Document Packet

Document #1

. . .The geographical features of Japan have much in common with those of ancient Hellas [Greece]. In both there is the same combination of mountain, valley, and plain, [and] a deeply indented coastline, with its bays, peninsulas, and islands off the coast. Few places inland are far removed from the mountains, and none are really distant from the sea. . . .

The land was on all sides well protected, and yet also open to the sea; and in each case, too, there was free access for commerce and civilisation from early times. . . .

The deeply indented coastline of Japan provides a number of excellent harbours on the Pacific coast, and its shores abound in fish of all kinds, the rich supplies of which have for centuries constituted one of the chief articles of food of the people. The fishing industries have helped to provide Japan with a recruiting-ground for one of the strongest and most formidable navies of modern times. . . .

Source: Walter Weston, "The Geography of Japan in Its Influence on the Character of the Japanese People," in *The Japan Society of London, Transactions and Proceedings, XX* (1922–1923)

Based on this document, identify ***two*** ways geography affected the development of Japan.

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Score

Document #2

Document 2a

This frieze, or architectural adornment, on an ancient temple portrays Egyptians using shadufs, devices that enabled them to transfer water from the Nile to their fields.

Source: James Barter, *The Nile*, Lucent Books

Document 2b

After the death of Alexander the Great, a series of three pharaohs named Ptolemy ruled Egypt. The culture of Egypt during that period was primarily Greek.

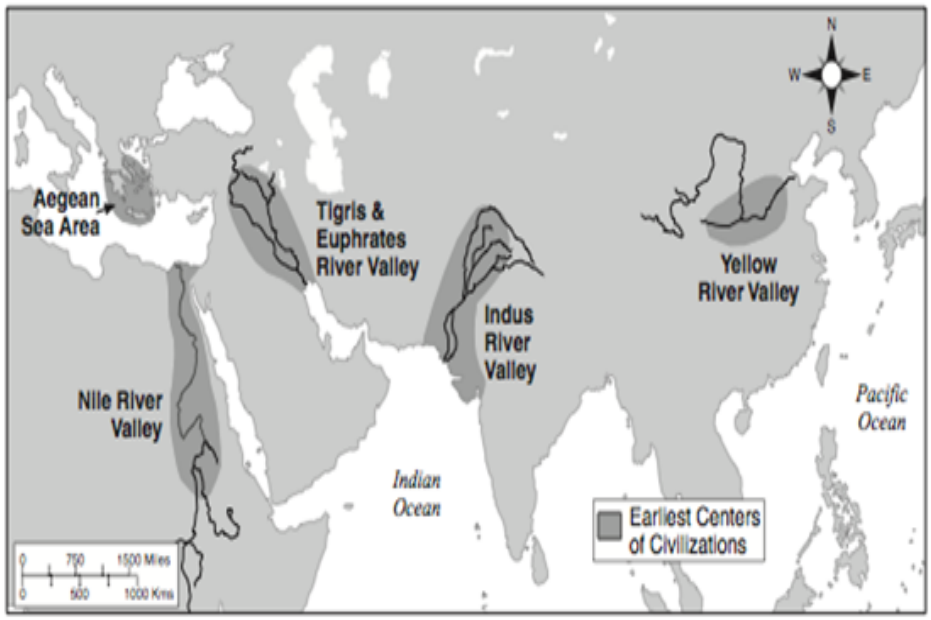
> … In the Ptolemaic period, Greek temple records presented each region as an economic unit, and referred to the name of the canal which irrigates the region, the cultivated region which is located on the river's banks and is directly irrigated with its water, and the lands located on the region's border that could be reclaimed. The beds irrigation system allowed cultivating one winter crop; while in summer, the only lands that could be cultivated were the high lands away from the flood. Thus, when the Egyptians invented tools to lift water, such as the shaduf, they were able to cultivate two crops per year, which was considered a great advance in the field of irrigation. The shaduf was invented in the Amarna period and is a simple tool which needs two to four men to operate. The shaduf consists of a long, suspended pole weighted at one end and a bucket tied at the other end. It can lift about 100 cubic meters (100,000 liters) in 12 hours, which is enough for irrigating a little over a third of an acre.…

Source: Agriculture – Part I, Ancient Egypt History, EgyptHistory.com

2 Based on these documents, what was ***one*** effect the invention of the shaduf had on the Egyptians? [1]

Document #3

Earliest Civilizations, 3500 – 1500 BC



Source: *Historical Maps on File*, Revised Edition, Facts On File (adapted)

1 Based on this map, identify ***one*** geographic feature that influenced the location of early centers of civilization. [1]

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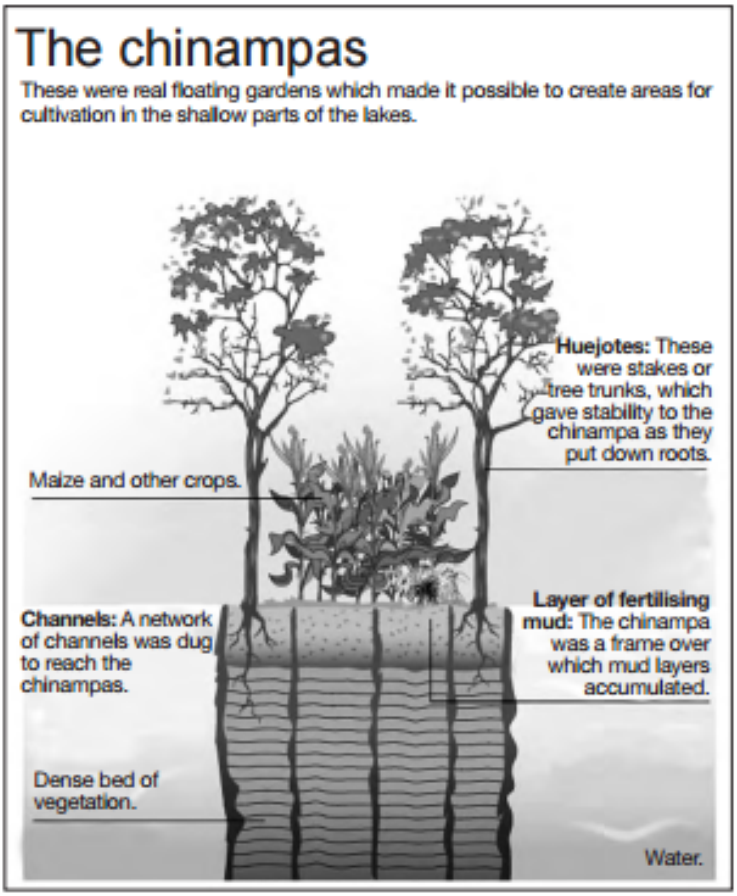
Score

Document 4

Aztec Farming Method



Source: www.icarito.cl (adapted)

4 Based on the information provided by this diagram, why did the Aztecs build chinampas? [1]

Score

Document #5

The first successful efforts to control the flow of water were made in Mesopotamia and Egypt, where the remains of the prehistoric irrigation works still exist. In ancient Egypt, the construction of canals was a major endeavor of the pharaohs and their servants, beginning in Scorpio's time. One of the first duties of provincial governors was the digging and repair of canals, which were used to flood large tracts of land while the Nile was flowing high. The land was checkerboarded with small basins, defined by a system of dikes. Problems regarding the uncertainty of the flow of the Nile were recognized. During very high flows, the dikes were washed away and villages flooded, drowning thousands. During low flows, the land did not receive water, and no crops could grow. In many places where fields were too high to receive water from the canals, water was drawn from the canals or the Nile directly by a swape or a shaduf. These consisted of a bucket on the end of a cord that hung from the long end of a pivoted boom, counterweighted at the short end. The building of canals continued in Egypt throughout the centuries....

Source: Larry W. Mays, "Irrigation Systems, Ancient," *Water Encyclopedia* online (adapted)

1 Based on this document, state ***two*** problems ancient Egyptians faced as a result of the uncertain flow of the Nile. [2]

(1)_____

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Score

(2)_____

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Score

Document 6

> … The capital city, which may have had a population as high as 200,000 to 300,000 in the early sixteenth century, was a superb example of planned growth. By building out into the lake, the Aztecs consolidated and enlarged the original two islands which in turn were linked to the mainland by three large causeways. Fresh water was brought to the city from the mainland by aqueduct….

Source: Jeremy A. Sabloff, *The Cities of Ancient Mexico: Reconstructing a Lost World*, Thames and Hudson

6 According to Jeremy A. Sabloff, what was ***one*** way building out into the lake benefited the Aztec Empire and its capital city of Tenochtitlán? [1]

Score

Document 7

Terracing in southern Chinese river valleys.

Source: Bentley and Ziegler, *Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*, McGraw Hill, 2006

Terracing at the Inca city of Macchu Picchu.

Source: Steven Turiano, 1984

...We can only marvel at the ability of the Sapa Inca [chief ruler] to control his vast domains, separated as they were not only by long distances, but by dramatic changes in altitude. Inca engineers developed a massive road system over some of the most rugged terrain on earth, a lattice [network] of highways and tracks that covered a staggering 19,000 miles (30,000 km). The Inca empire could never have been created without this communication system that carried important officials, government correspondence, entire armies, and all manner of commodities and trade goods. Road-building started long before Inca times, for earlier states like Chimor on the coast also needed to connect dense concentrations of farmers in widely separated valleys. But the Incas vastly extended the network. The resulting lattice was a conceptual framework for the *quipu* makers, who used the sequences of sites on the roads to relate different areas to one another. Anthropologist John Murra has called these roads the "flag" of the Inca state, for they were a highly visible link between the individual and the remote central government. The same lattice of communication helped define symbolic alignments, link sacred shrines to the Temple of the Sun in Cuzco, and even separate different groups of people living near the capital....

Source: Brian M. Fagan, *Kingdoms of Gold, Kingdoms of Jade: The Americas Before Columbus*, Thames and Hudson

2 According to Brian M. Fagan, what were **two** ways the Incas used roads to unify their empire? [2]

(1) _____

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Score

(2) _____

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Score

Document #8

This explanation for the wealth of the kingdom of Ghana is taken from *Through African Eyes*, ed. by Leon E. Clark, Praeger Press, New York, 1970.

> The Arab traders of this region wanted gold as much as the Wangara wanted salt, but both had to pass through Ghana to trade. . . . Ghana controlled the land . . . it had the military forces . . . to maintain peace in the area, thereby assuring safe trade for the Arabs and the Wangara.
>
> Ancient Ghana was an extremely complex empire. It possessed many of the characteristics of powerful nations today: wealth based on trade, sufficient food to feed its people, income derived from taxes, social organization that ensured justice and efficient political control, a strong army equipped with advanced weapons, and a foreign policy that led to peace and cooperation with other people.

Explain ancient Ghana's role in the gold-salt trade. _____

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Document #9

. . . 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]

Score

Document #10

. . . 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]