

AP[®] World History SCORING GUIDELINES

Long Essay Question 1

In the period circa 400–1450 C.E., the decline and reconstitution of empires in regions such as the Mediterranean, Middle-East, and East Asia, affected the expansion or decline of cities across Afro-Eurasia.

Develop an argument that evaluates how the process of decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400–1450 C.E.

Maximum Possible Points: 6

Points	Rubric	Notes
A: Thesis /Claim (0–1)	<p>Thesis/Claim: Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning. (1 point)</p> <p><i>To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.</i></p>	<p>Responses earn one point by responding to the question with a historically defensible thesis that establishes a line of reasoning about how the process of the decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400-1450 C.E. Thesis statements need to demonstrate some degree of specificity regarding either change or continuity.</p> <p><i>Examples that earn this point include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The decline and reconstitution of empires in Afro-Eurasia from 400 – 1450 C.E. led to not only a surge in urbanization due to increased trade which was arguably more impactful, but the establishment of large trading centers within empires.” • “In between 400 and 1450, many empires declined and were reconstituted. This changed the economic and trading landscape during these times and was a main factor in the development of urban areas, with the rise of Islam in Europe and Africa and the rise of the Mongols in Asia having large effects on the trade routes in their respective areas, while the various declines had diminishing effects on the growth of urban areas in this time period.”

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B: Contextualization (0-1)	<p>Contextualization: Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt. (1 point)</p> <p><i>To earn this point, the response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question. This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or reference.</i></p>	<p><i>Examples of context might include the following, with appropriate elaboration:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons why the decline of a previous empire led to the rise of an empire that is the focus of the question (e.g. Rome to Byzantium). • Connections between empires and long-distance trade routes. • Improvements to technology that facilitated increased movement, communication and exchange. • Development of empires brought with it the development of administrative and military forces to manage things.
C: Evidence (0-2)	<p>Evidence: Provides specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. (1 point)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Supports an Argument: Supports an argument in response to the prompt using specific and relevant examples of evidence. (2 points)</p>	<p>Responses earn one point by providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.</p> <p><i>Evidence used might include the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silk Roads, Mediterranean Sea Route, Indian Ocean trade routes grew. • Growth of interregional trade in luxury goods that was facilitated by earlier innovations. • New forms of credit and money economies developed. <p>OR</p> <p>Responses earn two points by using examples of specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt.</p>
D: Analysis and Reasoning (0-2)	<p>Historical Reasoning: Uses historical reasoning (e.g. comparison, causation, CCOT) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt. (1 point)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Complexity: Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question. (2 points)</p> <p><i>To earn two points, the response must demonstrate a complex understanding. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways,</i></p>	<p>Responses earn one point by framing or structuring an argument addressing continuity and/or change over time in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period 400 to 1450 C.E. The reasoning used in the response might be uneven or imbalanced.</p> <p><i>Examples of using historical reasoning about change or continuity might include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade networks like the Silk Road were already in existence, but with the rise of new empires and improved technology, trade increased and new cities developed along the trade routes to accommodate the increased traffic. • As existing empires declined or fell and were replaced by new empires, these new

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<p><i>such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explaining nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables</i> • <i>Explaining both similarities and differences, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both causes and effects</i> • <i>Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods</i> • <i>Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes</i> • <i>Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence</i> <p><i>This understanding must be part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.</i></p>	<p>states expanded, often incorporating additional peoples into their empires as they expanded, and adding existing cities to their empires, or establishing new cities as centers for local control or for trading purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors such as the spread of disease, widespread invasion and low agricultural productivity that had led to population decreases and the decline of some empires came to an end, and so population and agricultural production increased, and empires reconstituted based on this, which led to an increase in trade and urban revival. <p>OR</p> <p>Responses earn two points by demonstrating a complex understanding of how Afro-Eurasian urban development changed in the period 400-1450 C.E., using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify their argument.</p> <p><i>Ways of demonstrating a complex understanding of this prompt might include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explaining both continuity <u>and</u> change in urban development in the period 400-1450 C.E. • Comparing the effects of the process of the decline and reconstitution of empires on urban development in Afro Eurasia 400-1450 C.E. with a similar phenomenon outside of Afro-Eurasia.
<p>If response is completely blank, enter - - for all four score categories: A, B, C, and D</p>	

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SCORING NOTES

Introductory note:

- *The components of this rubric require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, the essay may contain errors that do not detract from the overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.*
- *Exam essays should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.*

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain grammatical errors.

