

## SHORT ANSWER

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

1. Name one reason for the great Age of Exploration.

*Any one of the following would be correct:*

- *Europeans wanted to buy Asian goods, but overland trade routes became increasingly dangerous and difficult. Thus, they sought sea routes.*
- *Mediterranean ports such as Venice had a monopoly on some Eastern goods; other Europeans hoped to find a direct sea route to the East in order to break the monopoly.*
- *The desire to thwart the expansion of the Muslim world and to spread Christianity was also a motivating factor for some (such as Prince Henry the Navigator).*

2. Portugal and Spain were the first European countries to put any serious effort or finances into finding a new trade route to the East.

3. Who was Henry the Navigator and what was one of his goals?

*Henry encouraged and sponsored many voyages of exploration, though he never went on one himself. His expeditions and ships explored much of the African coast.*

*His goals included:*

- *Discover what lay beyond the Canaries and Cape Bojador*
- *Trade with any Christians who might dwell in the lands beyond*
- *Discover the extent of the Mohammedan (Muslim) dominions*
- *Find a Christian king who would help him fight the Infidel*
- *Spread the Christian faith*
- *Fulfil the predictions of his horoscope, which predicted that he would accomplish great deeds of discovery*
- *Find Guinea*

4. Who was Prester John and why did Europeans desire to find him?

*Prester John was the legendary ruler of a non-European, Christian kingdom. Europeans desired to find a strong, Christian ally in the East, especially to aid against Muslim kingdoms.*

5. What important political event occurred to give Columbus his chance to launch a voyage to find a western, Atlantic sea route to the Indies?

*The defeat of the Muslims at Granada, the last Muslim stronghold in Spain, gave Columbus the opportunity to find a new sea route to the Indies.*

6. What was Bartolomeu Dias's contribution to European knowledge of the globe?

*Dias discovered the southern tip of Africa, which indicated that a sea route to India was possible.*

7. Name one technological advance or invention that aided Spanish and Portuguese explorations.

*Any one of the following would be correct:*

- *Improved shipbuilding techniques*
- *Updated charts and maps*
- *Navigational instruments such as the astrolabe and quadrant*
- *Better arms and firepower (gunpowder and cannons)*

8. Where did Columbus first go for financial support for his venture? Why?

*Portugal. Portuguese monarchs had sponsored significant voyages of discovery. Thus, Portugal was a natural place for Columbus to apply for financial aid.*

9. Why did Isabella institute the Spanish Inquisition?

*She believe it to be her Christian duty.*

10. Which Spanish persecutions did Ferdinand instigate?

*He instigated those against Jews.*

## ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions. (60 points)

1. Put Columbus in context! Explain how the crusading era and the Renaissance eventually gave rise to Columbus's voyages, and summarize European reactions to those voyages.

### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

NOTE: Before assigning your student this essay quiz, make sure he has put sufficient thought into this topic, either with his printed resources or in discussion with you. This is a test to "teach to"!

#### Era of Crusading

- Taught Europeans to think in terms of glorifying God and extending His kingdom by force
- Spain's personal crusade against her Moorish (Muslim) conquerors entrenched this militant model of Christianity uniquely in the Spanish mind.
- Ferdinand and Isabella could not, at first, hear Columbus out because they were still driving the Moors from Granada. They succeeded in 1492 and celebrated by financing Columbus.
- The Spanish thus turned without a hitch from extending Christendom militarily in their own land to extending it militarily in the New World.

#### Renaissance

- Encouraged a mindset of discovery and inquisitiveness, leading to curiosity about other lands
- Promoted ingenuity to improve seafaring, including the magnetic compass (allowing sailors to venture away from the coast line) and a Portuguese ship called the caravel
- Prosperity gave rulers the wealth necessary to finance such ventures.

#### European Reactions

- Enthusiastic interest in exploration
- Growth of Spanish prestige as the main imperial power
- Long-term effect of European imperialism on world history

### Sample Answer

*Columbus did not come out of nowhere. The crusading era and the Renaissance provided a crucial context for his voyages, which in turn reshaped European history.*

*Long before Columbus sailed west, the Crusades introduced the idea of "holy conquest" into Europe. Popes and princes fired the imaginations of the European people, declaring that "God willed" them to reconquer the Holy Land. In Spain, Christians learned to be especially militant by fighting the Moors, who threatened their very existence. The Spaniards did not finish driving out the Moors until 1492, the year that Columbus sailed. Their attention turned naturally from crusading for God's glory in Spain and the Middle East to crusading for God's glory in new lands beyond the sea. Columbus's desire to extend Christendom by conquest reflected the attitude of the Crusades.*

