

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

Document Based Question (DBQ) Assessment for Tang and Song China Unit

Directions: The tasks described below are based on documents 1 through 9. This assessment is designed to test your ability to work with and analyze historical documents. For Part A, look at each document and answer the question or questions after each document.

Historical Background: The Tang and Song dynasties covered the time period from 618 to 1279 CE, a period of more than 600 years. Not only did these dynasties last a very long time, but they are also considered to be among the most outstanding of Chinese dynasties. The Tang and Song dynasties are considered a “Golden Age” in Chinese history. While these dynasties experienced problems from time to time, overall they managed very well to maintain unity among China’s diverse people.

Task:

Read *each* document carefully and completely answer the question or questions after each document. Be sure to address all parts of a question.

***EQ: How did the Tang and Song
dynasties create a Golden Age in China?***

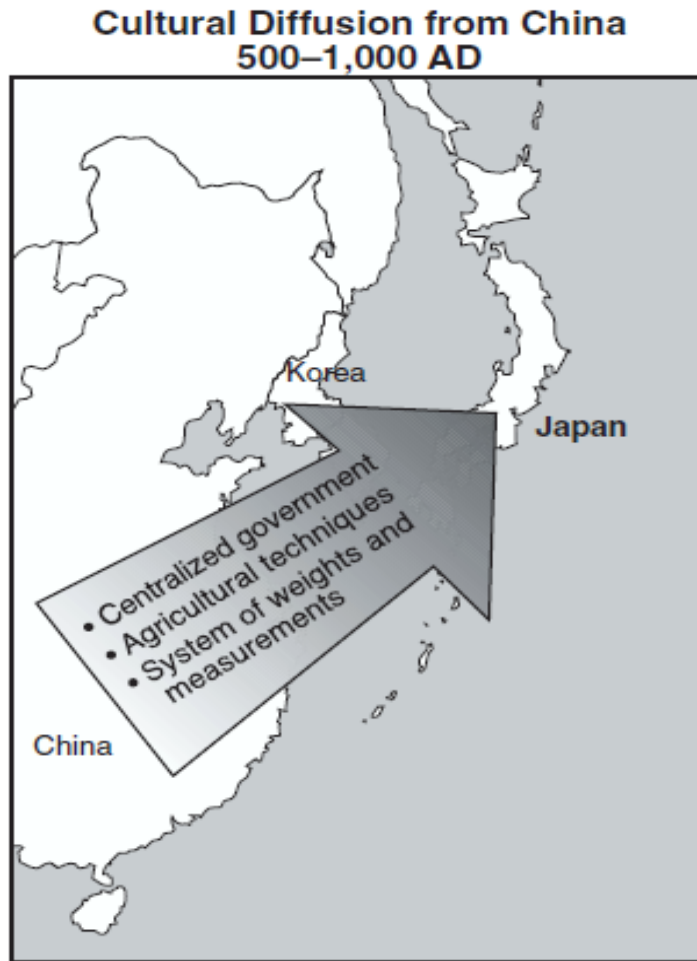
Proceed to Part A Critical Response Questions on the next page

(Part A total 55 points)

Summative Assessment

Part A: Critical Response Questions

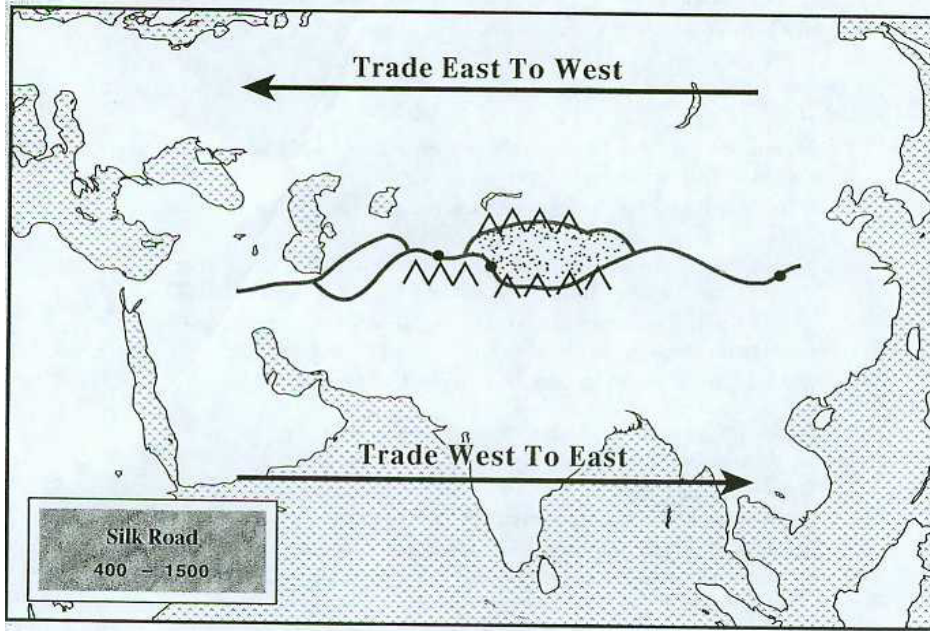
Document #1:



