

Exercise walk-through

Colonial Expansion and Columbian Exchange ■ 1.8

eXercise

You must be able to

- name transfers in both directions
- state the demographic effect of disease on the Americas
- explain the economic effect of new crops and silver on Europe
- avoid describing the exchange as one-directional

Method — Both directions

Eastward: maize, potatoes, tomatoes, silver, tobacco. Westward: wheat, sugar, horses, cattle — and pathogens against which American populations had no immunity.

Method — Demographic effect

Epidemic disease produced population collapse across the Americas on a scale that no European action alone could have achieved, and it preceded or accompanied conquest rather than following it.

Method — Economic effect in Europe

New calorie-dense crops supported population growth; American silver entered European monetary systems and contributed to sustained price inflation.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Name two transfers eastward and two westward.

Solution 2.1

Method: Both directions

Worked steps

eastward: any two of maize, potatoes, tomatoes, silver, tobacco **B1**; westward: any two of wheat, sugar, horses, cattle, pathogens **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the demographic effect of disease in the Americas.

Solution 2.2

Method: Demographic effect

Worked steps

epidemic disease produced population collapse **B1** on a scale no European action alone could have produced **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

European population grows after new crops arrive.

- (a) Name a crop responsible.
- (b) Explain the mechanism.

Solution 2.3

Method: Economic effect in Europe

Worked steps

(a) the potato or maize **B1**. (b) they yield more calories per acre than existing staples, supporting a larger population from the same land **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

American silver contributed in Europe to

A sustained price inflation

B falling prices

C the end of coinage

D the collapse of trade

Solution 3.1

Method: Economic effect in Europe

A sustained price inflation



B falling prices

C the end of coinage

D the collapse of trade

Worked steps

A. an increased money supply contributed to inflation.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Epidemic disease in the Americas is best described as

- A** a consequence of conquest only
- B** preceding or accompanying conquest
- C** unrelated to contact
- D** limited to one region

Solution 3.2

Method: Demographic effect

- A a consequence of conquest only
- B preceding or accompanying conquest 
- C unrelated to contact
- D limited to one region

Worked steps

- B. disease often ran ahead of the conquerors.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A student describes the Columbian Exchange as “what Europe took from the Americas”.

- (a) State what is missing.
- (b) Explain why the omission matters.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) the westward transfers — crops, animals and pathogens **B1**. (b) the name “exchange” records a two-way process **B1**, and the westward transfer of disease is the single largest demographic fact of the period **B1**.