

Part III

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document. Keep in mind that the language used in a document may reflect the historical context of the time in which it was written.

Historical Context:

Throughout history, empires such as the *Roman*, the *Ottoman*, and the *British* have faced various problems that led to their decline. The decline of these empires has influenced changes in societies and regions.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to

Select *two* empires mentioned in the historical context and for *each*

- Describe problems that led to this empire’s decline
- Discuss how this empire’s decline influenced change in a society and/or a region

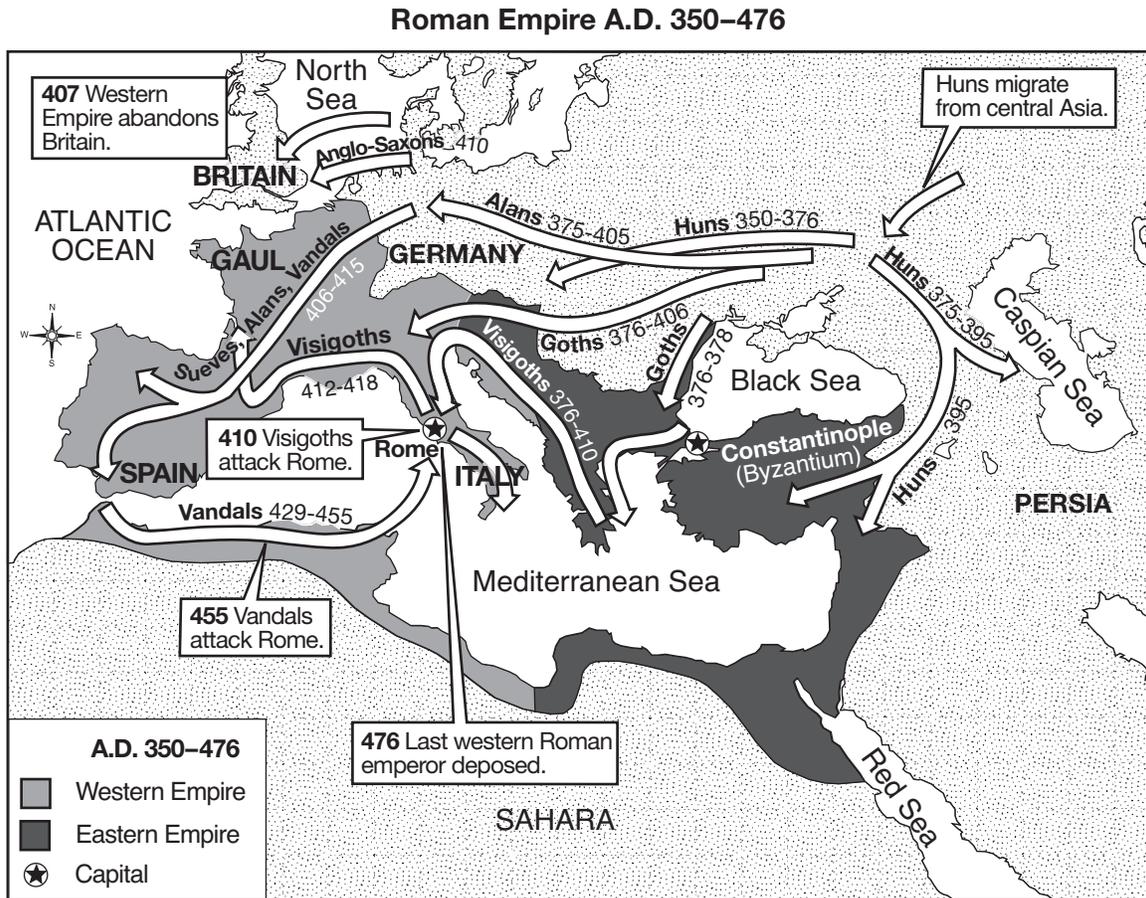
In developing your answers to Part III, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **describe** means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (b) **discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

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



Source: *The Nystrom Atlas of World History*, Herff Jones Education Division (adapted)

1 Based on the information shown on this map, state **one** problem that helped bring about the decline of the Roman Empire. [1]

Score

Document 2

... By the middle of the second century Italy [within the Roman Empire] was in a state of decline. By the time of Diocletian, at the opening of the fourth century, decay was apparent throughout the empire. Commerce had largely disappeared owing to the lack of customers, to piracy on the seas, and to insecurity of the roads on land. Generally speaking, purchasing power at that time was confined to the public officials, to the army officers, and to the great landowners. Trade in the everyday objects of daily use had all but disappeared, but trade in luxuries prospered. The cities in the west, omitting the places where government centered, were usually in decline; their commercial and industrial classes had disappeared, the old traders having been replaced by the traveling eastern merchant, of whom the Syrian was the most notorious. Foreign trade was sharply curtailed. At various times the government attempted to prohibit the export of various commodities, among them wine, oil, grain, salt, arms, iron, and gold. With this curbing of exports there was also an effort made to control certain imports such as is evidenced by the state monopoly in silk. These two movements hampered commercial contracts outside the empire and all but killed what was left of foreign trade....

Source: Louis C. West, "The Economic Collapse of the Roman Empire," *The Classical Journal*, November 1932

2 According to Louis C. West, what were **two** economic problems the Roman Empire faced during its period of decline? [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 3

... As western Europe fell to the Germanic invasions, imperial power shifted to the Byzantine Empire, that is, the eastern part of the Roman Empire, with its capital at Constantinople. The eastern provinces of the former Roman Empire had always outnumbered those in the west. Its civilization was far older and it had larger cities, which were also more numerous than in the west....

Source: Steven Kreis, *The History Guide: Lectures on Ancient and Medieval European History*, Lecture 17, History Guide online

- 3 According to Steven Kreis, what was **one** change that resulted from the fall of the western half of the Roman Empire? [1]

Score