



**Global Perspective Studies
Core One: Africa and Asia
History Answer Guidance**

How to Use These Suggested Answers: PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE GRADING!

One of the reasons that we did not initially write history answers for GPS is that many of the history questions ask students to give examples or summarize complex historical relationships. There are multiple potential examples and ways to frame an answer that could be correct. There are also different styles of answers. Answers should usually be a solid paragraph. A student's individual writing voice will come through. We do not want to determine what a history answer should necessarily "sound" like.

However, in getting feedback from users, we understand that you need this guidance. The answers we're providing are exactly that. They are guidance, not hard and fast answers. These do not represent exactly what your student's answers should look like.

These answers are exemplars and not real student answers. While I've tried to keep the writing style relatively neutral, the information in these represents A+, 110% level information. This is not to say that there isn't more to be said on these topics. Students may find slightly different specific examples, organizations, or frameworks for their answers. Many of these questions are topics for entire books. However, at this level, for what these questions ask, these represent a high level of scope of knowledge.

You should not expect a student new to GPS, new to this type of short answer question, or new to high school to produce answers anywhere near this level. When I beta tested this program with my own high school students, the answers they produced for the first few weeks of the first unit were often barely two sentences. They often forgot to answer the entire question. They often lacked any sense of nuance. Our goal was to go over them and fill in the gaps. Sometimes I had them rewrite answers that needed more. By the end of the year, their answers for the final unit were nearly always a full paragraph. They nearly always contained more comprehensive information and nuance. Emphasize growth in your approach.

Again, a passing and even an “A” answer may not include every detail that is in the suggested answers below. Students may find different details in different history textbooks. Look for whether your student’s answer covers the full question. Consider whether your student’s answer is consistent with the information provided below. If it’s not, then it may be incorrect. Look at whether your student has provided an appropriate level of summary and detail.

Finally, look out for overly generalized answers. “There was a great deal of trade. People were connected and lots of kingdoms arose with many powerful leaders,” would be an overly generalized answer. There was trade where? Trading what? How were people connected? What kingdoms arose? When did it happen? Who were these leaders? If your student’s answers are heavy on generalities and low on specifics, definitely call them to task.

Only you can decide what your student is capable of and how to assess their answers. I strongly suggest that you go over incomplete, overly general, and misleading answers together. I suggest that you ask students to redo answers that you deem insufficient. However, it’s okay to accept answers at the start of the year that you wouldn’t accept at the end. Or to accept answers from a younger student or a struggling learner that you wouldn’t accept from an older student or an honors student.

Unit One: Africa

Week One

1. Humanity's ancestors include Australopithecines, Homo Habilis, and Homo Erectus. Modern day humans are known as Homo Sapiens, and the earliest modern humans as Cro-Magnons. Evidence has proven that the earliest humans originated in Africa.

Fossilized remains of Australopithecines, the oldest known human ancestors, were found in East Africa. Examples of this include the footprints discovered by archaeologist Mary Leakey and the complete Australopithecines skeleton, known as Lucy. Evidence shows that modern humans did originate in Africa and eventually migrated elsewhere.

2. The ability to walk upright on two legs was one of the most important developments that set humans apart from other primates. Later on, humans also developed greater brain capacity. These changes eventually led to an increased ability to use technology and language. The opposable thumb also helped humans gain increased precision over their tools. These adaptations eventually allowed humans to hunt more successfully, develop agriculture, and innovate other means of protecting them from the harsh elements, such as shelter and fire. Language allowed for more complex and coordinated collaboration.

3. Migration out of Africa was primarily motivated by ecological factors. Temperatures are consistently hot, and a large portion of the African continent is occupied by deserts. Warm temperatures in Africa lead to nutrient poor soil and bad growing conditions in many areas. But these widespread conditions pushed the people in Africa to venture elsewhere in search of environments more sustainable to life.

