

Exercise walk-through

3.4

Economic Development and Mercantilism

AP European History

State policy and commercial power

Mercantilism

States regulated trade and drew resources from colonies to strengthen wealth and power. Tariffs, navigation laws and chartered companies were possible tools.

What a policy can change

A tariff can protect domestic producers; a navigation rule can favour a state's shipping; a charter can privilege selected merchants.

These are illustrative mechanisms. Governments did not all apply an identical policy package.

Trace the sugar connection

Demand → production → consumption

European demand for plantation sugar encouraged colonial production. Expansion relied on exploitation of enslaved labour. Imported sugar contributed to European consumer culture.

Overseas networks supplied goods, raw materials, labour and markets. Explain coercion and unequal benefits alongside consumer growth.

Your turn: connect two regions

Original practice — attempt before the check

Explain how European demand for plantation sugar could affect both colonial production and European consumption. Include the labour system in your explanation. Do not assume everyone benefited equally.

Check: demand, coercion and consumption

- 1 Demand encouraged expansion of plantation production in colonies.
- 2 Production depended on exploitation within the expanding transatlantic slave-labour system.
- 3 Sugar imports entered European consumer markets; the benefits and costs were unequally distributed.

Coffee, tea and tobacco also illustrate overseas influences on European consumption. Use the example relevant to the question.

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State two central claims of mercantilist doctrine.

[2]

2.2 Name two policy instruments it produced.

[2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State two central claims of mercantilist doctrine. [2]

2.1

- any two of: wealth is bullion held; trade is zero-sum; the state should secure a favourable balance
-

2.2 Name two policy instruments it produced. [2]

2.2

- any two of: tariffs and import prohibitions; monopoly charters; navigation laws; subsidies to domestic manufactures

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A navigation law requires colonial goods to travel in the parent state's ships.

(a) State the aim.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A navigation law requires colonial goods to travel in the parent state's ships.

(a) State the aim.

[1]

(a)

- to keep the earnings from carriage and the trade itself within the parent state

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A navigation law requires colonial goods to travel in the parent state's ships.

(b) State one effect on the colony.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A navigation law requires colonial goods to travel in the parent state's ships.

(b) State one effect on the colony.

[1]

(b)

- higher costs and no access to cheaper rival carriers or markets

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Mercantilism treats trade as

[1]

☐

A mutually beneficial

B zero-sum

C irrelevant

D a private matter

3.2 The standard criticism is that exchange

[1]

☐

A cannot occur

B can raise output for both parties

C always destroys bullion

D requires colonies

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Mercantilism treats trade as

[1]

☐

A mutually beneficial

B zero-sum

C irrelevant

D a private matter

3.1 B

- one state's gain is treated as another's loss

3.2 The standard criticism is that exchange

[1]

☐

A cannot occur

B can raise output for both parties

C always destroys bullion

D requires colonies

3.2 B

- exchange is not merely redistribution

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A state accumulates bullion while its domestic output stagnates.

(a) State what mercantilist doctrine would conclude.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A state accumulates bullion while its domestic output stagnates.

(a) State what mercantilist doctrine would conclude.

[1]

(a)

- that the state has grown wealthier

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A state accumulates bullion while its domestic output stagnates.

(b) Explain the flaw.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A state accumulates bullion while its domestic output stagnates.

(b) Explain the flaw.

[2]

(b)

- bullion is a means of exchange, not the goods it buys, so a state with more coin and less output is poorer in what actually matters