*The Renaissance also shaped the European mindset in Columbus's day. Renaissance ingenuity contributed to the magnetic compass, the ship called the caravel, and other key advances that made such bold seafaring possible. Renaissance trade brought in the wealth necessary to finance risky voyages. Most importantly, the Renaissance encouraged a spirit of inquiry. People wanted to know about lands beyond their familiar world. They wanted to explore the ut-  
termost ends of the earth. The Renaissance set the stage for Columbus's voyages by encouraging and enabling grand discoveries.*

*Columbus's discoveries, in turn, had a major effect on Europe by inaugurating the Age of Exploration. Once Columbus had proved that it was possible to sail west without getting lost at sea or devoured by mythic storms, others quickly followed him. The slow realization that Columbus had discovered whole new continents excited people even more. His discoveries set Spain on the road to becoming an important power, due to her overseas empire. European imperialism would go on to shape much of world history. Thus, Columbus's voyages reshaped the course of European history.*

*Columbus's voyages did not happen in a vacuum. The crusading mindset and Renaissance inquisitiveness did much to lay the groundwork for his voyages. In turn, those voyages shaped European history by ushering in the Age of Exploration.*

2. Columbus was a complex individual. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of his character, noting his personal views on religion, his conduct during his expeditions, and his treatment of conquered peoples. Use specific examples, where you can.

### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

#### Strengths

- Genuine religious desire to glorify God through the extension of Christendom
- Planned to use his profits to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem
- Reliance on God through prayer in difficult times
- Determination in pursuing his dream through many setbacks and disappointments
- Ability to inspire others to follow him in his dream

#### Weaknesses

- Erroneous reliance on force, rather than solely appealing to the gospel, to extend God's kingdom
- Personal ambition
- Lust for glory, shown in seeking royal titles
- Greed for wealth
- Willingness to cruelly exploit conquered peoples to maintain his power and satisfy his greed
- Used deception (falsified logs) to keep his crew going in rough times
- Despotic governor, eventually recalled to Spain for his misrule

### Sample Answer

*Like all people, Columbus was a complex individual, who had both admirable strengths and notable weaknesses. These can be seen in his personal views on religion, his conduct during his expeditions, and his treatment of conquered peoples.*

*Columbus appears to have been a sincere but inconsistent religious man. On the one hand, he seemed to show a genuine concern for God's glory and expressed a desire to bring Christianity to the heathen. During difficult times, he relied on God, recording prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God in his log. However, his actions showed that he was also driven by personal ambition, greed, and vainglory. Furthermore, he sought to extend God's kingdom militarily, instead of following the biblical model of lovingly presenting the gospel to the lost. His religious beliefs display both the sincerity and the error of his beliefs.*

*Columbus's conduct during his expeditions shows both his strengths and weaknesses as a leader. Columbus had great determination. Even during the most difficult times, he never gave up, and he was able to persuade others to follow his dream. However, he also displayed proud inflexibility, against which his followers eventually rebelled. He resorted to deception, falsifying records to keep his crews from knowing how far they had sailed. Though he was a determined leader, he could also be despotic and selfish.*

*Columbus's treatment of conquered peoples displays many of his flaws. Although he did express some desire to convert the conquered peoples to Christianity, in practice he treated them badly. Columbus openly allowed Spanish settlers to enslave the native peoples. He punished some cruelly when they would not find gold to satisfy his greed. Though he expressed some concern for their souls, Columbus's actions towards the conquered peoples showed that he was often motivated by cruelty and selfishness.*

*Columbus was neither totally wicked nor totally noble. Instead, he was a complex human being, with some genuine desire to glorify his God but also with much greed, selfishness, and desire for personal glory.*

**SHORT ANSWER**

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

1. What does “ethnocentric” mean?  
*To be ethnocentric is to see the world only through the eyes of your own culture.*
2. The expedition led by Ferdinand Magellan, which departed in 1519, was the first to sail around the world. Sadly, he died on the voyage in 1521, one year before the expedition reached home.
3. At least four countries are represented by the explorers whom we studied this week. Francis Drake and John Cabot, for example, sailed for England. Juan Ponce de Leon and Ferdinand Magellan sailed on behalf of Spain.
4. Known as the “Apostle to the Indies,” Francis Xavier was the Jesuit missionary sent by John III to spread Christianity to people in Portuguese holdings in India.
5. What Portuguese explorer discovered Brazil in 1500?  
*Pedro Alvares Cabral*
6. Who was the first explorer to refer to the lands he had visited as a “New World”?  
*Amerigo Vespucci*
7. John Cabot’s voyage of 1497 was extremely important in that it provided grounds for English claims to North America.
8. Who, according to legend, went to the New World in search of the Fountain of Youth?  
*Juan Ponce de Leon*
9. Who was Giovanni da Verrazano, and what did he accomplish?  
*Commissioned by France, Verrazano was an experienced Italian seaman who explored the American coast from the Carolinas to Maine, helping to expand knowledge of the Americas. The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York is named after him.*
10. Jacques Cartier was a French explorer and the first European to sight the St. Lawrence River in what is now Canada.

## ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions. (60 points)

NOTE: Your Level 10 writer, who is assigned to study essay tests this week in his writing assignment, may have seen forms of both of these questions before. If so, we suggest you have him do no quiz at all, or do only the factual section of this quiz, or choose the essay that he did not write previously.

1. “The famous men of the Age of Exploration can seem larger than life, but they were real men, with strengths and weaknesses.” Choose three famous explorers that you’ve studied this week, and write an expository essay that demonstrates the truth of this statement.

### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

NOTE: There are far too many explorers for us to include all of them in our sample. Below we provide bulleted points for some of the most prominent figures. If your student chooses to reference an explorer not listed here, you will want to check his facts against his resources for this week.

#### Bartolomeu Dias

- Bravery in venturing much further than anyone else, to round the tip of Africa
- Uncertainty and fear of the venture
- Desired to go all the way to India, but unable to convince his crew

#### Vasco da Gama

- Determination, keeping his crew going all the way to India
- Failed to successfully engage in diplomacy with the Indian rulers
- Willingness to use cruelty to persuade native peoples to cooperate with him

#### Amerigo Vespucci

- Driven more by curiosity than by treasure-hunting greed
- Falsified published versions of his letters (falsified either by him or by others) credited him with discovering the South American continent, causing his name to be affixed to it

#### Pedro Alvares Cabral

- Discovered Brazil accidentally when he was blown off-course on the way to India

#### John Cabot

- Mistook northern Canada for mainland China
- Exploration laid the grounds for England’s claim to North America

#### Juan Ponce de Leon

- Explored Florida out of his desire to find the mythical Fountain of Youth

#### Ferdinand Magellan

- Determined to realize his dream of reaching the Spice Islands by sailing west
- Secretive about his plans and overly controlling
- Concerned about converting native peoples to Christianity

### Sample Answer

*The famous men of the Age of Exploration can seem larger than life. But they were real men, with strengths and weaknesses just like ours, as the lives of Vasco da Gama, Amerigo Vespucci, and Ferdinand Magellan show.*

*Vasco da Gama was the first European to reach India, a feat that required strong leadership. Da Gama showed the necessary determination to keep his men sailing much further than they wanted to. At times, he resorted to outright cruelty to make people do what he wished. He even tortured natives to persuade them to give him a guide to*

India. His means for accomplishing his goals were sinful and selfish.

Amerigo Vespucci was an inquisitive explorer. Unlike other explorers, he was motivated more by curiosity than by greed for treasure. He sent back colorful letters to people in Europe describing all the wonders of the land he explored, eventually concluding that it must be a whole new continent. In his reports, he was the first person to refer to these lands as a “New World.” The published versions of these letters were arrogant and boasted about Vespucci’s importance. They even contained a falsified date that made it look like he had explored South America first. This false information led to Vespucci’s first name being affixed to the new American continents.

Ferdinand Magellan accomplished the greatest feat of the Age of Exploration, sailing all the way around the world. This took great courage and determination. Magellan, concerned that his crew would not want to sail around the world, was willing to deceive them, keeping his plans a secret even from his captains. On the other hand, he greatly desired to convert native peoples to Christianity. Eventually, in a brash battle, he was killed by unfriendly natives. Even this great explorer was no more than a mortal man.

The explorers of the Age of Exploration were indeed great men, but they were still men. Their life stories show very human people who had strengths and weaknesses and fears and dreams just like other men.

2. “The Age of Exploration was an example of mankind at its self-centered worst.” Support, qualify, or refute this statement with regards to explorers, monarchs, and missionaries during this tumultuous era.

#### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

NOTE: This is an opinion question asking your student to articulate his own assessment of the Age of Exploration. We supported a modification of the thesis, but your student need not do so. Look to see that his points back up his assertion and reflect your previous class discussions.

#### Explorers

- Desire for selfish gain: fame, territory, wealth
- Willing to enslave and brutally mistreat the conquered peoples
- Ethnocentric assumption that non-Europeans were inferior and their civilizations primitive, merely because customs differed
- Some desire to convert the heathen (e.g. Columbus, Magellan)
- Often showed great bravery

#### Monarchs

- Desire for selfish gain: fame, territory, wealth (e.g. Ferdinand and Isabella)
- Desire to extend Christendom (nominally), usually by force and military conquest (Prince Henry the Navigator)
- Confused the areas ruled by a nominally “Christian” king with the Kingdom of God

#### Missionaries

- Some genuine concern for native peoples’ souls
- Ethnocentrism visible in condescending attitude, despite a right desire to spread the gospel
- Confused European expressions of Christianity with the gospel message
- Advocated fair treatment for the native peoples

#### Sample Answer

*The Age of Exploration displayed mankind’s abundant self-centeredness. However, it was not the worst that it could have been. A few people in the Age of Exploration stood against the overwhelming selfishness that characterized the era.*

*The explorers of the Age of Exploration had mixed motives, but self-centeredness usually dominated. Some explorers openly admitted that they were only out for personal gain. Many of them, however, expressed at least a desire to convert the native peoples to Christianity. Balboa tried to make friends with native tribes, and Magellan rejoiced at*

*their conversions. Their arrogant ways of going about this, forcing “uncivilized,” “inferior” people to convert at sword point, were wrong, but at least they showed some desire for these people to know the benefits of Christianity. The explorers thus showed some small interest in the glory of God, even though it was too often overshadowed by their lust for personal glory and gain.*

*Monarchs of the Age of Exploration had similar motivations to the explorers. They desired to extend their own realms and wealth, regardless of the consequences to the people they were conquering. At the same time, they assumed that they were furthering the kingdom of God by adding to the lands ruled by “Christian” monarchs. Viewing Christianity primarily as a kind of state religion, it made sense to them to extend Christendom by force. This played at least a small part in the minds of European monarchs.*

*The missionaries of the Age of Exploration showed the least self-centeredness, although it was present in their hearts as well. Many missionaries genuinely cared for the souls of the native peoples. Missionaries did display self-centeredness in their attitudes of superiority to native cultures. They assumed that European civilization necessarily went along with Christianity, and so they could be thoughtless towards non-Europeans. However, they often sought to serve them. Missionaries denounced mistreatment of “Indians” by the Europeans. In this, missionaries, though not perfect, were the least self-centered of the Europeans.*

*The Age of Exploration was indeed a dark age of self-centeredness, yet it was not completely dark. Although, for the most part, explorers, monarchs, and even some missionaries displayed an arrogant disregard for the peoples they were conquering, some of them at least desired the good of those peoples.*

**SHORT ANSWER**

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each).

NOTE: Because students were required to do outside research on these two cultures, they may not have studied everything we ask about in the short answer or essay questions below. Please have your student do only the questions that are appropriate for him, based on his research and your teaching emphasis.

1. What was Tenochtitlan?

*Tenochtitlan was the capital city of the Aztecs, built on a lake.*

2. Name two of the four Aztec social classes.

*Any two of these would be correct:*

- Nobles
- Commoners
- Serfs
- Slaves

3. True or False: Aztec weapons were designed to capture, not kill.

*True*

4. True or False: Incas had excellent temple schools for both boys and girls.

*False. The Incan civilization had no schools at all; children learned from their parents.*

5. In the Aztec culture, boys became men at the age of 14, and married soon after.

6. Aztecs and Incas both practiced a polytheistic form of religion, though it was the Aztecs who emphasized human sacrifice, believing that their gods needed to feed on such sacrifices in order to remain strong.

7. Cuzco (Cusco) was the capital and center of the Inca Empire.

8. The Incas were skilled in crafts, weaving fine cotton and woolen cloth, some with elaborate geometric designs.

9. True or False: Neither the Aztecs nor the Incas used plows.

*True*

10. Hernan Cortes conquered the Aztecs in 1521, and Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incas in 1532.



## ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions. (60 points)

1. Compare and contrast the Aztecs and the Incas, focusing on the government of their empires, their daily occupations, and their religions. NOTE: Think about the ways geography affected these civilizations and made them different.

**Points an Excellent Answer Might Include****Aztecs**

- Militant society; frequent wars to capture the human sacrifices demanded by the gods
- Emperor chosen from royal family by council of nobles
- Tight, oppressive control over subject peoples—their subjects eagerly joined the Spaniards at the prospect of overthrowing the Aztecs
- Ingenious reclamation of swamp and lake land, producing fertile silt gardens called *chinampas*
- Owned land in extended family groups called *calpollis*
- Land-owning nobles, with serfs working for them
- Priests highly influential
- Women occupied with family weaving and cooking
- Bloodthirsty polytheistic religion, with gods sustained by the fresh hearts of regular human sacrifices, usually prisoners of war