4. Only intensive agriculture can lead to cities and civilization. Having large scale agriculture allows humans to remain in the same place and allows for specialization of labor, artisans, writing, and large-scale building. The development of agriculture allowed humans to be sedentary, not roaming from place to place instead of roaming as hunter-gatherers. Harsh deserts, poor climate, and poor soil led to less intensive agriculture in many parts of Africa. Farming could not support larger scale cities in most parts of Africa.

Week Two

1. The most important aspects of Egypt to understand geographically are the Nile and the surrounding deserts. The fertile abundance of the Nile was a sharp contrast from the barren land that stretched around it. The Nile sustained Egypt, so it had a very important place in Egypt's culture and art, being worshipped as a deity. The reliable flooding cycle of the Nile made farming also reliable and gave people the sense that their gods were mostly good and would provide for people. The river also provided easy transport around Egypt, encouraging unity and trade. The deserts around Egypt acted as a physical barrier and protecting it from invaders.

2. The Nile facilitated the flow of goods between Egypt and the rest of Africa. The Egyptians made multiple records of expeditions to other parts of Africa, primarily to Nubia, where they would come back with goods and slaves. Particularly important was a kingdom in Nubia known to the Egyptians as Kush. Initially Egypt sought after the resources of Kush, but as this relationship became more established, Kush was able to become a middleman between Egypt and parts of Africa further south, profiting off the trade of goods that were not its own.

3. Both Egypt's society and government underwent considerable changes in the span of approximately 2,000 years. First, Upper and Lower Egypt unified into a single kingdom. Egypt's capital city moved several times. Conquest and invasion were not infrequent. The Hyksos, a group from the Middle East, invaded and controlled Egypt for 200 years after the end of the Middle Kingdom. The Egyptians learned several military innovations, such as how to use chariots, from the Hyksos. Culturally, views and practices involving the afterlife became more elaborate, which came with new practices to commemorate the dead and to display reverence for the ruling class. Examples of this include the pyramids, the most grandiose of which were reserved for the pharaohs, the Book of the Dead, and the process of mummification. Hieroglyphic writing evolved and became more complex over time.

4. Kush was primarily valued for the resources of iron and wood. Egypt lacked the resources for the iron refining process, in which wood was essential. They mostly produced bronze. Invasion from the Assyrians, who wielded iron weapons, made the Egyptians aware of the necessity of acquiring iron. Ivory was another important commodity from Kush.

5. Trade spurred on the development of more complicated and urban societies in Africa. Different regions grew to have different roles, some producing raw materials, some crafting luxury goods, and some handling those goods. Trade also facilitated the flow of not only goods, but also ideas, religions, and people. Items traded included raw goods

and food supplies, commodities produced from animals such as tusks and hides, crafted goods such as coins, pottery, and beads. Live animals and slaves were also traded.

6. In terms of government, Aksum was a formidable trading and administrative empire with a pretty rigid social hierarchy that had a concentrated ruling class. Jenne-Jeno probably lacked that centralized authority. Aksum produced a lot of monumental architecture, most notably the stelae, while Jenne-Jeno did not. Aksum was a part of interconnected kingdoms and lands along the Red Sea where conflict was well known, while Jenne-Jeno was peaceful. Aksum appears to have been divided along strict class lines while Jenne-Jeno was apparently more egalitarian. Aksum could be described as a trader and consumer of crafted goods, and Jenne-Jeno more as a producer of such goods, particularly pottery. Evidence shows that Aksum dealt with drought and famine, while Jenne-Jeno did not face those issues.

7. Because humans originally evolved in Africa, the parasites and disease-carrying insects of the area coevolved to be able to easily infect humans. The populations that migrated out of Africa were met with species that had not yet adapted to be able to spread diseases to humans on the same scale, which allowed their numbers to grow substantially. Along with agriculture, disease continued to limit the size of population and civilization growth in much of Africa.

Week Three

1. Christianity arrived in what is now Ethiopia between 325 and 360 CE, during the reign of Ezana. He was influenced to convert to Christianity by his tutor, a Christian man who had been captured from Syria. When he took the throne, he made Christianity the official religion of Aksum. This was around the same time or even before Christianity became an official religion in the Roman Empire.

