

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

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 14 marks**

KEY WORDS compare 比较 • bureaucracy 官僚体系 • song china 宋朝中国

Objective

Build the skills to **compare** 比较 state formation across regions.

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

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 State the three things a comparison must contain. [3]

2.2 State one cross-regional similarity with its CED wording. [2]

2.3 Compare Song China and Europe on centralisation.

(a) State the basis of comparison. [1]

(b) State how each stands on it. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Two descriptions placed side by side are [1]

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

3.2 The CED’s cross-regional similarity is continuity, innovation and [1]

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

3.3 Write a comparison of state building in the Americas and in Africa. [4]

Solutions

2.1 a similarity; a difference; a stated basis of comparison.

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

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

3.1 B. the comparative sentence is still missing.

3.2 B. diversity is the third.

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