

Exercise walk-through

Contextualizing Renaissance and Discovery ■ 1.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what a context paragraph must do that a narrative does not
- name the conditions that made exploration possible
- explain how commercial wealth supported new learning
- avoid listing events instead of naming conditions

Method — What a context does

A context names the **conditions in place before** the developments, and says what each made possible. It is not a summary of what happened next.

Method — Conditions for exploration

Navigational and shipbuilding improvements, competition between rival states, and commercial demand for direct routes to Asian goods. Each is a condition; none is an event.

Method — Wealth and learning

Italian commercial cities accumulated wealth that patrons spent on artists and scholars. The recovery of classical texts required money and stable urban institutions as much as curiosity.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what a context paragraph must do.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

it names the conditions in place beforehand **B1** and says what each made possible **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Name two conditions that made long-distance exploration possible.

Solution 2.2

Method: What a context does

Worked steps

any two of: navigational and shipbuilding improvements; competition between rival states; commercial demand for direct routes to Asian goods **B2**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A student writes: “In 1492 Columbus sailed west, and in 1498 Vasco da Gama reached India.”

- (a) State why this is not context.
- (b) Rewrite one sentence as context.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

- (a) it lists events rather than naming the conditions that made them possible **B1**.
- (b) a rewritten sentence naming a condition and what it enabled **B2**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Which is a condition rather than an event?

- A** Columbus reached the Caribbean.
- B** Improvements in ship design allowed longer voyages.
- C** Vasco da Gama rounded Africa.
- D** A treaty divided new territories.

Solution 3.1

Method: Conditions for exploration

- A Columbus reached the Caribbean.
- B Improvements in ship design allowed longer voyages. 
- C Vasco da Gama rounded Africa.
- D A treaty divided new territories.

Worked steps

- B. it names a capacity, not an occurrence.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Commercial wealth mattered to the Renaissance mainly because it

- A** replaced classical learning
- B** funded patrons who supported artists and scholars
- C** prevented exploration
- D** ended urban government

Solution 3.2

Method: Wealth and learning

- A replaced classical learning
- B funded patrons who supported artists and scholars** 
- C prevented exploration
- D ended urban government

Worked steps

B. patronage converted commercial wealth into art and scholarship.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A context paragraph names three conditions and stops.

- (a) State what is still missing.
- (b) Explain why.

Solution 3.3

Method: What a context does

Worked steps

(a) what each condition made possible **B1**. (b) a condition explains nothing until its consequence is stated **B1**, which is the whole purpose of contextualising **B1**.