Practice Test 5: Answers and Explanations
PRACTICE TEST 5 ANSWER KEY

1. D  
2. B  
3. B  
4. C  
5. A  
6. C  
7. A  
8. D  
9. D  
10. C  
11. A  
12. C  
13. D  
14. D  
15. A  
16. D  
17. B  
18. D  
19. C  
20. B  
21. A  
22. B  
23. C  
24. B  
25. D  
26. D  
27. B  
28. B  
29. A  
30. D  
31. A  
32. C  
33. C  
34. A  
35. B  
36. B  
37. C  
38. B  
39. D  
40. C  
41. A  
42. A  
43. D  
44. A  
45. B  
46. B  
47. A  
48. B  
49. C  
50. A  
51. C  
52. B  
53. B  
54. D  
55. A
Multiple Choice

1. **D** In ancient Egypt, the pharaohs were more than just regular kings. They were viewed as intermediaries between the earthly and heavenly worlds, as evidenced by the prominent sculptures of the pharaohs built throughout Egypt and placed at temple sites and other locations. The best answer is (D). Choices (A) and (B) are incorrect because the opposite of each of these ideas was true. Choice (C) is incorrect because ancient Egyptians were polytheistic.

2. **B** The ancient Egyptians believed that they needed to prepare themselves for the afterlife, and therefore they practiced mummification. The natural desert landscape of Egypt preserved the bodies of people buried there, but those who could afford it paid for artificial mummification. Egyptians believed that the soul would reanimate the body in the afterlife, so (B) is the best answer. Choices (A) and (C) are incorrect because they are not specifically about the afterlife. Choice (D) is incorrect because Egyptians believed that they could take earthly objects such as jewelry and food with them to the afterlife.

3. **B** While Mesopotamia had a number of larger cities, most of ancient Egypt’s population lived in small villages. In Mesopotamia, because the city populations were larger, each city developed its own forms of administration and government and therefore had numerous local rulers. Egypt, by contrast, had a central government setup in which the king (pharaoh) ruled over the entire land. The best answer is (B). Choice (A) is backwards. Choice (C) is incorrect because religion was important to both civilizations, and (D) is incorrect because both civilizations had advanced systems of writing.

4. **C** In the traditional four-level Hindu caste system, Brahmans were the highest caste, consisting of priests and religious teachers. Therefore, the best answer is (C). The lowest caste within Hinduism, consisting of laborers and service providers, (A), were called Shudras. Above these were the agriculturalists and merchants, (B), called Vaishyas. Above these were the kings and warriors, (D), called Kshatriyas.

5. **A** This question is a little tricky because there is a lot of overlap in the belief systems of the religions mentioned in the answer choices. It helps to know that Emperor Ashoka converted from Hinduism to Buddhism before he established the writings contained in the passage. The main clue within the text itself is the thematic emphasis on doing no harm and not killing living beings, a focus of Buddhism and one of the reasons Ashoka converted—he was horrified by the devastating killing that took place during his military campaigns. The best answer is (A).
6. **C** The Confucian concept of filial piety was all about respect for one’s parents (especially father), elders, and ancestors, making (C) the best answer. The other three answer choices relate to Confucianism but have nothing to do with respecting parents.

7. **A** Well-established trade routes between China and points to its west had been established long before the ascendancy of the Mongols. As a nomadic people, the Mongols were skilled in the use of horses and were able to move around quickly within those trade networks, making (A) the best answer. Choice (C) might sound plausible, but the Mongols did not eat grain-based products, subsisting almost entirely on animal meat, milk, etc. (They brought sheep and other animals with them on their military campaigns and therefore did not need to rely on finding food sources in the lands that they conquered.)

8. **D** The Mongol invasions discussed in Source 2 reached well into Persia and other parts of the Middle East, and Mongol forces destroyed many important Islamic cities. Shortly after the date of this passage, the Mongols destroyed Baghdad, the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate. The best answer is (D). Choices (A) and (B) are incorrect because the Mongols were fairly tolerant of religious diversity. Choice (C) is incorrect because the Mongols did not travel as far south as the Arabian peninsula.

