

MONGOL CONQUEST DBQ

Historical Context:

For a variety of reasons, groups have set out to conquer other regions or people using various methods of force. These groups include the Mongols. Their conquests have had an impact on both the conqueror and the conquered.

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

Document 1

...In the period from 1180–1220, Mongolia experienced a drop in the average annual temperature, which meant that the growing season for grass was cut short. Less grass meant a real danger to the Mongols’ animals, and, since the animals were truly the basis of the Mongols’ pastoral-nomadic life, this ecological threat may have caused them to move out of Mongolia.

A second reason often mentioned is the attempt by Mongolia’s neighbors in north and northwest China to reduce the amount of trade with the Mongols. Since the Mongols depended on trade for goods that they desperately needed—such as grain, craft, and manufactured articles—halting of trade, or at least the reduction of trade, could have been catastrophic for them. The attempts by the Jin dynasty, which controlled North China, and the Xia dynasty, which controlled Northwest China, to reduce the level of trade that the Mongols could expect, created a crisis for the Mongols. Unable to obtain goods that they so desperately needed, the Mongols’ response was to start raids, attacks, and finally invasions against these two dynasties....

Source: “The Mongols in World History,” Asian Topics in World History online, Columbia University (adapted)

1. According to this excerpt from “The Mongols in World History,” what are *two* reasons the Mongols began conquering new lands?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Document 2

...Organization was the key to the success of the great Mongol armies. The cavalry (soldiers on horseback), first devised by Genghis Khan, consisted of 10 squadrons. Ten squadrons formed a *quran* of 1,000 men. Daily drills taught the warriors to move as units and respond quickly. In combat, bowmen formed a front line to unleash a hail of arrows at the enemy. The archers would then fall to the rear to allow well-armed units to charge and overrun the enemy.

As Kublai Khan turned his sights on the heavily defended Chinese empire, he drew on another of Genghis’ strategies: siege warfare using catapults. The Mongols applied these techniques with greater force and in greater numbers than ever before in history. This approach would prove useful in overpowering the great Chinese cities in the years ahead....

Source: Duane Damon, “From Genghis to Kublai,” Calliope, A Cobblestone Publication

2. According to Duane Damon, what were *two* methods of conquest used by the Mongols?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Document 3

A common misunderstanding is that the Mongols came out of the steppes of Mongolia, quickly conquered far more advanced civilizations, and left the government in each area in the hands of the conquered (people that the Mongols had control over). While Chinese bureaucrats still did their jobs and the local Persian rulers stayed in power as long as they did not cause the Mongols any trouble, the situation was much more complex....

The Mongols used qualified people wherever they were needed. It was not unusual to have Arabs serving in Russia or Persians in China. Still, the Mongols preferred not to tinker too much with systems that worked well. When Yelu Qucai (1189–1243), the great minister and governor of northern China, demonstrated how much wealth the region could produce for Ögödei Khan, the Mongols kept his system in place....

In smaller territories, many local rulers maintained their position, serving as the local *daruqachi* or *shahna* [governor]. As long as they paid tribute (money or tax), provided troops when called upon, came before the khan to pledge their loyalty, and kept good order in their territories, they remained in their positions. For the Mongols, it made good sense, as the local rulers knew the customs of their people....

Source: Timothy May, "Taking Control," *Calliope*, A Cobblestone Publication

According to Timothy May, what was **one** action taken by the Mongols to control the territory they conquered?

Writing Task

The Mongols are a group that engaged in conquest. **In one paragraph**, respond to the following:

- Explain a reason for Mongol conquest (WHY the Mongols took over new places)
- Explain how Mongol conquest was achieved (METHODS used by the Mongols used to take over new lands)
- Discuss an impact of Mongol conquest (INFLUENCE of Mongol rule on the lands they took over)

Your response must be written on a separate sheet of paper. You must respond to all **three** bullet points and cite all **three** documents! Include "outside information" (information you know about the Mongols that is not included in the documents).

Regents DBQ Response Rubric

CATEGORY	5 - Excellent	4 - Very Good	3 - Solid	2 - Needs Work	1 - Poor
Developing the Task (the "bullet points" in the task box)	Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth	Develops all aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly	Develops all aspects of the task with little depth or develops most aspects of the task in some depth	Minimally develops all aspects of the task or develops some aspects of the task in some depth	Minimally develops some aspects of the task
Use of Documents	Incorporates relevant information from all 3 documents	Incorporates relevant information from 2 documents	Incorporates some relevant information from 1 of the documents	Incorporates limited relevant information from the documents or consists primarily of relevant information copied from the documents	Makes vague, unclear references to the documents or consists primarily of relevant and irrelevant information copied from the documents
Outside Information	Incorporates substantial relevant outside information	Incorporates relevant outside information	Incorporates limited relevant outside information	Presents little or no relevant outside information	Presents no relevant outside information
Details and Support	Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details	Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details	Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details	Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details	Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details
Description and Analysis	Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information)	Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information)	Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze, and/or evaluate information)	Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis	Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis

Total Score: _____ / 25 =