



Mr. Ott - Global History & Geography

## Part III

### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

#### Historical Context:

Throughout history, geographic factors such as *deserts*, *monsoons*, and *cold climates* have had a variety of effects on different regions.

**Task:** Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

Select **two** geographic factors mentioned in the historical context and for **each**

- Describe the geographic factor
- Discuss the effects this geographic factor has had on a specific region or regions

In developing your answers to Part III, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **describe** means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (b) **discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

## Part A

### Short-Answer Questions

*Directions:* Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

#### Document 1

. . . The aridity of the North African steppe turns to desolation in the Sahara, the most extensive desert in the world. In popular imagination the Sahara is seen as a wilderness of sand dunes; yet it is a region of most varied landscapes, ranging from the great massifs [highlands] of Ahaggar and Tibesti with their extraordinary rock formations and their lofty volcanic peaks to vast stretches of gravelly plains or broad belts of constantly shifting dunes. The desert is not completely waterless—in certain parts, particularly on the northern fringes, excellent supplies of subterranean water support the rich culture of the oases—nor is it completely bereft of [without] vegetation. Men have thus found it possible to gain a livelihood in the Sahara whether as cultivators in the oases or pastoralists [herders] in other areas. . . .

Source: Robin Hallett, *Africa to 1875: A Modern History*, The University of Michigan Press, 1970

1 What is **one** feature of the Sahara Desert, according to Robin Hallett? [1]

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Score

#### Outside Information:

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## Document 2

. . . For several centuries, these contacts [between North Africa and the interior] were limited by the nature of the Sahara itself. More than 3 million square miles in area, the Sahara is the world's largest desert. Because temperatures during the day can reach as high as 120 degrees Fahrenheit and supplies of water are scant, the 40-day journey across the desert required courage, determination, and careful planning. Travelers who became separated from their companions were seldom seen again. The trans-Saharan trek became somewhat easier after the 4th century A.D., when camels were introduced in place of horses; camels are able to travel long distances without water, and their wider hooves make it easier for them to move through sand. However, intensive contact between North Africa and the interior did not begin until the 7th century, when a revolutionary change took place in the political and religious life of the region. By this time, the old empires of the Mediterranean and the Middle East were in decline or in ruins. In their place was a powerful new force—Islam. . . .

Source: Philip Koslow, *Ancient Ghana: The Land of Gold*, Chelsea House Publishers

2a What is **one** reason travel across the Sahara Desert was difficult, according to Philip Koslow? [1]

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Score

b What change was adopted after the 4th century to make travel easier, according to Philip Koslow? [1]

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Score

### Outside Information:

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### Document 3

. . . Desertification directly affects 1.2 billion people, and more and more productive land is being lost year by year. It has presented a challenge for governments and aid agencies in over 110 countries for some time, and is a contributing factor in poverty and regional conflicts, for example in Sudan. It has also been a major issue in Egypt, where 90% of the country's land mass is desert. Faced with a rising population, the government has had to undertake a number of settlement and irrigation projects to create additional living and working space. In China, almost two-thirds of the country and over 400 million people are affected, the worst hit areas being the Gobi desert in the northwest of the country and the Takla Makan desert in the west. . . .

Source: Ute Schaeffer, "Deutsche Welle reporters on the ground,"  
*Down to Earth: News & Views on Desertification*,  
UNCCD, June 2006, Volume 21

3 What is **one** challenge areas face because of desertification, according to Ute Schaeffer? [1]

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Score

## Document 4

### The Subcontinent of India

. . . Only in the northern mountain region do temperatures fall below freezing. The hot season comes on in March, with temperatures ranging from 80 to 90 degrees along the coasts to well over 100 degrees in the Indo-Gangetic Plain. The rainy season, brought on by the southwest monsoon carrying moisture off the Indian Ocean, spans the months of June through September. Moisture here means as many as 450 inches of rainfall in certain spots along the west coast and in the state of Assam in the extreme northeast. In the interior and along the east coast, the summer monsoon has already lost most of its moisture, and rainfall may average only 40 to 80 inches. Moisture from the Bay of Bengal brings about 120 inches of rain to the northeastern portion of India and Bangladesh. Monsoons, winds that blow for a whole season, come twice a year. The northeast or winter monsoon blows from land to sea in most of the subcontinent and brings little rain. . . .

