

**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 The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents.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

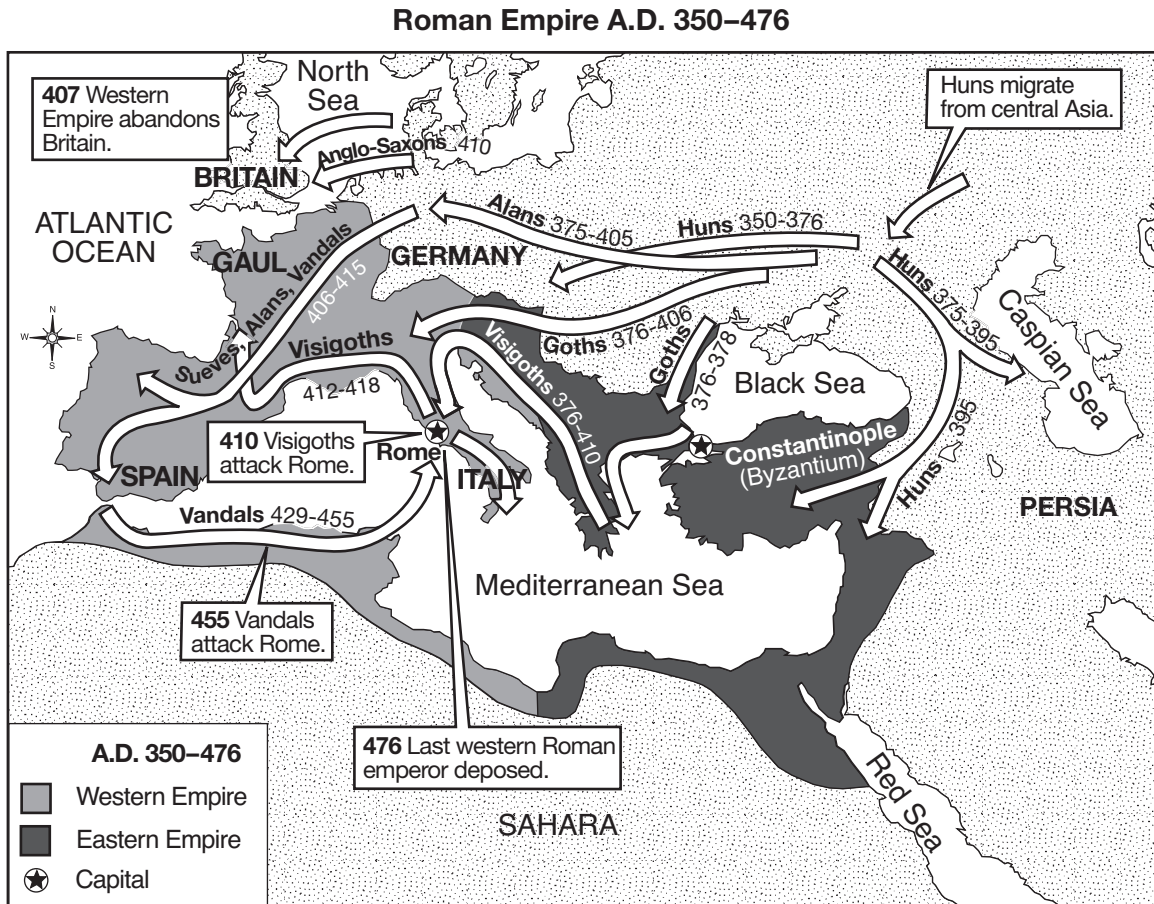
In developing your answers to Part III, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (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]

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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)

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Score

(2)

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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]

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Score

## Document 4

The power of the [Ottoman] Empire was waning [fading] by 1683 when the second and last attempt was made to conquer Vienna. It failed. Without the conquest of Europe and the acquisition of significant new wealth, the Empire lost momentum and went into a slow decline.