1. Using the title and chart above, explain the meaning of cultural diffusion. (2)

2. Why does the illustration above support the idea that Tang and Song China was experiencing a Golden Age at this time? (4)

Document #2: Geographic and Economic Information

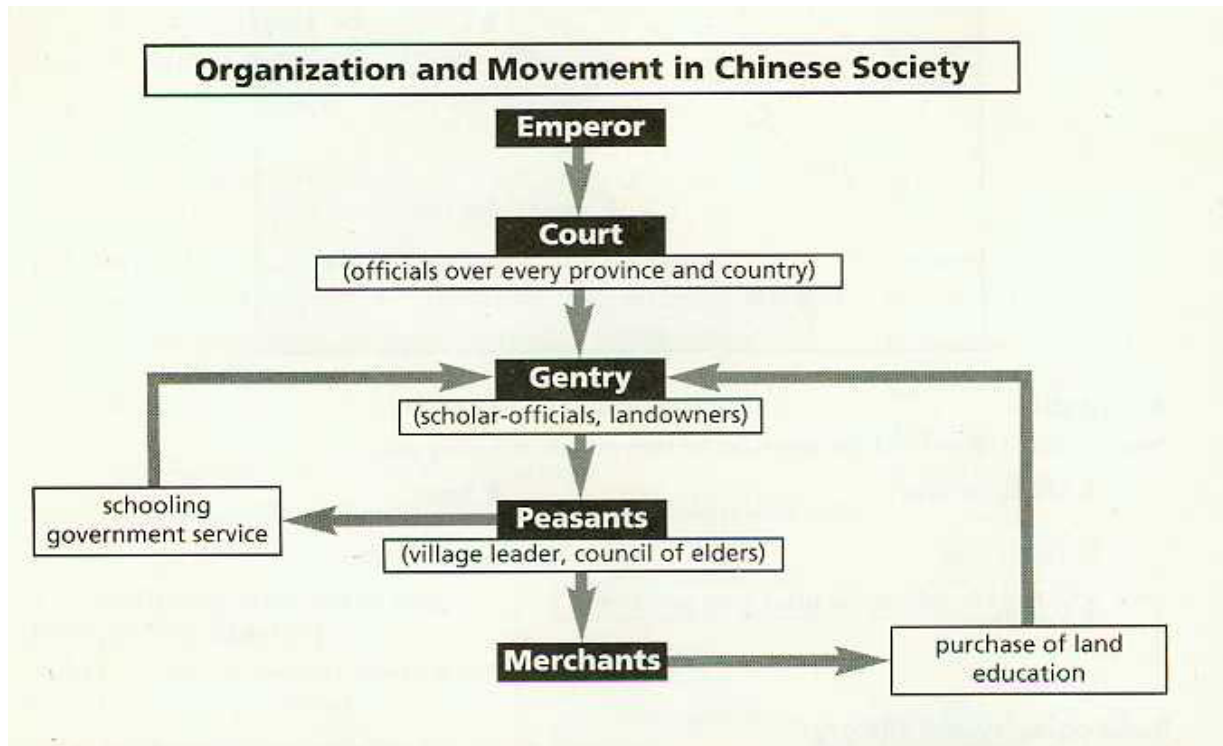


Items Traded <i>West to East</i>		Items Traded <i>East to West</i>
Garlic	Herbal medicines	Silk
Grapevine	Horses	Porcelain
Spices	Camels	Technology and Inventions
Spinach	Gems, gold and silver	◆ Compass
Cotton	Ivory	◆ Paper
		◆ Gun Powder

1. In general, how did the types of items traded East (from China) to West differ from the types of items traded West to East? (2)

2. Use information provided above and your own understandings to explain how successful trade along the Silk Road helped China achieve a Golden Age. Explain at least two ways. (4)

Document #3:



1. According to the chart, which levels of Chinese government have power over *all* people? (2)
2. Based on what is shown in the chart, make TWO points explaining how there is an opportunity for social mobility (movement of people) in this class structure. (2)
3. As shown in the chart, how might a social hierarchy (chain of command) that is organized in this way contribute to political unity in China? Describe at least two reasons. (4)
 - a.
 - b.

Document #4:

Economic Connections during the Golden Age of the Song

The Golden Age in Song China was a time of economic prosperity. China was getting wealthier because of economic developments that were connected in the following cause and effect relationships.

- 1 Wars force farmers to move south, where they grow rice,
- Commercial (business) centers in China grow into large cities.
- Growth of trade and commerce opens up job opportunities.
- Farmers take time away from farming to make other products to sell.
- A food surplus is generated and sold at market.
- Landowners become rich enough to buy luxury items.
- Better farming technologies and quick-ripening rice increase crop production.

1. Arrange the statements above to reflect a China's movement from a poorer, agricultural state to a richer, more commercial state. The number 1, as you can see, represents the first step in this movement. Continue to number 2 through 7 in the spaces provided. (3)
2. Was it agriculture, commerce, or urbanization (growth of cities) which started economic growth in China? (Circle one). (2)

Farming

Trading

Growth of cities

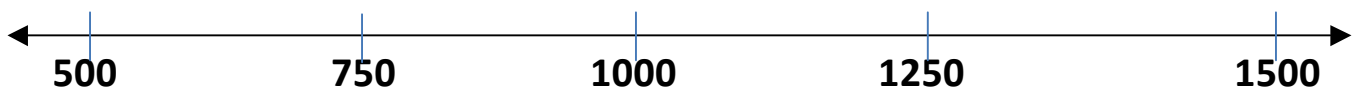
3. How does the sequence above indicate that China is moving toward a Golden Age? Explain at least two ways. (4)

Document #5:

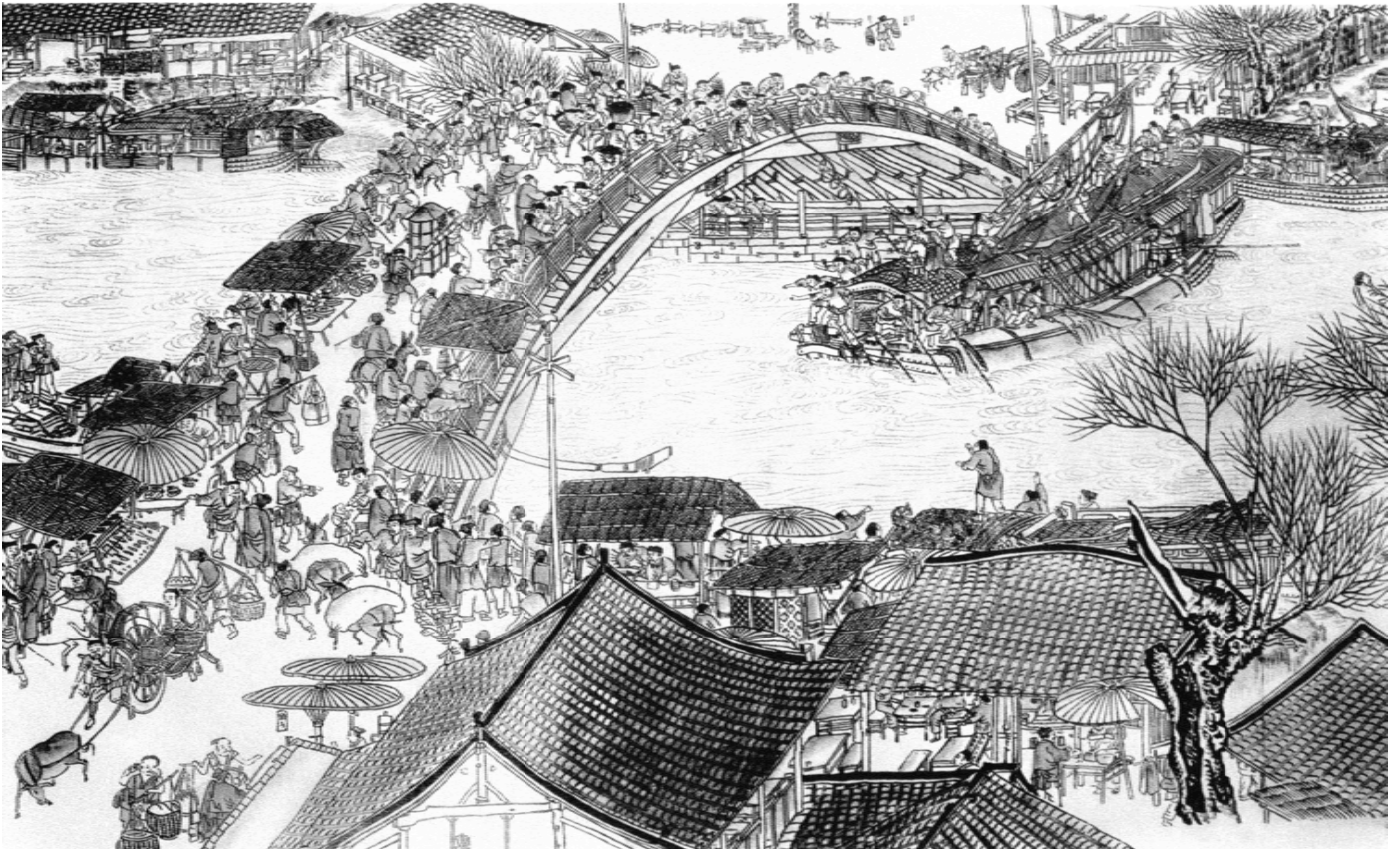
Technological Inventions & Cultural Innovations of Tang and Song China