Source: James I. Clark, *India: The Subcontinent: India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh*, McDougal, Littell & Company

4 According to James I. Clark, what is a monsoon? [1]

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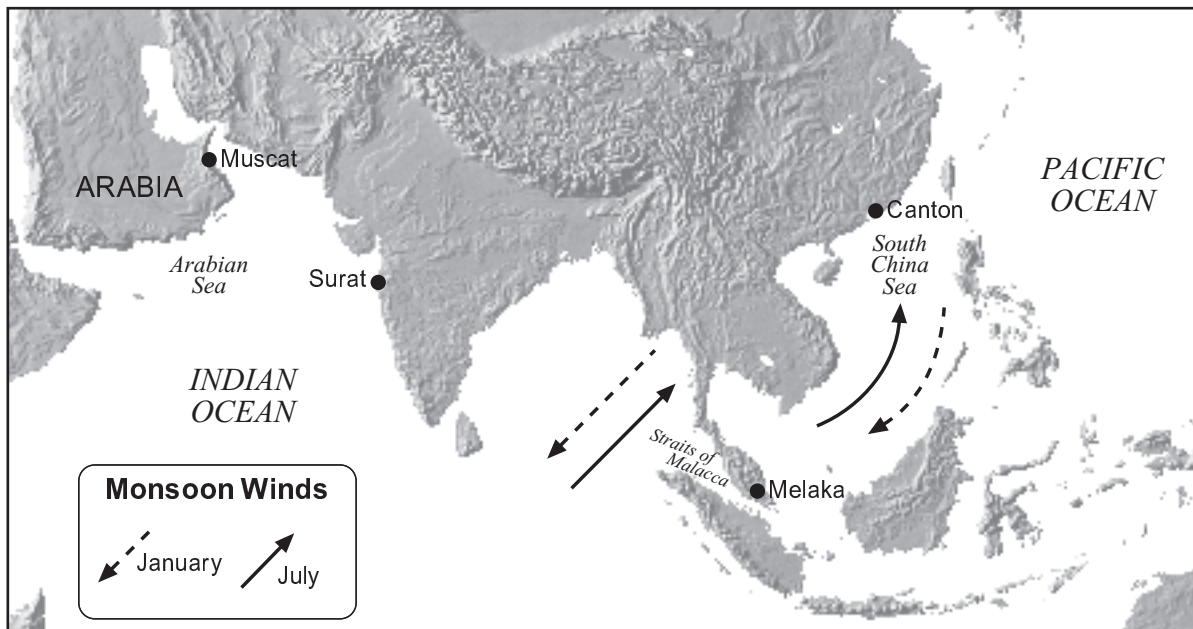
Score

## Document 5a

. . . Nature also shaped the rhythms of trade and the places where it was conducted by constraining [hindering] transportation. All across maritime Asia—from Canton [China] to Mocca [southern Arabia]—trading schedules were dictated by the monsoon winds. Since strong winds blew consistently in one direction for several months and then stopped, and then blew consistently the other way for months, it made no sense to fight those winds. A trader went as far as he (or occasionally she) could in one direction and then stayed around until the wind reversed; his goods were then picked up by another merchant who had arrived earlier and knew precisely how long into the next season he could safely stay and still have enough days of favorable wind to get home. Thus, instead of Chinese traders spending two or more monsoon seasons (and years) sailing all the way to, say, Persia with silks, it made more sense to sail out one monsoon season and exchange with intermediaries based in between and thereby return home with frankincense and rugs. A series of emporia [trade centers] developed at sites such as Melaka [Malacca], Surat [India], and the Muscat [Oman] that had more to do with how far one could travel from there in one sailing season than with what goods could be produced locally. The result was a remarkably lively and cosmopolitan chain of port cities along the Asian littoral [sea coast], but in many cases these cities had only weak relationships with their immediate hinterlands [areas inland from the port]. . . .

Source: Pomeranz and Topik, *The World That Trade Created*, M. E. Sharpe, 1999 (adapted)

## Document 5b



Sources: "The West and the Spice Trade," *Calliope*, Cobblestone (adapted); *Mountain High Maps*, Digital Wisdom (adapted)

5 Based on these documents, what is **one** way the monsoons affected trade in Southeast Asia? [1]

Outside Information:

Score

Document 6a

Summer 1983



Pushing replaces pedaling when monsoon waters send the Ganges over its banks to inundate [flood] the city of Varanasi (Banaras) in Uttar Pradesh. Last year [1983] the city lay under water mixed with sewage, rotting grain, and floating carcasses of animals. Elsewhere in the state flash floods swept away a locomotive and three railcars.