Several other factors contributed to the [Ottoman] Empire's decline:

- Competition from trade from the Americas
- Competition from cheap products from India and the Far East
- Development of other trade routes
- Rising unemployment within the Empire
- Ottoman Empire became less centralised, and central control weakened
- Sultans being less severe in maintaining rigorous standards of integrity in the administration of the Empire
- Sultans becoming less sensitive to public opinion

Source: "Ottoman Empire (1301–1922)," BBC online, 2009 (adapted)

4a According to the BBC, what was **one economic** problem that contributed to the decline of the Ottoman Empire? [1]

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Score

b According to the BBC, what was **one political** problem that contributed to the decline of the Ottoman Empire? [1]

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Score

## Document 5

... In 1875, the Slavic peoples living in the Ottoman provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (currently the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina), led an uprising against the Ottomans in order to gain their freedom. The general weakness of the Ottomans led two independent, neighbor Slavic states, Montenegro and Serbia, to aid the rebellion. Within a year, the rebellion spread to the Ottoman province of Bulgaria. The rebellion was part of a larger political movement called the Pan-Slavic movement, which had as its goal the unification of all Slavic peoples—most of whom were under the control of Austria, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire—into a single political unity under the protection of Russia. Anxious also to conquer the Ottomans themselves and seize Istanbul, the Russians allied with the rebels, Serbia, and Montenegro and declared war against the Ottomans....

Source: Richard Hooker, "European Imperialism and the Balkan Crisis," *The Ottomans*, World Cultures

- 5 According to Richard Hooker, what was **one** problem faced by the Ottomans during the decline of their Empire? [1]

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Score

## Document 6

... Mustafa Kemal [Atatürk] was a secular nationalist who believed that all the inheritance of the Ottoman Empire should be abandoned and Turkey should be transformed into a modern European state. This involved less of a sudden break with the past than might appear. The *Tanzimat* reforms [between 1839 and 1876] had laid the foundations of a secular state, and the Young Turks, even while attempting to preserve the empire, had given a powerful impetus [motivation] to the cause of Turkish nationalism. During the war years [1914–1918], the secularization of education had proceeded and the universities and public positions had been opened to women. Certain of the law courts under the control of the religious authorities had been placed under the Ministry of Justice. A law in 1916 had reformed marriage and divorce....

