AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN • EXERCISE SHEET

2.1 The Silk Roads

Name: ____________ Class: ________ Date: __________ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS credit 信贷 • money economies 货币经济 • silk roads 丝绸之路 • improved commercial practices 商业惯例的改进 • caravans 商队

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Silk Roads 丝绸之路**.

You must be able to:

- state the CED's causal chain from practices to cities
- name the three commercial and transport innovations
- state which regions expanded production for export
- explain why the causes are commercial rather than political

1 Worked examples

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

■ The chain

Improved commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade and expanded the geographical range of existing trade routes — including the Silk Roads — **promoting the growth of powerful new trading cities**. Practice → volume → range → cities.

■ Three innovations

The caravanserai, forms of credit, and the development of money economies. Two are financial and only one is physical.

■ Production for export

Chinese, Persian and Indian artisans and merchants **expanded their production of textiles and porcelains for export**; manufacture of iron and steel expanded in China. Demand at one end changed production at the other.

■ Commercial causes

The CED's causes are credit, money and lodging, not conquest. An answer explaining the Silk Roads by empire has substituted a different cause for the one given.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED's causal chain in order. [3]

2.2 Name the three innovations and say which is physical. [2]

2.3 Demand in one region changed production in another.

(a) Name the goods and regions the CED gives. [2]

(b) State what this shows about trade routes. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Two of the three named innovations are [1]

- **A** military
- **B** financial
- **C** agricultural
- **D** religious

3.2 The CED says the expanded routes promoted the growth of [1]

- **A** powerful new trading cities
- **B** new religions
- **C** new empires only
- **D** nothing

3.3 A merchant can deposit money in one city and draw it in another.

(a) Name the innovation. [1]

(b) Explain why it increases the volume of trade. [2]

Solutions

2.1 improved commercial practices; increased volume and expanded geographical range; the growth of powerful new trading cities.

2.2 the caravanserai, forms of credit, money economies; the caravanserai is the physical one.

2.3 (a) textiles and porcelains from Chinese, Persian and Indian producers; iron and steel in China. (b) that they changed what was produced, not only what was carried.

3.1 B. credit and money economies.

3.2 A. the CED's own phrase.

3.3 (a) forms of credit. (b) the merchant need not carry valuables across the route, which lowers the risk and cost of each journey.