2. Islam was first introduced into North Africa with the conquest by Muslim armies. This was under the second caliph in the 600's, not long after the death of Muhammad. The conquered peoples were treated tolerantly as long as they paid taxes. Christians and Jews were considered "people of the book" because of the similarities between their religious texts and the Qur'an, which made them somewhat more respected. Non-Muslims were not allowed to spread their religions, but they could hold official positions.

3. Both Christianity and Islam had their own religious texts, and so the introduction of these religions gave rise to greater communication through the written word and more literacy. Most sub-Saharan African kingdoms and people did not have a written language. This had a profound impact on society, beginning the shift away from oral literary traditions, allowing for information to be preserved with accuracy and to travel great lengths without being distilled, and lending itself to scholarship.

4. Islam was introduced to the West African kingdom of Ghana through Muslim merchants and teachers who settled in the area. They brought new trade and an increase in literacy. The conversion to Islam went all the way up to Ghana's rulers by the 11th century, and they benefited from the guidance of Muslim advisors and trade.

5. Mali became wealthy off the lucrative trade of salt for gold. Salt had considerable value because of its nutritional and preservative value for food. This trade route also spread the religion of Islam, and once Mali's rulers converted to Islam, it gave them powerful connections with other states. The clearest demonstration of Mali's wealth was King Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca. Along the way, he was said to have brought a hundred camel loads of gold and gave a great deal of riches away.

6. Great Zimbabwe was able to grow from a modest settlement into a large and influential area because of cattle farming. The temperate climate of the area lent itself to this process, which was able to turn inedible grass into the valuable and marketable commodity of meat. Gold deposits in the mountains and rivers near Great Zimbabwe provided another export, but meat was the area's primary commodity. While some early European imperialists believed the vast stone city was built by outsiders, it was built by the Shona people, who are local to the area.

7. There were a great number of trading cities along the eastern coast of Africa. Sofala, Mogadishu, and Kilwa were three of the most important. Kilwa appears in the writings of the noted traveler Ibn Battuta, who visited it in 1331. He described it as decadent. The East African trading cities were known to exchange gold and products from animals such as tortoiseshell, leopard skins, and rhinoceros horns for fine goods such as porcelain bowls, jewels, and cotton cloth from India. Trade occurred between East Africa and Asia through Muslim Arab intermediaries.

Week Four

1. The European motivation for the slave trade was to procure workers for new plantations and lands, primarily in the Americas. Having workers who did not have the

benefit of local knowledge and resources and were resistant to disease as many Africans were, benefitted the Europeans. Sometimes the trade is described as a “triangle trade.” While the actual trade was more complex, Europeans bought slaves in Africa to then make goods and money in the Americas that they would then profit from in Europe, allowing them to purchase more slaves.

2. More than 12 million Africans were taken from the continent as part of the slave trade. Because of the sheer number and scope of the trade, nearly every village and community knew of the trade and lost people to it. Memoirs of the time recall children having to act as lookouts in order to play outside. Society was widely disrupted because of the lack of safety. Some states grew rich from the trade. States went to war against each other more frequently to support the trade. The loss of people meant a loss of labor. Not only were workers and production lost in individuals kidnapped and taken away, but also their children. The population of Africa and therefore the productivity and economic growth stagnated for the centuries of the trade.

3. Slavery was widespread in Africa before the slave trade began. However, it was not as brutal or disruptive as the Atlantic trade was. Africans sold slaves to increase their wealth. Most of the trade inside Africa, including slave traders who worked in Africa’s interior and workers at ports, were Africans. Several kingdoms grew wealthy because of the slave trade. Kingdoms that controlled the trade could protect their own people and increase their power and influence.

4. While some states were destroyed and weakened by the slave trade, many Africa states rose to power because of the Atlantic trade. These included Asante in modern day Ghana, Dahomey in modern day Benin, and the Kingdom of Kongo in west central Africa are just three prominent examples. Kongo was one of the most powerful and large kingdoms to arise thanks to the slave trade. When the trade began to end, many of these states fell apart.