Invention	Date	Description	Impact
Gun Powder	900 CE	<i>Explosive powder made from mixture of saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal</i>	<i>First used for fireworks, then weapons, technology spread west within 300 years.</i>
Magnetic Compass (for navigation)	1100 CE	<i>Floating magnetized needle that always points north-south; device had existed in China for centuries before it was adapted by sailors for use at sea</i>	<i>Helped China become a sea power; technology quickly spread west</i>
Mechanical clock	725 CE	<i>Clock in which machinery (driven by running water) regulated the movements</i>	<i>Early Chinese clocks short-lived; idea for mechanical clock carried by traders to medieval Europe</i>
Paper money	960 CE	<i>Paper currency issued by Song government to replace cumbersome strings of metal cash used by merchants</i>	<i>Contributed to development of large-scale commercial economy in China</i>
Porcelain	600 CE	<i>Bone-hard white ceramic made of a special clay and a mineral found only in China</i>	<i>Became a valuable export-so associated with Chinese culture that it is now called "china", technology remained a Chinese secret for centuries</i>
Printing	Block printing: 735 CE	<i>Block printing; one block on which a whole page is cut</i>	<i>Printing technology spread to Korea and Japan</i>

1. Based on the information contained in this chart, make a time line to display the sequence of Tang and Song dynasty innovations/inventions. Choose and label FOUR inventions or advancements. (2)



2. Pick TWO inventions of the Tang and Song Dynasties and explain how they helped China achieve a "Golden Age". First, define the term "Golden Age." (3)



1. Describe the scene the artist depicts (is showing) in this drawing. (2)
2. Describe THREE examples of urbanization (growing cities) shown in this picture. (3)
3. How might successful business activity lead to cultural diversity? (2)

China DBQ
Part B: Essay

Historical Context:

The Tang and Song dynasties covered the time period from 618 to 1279 CE, a period of more than 600 years. Not only did these dynasties last a very long time, but they are also considered to be among the most outstanding of Chinese dynasties. The Tang and Song dynasties are considered a “Golden Age” in Chinese history. While these dynasties had experienced problems from time to time, overall they managed very well to maintain unity among China’s diverse people. A well-organized government, a clear social structure with some opportunity to move up from your social class position, moral philosophies that influenced government leaders and the people as a whole, economic prosperity through trade and an effective military are all factors that contributed to unity in the Tang and Song dynasties.

Task:

Using information from your documents in Part A, your answers to them, and your knowledge of social studies, answer the following in a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.

How did the Tang and Song dynasties create a Golden Age in China?

(Part B Graphic Organizer total 20 points)

Note: Explain and support both *internal* and *external* connections.

China Essay Planning Template

Thesis:

