

Unit 2 Multiple Choice Answers and Explanations

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1. Learning Objective 1.3.G and 2.3.F. Continuity and Change

Marco Polo's reference in the <u>first paragraph</u> to the people of Java being "worshippers of idols," most likely refers to the influence of which historical development c. 1200 to c. 1450?	
a. Arab and Persian travelers visiting Southeast Asia for the first time	This answer is incorrect because Arab and Persian interactions with Southeast Asia would not lead to practices that would resemble idol worship, as Muslims do not use images as part of prayer
b. The Protestant Dutch taking control of Java	This answer is incorrect because the Dutch did not arrive in Southeast Asia until the 17th century. Additionally, Protestants do not include the use of idols or images in prayer.
c. Jewish merchants living in Southeast Asia	This answer is incorrect. Jewish merchants were certainly part of the Indian Ocean trade diaspora but their religious practices do not include the use of idols or images in prayer.
d. Chinese and Indian merchant communities in Southeast Asia	This answer is correct. Southeast Asia was heavily influenced by South Asian and Chinese culture, including Hinduism and Buddhism, both of which include statues and images as part of prayer. Marco Polo may have interpreted this as idol worship.

2. Learning Objective 2.1.A. Contextualization/ Analyzing Historical Documents. Primary Sources.

Marco Polo's focus when describing Java is evidence of which of the following developments from c. 1200 to c. 1450?	
a. The growing desire for luxury goods across Afro-Eurasia as trade intensified	This answer is correct because Marco Polo's focus throughout both paragraphs is primarily describing trade goods and the profits of them.
b. Improved commercial practices such as the use of bills of exchange on the Silk Road.	This answer is incorrect because Java is part of the Indian Ocean trade routes and the passage does not discuss improved commercial practices.
c. The growth of trade cities where merchants could exchange goods and find comfort during their travels	This answer is incorrect because while Polo does mention a few cities, they are not the focus of this excerpt
d. Improvements in transportation technologies such as Lateen sails and navigational tools	This answer is incorrect because transportation technologies are not mentioned.

3. Learning Objective 1.3.H. Continuity & Change/ Analyzing Historical Sources. Primary Sources.

From the passage, what can be determined about the political situation of Java when Marco Polo visited?	
a. It was part of the Chinese tribute system after being subjected to the Great Khan's rule	This answer is incorrect because Polo claims that they do not pay tribute to any other power.
b. It had been annexed by the Yuan Dynasty under the leadership of Kublai Khan	This answer is incorrect because Polo states that the Great Khan has not brought island under subjection to him.
c. It was solely controlled by the Deva Kingdom of South Asia.	This answer is incorrect because while Polo states that the island is under the dominion of one king only, there is no indication that this king is from South Asia.
d. It was an independent kingdom due to its distance from large empires.	This answer is correct because Polo claims that the island is under the dominion of only one king, and later claims that the voyage to the island is long and dangerous from China.

4. Learning Objective 2.5.J. Contextualization

The passage above clearly illustrates which of the following historical developments c. 1200 to c. 1450?	
a. The diffusion of literary, artistic and cultural traditions across Asia due to increased interactions.	This answer is incorrect because Maco Polo is relaying what he sees, but is not spreading cultural traditions from Asia that would take root in Europe.
b. The increasing number of travelers within Afro-Eurasia who wrote about their travels as trade intensified.	This answer is correct because Marco Polo was one of several travelers who used known trade routes c. 1200 to c. 1450, and who recorded their travels. Others include Ibn Battuta and Margery Kempe.
c. Increased urbanization due to the demand for luxury items and expanded production..	This answer is incorrect because increased urbanization is not a theme of the passage.
d. The diffusion of scientific and technological innovations due to cross-cultural interactions.	This answer is incorrect because scientific and technological innovations are not a theme of the passage.

5. Learning Objective 2.2.B. Comparison

All of the following were significant political effects of the rise of the Mongol Empire EXCEPT:	
a. The fall of the Abbasid Dynasty	This answer is incorrect because this is an EXCEPT question. The Mongols conquered the Abbasids in 1258.
b. The fall of the Byzantine Empire	This answer is correct. The Mongols did not conquer the Byzantine Empire. It fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453
c. The fall of the Song Dynasty	This answer is incorrect because this is an EXCEPT question. The Mongols conquered the Song Dynasty in 1279.
d. The fall of Kievan Rus	This answer is incorrect because this is an EXCEPT question. The Mongols conquered the Kievan Rus in 1242.

6. Learning Objective. 2.1.A Contextualization

The route of Marco Polo to China, as seen on the map most closely matches which of the following?	
a. The Trans-Saharan Trade Route	This answer is incorrect because the Trans-Saharan Trade Route runs through Western Africa
b. The Indian Ocean Trade Route	This answer is incorrect because Marco Polo's route is on land.
c. The Silk Road	This answer is correct. Marco Polo traveled the Silk Road from the Middle East to China while it was under the protection of the Mongolian Empire.
d. The Mongol Mile	This answer is incorrect because this is not a trade route that ever existed.

7. Learning Objective 2.2.C Causation.

The route taken by Marco Polo as shown on the map was made possible by which of the following?	
a. The collapse of imperial states	This answer is incorrect because the protection of powerful imperial states was necessary for trade routes to flourish. Their collapse would slow down the possibility of travel.
b. The spread of Islam into Central Asia	This answer is incorrect because the route taken by Marco Polo was not aided by the spread of Islam into Central Asia.
c. The influence of expanding empires	This answer is correct because it was the expansion of the Mongol Empire that led to improved trade and communication along the Silk Road.
d. The breakdown of the Mongol Empire into Khanates	This answer is incorrect because the breakdown of the Mongol Empire into Khanates led to infighting and civil war which would have made trade and travel along the Silk Road more difficult.

8. Learning Objective 2.7.L Comparison

Which of the following is a similarity of all major trade routes in Eurasia during the era of c. 1200 to c. 1450 CE?	
a. The availability of trained guides	This answer is incorrect because not all trade routes necessitated trained guides for those who wanted to use them.
b. They were dominated by the Mongols	This answer is incorrect because the Mongols only controlled the Silk Road.
c. They moved the same good	This answer is incorrect because, while there may have been some overlap, each trade route was known for specialized products such as gold and salt in West Africa, bulk items in the Indian Ocean, and luxury goods on the Silk Road.
d. Their reliance on technological innovations	This answer is correct because trade intensified as new technology made trade easier. The compass, astrolabe, saddles, etc. made traversing difficult terrain possible.

9. Learning Objective 2.4.H Causation

Which innovation that encouraged interregional trade explains Ibn Battuta's ability to travel to West Africa c. 1200 and c. 1450?

a. Supplies of food that could last four months	This answer is incorrect because carrying supplies of food for oneself or animals is not an innovation.
b. Camel skin roofs	This answer is incorrect because camel skin roofs were not used for travel, only by the inhabitants of Taghaza.
c. Caravans	This answer is correct because the use of caravans made it possible for merchants and travelers on long journeys to travel safely from oasis to oasis through the Sahara Desert.
d. Slaves	This answer is incorrect because slavery is not an innovation.

10. Learning Objective. 2.4.I Causation

What effect did the trade described by Ibn Battuta have on the kingdom of Mali?

a. Mali became a rich and powerful kingdom because it was a center of trade.	This answer is correct. The expansion of Mali was due largely to their control of important trade routes.
b. Mali was heavily influenced by the culture of countries to the south, described by Ibn Battuta as being inhabited by blacks.	This answer is incorrect. As Mali expanded neighboring territories were drawn into the empire. Overtime, Mali's cultural influence spread, such as the practice of Islam.
c. Mali became a part of the Abbasid dynasty who prized it for its lucrative camel trade.	This answer is incorrect. Mali was independent, although it was considered part of Dar al-Islam (the Islamic World).
d. The kingdom of Mali collapsed as their spending was greater than the profits they were able to take in from trade.	This answer is incorrect. The Mali Empire fell in the 16th century when it split into pieces and was conquered by the Songhai Empire.

11. Learning Objective 4.4.G. Continuity and Change

Ibn Battuta's discussion of slavery best illustrates which continuity from c. 1450 to c. 1750?	
a. Slaveries continued existence within Africa	This answer is correct. Ibn Battuta describes enslaved people mining salt in West Africa. Between c. 1450 to c. 1750 the same practices continued, even as the Trans-Atlantic slave trade began.
b. Slavery continued to be prohibited within the Islamic world	This answer is incorrect. Slavery within the Muslim world was a traditional practice. However, Muslims were not supposed to enslave other Muslims which led to the practice of finding non-Muslims in Africa to bring to the Middle East began.
c. The continuation of the mit'a system	This answer is incorrect. The mit'a system existed in Andean South America in the Inca Empire. Therefore, a description of African slavery cannot represent a continuity.
d. Arabs continued to be enslaved by Africans	This answer is incorrect. This was not a practice that existed in West Africa.

12. Learning Objective. 1.5.J. Causation.

Connections between Mali and North Africa through trans-saharan trade routes led to what cultural development between c. 1200 and c. 1450?	
a. Mali's capital became an international hub and the home of the House of Wisdom where scholarship from across Eurasia was preserved.	This answer is incorrect because the House of Wisdom was located in Baghdad in the Abbasid Empire.
b. Sufis & Islamic scholars traveled to Mali converting the elites to Islam and creating a center of scholarship at Timbuktu	This answer is historically correct. Trade routes brought more than merchants to Mali and elsewhere. Missionaries and Sufis came to Mali to spread Islam. Many settled and eventually Timbuktu became an important center of Islamic scholarship
c. Mali became a culturally diverse empire where Hindus and Muslims lived together in harmony due to the policies of Mali's Muslim rulers.	This answer is incorrect because no significant Hindu minority existed within Mali.
d. Mali developed a maritime empire based on technology that it learned from the Muslim world.	This answer is incorrect because Mali did not develop a maritime empire. While they did learn of other technologies and innovations from Muslim travelers, such as different forms of camel saddles, shipping technology was not passed on.

13. Learning Objective 2.6.K Causation. Analyzing Historical Sources. Primary Sources.

All of the following statements are factually accurate. Which is best supported by Ibn Al-Wardi's argument in the passage?	
a. The Black Plague was spread by vectors of disease such as rats and fleas.	This answer is incorrect. There is nothing to indicate the disease is being spread by disease vectors in the passage.
b. The Black Plague affected the rich and the poor equally.	This answer is incorrect. While the author mentions the actions of the nobles, there is nothing in the passage to indicate how the plague was impacting different social classes.
c. In some regions the Black Plague led to massacres of Jews who were blamed for the disease.	This answer is incorrect. While Jews were massacred in Western Europe, there is no indication that Jews were massacred in Aleppo in the passage.
d. The Black Plague spread along the Silk Road through cross-cultural contact.	This answer is correct. The author explains that the Plague began in China, affected India, Persia, Crimea, Jerusalem and Syria - all of which are connected to the Silk Road.

14. Learning Objective 1.2.D. Analyzing Historical Sources. Primary Sources.

Ibn Al-Wardi indicates that he believes the Plague was due to which of the following?	
a. The Mongol invasions of the 13th century	This answer is incorrect. Al-Wardi does not reference the Mongol invasions of the 13th century.
b. God's punishment for sin	This answer is correct. Al-Wardi claimed the plague was acting by God's command and asks forgiveness for their souls' bad inclinations.
c. The failure of those who had not converted to Islam	This answer is incorrect. Al-Wardi claims that non-Muslims will be punished while Muslims will go to heaven, but he does not claim that failure to convert caused the plague.
d. Scholars who are acting against Sharia law	This answer is incorrect. Al-Wardi discusses that variety of interventions scholars were using to try to ward off the Plague, but there is no mention of their actions as being violations of Islamic Law.

15. Learning Objective 2.6.K and 1.6.L. Causation

Which of the following was a social consequence of the Black Plague c. 1200 to c. 1450?	
a. The end of patriarchy in Dar al-Islam	This answer is incorrect. Gender relationships do not seem to have been affected by the Black Plague in the Islamic world.
b. The development of Feudal relationships as people sought protection from the Plague	This answer is incorrect. Feudalism did not emerge anywhere as a result of the Black Plague.
c. Peasant rebellions as labor shortages led to demands for higher wages and an end to serfdom in Western Europe	This answer is correct. Across Europe 30-60% of the population perished from the plague. This led to labor shortages, and especially on Feudal estates, the realization that peasant labor was valuable. This caused uprisings to end serfdom and increase wages.
d. The collapse of the Caste System in India as high caste Brahmins lost prestige when their prayers did not end the plague.	This answer is incorrect. The Caste System in India was not impacted by the Black Plague.