Source: Prit J. Vesilind, "Monsoons: Life Breath of Half the World," *National Geographic*, December 1984, Photograph by Steve McCurry (adapted)

6a What was **one** problem that people in the Varanasi region of India faced once the 1983 summer monsoons arrived, based on this *National Geographic* photograph and its caption? [1]

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Score

**Outside Information:**

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**Document 6b**

**Late Monsoons**

June 9 [1984]

. . . At midnight a stifling silence descended. Air conditioners hiccuped to a halt as electric-power rationing reached home consumers in [the city of] Trivandrum. All power to heavy industrial users had already been severed. Now, movie houses were restricted to one showing a day, neon display lights were outlawed, and stores were compelled to close by sundown. . . .

Across India reservoirs dwindled into puddles as the rains hovered offshore. About half of the nation's electricity is generated by hydropower, and thus by the monsoons. Government officials confessed to newspapers in anxiety that late rains would impede [interfere with] food production, aggravate inflation, and increase prices—and all this in a preelection year. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, touring in Europe, asked for monsoon forecasts to be added to her daily political briefings. . . .

Source: Priit J. Vesilind, "Monsoons: Life Breath of Half the World," *National Geographic*, December 1984

6b State *two* problems regions in India face when the monsoons are late, based on this excerpt from Priit J. Vesilind's article. [2]

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Score

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Score

**Outside Information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

## Document 7

. . . Russia has a largely continental climate because of its sheer size and compact configuration. Most of its land is more than 400 kilometers from the sea, and the center is 3,840 kilometers from the sea. In addition, Russia's mountain ranges, predominantly to the south and the east, block moderating temperatures from the Indian and Pacific oceans, but European Russia and northern Siberia lack such topographic protection from the Arctic and North Atlantic oceans. . . .

The long, cold winter has a profound impact on almost every aspect of life in the Russian Federation. It affects where and how long people live and work, what kinds of crops are grown, and where they are grown (no part of the country has a year-round growing season). The length and severity of the winter, together with the sharp fluctuations in the mean summer and winter temperatures, impose special requirements on many branches of the economy. In regions of permafrost, buildings must be constructed on pilings, machinery must be made of specially tempered steel, and transportation systems must be engineered to perform reliably in extremely low and extremely high temperatures. In addition, during extended periods of darkness and cold, there are increased demands for energy, health care, and textiles. . . .

Source: <http://country-studies.us/russia/24.htm>

- 7 According to this information from Country Studies, what is **one** way the cold winters affect the permafrost region of Russia? [1]

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Score

Document 8

Old Man Winter



Source: Leslie Gilbert Illingworth, November 10, 1941, Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (adapted)

8 Based on this cartoon by Leslie Gilbert Illingworth, what role did “Old Man Winter” play in the defense of Russia? [1]

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Score

**Outside Information:**

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**Document 9**

. . . Ardalin's [a region in the Russian Arctic] unique ecology challenged the Russian and Western personnel working in the field to find new approaches to preserve the fragile ecosystem of the Arctic tundra. Because the tundra is particularly vulnerable in summertime, construction and drilling operations were conducted only in winter to shield the tundra from harmful affects. Roads were built from ice to transport equipment and supplies to the remote site. When the ground thawed, helicopters were used to bring in equipment and supplies. . . .

Source: IPIECA, "Conoco in the Russian Arctic: Preserving delicate Arctic ecology by minimizing the development footprint and environmental impact"

9 What are **two** ways the Russians have adapted to the challenges of developing the tundra, according to the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA)? [2]

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Score

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Score

## Part B

### Essay

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least four* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

#### Historical Context:

Throughout history, geographic factors such as *deserts*, *monsoons*, and *cold climates* have had a variety of effects on different regions.

**Task:** Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, write an essay in which you

- Select *two* geographic factors mentioned in the historical context and for *each*
- Describe the geographic factor
  - Discuss the effects this geographic factor has had on a specific region or regions

#### Guidelines:

**In your essay, be sure to**

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least four* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme