

3.5 The Dutch Golden Age

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Dutch** commercial ascendancy.

You must be able to:

- name the sources of Dutch commercial advantage
- explain the role of the republic's political form
- describe the relationship between toleration and commerce
- explain why the ascendancy did not last

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The advantages

Shipping efficiency and low freight costs, a dominant entrepôt trade, financial institutions including a public bank and an exchange, and access to capital at low interest.

■ Political form

A federal republic dominated by merchant elites made policy that served commerce directly, and its decentralisation limited the state's ability to burden trade for dynastic ends.

■ Toleration and commerce

Relative religious toleration attracted skilled and capitalised refugees, and made the republic a place where people could transact without confessional test. Commerce and toleration reinforced each other.

■ Why it ended

Larger neighbours with greater populations and fiscal-military capacity out-built and out-fought the republic, and protective legislation abroad closed markets it had carried.

2 Practice

2.1 Name two sources of Dutch commercial advantage. [2]

2.2 Explain how toleration and commerce reinforced each other. [2]

2.3 The republic's ascendancy declines in the eighteenth century.

(a) State one reason. [1]

(b) State one structural disadvantage. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A federal republic dominated by merchants tends to produce policy that [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** ignores commerce
 - B** serves commerce directly
 - C** favours dynastic war
 - D** raises freight costs

3.2 Relative toleration benefited the Dutch economy mainly by [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** reducing shipping costs
 - B** attracting skilled and capitalised refugees
 - C** creating a monarchy
 - D** closing markets

3.3 Neighbouring states pass laws requiring goods to travel in their own ships.

(a) State the effect on Dutch carriage. [1]

(b) Explain why this hurt the republic particularly. [2]
