

Exercise walk-through

Comparison in the Period from c. 1200 to c. 1450 ■ 1.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what a comparison must contain
- name a similarity that holds across all regions
- name a difference and its basis
- avoid writing two descriptions instead of one comparison

Method — What a comparison contains

A similarity **and** a difference, both stated with evidence, and a basis on which they are being compared. Two descriptions side by side are not a comparison.

Method — The similarity

State formation and development demonstrated continuity, innovation and diversity **in various regions** — the CED's own cross-regional claim, applied identically to East Asia, South Asia, the Americas, Africa and Europe.

Method — A difference

Centralisation. The Song used a bureaucracy and an examination-based officialdom; Europe was fragmented into decentralised monarchies with feudal obligations. The basis of comparison is how authority reached the governed.

Method — The common error

Writing a paragraph on China and a paragraph on Europe and stopping. The comparison is the sentence that names the basis and says how the two stand on it.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

State the three things a comparison must contain.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

a similarity **B1**; a difference **B1**; a stated basis of comparison **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State one cross-regional similarity with its CED wording.

Solution 2.2

Method: The similarity

Worked steps

state formation demonstrated continuity, innovation and diversity **B1** in various regions **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Compare Song China and Europe on centralisation.

- (a) State the basis of comparison.
- (b) State how each stands on it.

Solution 2.3

Method: A difference

Worked steps

(a) how authority reached the governed **B1**. (b) the Song used a centralised bureaucracy and examination-based officialdom **B1**; Europe used decentralised monarchies and feudal obligation **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Two descriptions placed side by side are

- A** a comparison
- B** not yet a comparison
- C** a causation argument
- D** a continuity argument

Solution 3.1

Method: What a comparison contains

- A a comparison
- B not yet a comparison
- C a causation argument
- D a continuity argument



Worked steps

- B. the comparative sentence is still missing.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The CED's cross-regional similarity is continuity, innovation and

- A** decline
- B** diversity
- C** isolation
- D** conquest

Solution 3.2

Method: The similarity

- A decline
- B diversity
- C isolation
- D conquest



Worked steps

B. diversity is the third.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a comparison of state building in the Americas and in Africa.

Solution 3.3

Method: The similarity

Worked steps

a basis of comparison stated **B1**; a similarity with evidence **B1**; a difference with evidence **B1**; a sentence relating the two rather than listing them **B1**.