A. Thesis/Claim (1 point)

Responses earn one point by responding to the question with a historically defensible thesis that establishes a line of reasoning about how the process of the decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400-1450 C.E. (1 point) Thesis statements need to demonstrate some degree of specificity regarding either change or continuity to earn a point.

Examples of acceptable thesis:

- “The process of decline and reconstitution of empires greatly impacted changes in urban development 400-1450. In 476, Rome fell and left in its place a thriving and successful both culturally and governmentally Byzantine empire. However, while the eastern half of the Roman empire was thriving, the Western half experienced a time of turmoil and lack of sanitation. The urban developments in these areas were nearly opposites and therefore, the fall of the Roman empire had a huge impact on both urban and general development in the Western and Byzantine empires.” (*This sophisticated thesis addresses both continuity and change by contrasting the impact of the fall of Rome on urban development in east and west.*)
- “The process of decline and reconstruction of empires led to great changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400-1450 c.e. The fall of the Roman Empire in 476 c.e. led to the decline of urban development in Western Europe as they went into the middle ages. The rise of the Abbasid Empire, however, assisted urban development because of their golden age of new developments and the rise of Islam.” (*The thesis gives contrasting examples of urban decline and development based in two examples from different regions.*)
- “In between 400 and 1450, many empires reconstituted. This change of the economic and trading landscape during these times was a main factor in the development of urban areas” (*This thesis is minimally acceptable because articulates a line of reasoning through the linkage of trade and urban development.*)

Examples of unacceptable thesis:

- “During the period, 400-1450 c.e., many empires declined but these declining empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia. Examples of these empires include, the Romans and the Han dynasty in China. The fall of the Han dynasty led to a rise in the Tang/Song dynasty later on. With these two big empires falling, it made other empires realize what not to do in order to

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not fall.” (*This thesis does not provide any specificity about changes in urban development and so does not establish a line of reasoning.*)

B. Contextualization (1 point)

Responses earn one point by describing a broader historical context relevant to the topic of the prompt (1 point). The context can be from before, during, or continue after the period ca. 400 to 1450 C.E. as long as the response accurately and explicitly connects the context to the topic of changes in urban development during the period. This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or a reference.

Examples of context might include the following:

- Reasons why the fall of a previous empire led to the rise of the empire in question.
- Role of religions in rise and/or fall of empires and cities.
- Rise of hegemonic powers, pushing out weaker states.
- Changes and interactions along trading routes

Examples of acceptable contextualization:

- “Between 400-1450 many empires developed in Afro-Eurasia. Rome had fallen, leaving a broken state in the West and the new Byzantine Empire in the East. In response to the lack of power in Western Europe feudalism rose to provide protection and wealth.”
- “The larger context to the rise and fall of empires that led to changes in urban development is a battle for hegemony amongst the rising empires. The Byzantine and the Chinese during the Tang and Song fought for influence and power. These rising powers often pushed smaller, weaker powers out of the way and this led to their decline. For example, the Roman empire was weak by the time 476 rolled around: they had no unifying trait among all the people and they were slowly becoming decentralized. This ultimately led to their downfall as they crumbled and the Byzantine empire took over and established infrastructure, Hellenistic culture and a population later unified under Christianity.”

Examples of unacceptable contextualization:

- “For contextualization, during 400-1450 the dark or middle ages were going on all throughout Afro-Eurasia. The middle ages caused people to leave homes in search of more money and food, leading to the decline of urban growth because people were moving. Also nothing scientific or innovative was happening at the time so people weren’t developing anything and the classical ages had ended so people were in a slump that didn’t end until the middle ages were over.” (*This attempt at contextualization by describing the “dark ages” overgeneralizes the global (not to mention European) situation so much that it is largely wrong.*)

C. Evidence (2 points)

a) Addressing the Topic

Responses earn one point by providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. Responses can earn this point without earning the point for thesis statement. (1 point)

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Evidence used could include the following:

- Silk Roads, Mediterranean Sea Route, Indian Ocean trade routes grew.
- Growth of interregional trade in luxury goods that was facilitated by earlier innovations.
- New forms of credit and money economies developed.

