

1.1 Contextualizing Period 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS context 背景 • columbian exchange 哥伦布大交换

Objective

Build the skills to write the **context** 背景 for 1491-1607.

You must be able to:

- state the CED’s two key concepts for the period
- explain the verbs ‘adapting to and transforming’
- state what ‘on both sides of the Atlantic’ claims
- distinguish context from narrative

1 Worked examples

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

■ Two key concepts

KC-1.1: native populations developed distinct and increasingly complex societies **by adapting to and transforming their diverse environments**. **KC-1.2:** contact resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant social, cultural and political changes **on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean**.

■ Two verbs

Adapting to and **transforming**. The CED refuses a one-way relationship between people and environment: societies were shaped by their environments and reshaped them.

■ Both sides

Europe changed too. An account in which Europe acts and the Americas are acted upon has taken half of KC-1.2.

■ Context and narrative

Context is what was already true when the period’s events began — the societies present, the pressures acting on Europe, the technologies available. A narrative of what happened is not a context for it.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED’s two key concepts for the period. [2]

2.2 Explain what “adapting to and transforming” refuses. [2]

2.3 “On both sides of the Atlantic” is load-bearing.

(a) State what it claims. [1]

(b) Distinguish context from narrative. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED says native societies were [1]

- **A** static
- **B** distinct and increasingly complex
- **C** identical across the continent
- **D** recently arrived

3.2 An account in which only Europe acts has taken [1]

- **A** half of KC-1.2
- **B** all of KC-1.2
- **C** none of the CED
- **D** the correct approach

3.3 A student's contextualisation retells the voyages of 1492.

(a) State the problem. [1]

(b) Explain what a context should contain instead. [2]

Solutions

2.1 native populations developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting to and transforming their environments; contact resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant changes on both sides of the Atlantic.

2.2 a one-way relationship between people and environment; societies were shaped by their environments and reshaped them.

2.3 (a) that Europe was changed as well as the Americas. (b) context is what was already true when the events began, while a narrative reports the events themselves.

3.1 B. the CED's own words.

3.2 A. the changes on the European side are missing.

3.3 (a) it narrates rather than contextualises. (b) the societies already present, the pressures acting on Europe and the technologies that made the voyages possible.