

## Past-paper walk-through

Changing Social Hierarchies from 1450 to 1750 ■ 4.7

eXercise

## Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 1 Q1
- 2023 Set 1 Q3
- 2023 Set 2 Q3

## Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

## Question 1

2025 Set 1 ■ Q1

It is presented here in a format optimized for teacher and student use in the classroom.

3 “Asia experienced a temporary gain from the discovery of America, but Africa suffered. America had all the silver and gold Europe needed, and this destroyed the African gold markets and the dependent trade networks. Cities such as Timbuktu and the Songhai Empire of which it was a part crumbled as merchants abandoned the ancient trade routes. To replace the Mediterranean trade of cloth, beads, leather, and metals upon which the Africans had become dependent, the Africans now had only one commodity that the Europeans wanted—slaves. For centuries the African merchants had sold a small but steady number of slaves to the Middle East, but with the decline of their traditional European trade and with the opening of America, the slave trade became a boom. The Africans thus became victims of the discovery of America as

## Question 1

surely as did the American Indians.” Source: Jack Weatherford, United States anthropologist, academic book, 1988

Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- (a)** Identify one claim that the author makes in the first paragraph about the effect of the discovery of the Americas on Africa.
- (b)** Describe one economic change in the Americas that occurred as a result of the developments discussed in the second paragraph.
- (c)** Explain one reason why “American Indians” “became victims of the discovery of America” as suggested by the author in the last sentence of the passage.

## Solution 1

(a)

### Mark scheme

- Identify one claim that the author makes in the first paragraph about the effect of the discovery of the Americas on Africa. (1 point) — accept any: The African gold markets were destroyed.; It resulted in the decline of cities and empires in Africa.; It caused the abandonment of ancient trade routes.

# Solution 1

(b)

## Mark scheme

- Describe one economic change in the Americas that occurred as a result of the developments discussed in the second paragraph. (1 point) — accept any: The plantation system in the Americas became widespread.; The increased availability of enslaved labor from Africa further developed the pattern of triangular trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas.; The decrease in Indigenous labor in the Americas created a demand for an increased number of enslaved laborers from Africa.

# Solution 1

## (c) Mark scheme

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- Explain one reason why “American Indians” “became victims of the discovery of America,” as suggested by the author in the last sentence of the passage. (1 point) — accept any: The Columbian Exchange resulted in a high death rate for Native Americans due to the introduction of diseases originating in Afro-Eurasia.; With the arrival of the Spanish and the introduction of new labor systems, such as the encomienda and hacienda systems, Native American labor was exploited.; Native American tribes lost their ancestral homelands as European colonists took over land for economic gain.; Europeans often forced Christianization on Native Americans that resulted in the loss of cultural traditions.

## Question 3

2023 Set 1 ■ Q3

Respond to parts a, b, and c.

- (a)** Identify ONE reason for the increase in the movement of enslaved peoples across the Atlantic Ocean during the period circa 1450–1750.
- (b)** Explain ONE way the increasing number of enslaved peoples resulted in social or cultural change in the Americas during the period circa 1450–1750.
- (c)** Explain ONE way the increased demand for enslaved peoples affected African populations during the period circa 1450–1750.

## Solution 3

(a)

### Mark scheme

- Identify ONE reason for the increase in the movement of enslaved peoples across the Atlantic Ocean during the period circa 1450–1750. (1 point) — accept any: The increased demand for enslaved peoples was due to a need for more labor.; More enslaved peoples from Africa were brought across the Atlantic because of the increased number of sugar plantations.; The loss of indigenous peoples due to disease led to a demand for more workers.

## Solution 3

### (b) Mark scheme

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- Explain ONE way the increasing number of enslaved peoples resulted in social or cultural change in the Americas during the period circa 1450–1750. (1 point) — accept any: Enslaved Africans brought over their own religions, which mixed with Christianity to create syncretic beliefs.; New social classes emerged as Europeans created terms like mestizos and mulattoes to refer to the children born to African enslaved peoples, indigenous peoples, and European settlers.; The Spanish created a racial hierarchy known as the casta system to classify mixed- race families, which also allowed Europeans to maintain social dominance.

## Solution 3

### (c) Mark scheme

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- Explain ONE way the increased demand for enslaved peoples affected African populations during the period circa 1450–1750. (1 point) — accept any: There was a demographic impact due to the increased number of people being enslaved, as most were young men, leaving many African societies with gender imbalance.; The increased demand for enslaved peoples resulted in an extreme loss of population in West Africa and politically weakened many kingdoms, such as Kongo.; Increased demand for enslaved peoples led to higher levels of warfare among African states, as they sought to respond to European demand.; Enslaved peoples from Africa often suffered high mortality rates due to poor conditions aboard ships and harsh working conditions in the Americas.

## Question 3

2023 Set 2 ■ Q3

Respond to parts a, b, and c.

- (a)** Identify ONE technological development that contributed to Europeans' ability to spread religious ideas in the Americas during the period 1450–1750.
- (b)** Explain ONE way that religion contributed to the process of state expansion and/or exploration in the Americas during the period 1450–1750.
- (c)** Explain ONE reason why syncretic belief systems developed in the Americas during the period 1450–1750.

## Solution 3

(a)

### Mark scheme

- Identify ONE technological development that contributed to Europeans' ability to spread religious ideas in the Americas during the period 1450 to 1750. (1 point) — accept any: The development of new ships, such as the caravel, contributed to Europeans' ability to spread religious ideas in the Americas during the period 1450 to 1750.; The printing press is a technological development that helped spread European religious ideas.; Improved cartography and transoceanic travel contributed to Europeans' ability to spread religious ideas in the Americas.

## Solution 3

(b)

### Mark scheme

- Explain ONE way that religion contributed to the process of state expansion and/or exploration in the Americas during the period 1450 to 1750. (1 point)  
— accept any: European missionaries often supported colonialism in order to spread Christianity.; Spanish monarchs and conquistadors used religion to justify their colonization of the Americas.; The creation of new religious orders, such as the Jesuits, contributed to Catholic attempts to control and enforce religious orthodoxy in Spanish and Portuguese colonies in the Americas.

## Solution 3

### (c) Mark scheme

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- Explain ONE reason why syncretic belief systems developed in the Americas during the period 1450 to 1750. (1 point) — accept any: Indigenous American peoples often created new syncretic religious traditions by incorporating some of their own religious beliefs and practices with Christianity.; The forced mixing of different African peoples led to the blending of religious practices and the creation of new religious traditions based on traditional African religious practices, as well as the blending of African religious traditions with Christianity.; Ethnic and racial intermixing of various groups in the Americas created diverse colonial populations whose culture (including inherited religious traditions) combined elements of both Christian and pre-Christian religions.