Week Five

1. Africa went from small European settlements and trading cities to carving up almost the entire continent. This was known as the “Scramble for Africa.” At the Berlin Conference in 1884, European nations drew arbitrary lines on the map to decide which territories they planned to claim. By around 1900, they had practically claimed most of these lands. Britain and France had the majority of colonies, but Belgium had the large territory of the Congo in central Africa, and Germany and Portugal also had territories. European guns and technology allowed them to take large territories. The Europeans

especially benefited from quinine, which allowed them to resist malaria for the first time and the invention of the first machine guns.

2. King Leopold II of Belgium told European leaders that he wanted to protect the land and people of central Africa, which is why the colony there, which was controlled directly by the monarchy and not the nation of Belgium, was called the Belgian Free Congo or the Congo Free State. In reality, the king wanted a colony for his own prestige and money for his own accounts. He brutalized the people of the Congo. He enslaved people in order to harvest rubber from the trees there. Rubber was an important product for new industrialization in Europe. It could only be harvested in tropical states such as the Congo.

3. The unique geography and the forethought of their leaders allowed Ethiopia to fend off European colonial invaders much more effectively than other states in Africa. Ethiopia was an organized, largely Christian kingdom. Sensing the threat that European nations posed, the Emperor Menelik II purchased European guns and trained troops in the European style. The mountainous terrain in Ethiopia also benefited the Ethiopians. Italy invaded several times but never fully conquered the nation.

4. The Europeans had technological advantages over Africans. These included new machine guns. The rhyme, "Whatever happens, we have got the Maxim gun, and they have not," summed up this advantage. The Europeans also had recently developed quinine, which helped them resist malaria. However, they also chose to attack at a time of significant weakness for Africa. The population was low, in part because of the continued effects of the slave trade. There was a prolonged drought during the late 1800's, which weakened communities. Rinderpest, a cattle disease, killed thousands of herds across the continent in the late 1800's. Cattle was one form of wealth and money across the continent. Sleeping sickness expanded its range in Africa, meaning people were more vulnerable because of disease.

Week Six

1. European nations began to withdraw from Africa in large part because of the rise of African nationalism and independence movements. Additionally, maintaining colonies in Africa was expensive. Britain and France determined that they needed to begin a process of withdrawal by the 1950's. Belgium and Portugal were initially determined to hold onto their colonies with extreme force. However, by the end of the 1960's, nearly all of Africa was independent.

2. New African nations faced many challenges. Many were extremely diverse, with many tribes, languages, and religions. People inside different countries did not always share a history before European arrival. Tribal and religious differences led to tensions and conflicts. Infrastructure in Africa was extremely poor at the time of independence. Education was also extremely poor. Many African nations were rich in resources, but without the infrastructure or money to extract them, they were vulnerable to international corporations. The Cold War also led to new African nations becoming pawns in a larger international struggle.

3. When the Belgians withdrew from The Congo, they left a nation that was less prepared than nearly any other in Africa. Unlike most other European nations, the Belgians chose to leave quickly, with little support. Patrice Lumumba was elected as the first prime minister. With the Belgian authorities suddenly gone, different factions began to rebel. The Belgians moved troops back into the Congo. Lumumba suspected that the Belgians wanted to take over the country again. The Belgian troops were replaced by UN troops, but Lumumba still did not trust them. He accepted aid from the Soviet Union, which made the United States suspicious of him. The Cold War meant that new African nations like the Congo had to choose sides. The US chose a military leader, Joseph Mobutu, to replace Lumumba in a coup that they supported.

4. Mobutu initially made some positive progress in the Congo, which he renamed Zaire. He increased infrastructure such as electricity, roads, and hospitals. He kept control of the army and stabilized the political situation. However, he also kept the nation a single-party state, where free speech and criticism were not allowed. His government was extremely corrupt. He gave government contracts to his friends and family. He seized and destroyed local business through government control, which stifled growth. This was good for Mobutu because foreign aid and loans became his primary source of income. The country grew deeper and deeper in debt. After the end of the Cold War, foreign nations were no longer willing to help support Mobutu with more loans. He was eventually deposed and replaced by Laurent Kabila who turned out to be an ineffective leader. However, as the nation fell apart, it left a power vacuum in the region that led to a large regional war that displaced hundreds of thousands of people and led to violent struggles over resources between many different groups and adjacent nations.

5. Rwanda is a very small nation in central Africa. Two groups of people have traditionally lived there: the Hutus and the Tutsis. While Belgian colonial administrators strongly encouraged these groups to be seen as separate and favored the Tutsi, they were traditionally intermixed and probably not hostile to each other before the arrival of the Europeans. After independence, the Hutu-led government often persecuted the Tutsi

minority through quota systems, identity cards, and even by turning a blind eye to violence. In 1994, a plane carrying the president was shot down. He had just tried to sign a peace treaty with Tutsi rebels. Mass killings of Tutsis began and continued for several months. Approximately half a million people were killed. Millions were displaced. The UN troops that were present in the country were told not to interfere. There was an international outcry, but little was actually done until the Tutsi-led rebels took control of the country and ended the genocide.

Week Seven

1. The Dutch were one of the greatest European powers in the 1600's. The first settlers to the Cape arrived to establish trading posts for their ships. However, the climate in southern Africa was similar to the Mediterranean and conducive to agriculture. The chance to claim land and wealth drew more settlers to the Cape. The Dutch settlers became the largest group of European settlers to southern Africa. However, as Dutch naval power declined and British power rose, the British also began settling the Cape and eventually came to control South Africa.

2. The Zulu Empire arose in the 1800's because of shifting power and trade in the region. Conflict over land with the Dutch settlers and between different African groups, the continued slave trade on the east coast, and new patterns in trading cattle all contributed to a destabilization in the region. They initially displaced many other peoples, such as the Ndebele and Xhosa. The Zulu leader Shaka developed new methods of warfare that helped them dominate the region and create an empire. Eventually, the Zulu Empire was so powerful that first the Voortrekkers, or Dutch settlers who had moved northward, and later the British, fought wars against them.

3. The British took control of Cape Colony during the Napoleonic Wars, which disrupted European politics and power. They wanted South Africa because of its strategic location at the tip of Africa. Unlike the Dutch, few British settlers initially went to South Africa. The British immediately began passing laws that put them in conflict with the Dutch settlers, many of whom had already lived there for generations.

4. The Dutch settlers, who became known as Afrikaners or Boers, were unhappy with British control of the Cape. Their population was growing, and they wanted more land. They also wanted to keep holding slaves, which Britain outlawed. The Boers who moved north became known as the Voortrekkers for their trek. They faced undeveloped lands, being cut off from other Europeans and trade, and war with the Zulu in order to secure

their new lands and slaves. These hardships helped define the Boers and make them believe they had a special right to the lands of southern Africa.

5. Diamonds were first found by Boer farmers in South Africa in the 1860's. A large scale search by British and Boer settlers as well as local Africans began. British prospectors and miners arrived to look for more stones. The diamonds stimulated the economy. Africans became employed in the mines. The town of Kimberley grew up around the mines. The De Beers company established a near monopoly over the diamonds there. Conditions in the mines were often unsafe and the government allowed prison labor to be used, meaning there was a loophole for slavery. Gold was discovered not much later, in the 1880's. Desire to control the wealth of the mines led to increased tension between the British and the Boers. Eventually, they fought two wars in the late 1800's.

6. The British allowed more and more self-government by the white occupants of South Africa. They granted full autonomy to the nation in 1931. After World War II, a largely Afrikaner government was elected. They began implementing a policy of apartheid. Blacks had long been discriminated against in South Africa by whites. Now, the policy went further. Black South Africans could only live in certain neighborhoods, hold certain jobs, and access certain education. Families were often separated by these policies because women, as maids and domestic workers, were forced to live with their white employers, while their children were forced to stay in townships or homelands created only for Blacks. All South Africans were classified entirely by race. Black South Africans had to carry identity cards.