**Incas**

- Left local officials in charge after conquests, uniting their empire loosely by loyalty
- “Divine” emperor, the Inca, who married his sister
- Agricultural society; terraced mountains, irrigated deserts
- Owned land in extended family groups called *ayllus*
- Rank determined by birth
- Women occupied with family weaving, often alpaca or llama wool
- Priests, who performed daily divination for even the smallest decisions, highly influential
- Polytheistic nature religion
- Occasional human sacrifice

**Sample Answer**

*The Aztecs and Incas both had advanced societies, as seen in the government of their empires, their daily occupations, and their religions. They were similar in many ways, but they also had differences due to their different locations.*

*Both the Aztecs and the Incas administrated large empires, but the Aztecs relied more heavily on the use of force. The Aztecs were a warlike society who created and maintained their empire through frequent fighting. They kept their people in subjection by force, creating discontent. The Incas preferred to leave local rulers in charge after they had conquered an area. Their peoples tended to be much more loyal. The Aztecs ruled a more unified empire with a tighter fist; the Incas had a more loosely connected but more content empire.*

*Aztec and Incan daily occupations were similar, though influenced by their locations. Aztecs farmed plots of land recovered from the lakes on which their cities were built. Incas farmed the mountainsides and deserts of their empire with similar ingenuity. Both societies involved land-owning nobles and influential priests. In both societies the women worked primarily at weaving.*

*The Aztecs and Incas both had polytheistic religions that greatly influenced their daily lives. The Aztec religion was dark and bloodthirsty, centering on frequent human sacrifices. Priests would present the fresh hearts of human victims to the gods, who supposedly could not survive without human hearts to feed on. The Incas focused on divination, although they, too, occasionally practiced human sacrifice. Daily divination determined all decisions in Incan society, no matter how minor. Both the Aztec and Incan peoples were bound by oppressive, superstitious religions.*

*The Aztecs and Incas had similarly advanced civilizations. Both administered large empires, with similar occupations and polytheistic religions.*

2. The Spanish and the Aztecs were not very far apart in their respective degrees of cruelty. From a biblical perspective, compare and contrast the Spanish Inquisition practices and ambitious desire to rule natives of other lands with the human sacrifice, idolatry, and warlike culture of the Aztecs.

### Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

#### Aztecs

- Gained their empire through conquest
- Maintained their empire by frequent fighting
- Ruled the people they conquered with an iron fist, causing them to gladly join the Spaniards at the prospect of overthrowing their Aztec taskmasters
- Used prisoners of war as victims in their human sacrifices, feeding their hearts to the gods
- Believed that the gods needed to be fed human hearts to maintain their power
- Worshipped stone idols fashioned according to their cruel ideas of the divine

#### Spanish

- Gained their empire by force and deception, overpowering the natives
- Exploited and enslaved their subject peoples
- In Europe, set up the Inquisition, torturing people cruelly on the slightest suspicion of heresy
- Sometimes people were turned over to the Inquisition by someone jealous of their wealth
- Misrepresented the loving character of God by trying to advance His kingdom by force and terror

### Sample Answer

*The Aztecs are remembered in history as a cruel and warlike people, with their oppressive domination of neighboring peoples and their bloody human sacrifices. However, the Spaniards, with their Inquisition and imperialism, were not much different. Both were cruel, idolatrous people in God's sight.*

*The Aztecs were indeed a cruel people. After they conquered their neighbors, they maintained their empire through frequent fighting. Prisoners of war supplied victims for human sacrifices. Priests cut the hearts from the chests of living victims. The Aztecs believed that the gods could not stay strong without being fed human hearts. They misunderstood the nature of the divine, worshipping instead cold stone idols who could demand such grisly sacrifices. All of Aztec society was tainted by this warlike cruelty.*

*Despite their "Christian" civilization, the Spanish were remarkably similar to the Aztecs in their cruelty. The Spaniards of the Age of Exploration were similarly obsessed with the idea of building an empire. Like the Aztecs, they were willing to trample on any indigenous people to do so. The Spanish did not believe in human sacrifice, but they did practice the Inquisition, in which people were cruelly tortured on even the suspicion of heresy. Sometimes they were handed over to the Inquisition just so jealous officials could get their land. The Spaniards knew the religion of the one true God, and yet they, too, badly misrepresented His character, believing that they could extend His kingdom by force. In these ways the Spanish were hardly different from the Aztecs they conquered.*

*Although the Aztecs were a pagan culture and the Spanish were reputedly Christian, they looked remarkably similar during the Age of Exploration. Both cultures built themselves an empire by cruelty to other peoples, and both committed atrocities in the name of religion, showing that they had misunderstood the nature of God.*