EUROPEAN HISTORY

4. Discovery and Colonisation in America, Africa and Asia

Form 3
1. Early Contacts with the East

**Marco Polo** (1251-1325) was the earliest and most famous European travelers to Asia. He was a member of a reknowned Venetian family of merchants. Marco Polo reached Peking in 1275 and was welcomed by Emperor Kublai Khan (1214-94), an able and humane ruler. When he returned to Venice, after 15 years in the Far East, he wrote his adventures in a book which became a best seller. Meanwhile a lively trade had grown up between Europe and Asia. For many years the Venetians and Genoese excluded other Europeans from this trade. But in the 15th century the Portuguese ended their monopoly when they discovered a sea-route to India by sailing around Africa. From then onwards, the maritime republics of Venice and Genoa entered into a period of decline.

2. Early Portuguese exploration

**Prince Henry the Navigator** (1394-1460) set up a school for sailors and shipbuilders in Lisbon. Henry encouraged Portuguese sailors explore the African coast with the aim of reaching the Indian Ocean. By the time of his death his sailors had gone little further than the Cape Verde Islands. Then in 1481 John II became King and he renewed further explorations. In 1488 Bartholomew Diaz sailed round the Cape of Good Hope in the Southern tip of Africa. In 1497-99 Vasco da Gama sailed around Africa and reached India. In 1513 the first Portuguese ships reached the port of Canton in China.

3. Spain’s discovers the ‘New World’ (America)

A Genoese sailor **Christopher Colombus** (1451-1506) went to the Court of Queen Isabella of Spain to help him finance a voyage across the Atlantic. He hoped to reach China by sailing west instead of east. He convinced the Queen to give him three caravels (sailing ships). The ships left the port of Cadiz on 3rd August, 1492. His crew sighted land on 12th October. Colombus thought he had reached India. But in fact he had discovered the West Indies in the Caribbean Sea. He then returned to Spain to spread the joyful news. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella appealed to Pope Alexander VI (a Spaniard) to divide the discovered world into two halves: the western half for Spain, the eastern half for Portugal. France and England did not accept this arrangement because they also wanted to explore and claim new lands. In the end this division brought lengthy wars between Spain and England over colonies and trade in the New World.

4. Some other significant discoveries

Meanwhile, an Italian explorer, **Amerigo Vespucci**, gave the New World his name when he discovered the mouth of the Amazon River in 1499. In his letters to Europe he referred to it as the Mundus Novus, the New World. In 1507 a German geographer, labeled it as America in his memory.

Explorers of other nations joined in the race for more discoveries. In 1498 **John Cabot** sailed from England across the Atlantic and discovered Newfoundland (part of Canada). The Frenchman **Jacques Cartier** discovered the St Lawrence River in Canada. In 1513 the Spaniard **Babloa** discovered the Pacific Ocean. Between 1519-21 **Ferdinand Magellan**, a Portuguese in the service of the King of Spain sailed around the globe from west to east. Magellan was killed in the Philippines but the voyage was continued by his sailors.
1. Look carefully the map source above. Then colour the voyage of Christopher Colombus to the West Indies in red (continuous line) and his return voyage to Spain in green (dotted line). (1)

2. What kind of problems did Colombus encounter during such a voyage? Mention two.
   (a) __________________________________________ (b) __________________________________________ (2)

3. What contribution did the following persons in history give to the Age of Discovery and Exploration?
   (a) Marco Polo: __________________________________________
   (b) Prince Henry the Navigator: ______________________________
   (c) Bartholomew Diaz: ______________________________________
   (d) Vasco da Gama: _________________________________________
   (e) Christopher Colombus: __________________________________
   (f) Amerigo Vespucci: _______________________________________
   (g) John Cabot: ____________________________________________
   (h) Jacques Cartier: _________________________________________
   (i) Isabella of Castille: _____________________________________
   (i) Ferdinand Magellan: _____________________________________ (10)

4. How did the term ‘West Indies’ come about? ____________________________________________ (1)

5. (a) In 1494 the Pope divided ____________________________________________________________ (2)

   (b) Did the Pope’s decision bring more or less peace in Europe? Why? __________________________ (2)

6. Explain briefly the origin of the names:
   (a) New World: ___________________________________________ (1)
   (b) America: _____________________________________________ (1)

(Total marks = 20)
1. The Portuguese and the Spanish colonial empires

By 1515 the Portuguese had got rid of the Arab pirates from the Indian Ocean. Portugal being a small country, they could not conquer or colonize India or Africa. Instead, they controlled the sea routes by building strategic forts and trading posts along the African and Indian coast.

In 1519-21 Hernando Cortes conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico. In 1532 Francisco Pizarro conquered the Inca Empire in Peru. There the Spaniards turned the people of Mexico and Peru into slaves to work in the silver mines. Millions died of harsh treatment and deadly diseases brought by the Spaniards to America.

During the 16th century, many Spaniards went to live in areas that they conquered. They imposed the Spanish way of life, the Spanish language and the Catholic faith by force upon the Indios of South America. The Spaniards brought new products to Europe: cereal grains, sugar cane, coffee and tobacco. They took with them to America horses, cattle, sheep, donkeys, goats, pigs, firearms, alcohol and deadly European diseases (smallpox, measles and typhus). In 1501 the Portuguese and the Spaniards started bringing black Africans as slaves to their American colonies. This was how the Atlantic slave trade begun. It was to last for over three centuries.

2. Why did European conquer and colonize new discovered lands?

In the 1500s Europeans brought carpets, silk and porcelain from Asia and silver bullion, cotton, sugar and tobacco from America. New types of fruits and vegetables, unknown in Europe, became popular in Europe. Europeans imported potatoes, tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, corn (maize), coffee, cocoa and turkey from America. Spices, rice and tea were imported from Asia. Trade increased and many merchants, ship owners, bankers and craftsmen became very wealthy and powerful.

The countries of Western Europe facing the Atlantic (France, England, Holland, Spain, Portugal) gained most from the economic advantages of the great discoveries. While Spain and Portugal declined in the 17th century, England, France and Holland became richer and more powerful. The latter countries became known as the maritime powers, because their military strength and economic prosperity rested upon their maritime trade between Europe and the newly discovered lands.

The discovery of new lands brought further discoveries in the natural world. Gerardus Mercator (1512-94) invented the Mercator projection map (a flat map of the world). Astronomy, zoology, botany and geology developed as branches of modern science. New drugs were made from plants brought from other parts of the world. The Catholic Church sent missionary Jesuit priests to convert pagan tribes to Christianity. Voyages of discovery and exploration continued in later centuries. The Dutch explorer Tasman discovered Tasmania in 1630. Captain James Cook discovered and explored Australia, New Zealand and the Hawaiian islands in the 1770s.
1. The _________ people of Mexico were conquered by Herman Cortés in 1521 and the _________ people of Peru were conquered by Francisco Pizarro in 1532. (2)

2. Source A shows the first English settlers in Northern _________________. This voyage took place in (1510, 1620, 1710) on the famous ship called the (Santa Maria, Mayflower, New England). (4)

3. Source B shows a painting of the English settlers in North America in the 1620s. These settlers became known as the founding fathers of the (New World, Modern Age, United States). (1)

4. Name the three European maritime powers that had a large mercantile fleet in the 17th century.

_________________             _______________            _______________                         (2)

5. Source C shows a naval battle in the Atlantic Ocean. Scenes like this were very common in the 17th century. State why? (1)

______________________________________________________________________________________ (2)

6. Explain the term colonisation as used in European history between 1500 and 1700. (1)

______________________________________________________________________________________

7. Identify one good and one bad result of the age of discovery and exploration on European history.

(a) good result:  __________________________________________________________________________ (1)

(b) bad result:  __________________________________________________________________________ (1)

8. (a) What did Gerardus Mercator invent?  __________________________________________________________________________ (1)

(b) This invention was very important because: (Underline the correct answer)

(maps became cheaper, maps started being printed in colour, voyages across the oceans could be calculated more exactly, maps included a lot of information printed on them) (1)

9. Which lands did Captain James Cook’s discover in the 18th century?

______________________       _______________________      ______________________ (3)

(Total marks = 20)
Unit 4.3 - The Atlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition

1. How did the African Slave Trade begin?
The Portuguese were the first European nation to use Black African slaves in 1444. For many centuries in the Middle Ages, Arab traders captured African people and sold them in the slave markets of Arabia, Iran, and India. In Latin (South) America the Spanish settlers captured Black people from Africa and shipped them across the Atlantic Ocean to work in the silver mines. By 1600 England, France and Holland joined in this Atlantic slave trade too. In those times, Europeans argued that Black African peoples were racially inferior to White Europeans. This was a convenient argument to justify keeping Black Africans as slaves and force them to do heavy and dangerous jobs. Sometimes slaves were given enough food to survive and were forced to work long hours without any pay.

2. How was the slave trade abolished in Western Europe?
An anti-slavery movement developed in Britain in the 18th century. Its leader was William Wilberforce (1759-1833). He was helped by politicians, such as the Prime Minister William Pitt. He lived enough to see the slave trade (1807) and slavery (1833) abolished in the British Empire. Other European countries abolished the slave trade in this order: Denmark (1792), the United States (1808), Portugal (1836), France (1848), Holland (1863), Spain (1871). The first antislavery convention met in London in 1840. In 1842 Britain and the United States kept a squadron of ships to stop the slave trade along the African coast. Most of the new republics of South America freed slaves when they became independent from Spain in the early 19th century. Brazil abolished slavery as late as 1888.

3. How was slavery abolished in the United States?
In the North America colonies the first African slaves were taken to the colony of Virginia in 1619. By 1700 several coastal cities became centres of the slave traffic. In the northern colonies, slaves were used as domestic servants and in trade. In the southern colonies slaves were used in fields and in mining. Harsh treatment of slaves was prohibited by law, but some slave owners punished slaves very cruelly for disobeying orders or when trying to escape.

When the US became an independent country (1777) antislavery politicians set up a lobby group called Abolitionists. Other Protestant religious groups (Quakers, Methodists and Presbyterians) started opposed slavery and worked for its abolition. With the end of the American Civil War (1861-1865) US President Abraham Lincoln freed all black slaves in the United States. But it took many more years for it to happen. It was in the 1960s, at the time of President John F. Kennedy and human rights activist Martin Luther King, that White Americans agreed to give equal rights to Black Americans. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and Martin Luther King was shot during a human rights rally in 1968.
Unit 4.3 - The Slave Trade and its Abolition

1. When did the black African slave trade begin? ___________________________________________ (1)
2. Why did it begin? _________________________________________________________________ (1)
3. Which two European states were the first to organize this trade? _______________ __________ (1)
4. What sort of jobs were slaves given in the American colonies? Name three. 
   ___________________________________________ ___________________________________________ (3)
5. On what grounds did White Europeans justify slavery by law? 
   ____________________________________________________________ __________________________ (1)
6. Why was it convenient for Europeans to argue in this way? 
   ____________________________________________________________ __________________________ (1)
7. Name the founder of the anti-slave movement in Britain. ________________________________ (1)
8. By what name were the opponents of slavery known in the United States? _______________ (1)
9. How were slaves treated in the North American colonies? ________________________________ (2)
10. How did the issue of slavery divide the North American people between 1861 and 1865? 
    ____________________________________________________________ __________________________ (1)
11. Who abolished slavery in the United States of America in 1865? What price did he pay for this? 
    __________________________________________________________________________________ (2)
12. When were black slaves in the United States given equal status like White Americans? 
    __________________________________________________________________________________ (1)
13. What price did President Kennedy and Martin Luther King pay for supporting Black American equality? 
    __________________________________________________________________________________ (1)
14. How is the black slave being treated in the above source? 
    __________________________________________________________________________________ (1)
15. Where is this treatment taking place? State why? ______________________________________ (2)

(Total marks = 20)
Unit 4.3 - The Slave Trade and its Abolition

Read carefully the following sources and then answer all the questions.

Source A - On the dangers of sailing across the Atlantic

‘Our ship being old and weak was so tossed, that she opened at the stern a [fathom] under water . . . and for fear of sinking we threw and lightened into the sea all the goods we had or could come by: but that would not serve. Then we cut our main mast and threw all our ordinance into the sea saving one piece. . . [soon] we thought there was no hope of life. And then we began to embrace one another, every man his friend, every wife her husband, and the children their fathers and mothers, committing our soles to Almighty God, thinking never to escape alive . . .’

