

Exercise walk-through

Columbian Exchange ■ 4.3

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what the Columbian Exchange was
- state the CED's account of disease and its effect
- distinguish staple crops from cash crops
- state the nutritional consequence in Afro-Eurasia

Method — Definition

The new connections between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres resulted in the **exchange of new plants, animals and diseases**, known as the Columbian Exchange.

Method — Disease

European colonisation led to the **unintentional** transfer of disease vectors, including mosquitoes and rats, and the spread of diseases endemic in the Eastern Hemisphere including smallpox, measles and malaria. **Some of these diseases substantially reduced the indigenous populations, with catastrophic effects in many areas.**

Method — Two kinds of crop

Staple crops: American foods became staples in parts of Europe, Asia and Africa.

Cash crops: grown primarily on plantations **with coerced labour** and exported mostly to Europe and the Middle East. One feeds a population; the other is grown to sell.

Method — Nutrition

Populations in Afro-Eurasia **benefitted nutritionally** from the increased diversity of American food crops. The CED states a benefit and a catastrophe within one exchange, and an accurate answer carries both.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what the Columbian Exchange was.

Solution 2.1

Method: Definition

Worked steps

the exchange of new plants, animals and diseases **B1** between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Distinguish staple crops from cash crops as the CED uses them.

Solution 2.2

Method: Two kinds of crop

Worked steps

staple crops became a population's basic food **B1**; cash crops were grown on plantations with coerced labour for export **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The CED records disease and nutrition together.

- (a) State the effect of disease in the Americas.
- (b) State the effect of American crops in Afro-Eurasia.

Solution 2.3

Method: Nutrition

Worked steps

(a) some diseases substantially reduced the indigenous populations **B1**, with catastrophic effects in many areas **B1**. (b) populations benefitted nutritionally from the increased diversity of American food crops **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The transfer of disease vectors is described as

- A** deliberate
- B** unintentional
- C** prevented
- D** reversed

Solution 3.1

Method: Disease

A deliberate

B unintentional 

C prevented

D reversed

Worked steps

B. the CED's own word.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Cash crops were grown primarily on plantations with

- A** free wage labour
- B** coerced labour
- C** no labour
- D** mechanised labour

Solution 3.2

Method: Two kinds of crop

A free wage labour

B coerced labour



C no labour

D mechanised labour

Worked steps

B. coerced labour is specified.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

One exchange produces a nutritional benefit in one hemisphere and catastrophe in the other.

- (a) State what an accurate answer must do.
- (b) Explain why keeping only one half misdescribes the event.

Solution 3.3

Method: Nutrition

Worked steps

(a) carry both halves **B1**. (b) the same connection produced both **B1**, so an answer keeping one presents a partial effect as the whole event **B1**.