golden Age?

A. expansion of transatlantic trade  
B. innovations introduced by the Europeans during the Renaissance  
C. cultural diversity accepted by many Islamic governments  
D. legal equality of all people in the Islamic empire  
E. the status of women in society.
All of the following trade routes existed prior to 1000 C.E. except the:

A. Silk Route
B. Arabia/India Ocean Route
C. Atlantic Ocean Route
D. China/India Route
E. Trans-Sahara Route
Zheng He... as ordered by the emperor, proceeded with their journey to the Western Ocean. Well furnished with treasure and accompanied by more than 27,800 officers and men... What body of water is the "Western Ocean" in reference to?

A. Atlantic Ocean
B. Mediterranean Sea
C. Indian Ocean
D. Pacific Ocean
E. Red Sea
Narratives such as Marco Polo’s created a European

A. isolationist mentality.
B. image of Mongol poverty.
C. ambition to find easier routes to Asia.
D. fear of Mongol attack.
E. literary movement called romance writing.
C
Which of the following was a result of the Crusades?

A. Western knights carved out a kingdom in the Holy Land that lasted until the sixteenth century.
B. The Fourth Crusade aided in the defense of Constantinople and preserved the integrity of the Byzantine Empire.
C. The Crusades demonstrated a new Western superiority in the wider world.
D. The Crusades helped to open the West to new cultural and economic influences from the Middle East.
E. The Muslims adopted much of Europe's culture.
During the postclassical period, societies in the Americas

A. remained entirely separate from those of the Old World.
B. experienced the initial contacts that led eventually to European invasion of the New World.
C. failed to develop imperial forms of government, a failure that mirrored European society.
D. were united under a single government.
E. were isolated from Europe, but had limited contact with Africans.
Which of the following was a source of Western dynamism in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries?

A. The growing dominance of the Holy Roman Empire  
B. Two centuries of peace among the major nations  
C. The absence of epidemic disease  
D. The growth of cities and urban economies  
E. The Catholic Church's drive to reform
“Their men show no signs of jealousy whatever; no one claims descent from his father, but on the contrary from his mother's brother. A person's heirs are his sister's sons, not his own sons.” (Ibn Battuta) This is a description of

A. patriarchy
B. infanticide
C. matrilineal descent
D. independent origin
E. marriage dowers
Which of the following societies’ gender roles was overall the most constrictive and gave the greatest amount of freedom and rights to women?

A. India  
B. China  
C. Maya  
D. Greece  
E. Rome
Christians' devotion to saints was very much like

A. the Bantu people's devotion to the creator god
B. Buddhists' devotion to Bodhisattvas
C. Muslims' devotion to Mecca
D. the Jews' devotion to the Torah
E. all of the above
Which of the following practices was common to the Aztec and the Inca empires?

A. Extensive use of sacrifice
B. A tribute system
C. A merchant class
D. A writing system
E. The quipu system
Merchants in southern post-classical India

A. would have been severely threatened by monsoon winds as their ships were not stable for Indian Ocean travel
B. were heavily taxed by Muslim overlords in Delhi which halted their expansion into Africa
C. were very acquainted with local temples as they were the source of banking and finance.
D. did not venture out from India because the Chinese and Europeans came to them.
E. had a very successful system of bartering so a money system never developed.
The architecture shown above is an example of

A. the spread of Christianity.
B. the spread of the Mongols.
C. the spread of Hinduism.
D. the spread of the Persians.
E. the spread of Islam.