Source: Robert Thomson, an English merchant from Andover, described the near shipwreck of his vessel off the Mexican coast in 1555.

Source B - Azurara* describing the character of Prince Henry the Navigator

. . . . [Prince Henry the Navigator] he desired to know what lands there were beyond the Canary Isles and a cape called Bojador. For at that time there was no knowledge, either in writing or in the memory of any man, of what might lie beyond this cape.’

. . . . Where will you find another human body capable of supporting, as his in battle, the fatigue from which he had so little rest in time of peace! I truly believe that if strength could be represented, its very form would be found in the countenance and body of this prince. It was not only in certain things that he showed himself to be strong, but in all. And what strength is there greater than that of the man who is conqueror of himself?’

Source: from Gomes Eanes de Zurara (c.1410-1474), sometimes spelled Eannes or Azurara, Portuguese Chronicler. His works include the Chronicle of the Siege and Capture of Ceuta, the Chronicle of the Discovery and Conquest of Guinea which contains some account of the life work of Prince Henry the Navigator.

Source C - Columbus’ letter to the King and Queen of Spain, 1494?

Most High and Mighty Sovereigns,

As regards the division of gold, and the share that ought to be reserved for you Highnesses, this, in my opinion, must be left to the aforesaid governor and treasurer, because it will have to be greater or less according to the quantity of gold that may be found. Or, should it seem preferable, you Highnesses might, for the space of one year, take one half, and the collector the other, and a better arrangement for the division to be made afterward.

. . . . As, in the eagerness to get gold, every one will wish, naturally, to engage in its search in preference to any other employment, it seems to me that the privilege of going to look for gold ought to be withheld during some portion of each year, that there may be opportunity to have the other business necessary for the island performed. . .

1.1 Are the above sources primary or secondary? Why? ___________________________________________ (2)

1.2 What is the subject matter of each of the above sources?
   (a) Source A is about ___________________________________________________________ (1)
   (b) Source B is about ___________________________________________________________ (1)
   (c) Source C is about ___________________________________________________________ (1)

1.3 Who wrote source B and why did he do so? ___________________________________________ (2)
1.4 Imagine you were on the voyage described in Source A. What would you have done in that situation.

________________________________________________________________________ (2)

1.5 Which of the above sources highlights the negative aspects of voyages of exploration? Give a reason for your answer.

________________________________________________________________________ (2)

1.6 Are there any contrasting views between source A and C? Explain any such views.

________________________________________________________________________ (3)

1.7 Identify two motives of the explorers who undertook voyages of exploration and discovery of new lands.

________________________________________________________________________ (2)

1.8 Do you think that the early voyages were successful? Give a reason for your answer.

________________________________________________________________________ (2)

1.9 How did the discovery of new lands change the course of European history in subsequent centuries?

________________________________________________________________________ (2)

In-Set Working Group, September 2009

(Total marks 20)

Voyages of discovery and the claims of Spain and Portugal to overseas empires. Pope Alexander VI divided the New World between the two Iberian powers.
Unit 4.4 - The Age of Discovery and Colonisation

Read carefully the following essay titles and answer any ONE in about 200 to 300 words. Essays carry 20 marks each.

PAPER 2A
On discoveries and colonization
1. Spain in the 16th century became very active in her overseas expansion.
   (a) What were the main Spanish expedition during this time?
   (b) How were the peoples in the lands visited by the Spaniards affected the Spanish activities and aspirations?
   (c) What were the main consequences of this expansion for Europe of the time? (SEC 1996) (Marks: 8, 6, 6)

2. What factors led to Spain’s predominance in 16th century Europe and what factors led to its decline in later years? (SEC 1998)

3. How did the slave trade come about? How did it operate and how was it eventually abolished? (Annual Paper 2007)

4. Account for some of the major explorations and discoveries that took place in the late 15th and early 16th century in Western Europe. (Annual Paper, 2010)

PAPER 2B
On discoveries and colonization
1. In the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, several nations built up large overseas empires as a result of the great explorations.
   (a) Describe the overseas expansion of the Spain, Holland, France and England.
   (b) What advantages did the new colonies bring to these European powers. (SEC 1997) (Marks: 10, 10)