

Exercise walk-through

2.5

Cultural Consequences of Connectivity

AP World History: Modern

Cultural diffusion: specify what moved and where

Example

Connection to explain

Religious traditions

Buddhist influence in East Asia; Hindu and Buddhist influence in Southeast Asia; Islam across parts of Africa and Asia.

Technical knowledge

Gunpowder and paper from China circulated through interregional contacts.

Local interaction

Traders, travellers and specialists could carry knowledge; local adoption could change how it was used.

Diffusion is a process of transmission and adoption, not proof that every receiving society changed identically.

Traveller accounts are evidence to interpret

Travellers

Ibn Battuta, Marco Polo and Margery Kempe wrote accounts as connections intensified. A traveller's experiences offer a particular view, not a census of everyone.

Questions for a source

Who wrote it, for whom and why?
What could the writer observe directly? How might position and purpose shape the description?

Do not invent a quotation or assume a traveller's claims are automatically representative.

Your turn: reason about a supplied source description

Original practice — attempt before the check

Original fictional source description: a merchant writes to potential partners praising a port's profitable markets. Identify a plausible purpose and explain one limit of using the account to represent life in the whole city.

Check: purpose affects what a source can establish

Worked reasoning

The writer may aim to attract business partners, so profitable commerce is especially relevant to the intended audience. The account can reveal a merchant's perspective, but praise of markets alone does not establish the experiences of every resident.

This is an invented source exercise, not an attributed medieval quotation.

Crop diffusion: connect movement to possible effects

Example

Bananas in Africa

New rice varieties in East Asia

Citrus in the Mediterranean

Historical relationship

Crop movement could widen available agricultural resources.

Adoption could support production and population growth where conditions allowed.

Networks helped plants move across regions; local environments still mattered.

Do not infer an identical harvest or population outcome from the mere arrival of a crop.

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 Name the four kinds of thing that diffused.

[2]

2.2 State the CED's claim about the fate of cities.

[2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 Name the four kinds of thing that diffused. [2]

2.1

- literary traditions; artistic traditions; cultural traditions; scientific and technological innovations
-

2.2 State the CED's claim about the fate of cities. [2]

2.2

- their fate varied greatly, with periods of decline and periods of increased urbanisation buoyed by productivity and trade

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Travellers wrote about their journeys.

(a) State the two things this writing is.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

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(a) State the two things this writing is.

[2]

(a)

- a consequence of connection and evidence of it

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Travellers wrote about their journeys.

(b) State what “varied greatly” refuses.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Travellers wrote about their journeys.

(b) State what “varied greatly” refuses.

[1]

(b)

- a single trajectory for cities across the period

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Urbanisation in this period is described as

[1]

☐

A steadily rising

B varying greatly, with decline and growth

C steadily falling

D unchanged

3.2 Rising urbanisation is attributed to productivity and

[1]

☐

A expanding trade networks

B military conquest

C falling population

D religious revival

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Urbanisation in this period is described as

[1]

☐

A steadily rising

B varying greatly, with decline and growth

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D unchanged

3.1 B

- the CED's own phrase

3.2 Rising urbanisation is attributed to productivity and

[1]

☐

A expanding trade networks

B military conquest

C falling population

D religious revival

3.2 A

- trade networks, alongside productivity

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A traveller's account survives from the fourteenth century.

(a) State what its existence indicates.

[1]

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(a) State what its existence indicates.

[1]

(a)

- that travel across long distances was possible and worth recording

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A traveller's account survives from the fourteenth century.

(b) Explain the historian's double use of it.

[2]

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3.3 A traveller's account survives from the fourteenth century.

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[2]

(b)

- as evidence of what the traveller saw and as evidence that such travel was becoming more common