

## THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

### Theme: Change

Throughout history, political revolutions had many causes. These revolutions affected society and led to many changes. The changes may or may not have resolved the problems that caused the revolutions.

### Task:

Choose *one* political revolution from your study of global history and geography and:

- Explain the *causes* of the revolution
- Describe the *effects* this political revolution had on society
- Evaluate whether the *changes* that resulted from the political revolution resolved the problems that caused it

You may use any example from your study of global history, but **do not use the American Revolution**. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the French Revolution (1789), Mexican Revolution (1910), Russian Revolution (1917), Chinese Revolution (1949), Cuban Revolution (1959), or Iranian Revolution (1979).

**You are not limited to these suggestions.**

### Theme: Conflict

Differences among groups have often led to conflict.

### Task:

Identify *two* ethnic, religious, political, and/or cultural conflicts and for *each*:

- Discuss the historical circumstances that led to the conflict
- Analyze the effect of this conflict on *two* groups involved

You may use any examples from your study of global history and geography. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the persecution of Christians during the Roman Empire, the Reign of Terror, the Armenian massacres, the forced famine in Ukraine, the Holocaust, Apartheid in South Africa, the Killing Fields of Cambodia, the conflict in Northern Ireland, the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, and the Tiananmen Square rebellion.

**You are not limited to these suggestions.**

### Theme: Human and Physical Geography (Geographic Impact on Societies)

Geographic factors such as land features, resources, location, and climate of nations and regions affect how people live.

### Task:

- Select *one* geographic factor that influenced life in a nation or region *before* A.D. 1500, and using specific examples, discuss the influence of that geographic factor on the people of that nation or region
- Select a *different* geographic factor that influenced life in a nation or region *after* A.D. 1500, and using specific examples, discuss the influence of that geographic factor on the people of that nation or region

You may use any examples from your study of global history and geography. You must select a *different* geographic factor for each time period discussed. For example, you may not write about two rivers in different parts of the world. **Do not use geographic factors from the United States in your answer.** Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Nile River in Egypt, the mineral wealth of Africa, the monsoons in South Asia, oil in the Middle East, Japan's location near China, the plains of Northern Europe, rain forests in Latin America, and mountains in eastern Europe.

**Theme: Change [Individuals Who Have Changed History]**

The beliefs and achievements of individuals have changed global history. These beliefs and achievements have had positive and negative effects on society.

**Task:**

Identify *two* individuals who have changed global history and for *each*:

- Explain *one* belief or achievement of that individual
- Discuss the positive *and/or* negative effects of the individual's belief or achievement

You may use any individual from your study of global history *except* **Nicholas Copernicus, Sir Isaac Newton, and Norman Borlaug**. The individuals you identify must have had a major role in shaping global history and *must not be from the United States*. Some individuals that you might consider include Hammurabi, Confucius, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Muhammad, Johannes Gutenberg, Queen Isabella, Leonardo da Vinci, John Locke, Catherine the Great, Simón Bolívar, or Nelson Mandela.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Theme: Change [Political Events]**

Twentieth-century political events have had positive and negative effects on global history.

**Task:**

Identify *two* 20th-century political events and for *each*

- Discuss the historical circumstances surrounding the event
- Evaluate the extent to which this event has had a positive *or* a negative effect on global history

You may use any major political event from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Lenin's establishment of a Communist government in Russia, rise of totalitarian governments in Europe, Ho Chi Minh's unification of Vietnam against imperialism, increasing support for Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East, Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in China, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, development of nuclear weapons in India and Pakistan, and Nelson Mandela's opposition to apartheid in South Africa.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use United States events in your answer, although the discussion of positive or negative effects may involve the role of the United States.**

**Theme: Economic Systems**

Societies have developed different economic systems for many reasons. Some of these economic systems include manorialism, capitalism, and communism.

**Task:**

Identify *one* society and *one* economic system that has been used or is being used in that society and

- Discuss the historical circumstances surrounding the development of that economic system
- Describe *two* features of the economic system
- Evaluate the impact the economic system had on this society during a specific historical period

You may use any society from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include western Europe during the Middle Ages, western Europe during the Industrial Revolution, the Soviet Union between 1917 and 1990, Japan after World War II, China since 1949, and Cuba since 1959.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use the United States as the example of a society in your answer.**

**Theme: Global Problems**

Throughout history, global problems have posed major challenges for nations and regions.