Examples of acceptably providing evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt:

- “The Abbasids were able to rule their empire from 750-1258 until the mongols invaded and sacked Baghdad which was one of the largest trading cities in the world. The Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) Dynasties grew and flourished with the help of trading and their golden age. “

Examples of unacceptably providing evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt:

- “The fall of the Han dynasty led to a period in chinese history marked by many warring states fighting for power. There was chaos as different states tried to gain the upper hand, so urban development was pushed to the sidelines for the time being.” *(This example fails to earn a point because it does not fall within the given time period.)*

OR

b) Supporting an Argument

Responses earn two points by using examples of specific historical evidence to *support an argument* in response to the prompt. (2 points)

Examples of acceptable use of evidence to support an argument:

- “The Song used great agricultural surpluses which was a result of the discovery of champa rice which had a higher yield than rices indigenous in the area. The surpluses in food allowed more people to leave farming and move into cities to have more specialized jobs. The movement of people into cities caused mass urbanization. The ultimate result of the development of cities through the rise of the Song was the most urbanized empire China had ever seen.” *(The evidence about champa rice, its higher yield than indigenous rice, and the Song becoming the most urban society in Chinese history to that point all support the argument about increased agricultural yield leading to urbanization.)*

Examples of unacceptable use of evidence to support an argument:

- “Rome is an example of an empire that fell hard. In 476, Rome had officially collapsed and thousands of people were without homes/without a centralized government that enforced rules. Without rules, Rome had become a savage and very disorganized place, until the RCC arrived. The RCC (Roman Catholic Church) grew very quickly because people just needed something to latch onto and be protected by. This was very successful, as the RCC soon took over much of the land previously owned by the Roman empire, and became the new government.” *(None of the evidence in this response is used to support an argument about urban development.)*

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D. Analysis and Reasoning (2 points)

a) Historical Reasoning

Responses earn one point by using historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument that addresses in urban development in Afro-Eurasia from ca. 400-1450 C.E. (1 point) The response might still earn the point if the reasoning used in the response is uneven or imbalanced.

Examples of using historical reasoning about change or continuity might include:

- Trade networks like the Silk Road were already in existence, but with the rise of new empires and improved technology, trade increased and new cities developed along the trade routes to accommodate the increased traffic.
- As existing empires declined or fell and were replaced by new empires, these new states expanded, often incorporating additional peoples into their empires as they expanded, and adding existing cities to their empires, or establishing new cities as centers for local control or for trading purposes.
- Factors such as the spread of disease, widespread invasion and low agricultural productivity that had led to population decreases and the decline of some empires came to an end, and so population and agricultural production increased, and empires reconstituted based on this, which led to an increase in trade and urban revival.

Examples of acceptable use of historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument:

- “One example of changes in urban development is the decline of the Roman empire. The collapse of a stable government caused many cities and other urban areas to fall apart. Rome especially became very dangerous. Many people started to steal, rob, and even murder others because there was no authority to stop them.” (*This description of imperial collapse shows sufficient reasoning about changes in urban settlement to earn one point.*)

Examples of acceptable use of historical reasoning to frame or structure an argument:

- “Then, the Tang Dynasty was established. This dynasty eventually experienced a golden age just as the Han dynasty had. This rise of the Tang dynasty saw a shift of many things, including the type of religion that the Dynasty functioned under. During the Han dynasty, Confucianism was the main set of ideals, but during the Tang Dynasty, this shifted to the ideals of Buddhism. This change in religion represents both a shift in power and also a change in urban development throughout China between the time period 400-1450AD.” (*This passage does not explain why a shift in religion might have affected urban development during the period.*)

OR

b) Complexity

Responses earn two points for demonstrating a complex understanding of how the process of the decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400-1450 C.E., using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify their argument. (2 points) To earn two points,

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the response must demonstrate a complex understanding. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways, such as:

- Explaining nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables
- Explaining both similarities and differences, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both causes and effects
- Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods
- Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes
- Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence

This understanding must be part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.

Ways of demonstrating a complex understanding of this prompt might include:

- Explaining both continuity *and* change in urban development in the period 400-1450 C.E.
- Comparing the effects of the process of the decline and reconstitution of empires on urban development in Afro Eurasia 400-1450 C.E. with a similar phenomenon outside of Afro-Eurasia.