7. Opposition to Apartheid began as soon as it was implemented. Some leaders, such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, encouraged passive resistance. Others, such as Nelson Mandela and Steven Biko, encouraged direct action against the government. Protests and gatherings by Black South Africans were met with violence. The government killed protesters, including children, indiscriminately. They imprisoned leaders like Nelson Mandela and killed others such as Steven Biko. Because South Africa aligned itself with the United States in the Cold War, the US did not oppose these policies. However, as the Cold War drew to an end, international pressure against apartheid grew. Many companies and institutions in the US and Europe divested their business in South Africa, hurting the economy. Protests within South Africa grew. In 1990, the government released Nelson Mandela and promised to hold open elections. Mandela was elected as the president. The new government held Truth and Reconciliation Commissions to try to find justice for victims under apartheid while still keeping the nation stable and not ejecting white South Africans.

8. Today, South Africa faces many challenges. Tensions between white and black citizens are still high. White South Africans still enjoy more wealth overall than black South Africans. The country has a high rate of poverty. Cities have large, unregulated shantytowns on their borders. Crime rates are relatively high. Government corruption has been a problem. Drought and finding enough clean water are a challenge for some South African cities. HIV and AIDS are problems for South Africa. Even with these challenges, South Africa has remained a stable democracy and sees a lot of economic growth.

Week Eight (Summing it Up Questions)

1. Disease has played an important role in African history. Because humanity evolved in Africa, diseases evolved alongside humans. Some examples of the effects of disease include the following. Diseases such as malaria kept the population of Africa lower than their European and Asian neighbors. Disease kept outside invaders out of Africa until Europeans began developing medicine to combat disease. Outbreaks of rinderpest and sleeping sickness weakened Africa just as European nations first began to take over parts of Africa. Today, HIV and AIDS are two of the biggest challenges faced by African nations.

2. Africa has always been interconnected and connected to Europe and Asia through trade networks that stretch back to ancient Egypt and the very first human civilizations. Africa is rich in lumber and raw materials such as ivory, shells, and other animal products which played a key role in ancient and medieval trade. Early trade between Egypt and the kingdoms to their south such as Kush, played an important role in getting iron and enough wood to smelt it into Egypt to maintain their dominance. The salt for gold trade made ancient kingdoms in western Africa some of the richest in the world. Trade cities along the eastern coast of Africa had an active trade across the Indian Ocean. Beginning in the 1500's, labor became one of Africa's chief exports as the slave trade began, leading to millions of enslaved persons exiting the continent for the Americas. In imperial Africa, European nations used Africa's plentiful raw materials such as rubber in the Congo and diamonds and gold in South Africa, to make themselves rich. Today, Africa continues to be rich in minerals. Some nations, such as Nigeria, are rich in oil. However, African countries have struggled to find fair deals with international corporations and markets to export their wealth.

3. The slave trade took millions of people away from Africa, depleting the labor force. It not only took people, but any future children they had, meaning that Africa's population

stagnated. Without a growing labor force, Africa's economy stagnated. Some African kingdoms became rich from the trade, but it disrupted communities across the entire continent. It broke apart families and led to increased anxiety among Africans for generations. The ways the slave trade helped devastate the economy and labor force long term made Africa weaker when the Europeans invaded and set up colonies.

4. New African nations faced many challenges. Many were extremely diverse, with many tribes, languages, and religions. People inside different countries did not always share a history before European arrival. Tribal and religious differences led to tensions and conflicts. Infrastructure in Africa was extremely poor at the time of independence. Education was also extremely poor. Many African nations were rich in resources, but without the infrastructure or money to extract them, they were vulnerable to international corporations. The Cold War also led to new African nations becoming pawns in a larger international struggle. Some African nations tried to embrace pan-Africanism and cooperation. However, many nations faced conflicts with their neighbors over resources or ideologies.

(The above is mostly copied from the answer to a similar question in Week Six.)

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary. Look for answers that address Africa's diversity in people, governments, challenges, and history.

7. Answers will vary.