**Task:**

Select **two** different global problems and for **each**

- Describe **one** major cause of the global problem
- Discuss **one** effect of the global problem on a specific nation or region

You may use any global problem from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include environmental pollution, desertification, deforestation, overpopulation, refugees, spread of disease, international drug trafficking, and ethnic conflicts.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* describe problems in the United States although the discussion of the effect of the global problem could involve the United States.**

**Theme: Turning Points**

Turning points are major events in history that have led to lasting change.

**Task:**

Identify **two** major turning points in global history and for **each**:

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the turning point
- Explain how **each** turning point changed the course of history

You may use any example from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Neolithic Revolution, the Crusades, the Renaissance, the Encounter, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution of 1917, World War I, creation of the modern state of Israel, Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa, and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use any turning points in United States history.**

**Theme: Change**

Throughout history, the actions of leaders have changed the society in which they lived.

**Task:**

Identify **two** leaders who changed the society in which they lived and for **each**

- Describe **one** situation the leader attempted to change
- Describe **one** action the leader took to change this situation
- Discuss the impact of that action on the society in which the leader lived

You may use any leader from your study of global history and geography **except Johann Gutenberg and James Watt**. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Martin Luther, Queen Elizabeth I, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Napoleon Bonaparte, Simón Bolívar, Otto von Bismarck, Mohandas Gandhi, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, Fidel Castro, and Nelson Mandela.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Theme: Conflict**

Conflicts between groups of people have threatened peace in many nations and regions.

**Task:**

- Identify **one** conflict that has threatened peace in a nation or region and
- Discuss **one** major cause of that conflict
  - Identify **two** opposing groups involved in the conflict and discuss **one** viewpoint of **each** group
  - Discuss the extent to which the conflict was *or was not* resolved

You may use any major conflict from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Crusades, the French Revolution, World War I, the Russian Revolution, the Chinese civil war, the partition of India, the policy of apartheid in South Africa, the Rwandan civil war, and the Bosnian War.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use conflicts that *occurred* in the United States in your answer.**

**Theme: Change**

The ideas and beliefs of philosophers and leaders have led to changes in nations and regions.

**Task:**

- Choose **two** philosophers *and/or* leaders and for **each**
- Explain a major idea or belief of that philosopher or leader
  - Discuss how that idea or belief changed **one** nation or region

You may use any philosophers or leaders from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Confucius, John Locke, Adam Smith, Simón Bolívar, Otto von Bismarck, Vladimir Lenin, Mohandas Gandhi, Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro, or Nelson Mandela.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use a philosopher or leader from the United States in your answer.**

**Theme: Political Systems**

Political systems have affected the history and culture of nations and societies.

**Task:**

- Choose **two** different political systems and for **each**
- Describe the characteristics of the political system
  - Discuss how the political system has affected the history *or* culture of a specific nation or society

You may use any political systems from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include absolute monarchy, constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy, direct democracy, theocracy, communism, and fascism.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use the United States as an example of a nation or society.**

**Theme: Change**

Not all revolutions are political. Nonpolitical revolutions have brought important intellectual, economic, and/or social changes to societies.

**Task:**

Identify **two** nonpolitical revolutions that brought important intellectual, economic, and/or social changes to societies and for **each**

- Describe **one** change brought about by this nonpolitical revolution
- Discuss an impact this nonpolitical revolution had on a specific society or societies

You may use any nonpolitical revolution that brought important intellectual, economic, and/or social changes from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Neolithic Revolution (10,000–6,000 B.C.), the Commercial Revolution (11th–18th centuries), the Scientific Revolution (16th–18th centuries), the Enlightenment (17th–18th centuries), the Agricultural Revolution (18th–19th centuries), the Industrial Revolution in Europe (18th–19th centuries), and the Green Revolution (late 20th century).

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions. However, do *not* choose a *political* revolution as one of your two revolutions.**

**Theme: Human Rights Violations**

The human rights of many groups have been violated at different times in various nations and regions. Efforts by governments, groups, and individuals to resolve these human rights violations have met with mixed results.

