

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	B
C	D

A military

B financial

C agricultural

D religious

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

A	B
C	D

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]
