

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 wholesale looting and destruction of property and life in Russia during the Mongol invasion of 1237–40 was a staggering blow which left the Russian people stunned, and for a time disrupted the normal course of economic and political life. It is hard to estimate the Russian casualties but they must have been tremendous, and if we include the vast throngs of civilians, both men and women, who were enslaved by the Mongols they can hardly have been less than 10 per cent of the total population.

The cities suffered most in the debacle [disastrous defeat]. Such old centers of Russian civilization as Kiev, Chernigov, Pereiaslav, Riazan, Suzdal, and the somewhat younger Vladimir-in-Suzdalia, as well as a number of other towns, were thoroughly destroyed, and the first three named above lost their former importance for several centuries. Only a few major cities in West and North Russia such as Smolensk, Novgorod, Pskov, and Galich (Halicz) escaped devastation at that time. The Mongol policy of conscripting [drafting] master craftsmen and skilled artisans for the khan's service added a new burden even for those cities which had been spared physical destruction during the first period of the conquest. A quota of the best Russian jewelers and craftsmen was sent to the great khan. As we have seen, Friar John of Plano Carpini met one of them, the goldsmith Kuzma, in Guyuk's camp. Many others were requisitioned by the khan of the Golden Horde for his personal service as well as to build and embellish [decorate] his capital, Saray. Artisans of various kinds — smiths, armorers, saddlers, and so on — were also assigned to the ordus [palaces] of the members of the house of Juchi as well as to those of the major commanders of the Mongol armies in South Russia. . . .

Source: George Vernadsky, *The Mongols and Russia*, Yale University Press

1. According to this document, what are **two** ways the Mongol conquest changed Russia? [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 2

... The Mongol impact, assert the Eurasian historians, proved highly beneficial to the Russians. "The Tatars [Mongols] defended Russia from Europe," sparing it from conquest by the West. After the conquest Mongols and the people of Rus [Russia] coexisted in harmony and peace. From their conquerors the Rus adopted typical Turanian [Asian] character traits: steadiness, conviction, strength, and religiosity, all of which promoted the development of the Muscovite state. The Mongols assured to Rus secure commercial and cultural relations with the Orient; they enhanced the position of the Orthodox church. In the mid-13th century Alexander Nevskii, prince of Novgorod, faced with a fateful choice, wisely chose the East over the West: "Alexander saw in the Mongols a friendly force in a cultural sense that could assist him to preserve and consolidate Russian cultural identity from the Latin West." . . .

Source: MacKenzie and Curran, *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning

- 2 Based on this document, state **two** changes that occurred in Russia as a result of Mongol rule. [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 3

... By the time of his death in 1227, Genghis Khan controlled most of northern China, but the swampy lands to the south stopped his cavalry from further advances. His sons expanded Mongol control farther by conquering lands to the east and west. They divided the empire into four large khanates, in Persia, Central Asia, Russia, and East Asia. . . .

Kublai Khan was a vigorous and capable ruler. He carried on large warlike hunts to show that he kept Mongol tradition, but he also showed some appreciation for Chinese culture. He acted to restore some of the devastation in North China. He began a vast renovation of the Grand Canal, which was so important to the wealth and unity of the country. He directed the building of water-control projects, such as dams and dikes, along the Yellow River. . . .

During the Mongol rule, trade revived with Central Asia and the Middle East. Both of these areas were ruled by relatives of the khan. The vast lands controlled by the Mongols experienced general peace, called the *Pax Mongolica*. It was said that “a maiden bearing a nugget of gold on her head could wander safely throughout the realm.” Camel caravans once more carried Chinese products such as porcelain, tea, medicines, silk, and playing cards to the Middle East and into Europe. . . .

Source: Dorothy Hoobler et al., *China*, Globe Book

- 3 Based on this document, identify **two** ways China was changed by Mongol rule. [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score