

# AP<sup>®</sup> 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
<b>A: Thesis /Claim (0–1)</b>	<p><b>Thesis/Claim:</b> 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"> <li>• “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.”</li> <li>• “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.”</li> </ul>

Date 5/31/17

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 <sup>and learning</sup> centers, and by ~~creating~~ <sup>creating</sup> 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 <sup>DEVELOPMENT OF</sup> ~~MANY~~ CHANGES WITHIN  
~~THE~~ URBAN CENTERS. BY THE SONG THROUGH MASS URBANIZATION  
ESTABLISHED BY <sup>AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES</sup> ~~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 <sup>DISCOVERY</sup> ~~ESTABLISHMENT~~ OF  
CHAMPA RICE WHICH HAD A ~~THEY~~ 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.

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WH\_LEQ\_ Sample C

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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<sup>of empires</sup> led to changes in urban development such as population, ~~increase~~, ~~a decrease in~~ sanitation, and religious buildings.

The process of decline and reconstitution<sup>of empires</sup> 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<sup>of empires</sup> 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 <sup>of</sup> ~~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.



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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.