Examples of acceptable demonstration of a complex understanding:

- “Due to the process of decline and reconstitution of empires, there were major changes in hegemony. After 476 AD, the year in which Rome fell, the Byzantine empire rose to power and became one of the heavy-weights in the competition for hegemony. The Byzantine constructed fortresses and walls to protect themselves from invaders and further established Constantinople as a trading hub, thus increasing urban development. Due to the decline and later fall of the Sui, the Tang and Song dynasties rose to power and made numerous reforms in China. The Tang and Song dynasties also competed for hegemony within this time period, and had many new inventions like the suspension bridge and chain driven clock that greatly affected the urban development in major cities in China. The Mongols are another group that changed the rank of world powers by utilizing the decline of empires in order to gain more power themselves. The Mongols travelled all across Eurasia, exploiting territories and gaining land from weak governments and groups of people. The decline of powerful empires allowed for the Mongols to swiftly conquer numerous empires with little opposition. Cities who refused to pay tribute were annihilated by the Mongols, thus inhibiting the urban development of those areas. The process of decline and reconstitution of empires led to major changes in urban development.” *(The paragraph corroborates an overarching argument about rising empires capitalizing on the decline of weaker empires with substantial, detailed evidence.)*

Examples of unacceptable demonstration of a complex understanding:

- “During this time period many places were struggling from the collapses of the Classical empires, but then later on in this time period they started to rebuild, and new cities were being formed and urbanization was occurring. One example of this was with the Byzantine; they were in control of Constantinople. Constantinople was a major area for trading in the Mediterranean Sea and avoiding the Ottomans as the middleman of trade. While in Constantinople the Byzantines built the Hagia Sophia and had many other architectural achievements in an effort of urbanization. Another group of people who reformed empires and led to changes in urbanization were the Mongols. The mongols were very helpful in the sense of trade throughout much of Asia and maybe into parts of

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eastern europe.” *(This response provides evidence of change but does not corroborate its argument with evidence demonstrating a complex understanding of the question.)*

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WH_LEQ_Sample A

AP World History
Sample Practice
Long Essay Question

In the period 400-1450 Afro Eurasia was home to the rise and fall of many empires. These interactions between people of different empires helped to fuel urban development. The process of decline and reconstitution in ~~some~~ empires led to changes in urban development by creating religious and learning centers, and by ~~creating~~ ^{creating} centers of trade within reconstructed empires, the trading centers most affected urban development.

Between 400-1450 the process of decline and ~~urban development~~ reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development by creating religious and learning centers within empires. For example, in the Islamic Caliphate cities such as Mecca and Baghdad ~~was~~ became religious and learning centers of the empire as it grew. As the empire grew people came to these cities for religious ~~and~~ reasons or for higher education. This changed the urban development in these cities. The reason for this is, as the Islamic Caliphate grew, more people went to the important

Cities in the empire. The cities of Mecca and Baghdad became more popular. This helped to generate more new technology such as gunpowder or paper and printing. These technologies were spread through encounters of growing and reconstructing empires such as the ~~great~~ battle of talas, where these ~~technologies~~ technologies were exchanged.

Between 400-1450 the decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development by creating centers of trade within empires. For example, cities such as Constantinople in the Byzantine empire or ~~the~~ Canton in several Chinese dynasties were centers of trade that influenced urban development. As these empires grew, Constantinople ~~and~~ and Canton became important pieces of the empires. They created population growth in these cities which ~~led~~ led to an increase in trade and the creation of technologies, such as the astrolab, ~~the~~ lateen sail, and saddles for animals. The reason for this is, as empires grew their primary trade cities grew in population. This created changes in urban development. However as these empires declined it created forms of urban development such as feudalism and



the rise of guilds. ~~As~~ As the trade centers in these empires declined they gave way to new kinds of development that could not be achieved within a growing empire.

DECLINE / RISE OF EMPIRES
LEAD TO DEVELOPMENT
400-1450Date 5/31/17

WH_LEQ_ Sample B

AP World History
Sample Practice
Long Essay Question

Sample 2 -

BETWEEN 400-1450 MANY EMPIRES DEVELOPED IN AFRICA AND ASIA.
ROME HAD FALLEN LEAVING A BROKEN STATE IN THE WEST
AND THE NEW BYZANTINE EMPIRE IN THE EAST. IN RESPONSE
TO THE LACK OF POWER IN WESTERN EUROPE ~~THE~~ FEUDALISM
ROSE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION AND WEALTH. BETWEEN 400-1450
THE FALL OF THE TANG ALLOWED FOR ^{DEVELOPMENT OF} ~~MANY~~ CHANGES WITHIN
~~THE~~ URBAN CENTERS. BY THE SONG THROUGH MASS URBANIZATION
ESTABLISHED BY ^{AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES} ~~CHAMPA~~ RICE. HOWEVER, ~~THE~~ GREATER CHANGES
IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT CAN BE SEEN BY THE RISE OF
THE MONGOL EMPIRE WHO BURNED DOWN URBAN CENTERS
FOR TRADE AND ~~FACILITATED~~ THE SPREAD KNOWLEDGE TO
ESTABLISH MORE ADVANCED SOCIETIES.

AFTER THE TANG DYNASTY FELL THE SONG DYNASTY CAME
INTO POWER. ~~THEY~~ THE SONG USED GREAT AGRICULTURAL
SURPLUSES WHICH WAS A RESULT OF THE ^{DISCOVERY} ~~ESTABLISHMENT~~ OF
CHAMPA RICE WHICH HAD A ~~THE~~ HIGHER YIELD THAN
~~OTHER~~ RICES INDIGENOUS TO THE AREA. THE SURPLUSES IN
FOOD ALLOWED MORE PEOPLE TO LEAVE FARMING
AND MOVE INTO CITIES TO HAVE MORE SPECIALIZED
JOBS. THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE INTO CITIES CAUSED

MASS URBANIZATION. THE ULTIMATE RESULT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES THROUGH THE RISE OF THE SONG WAS THE MOST URBANIZED EMPIRE CHINA HAD EVER SEEN.

WHILE THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN CENTERS IN ASIA WAS GREATLY IMPACTED BY THE SONG, THE MONGOLS CHANGED THE FACE OF CITIES ACROSS EURASIA AS THE MONGOLS SPREAD ACROSS CENTRAL ASIA THEY DESTROYED MANY TRADING POSTS ACROSS THE SILK ROADS. BY DOING THIS THE MONGOLS ALLOWED FOR NEW POSTS TO REPLACE PREVIOUS STOPS ALLOWING FOR MAJOR CHANGE IN CITIES ACROSS THE SILK ROADS. THE MONGOLS ALSO HAD A LARGE IMPACT IN EUROPE AFTER THE MONGOLS SACKED CONSTANTINOPLE AND DEFEATED THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE. AFTER TAKING THE CITY THE MONGOLS ~~WERE~~ CHANGED THE URBAN LANDSCAPE BY SPREADING ISLAMIC IDEALS TO FACILITATE TRADE. THE MONGOLS ALSO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF GUNPOWDER AND PAPERMAKING TO CREATE MORE POWERFUL AND EDUCATED SOCIETIES. ~~WERE~~ THE MORE EDUCATED PEOPLE WOULD THEN TRAVEL TO AREAS OF GREAT KNOWLEDGE SUCH AS BAGHDAD RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

Date 5/31/17

WH_LEQ_Sample C

AP World History
Sample Practice
Long Essay Question

Sample 4

Between 400 and 1450, many empires were growing and falling in Afro-Eurasia. With this, technology was increasing and population was increasing. During empires, such as the Tang and Song, urban development increased. However, some empires had different effects on urban development than others did. The process of decline and reconstitution^{of empires} led to changes in urban development such as population, ~~increase~~, ~~a decrease in~~ sanitation, and religious buildings.

The process of decline and reconstitution^{of empires} led to changes in urban development such as population. For example, during the Tang Dynasty, champa rice was introduced into China from Vietnam. This rice was easier to grow and produced more food. This significantly increased the population of China at the time. However, the champa rice did not spread much outside of Asia or the borders of the Tang. Therefore, this led to urban centers growing due to more population but only in ~~Asia~~ Asia.

The process of decline and reconstitution^{of empires} led to changes in urban development such as sanitation. For example, the black

plague spread in this time period. The reason for this is, is that the Mongol empire was growing and spread throughout Eurasia. This rise of an empire led to the plague spreading. The poor sanitation of large cities in the Mongol empire facilitated the spread of the disease. This led to a decrease in population but also led to an increase in urban development, ~~rather~~ to try and reduce the spread of the disease through poor ~~city~~ city planning. However, not every empire was hit by the disease like the Mongols and Byzantines. Empires in Africa, such as Ghana and Mali, were not affected.

The process ^{of} ~~and~~ decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development such as religious buildings. For example, Baghdad was formed and became an important religious urban center during the rule of the Umayyad Caliphate. The reason for this is, is that religion played an important role in empires. This led to urban centers ~~being~~ having more religious buildings such as churches, and mosques; As long as the empire supported the religion. However, not all empires supported religion, such as the Song.

Sample 39 Name _____

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Sample Practice
Long Essay Question

The extent to which the process of decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in Urban development in Afro-Eurasia was great and played a major role. The Mughals and Byzantine Empire were great examples of this.

As Germanic tribes repeatedly invaded the outskirts of the Roman Empire, the great power eventually fell in 476 A.D. The Eastern half of the empire, the Byzantine, emerged as a great power through Constantine and the Urban City of Constantinople. Forced to protect their region, the Byzantine Empire improved military. This led to growth of the empire and a law code developed by Justinian due to a great population increase among cities. Advancements in both Art and Architecture took off, including the construction of the onion-shaped dome. Also, as government grew



and become more involved in society and religion. Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Byzantine Empire. With Constantinople being the center of this urbanization, it became heavily involved in commerce, business, and experienced major population growth.

Evaluate the extent to which the process of decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400-1450 c.e.

There was a very wide extent to which the process of decline and reconstitution of empires led to change in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400-1450 c.e. One empire that declined during this time period was the Roman Empire. One empire that was reconstituted was china and all the cities in it.

The Roman Empire is an example of a decline of empires that led to change in urban development in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400-1450 c.e. The fall of rome in 457 was due to many things that caused the empire to fail. Many people and scholars took these reasons and analyzed them and look to the roots of the problems and would try to prevent them in future empires. One of these problems was the Christianity. Christianity was a problem in the decline of the roman empire because normal government activities could not be completed due to the gridlock between the members. Another problem was overexpansion. Overexpansion was a problem in the decline of the roman empire because the was too much land to be governed and taken care of. Much of the outer regions of the Roman Empire was captured by enemy forces.

The Chinese Empire and its cities are an example of a reconstitution that led to change in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400-1450 c.e. The rise of the Chinese Empire was due to many reasons that helped. One reason the the rise is that they had are large trade organization. They had a large trade organization because they were located right in the middle of the silk road which allowed them to sell, trade, and buy. Another reason for the rise of

the empire is that they were located right on the coast which allowed them to explore and trade through maritime. These are a few reason that helped the Chinese Empire rise.

A broader historical context immediately related to this question is the increase in trade. The increase in trade allowed for more products being brought in. It also allows for better economies and also increased exploration as well.

WH_LEQ_Question 1_Sample 11

During the period, 400-1450 c.e., many empires declined but these declining empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia. Examples of these empires include, the Romans and the Han dynasty in China. The fall of the Han dynasty led to an rise in the Tang/Song dynasty later on. With these two big empires falling, it made other empires realize what not to do in order to not fall.

The time period 400-1450 A.D. saw many empires rise and fall. In China they had an empire fall and rise, with the Han dynasty falling and the Tang/Song dynasty rising. In the Roman Empire, they fell in the year 476 but we one of the biggest empires until their decline. During this time period, you gained power by gaining more and more land so this is why The Hans and Romans were so powerful. This was until they lost control over their land because their was too much to keep in line so this was the main cause of their decline. For example, the Roman empire expanded to Northern Africa and that was across the mediterranean sea from central Rome. It's clear that the expansion of the empires was really the biggest reason for their fall even though it seems like the best thing possible for an up and coming empire.

These reasons for why they fell were also a way that they would have a change in urban development.

WH_LEQ_ Question 2_ Sample 41

The extent of the process of decline and reconstruction of empires in Afro-Eurasia in the period 400-1450 c.e. that led to changes in urban development was a big. The changes in Afro-Eurasia such as medical changes were led by the decline and reconstruction of empires in afro-eurasia.

One way the extent of which the process of decline and reconstruction of empires led to changes in urban development was changes in medical treatments. After the bubonic plague there were many developments in medicine such as vaccines were invented. Also the decline and reconstruction of empires led to changes exploration. With so many empires falling and fighting to rebuild themselves there was need for new resources and so this led to exploration. The change in exploration led to the discovery of the Americas by christopher columbus. Also exploration was done through the silk road which was also led to by the decline and reconstruction of empires in afro-eurasia. The silk road was built for the need of a faster route to use for trade for the declining and reconstructing empires who desperately needed materials. There was a significant extent to which the process of decline and reconstruction of empires led to changes in urban development.

The changes in urbanization also includes the changes in governments. With the empires changing and falling the governments were led to change to. The government in china was changed after being invaded by the mongols.

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Long Essay Question 1

In the period circa 400–1450 C.E., the decline and reconstitution of empires in regions such as the Mediterranean, Middle-East, and East Asia, affected the expansion or decline of cities across Afro-Eurasia.

Develop an argument that evaluates how the process of decline and reconstitution of empires led to changes in urban development in Afro-Eurasia in the period circa 400–1450 C.E.

Sample: A [5]

Score—Thesis/Claim: 1

The response earned a point for thesis. The response makes a historically defensible claim about religious, intellectual, and trade connections promoting urban development that establishes a line of reasoning.

Score—Contextualization: 1

The response earned a point for contextualization. The response discusses connections between the spread of empires and technological exchange, thus describing a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.

Score—Evidence: 2

The response earned a point for providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. Pieces of evidence provided include specific cities (e.g. Constantinople and Canton) and technologies such as the astrolabe.

The response also earned a point by using examples of specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. It uses evidence about Islamic cities to show why centers such as Mecca and Baghdad grew culturally (page 1). The point could also be awarded for linking evidence of Constantinople and Canton to an argument about empires and trade (page 2).

Score—Analysis and Reasoning: 2

The response earned a point for using historical reasoning to frame an argument about why changes in cities' purpose made them a magnet for population growth (page 1).

The response earned a second point for demonstrating a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, corroborating its argument with a variety of factors affecting urban growth in empires (religion, higher learning, trade).

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Sample B [2]

Score—Thesis/Claim: 1

The response earned a point for thesis. The response makes a historically defensible claim, beginning at the end of the fifth line of the introduction, arguing that empires have led to both the expansion of cities (Song Empire) and the destruction of cities (Mongol Empire).

Score—Contextualization: 1

The response earned a point for contextualization. The opening of the introduction describes a historical context relevant to the focus of the prompt, by addressing the impact of the fall of Rome for the rise of Byzantium.

Score—Evidence: 2

The response earned a point for providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. Although some evidence is incorrect about the Mongols, there are sufficient pieces of evidence elsewhere throughout the essay to award the point (e.g. champa rice in China; rise of Baghdad as a center of learning).

The response also earned a second point by using examples of specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. It uses evidence about champa rice and agricultural surpluses to make an argument about growing urban populations in China.

Score—Analysis and Reasoning: 1

The response earned a point for using historical reasoning (continuity and change over time) to frame an argument that addresses the prompt. The paragraph on China is multi-layered enough to demonstrate reasoning about causation and change over time: Champa rice had a higher yield than indigenous rice, which led to food surpluses, occupational specialization, and urbanization. This in turn led Song-era society to become the most urban in Chinese history to that point.

The response did not earn a second point for demonstrating a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, since the response does not sustain the nuances of the paragraph on China.

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Sample: C [4]

Score—Thesis/Claim: 1

The response earned a point for thesis. The response makes a historically defensible claim that indicates some specificity about the types of changes that have occurred in urban development (population, sanitation and religious buildings). Although it does not state how or why these changes occurred, this level of substance is just sufficient to indicate a line of reasoning.

Score—Contextualization: 0

The response did not earn a point for contextualization. The passing reference to empires in Africa on page 2 is not sufficient to meaningfully describe a context relevant to the prompt.

Score—Evidence: 2

The response earned a point for providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. Pieces of evidence provided include the introduction of champa rice from Vietnam leading to population increase in China, and the expansion of the Mongol Empire playing a role in the spread of the plague. Baghdad is placed in the wrong empire and is therefore not valid as a piece of evidence.

The response also earned a second point by using examples of specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. Evidence about champa rice is used to support the argument for increased urban population in China. Even though there is an inaccuracy in placing the introduction of champa rice in the Tang rather than the Song dynasty, the argument still stands.