9. **D** Choices (A) and (C) are too extreme; Islam was not destroyed by the Mongol invasions, and the Mongols didn’t literally kill everyone in the lands that they conquered (though they did kill a significant portion of the each of those populations). Choice (B) is not a historical claim, but rather a literary device, so the best answer is (D).

10. **C** By all accounts, the Mongol invaders were pretty brutal. In some cities, for example, they would slaughter all of the civilians, decapitate them, and make pyramids of the heads. This, of course, would have been a terrifying thing to witness. The Mongols made it clear that if people didn’t want to endure such violence, they should submit to the Mongols, and that is precisely what many people did in order to save themselves. Choice (C) is the best answer.

11. **A** During the seventeenth century, European nations greatly increased their commercial endeavors. As part of this process, merchants sometimes banded together into companies, in part because they could do things more efficiently and cheaply, and thus earn more profits, when they worked together. In the case of the Dutch West India Company, one primary goal was to monopolize trade in the Caribbean and eliminate competition from the Spanish and Portuguese. The best answer is (A).
12. C Chartered companies were typically formed under the authority of a king or other royal figure, who would shape the company, define its parameters, and lay out the terms under which the company could conduct its business ventures. The best answer is (C).

13. D The chartering of trade companies was a distinctly monopolistic act whose intention was to prevent competition from the same nation in an area and increase the wealth that flowed to that nation’s treasury, which is the definition of mercantilism. Eliminate (A) because the charter is the opposite of free trade. Eliminate (B) because the charter still involved the creation of private property, unlike collectivization. Eliminate (C) because the charter makes no mention of nobility nor landed estates. The answer is (D).

14. D The text by Toussaint L’Ouverture (Source 1) was written after he had been imprisoned by the French for leading the Haitian independence movement. The French government sought to quash the rebellion and put a stain upon L’Ouverture’s good reputation. (L’Ouverture had previously been a French military officer and helped the French fight the British.) Choice (D) is the best answer.

15. A The author of Source 2 writes, “Thou hast left behind Powers that will work for thee” and “thou hast great allies.” It is clear that he is sympathetic to L’Ouverture’s cause and wishes to convey that while L’Ouverture himself is in prison, his revolution still has momentum. (The Haitian forces defeated the French only a few years after L’Ouverture was imprisoned.) Choice (A) is the best answer.

16. D The Haitian Revolution was a slave rebellion that was inspired by Enlightenment thought, and it most certainly had some inspiration from the success of the American Revolution that created the first independent New World colony. Choice (D) is correct.

17. B According to Source 1, “The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood.” Source 2 states: “Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood.” Therefore, the two sources disagree about whether a people’s historical, religious ties to a particular place constitute a legitimate basis for statehood in the modern era. The best answer is (B).

18. D Zionism was a Jewish nationalist movement that strove to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The movement began in Europe in the late nineteenth century, and in the early twentieth century many European Jews immigrated to Palestine to establish settlements. The best answer is (D).

19. C The Mandate for Palestine mentioned in Source 2 refers to the lands carved out of the Ottoman Empire, a member of the Central Powers of World War I, that were given to Great Britain following the war. Choices (A), (B), and (D) involve the changing of possession of Palestine, but none of them actually pertain to the Mandate specifically. Therefore, the answer is (C).
20. B The author of the passage states that the women of Mali “are shown more respect than the men,” which is highly unusual for a medieval Islamic society. He further notes that the women were not concerned with being modest, which was a characteristic of Islamic ideals for women in many parts of the medieval (and modern) world. The best answer is (B).

21. A The Kingdom of Mali was a major sub-Saharan trading center whose main products were salt and gold. The best answer is (A).

22. B The rise of various kingdoms along the coast of West Africa that exported slaves to European merchants helped to diminish the economic importance of Mali and West Africa. Eliminate (A) because Ottoman control of the Barbary States did not diminish their economic activity in the Mediterranean. Eliminate (C) because Europe and Asia did not import food crops from Africa that could get displaced by New World crops. Eliminate (D) because Cape Colony did not supplant the economic functions of West Africa. The answer is (B).

23. C Islam was chiefly spread by merchants in far-flung regions of the world, which explains its presence in places astride important trade routes, such as East Africa, Indonesia, and Central Asia. Eliminate (A) because the Umayyads never conquered Mali. Eliminate (B) because the scholars were brought to Mali following the Kingdom’s conversion. Eliminate (D) because the main holy sites of Islam are located in Arabia and the Levant, not a freshly converted region. Therefore, the answer is (C).

24. B Peter the Great modernized eighteenth-century Russia by adopting Western-style culture and ideas, establishing a central bureaucratic government, building a strong military, and increasing agricultural and industrial productivity. He was also a strict dictatorial ruler, willing to use force to achieve his ends. You can eliminate (A) because Peter’s economic reforms were successful, and (D) because Peter the Great could not be considered categorically enlightened during his rule. Choice (C) is also incorrect because ordinary citizens’ lives were not greatly improved. There were few civil rights, increased restrictions were placed on organized religion, and people in the lower classes still had few opportunities to improve their status. Therefore, (B) is the best answer.

25. D Among other reforms, Peter the Great tried to modernize Russia by importing a variety of customs from Western Europe. As part of this process, he tried to encourage Russians to adopt Western clothing and hairstyles, forcing many men to shave their beards (or pay a tax). The best answer is (D).

26. D The Mongolian invasion of Russia subjugated the various principalities and put Russia in an eastward-oriented mindset. The other answer choices do not account for Russia’s lack of Western thought as much as (D) does.

27. B While Peter may have done much to advance Russia’s technological development, his rule can hardly be considered “enlightened” when he imposes a tax on beards and facial hair—effectively barring such freedoms to nobles. Instead, it can be described as an absolute monarchy with him at the helm. The best answer is (B).
28. B The Industrial Revolution and the mechanization of production was a distinct threat to the livelihood of laborers who depended on selling their work to capitalists instead of having their jobs displaced by machines, as the workers lament in Source 1. The answer is (B).

29. A The issues of employment security that mechanization brought to the fore were so great that, in the early 1800s, riots of anti-industrial laborers called Luddites literally smashed whatever machines they could find in Britain. The other answer choices do not mention machines specifically. Therefore, (A) is the answer.

30. D The sources merely provide points of view on the relative advantages of industrialization. Therefore, the only inference that can be made is that both labor and capital relied on persuading the population at large that they should have public sympathy. Choice (D) is correct.

31. A Source 2 mentions that women should have the ability for self-government and self-determination—the right of the people of a nation to determine their own affairs—is precisely in the vein of such politics, though obviously it is not limited by gender as female suffrage may have been. Therefore, the answer is (A). Source 2 does not support any of the other answer choices.

32. C World War I saw the introduction of women into the workforce of industrial nations on a large scale for the first time. Countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States granted women suffrage shortly after the end of the war. Choice (C) is therefore correct. The other answer choices are either too late or too early chronologically.

33. C Women played important roles in the progressive movements of the later nineteenth century, as Addams hints at. These roles did not exclude men, but were certainly advocated by women and provided valuable experience in political organization. The answer is (C).

34. A By the late nineteenth century, technological advancements in Europe, especially the machine gun and accurate rifle, gave Europeans an immense technological edge over less advanced adversaries. Eliminate (B) and (D) because Europeans were often outnumbered and in strange lands, and eliminate (C) because European systems of government were not objectively better than the native counterparts. Choice (A) is correct.

35. B Supernatural forms of resistance also occurred in China with the Boxer Rebellion, indicating a worldwide feeling of helplessness in societies struggling to reconcile the new world order. Eliminate (D) because Source 2 makes no explicit mention of shamans or religious leaders. Eliminate (C), as Source 2 is explicitly warlike in topic. Eliminate (A) because the native deities were not objectively more strongly linked to their adherents. The answer is (B).

36. B The Europeans would often side with certain tribes and cultivate them into administrators to the disadvantage of the other tribes in a region. Eliminate (A) because the sale of slaves is outside the time frame of the question. Eliminate (C) and (D) because neither occurred in the Scramble for Africa. The answer is therefore (B).
37. C Gandhi espoused nonviolent protest as the only true path for Indian independence, (C). The other answer choices all involved bloody warfare to achieve independence for their countries. Choice (C) is correct.

38. B The Maya emerged in the Yucatan around the year 200 C.E. and began to construct their first urban centers, implying that the Mayan population had begun to swell. Choice (B) is therefore correct. The other answer choices are either too late in the timeline, or do not account for the growth in population.

39. D The population of the New World was rocked by diseases from the Old World, leading to a precipitous drop in the population of North and South America. Therefore, (D) is the best answer. The other answer choices do not provide as convincing an explanation for the dramatic fall in population.

40. C The period 1600 C.E. to 1800 C.E. saw the population of the New World begin to recover. The only answer choice that is within the correct time period and accounts for the increase in population is the importation of African slaves, (C), especially to the Caribbean, Brazil, and the American South. Choice (C) is the answer.

41. A The population of the New World rose exponentially after 1800, mostly due to the industrialization taking place in the United States and Europe at the time. Choice (A) is the only answer choice that accounts for this demographic transition.

42. A The Japanese invasion of Manchuria, (A), in 1931 saw the violation of China’s territorial integrity, even though both Japan and China were members of the League of Nations. When the League did nothing to prevent this blatant reneging of international law, Mussolini felt emboldened to do the same to Ethiopia in 1935. Choice (A) is the answer.

43. D Since Mussolini invaded Ethiopia in 1935, the Scramble for Africa was long over, and the war was much more an act of vengeance and self-aggrandizement than anything else. Eliminate (A) because Ethiopia became an Italian colony, and eliminate (B) because the Industrial Revolution only explains Ethiopian weakness—it was not the cause of the war. Choice (D) is correct.

44. A Selassie relies on the interpretation of international law to favor self-determination and nationalism in order to appeal to the League of Nations lest his kingdom be conquered. Therefore, (A) is the best answer. Eliminate (B) because it is a reversal of his stance, and eliminate (C) because nothing in the speech is socialist, especially considering Selassie was Emperor of Ethiopia. Eliminate (D) because democracy is not invoked anywhere in the passage.

45. B The lack of any effective response from the League of Nations following the Italian invasion of Ethiopia provided Hitler and Mussolini with enough reason to believe that further expansionism would not be met with resistance. Therefore, the policy of appeasement may have hastened the start of World War II. Choice (B) is the best answer.
46. B This passage is from a letter written by a Peruvian native noble family to the King of Spain, and it uses the appropriate terms of address that subjects would employ with their rulers in doing so. The only answer choice that makes any sense here is (B).

47. A Poma de Ayala uses deferential language and also mentions that he is *cacique* and *corregidor* on behalf of the crown in his province. He is of Incan blood but has assimilated into Spanish colonial culture. Therefore, (A) is the answer.

48. B Poma de Ayala mentions kings that came even before the Inca, so his history establishes a continuity of civilizations in the Andes, making the Spanish king a legitimate successor of the Incan emperors. Choice (B) is the answer.

49. C Enlightenment thought helped to spark the rebellions that would free Latin America from Spanish and Portuguese control, directly undermining Poma’s expressed hope that the King of Spain would continue to acquire new lands and vassals. Therefore, (C) is correct.

50. A The Reformation began around 1520 C.E. and saw marauding armies rampage across Germany, sometimes with the lack of discipline, which Busbecq laments in the passage. The best answer is therefore (A). The other answer choices are either European victories, such as (B) and (C), or, in the case of (D), are too late chronologically.

51. C The passage argues that Christendom is too weak militarily to resist the powerful Ottoman army, and that the only force saving Europe is the Safavid Persian Empire tying down the Ottoman troops. Therefore, Busbecq is making a connection between professionalism of the soldiery and the strength of an empire. The most successful states between 1450 and 1750, including Great Britain, France, China, the Ottoman Empire, had professional armies. The best answer is (C).

52. B Busbecq insists that Persia is the only force that is presently saving Europe from the Ottoman onslaught. Therefore, he is allying Persia with Europe, which makes (B) the best answer. Eliminate answer choices that do not feature Persian-European cooperation, namely (C) and (D). Forced conversion of Christians did not sit well with European leaders in the period, so eliminate (A).

53. B Paper currency provided an efficient means of carrying money, as people no longer had to carry bulky and heavy coins and bullion when a bill of exchange would suffice. Therefore, eliminate (D) because paper currency in pre-modern times was reserved for merchants and wealthier members of society. Eliminate (C) because the government typically printed money as an IOU and collected bullion as tax. Eliminate (A) because paper money, when not backed with bullion, had no intrinsic value. Choice (B) is the answer.

54. D The text on the note issues a death sentence to all counterfeiters, probably because the government wanted to ensure public faith in paper currency in lieu of bullion. Eliminate (A) because the Ming dynasty did not have a reputation for cruelty. Eliminate (C) because the text on the note specifically says it was issued by the government and not a private enterprise. Eliminate (B) because although the Ming were interested in purging Mongolian influences in China, they continued the
issuance of paper currency. This occurred under the Yuan Dynasty as well, meaning this answer choice is logically inconsistent. Choice (D) is correct.

55. A The Ming Dynasty became flush with silver as the economy improved, but also because the Europeans made contact with China directly and brought over American silver with which to purchase Chinese goods. Therefore, (A) is the best answer. Eliminate (B) because the Ming never conquered Japan. Eliminate (C) because even if new mines were opened, the Chinese glut of silver came from abroad and not internally. Eliminate (D) because the voyages of Zheng He were not successful in the long run at starting commercial activity.

Short-Answer Questions

Question 1

a) A good response will account for the spread of the nomismata over the course of the period 600 C.E. to 1450 C.E. Your response should discuss the Byzantine Empire as a wealthy trading nation whose currency was used worldwide (according to the map). Factors your response might include are contact with the Vikings (to explain the dispersal of coins in Scandinavia), contact and conflict with the Muslim world (to explain the Middle East), Silk Road trade routes (to explain the easterly locations in Asia), and trading links with Western Europe. Your response might also touch upon the high standard of purity for Byzantine coinage as well as its worldwide recognition.

b) A successful response will be centered on the gradual decline of Byzantium, with its end more or less accounted for by the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453. Your response might also include the Fourth Crusade, which irreparably damaged Byzantine fortunes and relations with Western Europe; the economic decline of the Byzantine Empire and the city of Constantinople; and the invasion of Anatolia by Turkish, Mongolian, and Timurid invaders from 1071 through 1420.

Question 2

Your response should focus on regionalizing and globalizing trends in the twentieth century. A good response might include a discussion of the gradual reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade culminating in the World Trade Organization and the creation of supranational organizations in the twentieth century, such as the European Coal and Steel Community, NAFTA, the Eurozone, or COMECON and the Soviet Eastern Bloc. A good response could also address growing global participation in organizations such as the League of Nations or the United Nations, multinational corporations and investment, OPEC, and other such organizations. You could also discuss dollarization or nations’ adoption of other nations’ (or regions’) currencies for the sake of economic growth.
Question 3

a) Your response should identify the Arabic calligraphy on the colonnades or the geometric Islamic style etched into the walls of the Alhambra. You should also discuss how these artistic influences were imported to Spain through the Arabic conquest of the peninsula during the period of Islamic expansion in the Umayyad Caliphate.

b) The architecture depicted in the photograph of the Alhambra is that of a stone fortress that the Muslims of Spain constructed to help retain control over their far-flung conquest. It mirrors the stone castles and other such fortresses built in other regions of the world to fortify key regions. Your response should invoke European, Muslim, or Asian stone castles and citadels and explain their analogous roles to that of the Alhambra.

c) You should discuss either how stone architecture for fortresses fell out of use in Europe and the Mediterranean world on account of the advent of gunpowder weapons and cannon. You might also discuss the Christian Reconquista of Spain that culminated in 1492 with the expulsion or forced conversion of Muslims in Spain, effectively quashing Muslim artistic influences in the country.

Question 4

a) In your response, you should discuss the Ottoman Empire’s aggressive relations with its neighbors and rivals, especially Russia, Poland, or the Persian Empire. All three of these states posed significant challenges to Ottoman expansion and joined regularly in alliances meant to contain Ottoman ambitions. You might also argue that European states carved out large portions of the Ottoman Empire in the nineteenth century and dismembered it in the twentieth century following the defeat of the Central Powers in World War I.

b) A good response might focus on the fossilization of Ottoman government and the gradual weakening of institutions such as the Janissary corps, the relative decline of the power of the Sultan and the rule of the Viziers, and Ottoman technological decline vis-à-vis European states. You could also discuss nationalism and internal revolution, contending that the independence of important Ottoman provinces such as Egypt or the various Balkan states hollowed out imperial strength.

c) A successful response will discuss the merits of whichever viewpoint you choose to side with. If you agree with Source 1, your response should remain focused on external threats to the Ottomans and add a specific example not mentioned in your response to (a). If you agree with Source 2, your response should remain focused on internal threats and stagnation within the Ottoman Empire and add a specific example that was not mentioned in your response to (b).
Document-Based Question (DBQ)
Below is the rubric for the DBQ. Here’s what you need to do to earn 7 points (the highest score) on this essay.

A. Thesis and Argument Development (2 points)
   a. 1 point—Presents a thesis that can be backed by historical evidence and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must be at least one sentence, located in either the introduction or conclusion.
   b. 1 point—Develops and supports a cohesive argument that addresses historical complexities and shows the relationships among historical evidence.

B. Document Analysis (2 points)
   a. 1 point—Uses at least 6 of the documents to support the thesis or a relevant argument.
   b. 1 point—Explains the significance of the author’s point of view or purpose, audience, and/or historical context for at least 4 documents.

C. Using Evidence Beyond the Documents (2 points)
   a. Contextualization, 1 point—Places the argument within the broader historical context—events, developments, processes, etc.—relevant to the question. Note that this requires an explanation (consisting of several sentences or a full paragraph), not just a brief mention.
   b. Evidence Beyond the Documents, 1 point—Gives an example or additional piece of evidence, beyond what is found in the documents, to support an argument. Note that the example must be different from the evidence used to earn other points on this rubric. You must also include an explanation of how this evidence supports or qualifies your argument.

D. Synthesis (1 point)
   a. 1 point—Extends the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and ONE of the following:
      • a development in a historical period, era, or geographical area that is distinct from the one addressed in the question
      • an AP World History course theme and/or approach to history (political, economic, cultural, etc.) that is distinct from the one posed by the question
      • a different discipline or field of inquiry (for example, economics, government and politics, art history, or anthropology)

Note: This point must be earned through an explanation of the connections and is not granted for merely a phrase or reference.
A strong essay will discuss the changing nature of Rome’s relationship with foreign peoples, or barbarians, from being on the receiving end of invasions (Document 1) to then becoming the instigators of invasions (Documents 2 and 3), and then being invaded again (Document 7). There is some nuance to this relationship in that the Romans willfully incorporated useful foreigners into its society, as explained in Documents 4, 5, and 6. This might lead to an argument that demonstrates Roman weakness forced the empire to rely on foreign peoples for its own military forces, eventually dooming the Roman state. To earn the Synthesis point (see rubric), you might consider mentioning Han China, Gupta India, the Abbasid Caliphate, or another civilization that had an ongoing relationship with foreign invaders.

Long Essay
Below is the rubric for the long essay. Here’s what you need to do to earn 6 points (the highest score) on this essay.

A. Thesis (1 point)
   a. 1 point—Presents a thesis that can be backed by historical evidence and that responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must be at least one sentence, located in either the introduction or conclusion.

B. Argument Development: Using Targeted Historical Thinking Skill—Comparison (2 points)
   a. 1 point—Describes the similarities and differences among historical figures, developments, processes, or events. (1 point)
   b. Explains the reasons for the similarities and differences among historical figures, developments, processes, or events. (1 point)

C. Argument Development: Using Evidence (2 points)
   a. 1 point—Addresses essay topic with specific examples and a broad range of evidence.
   b. 1 point—Uses specific examples and a broad range of evidence to completely and effectively support or justify the stated thesis/relevant argument.

Note: These examples must include a broad range of examples that, through analysis and explanation, justifies the stated thesis or a relevant argument.

D. Synthesis (1 point)
   a. 1 point—Extends the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and ONE of the following:
      • a development in a historical period, era, or geographical area that is distinct from the one addressed in the question
      • an AP World History course theme and/or approach to history (political, economic, cultural, etc.) that is distinct from the one posed by the question
• a different discipline or field of inquiry (for example, economics, government and politics, art history, or anthropology)

Note: This point must be earned through an explanation of the connections and is not granted for merely a phrase or reference.

Question 2
A strong essay will discuss the key similarities and differences between the administration of the Mughal and British Empires between 1450 and 1750 c.e. This can be tackled by focusing on the centrality of the emperor for the Mughals and the centrality of parliament (but not the absence of a monarch) for the British. A religious comparison is also an option; the British had a state religion of Protestantism and the Mughals had Sunni Islam. Additionally, both societies were feudal states with powerful lords and armies equipped with gunpowder weapons. However, it is important to note that British power rested in its powerful fleet and colonies abroad, whereas Mughal expansion efforts were focused in India itself; the Mughals would eventually be defeated by the British in India by the end of the period. The essay might also focus on the governments’ roles in managing the economy. Both promoted trade, though the British government was far more active in commercial pursuits than the Mughal state, which was more than happy to collect taxes on commerce rather than actively form monopoly companies to promote commerce.

Question 3
A successful essay will discuss the important differences in the approaches of China and Japan to contact with the West. It is important to note that by 1750 c.e., Japan, under the Tokugawa, had closed itself off from the rest of the world save the one Dutch ship it permitted in Nagasaki, and China had a rather limited contact system with Europe on the coasts. These different approaches became more pronounced when the British defeated the Q’ing in the First Opium War in 1842 and imposed harsh indemnities on the Chinese government. From this point, the Japanese diverged from the Chinese approach and opened their borders to the West, arguably under a similar amount of duress, and sought actively to Westernize or be crushed. The Chinese instead pursued half-hearted attempts to catch up with the West. The end results of these efforts were the successful modernization of Japan and recentralization of imperial power through the Meiji Restoration and the failure of the Q’ing Dynasty to hold onto power as massive rebellions such as the Taiping threatened its hold on power as covetous Western states carved China into spheres of influence. By 1900, Japan had become an imperial and industrial power in its own right, even defeating China in the First Sino-Japanese War of 1894–1895, while China fell further behind. Your essay might include factual evidence that supports any sort of claim, but it is incontrovertible that Japan’s modernization program was much more successful than China’s.