Source: Peter Mansfield, *A History of the Middle East*, Viking

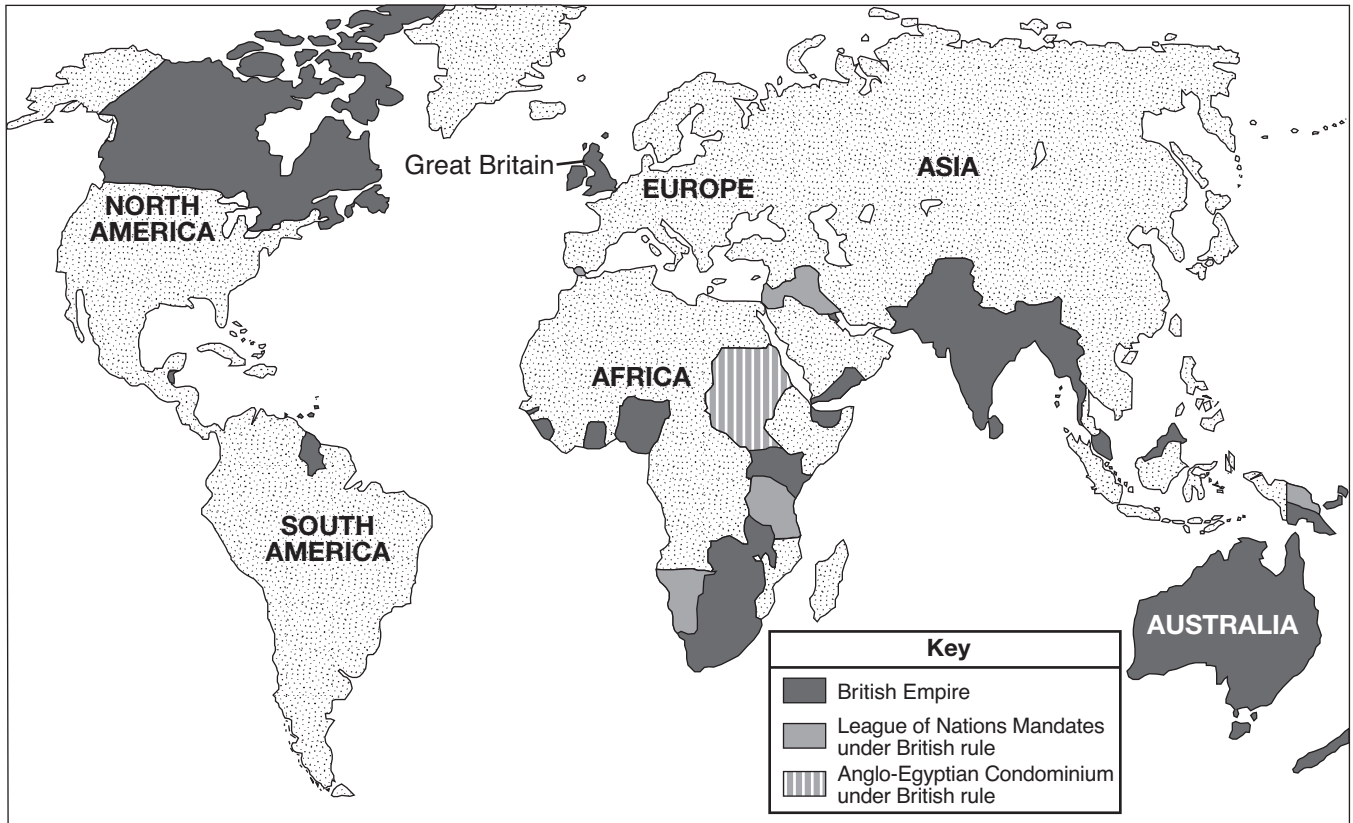
- 6 According to Peter Mansfield, what was **one** change that occurred as the Ottoman Empire declined and a new state of Turkey began to take shape? [1]

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Score

Document 7

The British Empire and Mandates in the Early 1920s



Source: Encyclopedia Britannica Kids (adapted)

7 Based on the information shown on this map, what was a problem the British faced that made it difficult to govern its empire? [1]

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Score

## Document 8

... World War II greatly changed the British attitude toward the idea of India's freedom. The fear that an independent India would not pay its debt to Great Britain was no longer valid. Great Britain actually owed India over a billion pounds. Nor was the concern that there were not enough Indian military officers to take over the Indian army from the British. As a result of the war, more than fifteen thousand Indian officers were available. In addition, many British soldiers who returned home from serving in India realized how unpopular their government was among the Indian people. In Great Britain, the Labour Party under Clement Attlee defeated Winston Churchill's Conservatives and took charge of the government...

The Labour Party, already sympathetic to the idea of India's independence, faced a great deal of unrest in India. The cold winter of 1945–46 made shortages of food and clothing even worse. Many nationalist leaders, recently released from prison, gave speeches encouraging violent actions to achieve freedom. In Calcutta, demonstrations led to riots in which over thirty people were killed and several hundred injured...

Source: *Indian Independence and the Question of Pakistan*, Choices Program, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University

8 Based on this excerpt from *Indian Independence and the Question of Pakistan*, what were **two** factors that made Great Britain more willing to grant India independence? [2]

(1)

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Score

(2)

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Score



## Document 9

... During the last 60 years [since 1928], the British Empire has broken apart. Most of the nations that were in the empire demanded and got their independence. With the empire gone, Britain lost a major source of wealth. At the same time, it lost industrial advantages it had enjoyed for many years....

Source: Clare McHugh, *Scholastic World Cultures: Western Europe*, Scholastic, 1988

9 According to Clare McHugh, what was **one** change Great Britain faced with the breakup of its empire? [1]

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Score

## Part B

### Essay

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least four* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

#### 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, write an essay in which you

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

#### Guidelines:

##### In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least four* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme