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# AP World History

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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# AP<sup>®</sup> WORLD HISTORY

## 2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Short Answer Question 3

Answer all parts of the question that follows.

- a) Explain ONE difference in the way in which nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia before 1450 C.E. adapted to their environment.
- b) Explain ONE similarity between the economic practices of nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia in the period 600–1450 C.E.
- c) Explain ONE major pattern of cultural interaction between nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia before 1450 C.E.

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 NR

No response. Response is completely blank.

### Scoring Guide

#### 0–3 points

- ONE point for explaining one difference in the way in which nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia before 1450 C.E. adapted to their environment
- ONE point for explaining one similarity between the economic practices of nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia in the period 600–1450 C.E.
- ONE point for explaining one major pattern of cultural interaction between nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia before 1450 C.E.

### Scoring Notes

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

- Nomadic societies moved around frequently in search of new pasturelands, while sedentary societies did not.
- Sedentary societies mostly engaged in farming, while nomadic societies mostly engaged in pastoralism because that was more suitable to the steppes and deserts.

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## 2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Short Answer Question 3

- Sedentary societies adapted their environment to support agriculture (building of irrigation systems and canals) and the need for protection (walled cities), while nomads were more likely to adapt their lifestyles to the natural environment.

#### **Examples of responses to part (b) that would earn credit:**

- Both nomads and sedentary societies participated in and facilitated long-distance trade across Afro-Eurasia.
- Rulers of both sedentary societies and nomadic societies (including nomadic rule over sedentary states) issued coinage to facilitate economic activity.
- Sedentary states and nomadic empires in Afro-Eurasia both used tribute collection to facilitate economic activity.
- Both sedentary states and nomadic empires levied taxes on their populations in order to increase their wealth.
- Nomads and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia engaged in both local and long-distance trade with each other because the nomads' lack of economic specialization required that they acquire goods from sedentary states and because nomads frequently dominated the Silk Roads.
- Nomads and merchants from sedentary societies both facilitated long-distance trade in luxury goods across Eurasia, as nomadic elites sought to acquire luxury goods as markers of political status and sold their excesses to long-distance traders.

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

- Missionaries and merchants from sedentary societies influenced nomadic peoples to adopt religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam.
- One major pattern of cultural interaction between nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia was technological exchange, such as when the Mongols facilitated the transfer of gunpowder from China.
- Sedentary societies often adopted the languages of nomadic peoples, as was evident with the spread of Arabic and Turkic languages.
- The sedentarization and Sinicization of some nomadic populations in China was one major pattern of cultural interaction between nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia.
- One major pattern of cultural interaction between nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia was exchanges in science and learning, such as when the Mongol rulers of China facilitated the transmission of Islamic science, mathematics, and geographical knowledge.

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.

- a). While nomadic societies tended to acquire resources from natural sources, sedentary societies were much more destructive to the environment. Groups such as the Mongols of central Asia and Bantu nomads made little alterations to their environment, and moved sporadically to areas that had plentiful natural resources. On the contrary, we see severe alterations of the environment by sedentary societies, such as the creation of the Grand Canal in Tang China which helped irrigation and transportation.
- b). Both nomadic and sedentary societies had a part in major land-based trade routes such as the Silk road and the Sub-Saharan caravan routes. In the Silk road, silk from China, textiles from the Middle East and horses from central Asian groups were all traded across the continent. Nomadic societies also largely contributed to facilitating these items due to their advanced transportation technologies, and it was common for merchants from sedentary regions to accompany them along the routes.
- c). A common trend was the religious diffusion of religions that were developed in sedentary societies by nomadic peoples through trade. With Buddhism, central Asian nomads adopted these beliefs from India and facilitated it to China during the Han dynasty. Similarly, merchants in Sub-Saharan Africa were a major factor in the spread of Islam to places such as Mali and ~~Singhay~~ Songhay.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3** or **4** on this page only. Do **NOT** write outside the box.

- a. One difference in the way nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia before 1450 CE adapted to their environment is that nomads travelled with the seasons to follow food while sedentary societies farmed to create a food supply. Sedentary societies like Mesopotamia used agriculture to gain food using the flooding of river valleys to create abundant food supplies. Nomads like the Mongols in the steppes followed their food sources as they moved with the seasons.
- b. One similarity between economic practices of nomadic and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia in the period 600-1450 CE is both groups used, encouraged, and relied on trade. Both sedentary societies like the Byzantine Empire and nomadic groups like the Mongols used trade for wealth and power accumulation.
- c. One major pattern of cultural interaction in <sup>nomadic &</sup> Sedentary Societies in Afro-Eurasia before 1450 CE is nomadic people attacking sedentary societies for gain. Groups like the Mongols and other North Asian nomadic groups attacked and controlled China like the Mongol-controlled Yuan Dynasty.

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.

a) To adapt to their environment, Sedentary societies would tend to rely on crops and livestock that could be harvested and tended to year round and focus on smaller crops because of the absence of need to preserve the food supply. Nomadic people did not particularly have to adapt to a single environment but rather tend to lands for short periods, growing long lasting crops and moving with the livestock which they relied on. for food, clothing, etc Rarely

b) Both Nomadic and Sedentary societies based their economy with short distance bartering.

c) Culturally, both Nomadic and Sedentary societies would have a strong relationship with nature and spiritual connection to the animals they encountered. Any beliefs that were held within the society were brought along during trading and spread or accepted throughout the region/accepted into their own religious belief system.

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## 2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Short Answer Question 3

#### Overview

For this short-answer question, students were expected to demonstrate an understanding of the difference between how nomadic peoples and sedentary peoples in Afro-Eurasia adapted to their respective environments in the period before 1450 C.E. Students also needed to explain a similarity in the economic practices of both nomadic societies and sedentary states in Afro-Eurasia in the period 600–1450 C.E. Finally, students were expected to demonstrate an understanding of patterns of cultural interaction between nomadic societies and sedentary societies in Afro-Eurasia before 1450 C.E. The question addressed Key Concepts 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 in the AP World History Curriculum Framework and the historical reasoning skills of Comparison and Contextualization.

#### Sample: 3A

##### Score: 3

- a) The response earned 1 point because it explains that while nomadic peoples such as the Mongols and Bantus made little alterations to the land and instead migrated to find resources, the sedentary people of China altered their environments with the construction of the Grand Canal.
- b) The response earned 1 point because it explains that both nomadic and sedentary states participated in and facilitated long-distance trade throughout Afro-Eurasia.
- c) The response earned 1 point because it explains that religions such as Buddhism and Islam were spread from sedentary to nomadic societies. The response also notes that nomadic societies often helped further spread a religion, such as when Buddhism spread from India to the nomads of Central Asia, who then helped facilitate its spread in Han China.

#### Sample: 3B

##### Score: 2

- a) The response earned 1 point because it explains how sedentary societies in Mesopotamia adapted to their environment by using the flood waters of rivers to support agricultural production, while the Mongols, a nomadic people, migrated throughout the steppes following their food sources.
- b) The response earned 1 point because it explains that sedentary societies, such as the Byzantine Empire, and nomadic groups, such as the Mongols, used trade to acquire wealth and accumulate power.
- c) The response did not earn the point because it explains political interactions between nomadic states and sedentary states, not specific patterns of cultural interactions.

#### Sample: 3C

##### Score: 1

- a) The response earned 1 point because it explains that sedentary societies used land for agricultural production, while nomadic societies did not particularly “have to adapt to a single” environment” and often moved with their livestock, upon which they relied for food and clothing.

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**Short Answer Question 3 (continued)**

- b) The response did not earn the point because it incorrectly identifies bartering as a primary economic practice for both nomadic and sedentary states during the period 600–1450 C.E.
- c) While the response identifies a common cultural belief among both nomads and sedentary societies, it did not earn the point because it does not explain a specific pattern of cultural interaction between nomadic and sedentary societies.