**Task:**

Select **two** groups who have experienced human rights violations in a specific nation or region and for **each**

- Describe **one** historical circumstance that led to a human rights violation in the nation or region
- Describe **one** example of a human rights violation in that nation or region
- Discuss the extent to which a government, a group, or an individual made an attempt to resolve this human rights violation

You may use any group whose rights have been violated from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Christians under the Roman Empire, indigenous peoples in Latin America, Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, Ukrainians after the Russian Revolution, Jews in Europe, Cambodians under Pol Pot, blacks under apartheid in South Africa, and Kurds in the Middle East.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use any human rights violations from the United States in your answer.**

**Theme: Political Change**

Often, governments implement policies in an attempt to change society.

**Task:**

Choose **one** example from global history where a government attempted to change society and

- Describe the change the government wanted to bring about
- Explain why the government wanted to make this change
- Describe **one** specific policy the government used to try to bring about this change
- Discuss the extent to which this change was achieved

You may use any example of governmental change from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include efforts to strengthen the Empire of Mali under Mansa Musa, Reformation in England under Henry VIII, westernization of Russia under Peter the Great, Reign of Terror during the French Revolution under Robespierre, Meiji Restoration in Japan under the Emperor Meiji, modernization of Turkey under Atatürk, five-year plans in the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin, fascism in Italy under Benito Mussolini, and oil policies in Venezuela under Hugo Chávez. **Although you are *not* limited to these suggestions, you may *not* use communism under Mao Zedong or Deng Xiaoping as your example of governmental change.**

**Do *not* use an example of governmental change in the United States as your answer.**

**Theme: Movement of People and Goods: Trade**

Trade routes and trade organizations have had an impact on nations and regions. The effects have been both positive and negative.

**Task:**

- Identify *two* trade routes *and/or* trade organizations and for *each*
- Explain *one* reason for the establishment of the trade route or trade organization
  - Discuss *one* positive effect *or one* negative effect of the trade route or trade organization on a specific nation or region

You may use any example from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Silk Roads, the trans-Saharan trade routes of the African kingdoms, Mediterranean trade routes, the Hanseatic League, the British East India Company, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the European Union (EU).

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**



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### Theme: Change

Throughout history, political revolutions had many causes. These revolutions affected society and led to many changes. The changes may or may not have resolved the problems that caused the revolutions.

### Task:

Choose **one** political revolution from your study of global history and geography and:

- Explain the **causes** of the revolution
- Describe the **effects** this political revolution had on society
- Evaluate whether the **changes** that resulted from the political revolution resolved the problems that caused it

You may use any example from your study of global history, but **do not use the American Revolution**. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the French Revolution (1789), Mexican Revolution (1910), Russian Revolution (1917), Chinese Revolution (1949), Cuban Revolution (1959), or Iranian Revolution (1979).

**You are not limited to these suggestions.**

### Theme: Conflict

Differences among groups have often led to conflict.

### Task:

Identify **two** ethnic, religious, political, and/or cultural conflicts and for **each**:

- Discuss the historical circumstances that led to the conflict
- Analyze the effect of this conflict on **two** groups involved

You may use any examples from your study of global history and geography. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the persecution of Christians during the Roman Empire, the Reign of Terror, the Armenian massacres, the forced famine in Ukraine, the Holocaust, Apartheid in South Africa, the Killing Fields of Cambodia, the conflict in Northern Ireland, the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, and the Tiananmen Square rebellion.

**You are not limited to these suggestions.**

### Theme: Human and Physical Geography (Geographic Impact on Societies)

Geographic factors such as land features, resources, location, and climate of nations and regions affect how people live.

### Task:

- Select **one** geographic factor that influenced life in a nation or region **before** A.D. 1500, and using specific examples, discuss the influence of that geographic factor on the people of that nation or region
- Select a **different** geographic factor that influenced life in a nation or region **after** A.D. 1500, and using specific examples, discuss the influence of that geographic factor on the people of that nation or region

You may use any examples from your study of global history and geography. You must select a **different** geographic factor for each time period discussed. For example, you may not write about two rivers in different parts of the world. **Do not use geographic factors from the United States in your answer**. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Nile River in Egypt, the mineral wealth of Africa, the monsoons in South Asia, oil in the Middle East, Japan's location near China, the plains of Northern Europe, rain forests in Latin America, and mountains in eastern Europe.



**Theme: Change [Individuals Who Have Changed History]**

The beliefs and achievements of individuals have changed global history. These beliefs and achievements have had positive and negative effects on society.

**Task:**

Identify **two** individuals who have changed global history and for **each**:

- Explain **one** belief or achievement of that individual
- Discuss the positive **and/or** negative effects of the individual's belief or achievement

You may use any individual from your study of global history **except** **Nicholas Copernicus, Sir Isaac Newton, and Norman Borlaug**. The individuals you identify must have had a major role in shaping global history and **must not be from the United States**. Some individuals that you might consider include Hammurabi, Confucius, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Muhammad, Johannes Gutenberg, Queen Isabella, Leonardo da Vinci, John Locke, Catherine the Great, Simón Bolívar, or Nelson Mandela.

**You are not limited to these suggestions.**

**Theme: Change [Political Events]**

Twentieth-century political events have had positive and negative effects on global history.

**Task:**

Identify **two** 20th-century political events and for **each**

- Discuss the historical circumstances surrounding the event
- Evaluate the extent to which this event has had a positive **or** a negative effect on global history

You may use any major political event from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Lenin's establishment of a Communist government in Russia, rise of totalitarian governments in Europe, Ho Chi Minh's unification of Vietnam against imperialism, increasing support for Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East, Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in China, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, development of nuclear weapons in India and Pakistan, and Nelson Mandela's opposition to apartheid in South Africa.

**You are not limited to these suggestions.**

**Do not use United States events in your answer, although the discussion of positive or negative effects may involve the role of the United States.**

**Theme: Economic Systems**

Societies have developed different economic systems for many reasons. Some of these economic systems include manorialism, capitalism, and communism.

**Task:**

Identify **one** society and **one** economic system that has been used or is being used in that society and

- Discuss the historical circumstances surrounding the development of that economic system
- Describe **two** features of the economic system
- Evaluate the impact the economic system had on this society during a specific historical period

You may use any society from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include western Europe during the Middle Ages, western Europe during the Industrial Revolution, the Soviet Union between 1917 and 1990, Japan after World War II, China since 1949, and Cuba since 1959.

**You are not limited to these suggestions.**

**Do not use the United States as the example of a society in your answer.**

**Theme: Global Problems**

Throughout history, global problems have posed major challenges for nations and regions.

**Task:**

Select **two** different global problems and for **each**

- Describe **one** major cause of the global problem
- Discuss **one** effect of the global problem on a specific nation or region

You may use any global problem from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include environmental pollution, desertification, deforestation, overpopulation, refugees, spread of disease, international drug trafficking, and ethnic conflicts.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* describe problems in the United States although the discussion of the effect of the global problem could involve the United States.**

**Theme: Turning Points**

Turning points are major events in history that have led to lasting change.

**Task:**

Identify **two** major turning points in global history and for **each**:

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the turning point
- Explain how **each** turning point changed the course of history

You may use any example from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Neolithic Revolution, the Crusades, the Renaissance, the Encounter, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution of 1917, World War I, creation of the modern state of Israel, Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa, and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use any turning points in United States history.**

**Theme: Change**

Throughout history, the actions of leaders have changed the society in which they lived.

**Task:**

Identify **two** leaders who changed the society in which they lived and for **each**

- Describe **one** situation the leader attempted to change
- Describe **one** action the leader took to change this situation
- Discuss the impact of that action on the society in which the leader lived

You may use any leader from your study of global history and geography **except Johann Gutenberg and James Watt**. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Martin Luther, Queen Elizabeth I, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Napoleon Bonaparte, Simón Bolívar, Otto von Bismarck, Mohandas Gandhi, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, Fidel Castro, and Nelson Mandela.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Theme: Conflict**

Conflicts between groups of people have threatened peace in many nations and regions.

**Task:**

Identify **one** conflict that has threatened peace in a nation or region and

- Discuss **one** major cause of that conflict
- Identify **two** opposing groups involved in the conflict and discuss **one** viewpoint of **each** group
- Discuss the extent to which the conflict was *or was not* resolved

You may use any major conflict from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Crusades, the French Revolution, World War I, the Russian Revolution, the Chinese civil war, the partition of India, the policy of apartheid in South Africa, the Rwandan civil war, and the Bosnian War.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do not use conflicts that *occurred* in the United States in your answer.**

**Theme: Change**

The ideas and beliefs of philosophers and leaders have led to changes in nations and regions.

**Task:**

Choose **two** philosophers *and/or* leaders and for **each**

- Explain a major idea or belief of that philosopher or leader
- Discuss how that idea or belief changed **one** nation or region

You may use any philosophers or leaders from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Confucius, John Locke, Adam Smith, Simón Bolívar, Otto von Bismarck, Vladimir Lenin, Mohandas Gandhi, Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro, or Nelson Mandela.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do not use a philosopher or leader from the United States in your answer.**

**Theme: Political Systems**

Political systems have affected the history and culture of nations and societies.

**Task:**

Choose **two** different political systems and for **each**

- Describe the characteristics of the political system
- Discuss how the political system has affected the history *or* culture of a specific nation or society

You may use any political systems from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include absolute monarchy, constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy, direct democracy, theocracy, communism, and fascism.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do not use the United States as an example of a nation or society.**

**Theme: Change**

Not all revolutions are political. Nonpolitical revolutions have brought important intellectual, economic, and/or social changes to societies.

**Task:**

Identify **two** nonpolitical revolutions that brought important intellectual, economic, and/or social changes to societies and for **each**

- Describe **one** change brought about by this nonpolitical revolution
- Discuss an impact this nonpolitical revolution had on a specific society or societies

You may use any nonpolitical revolution that brought important intellectual, economic, and/or social changes from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Neolithic Revolution (10,000–6,000 B.C.), the Commercial Revolution (11th–18th centuries), the Scientific Revolution (16th–18th centuries), the Enlightenment (17th–18th centuries), the Agricultural Revolution (18th–19th centuries), the Industrial Revolution in Europe (18th–19th centuries), and the Green Revolution (late 20th century).

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions. However, do *not* choose a *political* revolution as one of your two revolutions.**

**Theme: Human Rights Violations**

The human rights of many groups have been violated at different times in various nations and regions. Efforts by governments, groups, and individuals to resolve these human rights violations have met with mixed results.

**Task:**

Select **two** groups who have experienced human rights violations in a specific nation or region and for **each**

- Describe **one** historical circumstance that led to a human rights violation in the nation or region
- Describe **one** example of a human rights violation in that nation or region
- Discuss the extent to which a government, a group, or an individual made an attempt to resolve this human rights violation

You may use any group whose rights have been violated from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Christians under the Roman Empire, indigenous peoples in Latin America, Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, Ukrainians after the Russian Revolution, Jews in Europe, Cambodians under Pol Pot, blacks under apartheid in South Africa, and Kurds in the Middle East.

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

**Do *not* use any human rights violations from the United States in your answer.**

**Theme: Political Change**

Often, governments implement policies in an attempt to change society.

**Task:**

Choose **one** example from global history where a government attempted to change society and

- Describe the change the government wanted to bring about
- Explain why the government wanted to make this change
- Describe **one** specific policy the government used to try to bring about this change
- Discuss the extent to which this change was achieved

You may use any example of governmental change from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include efforts to strengthen the Empire of Mali under Mansa Musa, Reformation in England under Henry VIII, westernization of Russia under Peter the Great, Reign of Terror during the French Revolution under Robespierre, Meiji Restoration in Japan under the Emperor Meiji, modernization of Turkey under Atatürk, five-year plans in the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin, fascism in Italy under Benito Mussolini, and oil policies in Venezuela under Hugo Chávez. **Although you are *not* limited to these suggestions, you may *not* use communism under Mao Zedong or Deng Xiaoping as your example of governmental change.**

**Do *not* use an example of governmental change in the United States as your answer.**

**Theme: Movement of People and Goods: Trade**

Trade routes and trade organizations have had an impact on nations and regions. The effects have been both positive and negative.

**Task:**

Identify **two** trade routes **and/or** trade organizations and for **each**

- Explain **one** reason for the establishment of the trade route or trade organization
- Discuss **one** positive effect *or* **one** negative effect of the trade route or trade organization on a specific nation or region

You may use any example from your study of global history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include the Silk Roads, the trans-Saharan trade routes of the African kingdoms, Mediterranean trade routes, the Hanseatic League, the British East India Company, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the European Union (EU).

**You are *not* limited to these suggestions.**

