

Exercise walk-through

2.1

The Silk Roads

AP World History: Modern

The Silk Roads: cargo and transport costs

Silk Roads

Long overland journeys favoured high-value, low-bulk goods such as silk, porcelain and spices. A valuable small cargo could justify a costly journey.

Explain the relative pattern

The claim is about long-distance economic feasibility, not an absolute ban on other goods. Maritime routes also carried luxuries.

A list of commodities identifies what moved; transport costs help explain the pattern.

Caravanserais and credit addressed different obstacles

Caravanserais

Lodging and exchange facilities supported merchants along an overland route. They were part of the infrastructure of travel and trade.

Credit and payment

Paper money, banking houses and **bills of exchange** supported transactions. Commercial arrangements could reduce the need to carry payment as precious metal.

Do not treat a bill of exchange as a vehicle or a caravanserai as a new ocean-navigation instrument.

Your turn: distinguish two mechanisms

Original practice — attempt before the check

A caravanserai provides lodging and a place to exchange goods along an overland route. Explain how this could encourage trade, then distinguish it from the effect of a bill of exchange.

Check: infrastructure differs from payment

Worked reasoning

Lodging and exchange facilities support merchants during a long journey. A bill of exchange can reduce the need to carry precious metal as payment. Both could encourage trade, but the first concerns travel facilities and the second commercial transactions.

Simply writing “both made trade easier” leaves the particular mechanisms unexplained.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State the CED's causal chain in order. [3]

2.2 Name the three innovations and say which is physical. [2]

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2.1

- improved commercial practices; increased volume and expanded geographical range; the growth of powerful new trading cities
-

2.2 Name the three innovations and say which is physical. [2]

2.2

- the caravanserais, forms of credit, money economies; the caravanserai is the physical one

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Demand in one region changed production in another.

(a) Name the goods and regions the CED gives.

[2]

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[2]

(a)

- textiles and porcelains from Chinese, Persian and Indian producers; iron and steel in China

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Demand in one region changed production in another.

(b) State what this shows about trade routes.

[1]

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[1]

(b)

- that they changed what was produced, not only what was carried

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Two of the three named innovations are

[1]

☐

A military

B financial

C agricultural

D religious

3.2 The CED says the expanded routes promoted the growth of

[1]

☐

A powerful new trading cities

B new religions

C new empires only

D nothing

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3.2 A

- the CED's own phrase

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A merchant can deposit money in one city and draw it in another.

(a) Name the innovation.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- forms of credit

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A merchant can deposit money in one city and draw it in another.

(b) Explain why it increases the volume of trade.

[2]

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[2]

(b)

- the merchant need not carry valuables across the route, which lowers the risk and cost of each journey