Score—Analysis and Reasoning: 1

The response earned a point for using historical reasoning (continuity and change over time) to frame an argument that addresses the prompt. It explains the role of religion in promoting urban development in empires (page 2). Reading past the inaccuracy about Baghdad, there is still sufficient material to make a general argument about the mutual relationship between empires, religion, and urban growth. However, this is not enough nuance or corroboration to demonstrate a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, and so the response does not earn a second point.

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Sample: D [39]

Score—Thesis/Claim: 0

The response did not earn a point for thesis. The response does not make a historically defensible claim that establishes a line of reasoning; the introduction does not say anything specific about how urban centers changed.

Score—Contextualization: 1

The response earned a point for contextualization. It addresses a cause for the decline of the Roman Empire and explains that the Byzantine Empire emerged from the eastern half of the former empire, describing a historical context relevant to the prompt.

Score—Evidence: 1

The response earned a point for providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. The response includes several pieces of evidence pertinent to the rise of the Byzantine Empire (Constantine's creation of the city; Justinian; architectural styles; Christianity as the official religion; Constantinople as a center of commerce).

The response did not earn a point for using examples of specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. Some of the evidence is tied into an argument about why the Byzantine Empire grew stronger, but except for a stray mention of urbanization at the end, this is not used to support an argument about urban development.

Score—Analysis and Reasoning: 0

The response did not earn a point for using historical reasoning to frame an argument that addresses the prompt, or for demonstrating a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt. The response does not develop a clear argument about urban development.

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Sample: E [26]

Score—Thesis/Claim: 0

The response did not earn a point for thesis. The response does not make a historically defensible claim that establishes a line of reasoning. The introduction is vague; it mentions reconstitution of cities but is not specific enough about which Chinese empire this is occurring in.

Score—Contextualization: 0

The response did not earn a point for contextualization. The attempt at describing broader context in the conclusion is too general to earn a point.

Score—Evidence: 1

The response earned a point for providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. There are some specific pieces of evidence related to the fall of Rome (overexpansion and resulting difficulties for governing; enemy forces).

The response did not earn a point for using examples of specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. The pieces of evidence are used to discuss factors involving the development of different empires, but none of them are used to support an argument responding to the prompt about urban development.

Score—Analysis and Reasoning: 0

The response did not earn a point for using historical reasoning to frame an argument that addresses the prompt, or for demonstrating a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt. Because the argument does not address urban development at all, it cannot be awarded a point for historical reasoning. There is insufficient specificity beyond the points already awarded to be able to grant further points for analysis or argument development.

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Sample: F [11]

Score—Thesis: 0

The response did not earn a point for thesis. The response does not make a historically defensible thesis that establishes a line of reasoning. Neither the introduction nor the concluding sentence says anything specific about urban development.

Score—Contextualization: 0

The response did not earn a point for contextualization. The discussion about territorial expansion of Rome is central to what is offered in the response, and thus cannot also be counted toward describing a broader context for the prompt.

Score—Evidence: 1

The response earned a point for providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. There is sufficient evidence about Rome (fell in 476; expanded to North Africa) to award the point. However, the response did not earn a point for using examples of specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. The evidence offered is not being used to support any argument about urban development.

Score—Analysis and Reasoning: 0

The response did not earn a point using historical reasoning (continuity and change over time) to frame an argument that addresses the prompt, or for demonstrating a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt. The material is not substantively or explicitly connected to an argument about urban development enough to earn a point.

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Sample: G [41]

Score—Thesis/Claim: 0

The response did not earn a point for thesis. The response does not make a historically defensible thesis that establishes a line of reasoning. The statement about medical changes is too vague and not explicitly tied to urban developments to score as a claim.

Score—Contextualization: 0

The response did not earn a point for contextualization. The mention of exploration is not tied enough to changes in urban development or the decline or reconstitution of specific empires to count for describing a context relevant to the prompt.

Score—Evidence: 0

The response did not earn points for either providing at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt or for using examples of specific historical evidence to support an argument in response to the prompt. The evidence is either inaccurate or falls outside the chronological scope of the question.

Score—Analysis and Reasoning: 0

The response did not earn a point for using historical reasoning (continuity and change over time) to frame an argument that addresses the prompt, or for demonstrating a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt. The response makes no argument specifically related to the question.