

**SHORT ANSWER**

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

1. What does “ethnocentric” mean?  
*To be ethnocentric is to see the world only through the eyes of your own culture.*
2. The expedition led by Ferdinand Magellan, which departed in 1519, was the first to sail around the world. Sadly, he died on the voyage in 1521, one year before the expedition reached home.
3. At least four countries are represented by the explorers whom we studied this week. Francis Drake and John Cabot, for example, sailed for England. Juan Ponce de Leon and Ferdinand Magellan sailed on behalf of Spain.
4. Known as the “Apostle to the Indies,” Francis Xavier was the Jesuit missionary sent by John III to spread Christianity to people in Portuguese holdings in India.
5. What Portuguese explorer discovered Brazil in 1500?  
*Pedro Alvares Cabral*
6. Who was the first explorer to refer to the lands he had visited as a “New World”?  
*Amerigo Vespucci*
7. John Cabot’s voyage of 1497 was extremely important in that it provided grounds for English claims to North America.
8. Who, according to legend, went to the New World in search of the Fountain of Youth?  
*Juan Ponce de Leon*
9. Who was Giovanni da Verrazano, and what did he accomplish?  
*Commissioned by France, Verrazano was an experienced Italian seaman who explored the American coast from the Carolinas to Maine, helping to expand knowledge of the Americas. The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York is named after him.*
10. Jacques Cartier was a French explorer and the first European to sight the St. Lawrence River in what is now Canada.

**ESSAY QUESTION**

20 minutes for one of these questions. (60 points)

NOTE: Your Level 10 writer, who is assigned to study essay tests this week in his writing assignment, may have seen forms of both of these questions before. If so, we suggest you have him do no quiz at all, or do only the factual section of this quiz, or choose the essay that he did not write previously.

1. “The famous men of the Age of Exploration can seem larger than life, but they were real men, with strengths and weaknesses.” Choose three famous explorers that you’ve studied this week, and write an expository essay that demonstrates the truth of this statement.

**Points an Excellent Answer Might Include**

NOTE: There are far too many explorers for us to include all of them in our sample. Below we provide bulleted points for some of the most prominent figures. If your student chooses to reference an explorer not listed here, you will want to check his facts against his resources for this week.

**Bartolomeu Dias**

- Bravery in venturing much further than anyone else, to round the tip of Africa
- Uncertainty and fear of the venture
- Desired to go all the way to India, but unable to convince his crew

**Vasco da Gama**

- Determination, keeping his crew going all the way to India
- Failed to successfully engage in diplomacy with the Indian rulers
- Willingness to use cruelty to persuade native peoples to cooperate with him

**Amerigo Vespucci**

- Driven more by curiosity than by treasure-hunting greed
- Falsified published versions of his letters (falsified either by him or by others) credited him with discovering the South American continent, causing his name to be affixed to it

**Pedro Alvares Cabral**

- Discovered Brazil accidentally when he was blown off-course on the way to India

**John Cabot**

- Mistook northern Canada for mainland China
- Exploration laid the grounds for England’s claim to North America

**Juan Ponce de Leon**

- Explored Florida out of his desire to find the mythical Fountain of Youth

**Ferdinand Magellan**

- Determined to realize his dream of reaching the Spice Islands by sailing west
- Secretive about his plans and overly controlling
- Concerned about converting native peoples to Christianity

**Sample Answer**

*The famous men of the Age of Exploration can seem larger than life. But they were real men, with strengths and weaknesses just like ours, as the lives of Vasco da Gama, Amerigo Vespucci, and Ferdinand Magellan show.*

*Vasco da Gama was the first European to reach India, a feat that required strong leadership. Da Gama showed the necessary determination to keep his men sailing much further than they wanted to. At times, he resorted to outright cruelty to make people do what he wished. He even tortured natives to persuade them to give him a guide to India. His means for accomplishing his goals were sinful and selfish.*

*Amerigo Vespucci was an inquisitive explorer. Unlike other explorers, he was motivated more by curiosity than by greed for treasure. He sent back colorful letters to people in Europe describing all the wonders of the land he explored, eventually concluding that it must be a whole new continent. In his reports, he was the first person to refer to these lands as a “New World.” The published versions of these letters were arrogant and boasted about Vespucci’s importance. They even contained a falsified date that made it look like he had explored South America first. This false information led to Vespucci’s first name being affixed to the new American continents.*

*Ferdinand Magellan accomplished the greatest feat of the Age of Exploration, sailing all the way around the world. This took great courage and determination. Magellan, concerned that his crew would not want to sail around the world, was willing to deceive them, keeping his plans a secret even from his captains. On the other hand, he greatly desired to convert native peoples to Christianity. Eventually, in a brash battle, he was killed by unfriendly natives. Even this great explorer was no more than a mortal man.*

*The explorers of the Age of Exploration were indeed great men, but they were still men. Their life stories show very human people who had strengths and weaknesses and fears and dreams just like other men.*

2. “The Age of Exploration was an example of mankind at its self-centered worst.” Support, qualify, or refute this statement with regards to explorers, monarchs, and missionaries during this tumultuous era.

**Points an Excellent Answer Might Include**

NOTE: This is an opinion question asking your student to articulate his own assessment of the Age of Exploration. We supported a modification of the thesis, but your student need not do so. Look to see that his points back up his assertion and reflect your previous class discussions.

**Explorers**

- Desire for selfish gain: fame, territory, wealth
- Willing to enslave and brutally mistreat the conquered peoples
- Ethnocentric assumption that non-Europeans were inferior and their civilizations primitive, merely because customs differed
- Some desire to convert the heathen (e.g. Columbus, Magellan)
- Often showed great bravery

**Monarchs**

- Desire for selfish gain: fame, territory, wealth (ie. Ferdinand and Isabella)
- Desire to extend Christendom (nominally), usually by force and military conquest (Prince Henry the Navigator)
- Confused the areas ruled by a nominally “Christian” king with the Kingdom of God

**Missionaries**

- Some genuine concern for native peoples’ souls
- Ethnocentrism visible in condescending attitude, despite a right desire to spread the gospel
- Confused European expressions of Christianity with the gospel message
- Advocated fair treatment for the native peoples

**Sample Answer**

*The Age of Exploration displayed mankind's abundant self-centeredness. However, it was not the worst that it could have been. A few people in the Age of Exploration stood against the overwhelming selfishness that characterized the era.*

*The explorers of the Age of Exploration had mixed motives, but self-centeredness usually dominated. Some explorers openly admitted that they were only out for personal gain. Many of them, however, expressed at least a desire to convert the native peoples to Christianity. Balboa tried to make friends with native tribes, and Magellan rejoiced at their conversions. Their arrogant ways of going about this, forcing "uncivilized," "inferior" people to convert at sword point, were wrong, but at least they showed some desire for these people to know the benefits of Christianity. The explorers thus showed some small interest in the glory of God, even though it was too often overshadowed by their lust for personal glory and gain.*

*Monarchs of the Age of Exploration had similar motivations to the explorers. They desired to extend their own realms and wealth, regardless of the consequences to the people they were conquering. At the same time, they assumed that they were furthering the kingdom of God by adding to the lands ruled by "Christian" monarchs. Viewing Christianity primarily as a kind of state religion, it made sense to them to extend Christendom by force. This played at least a small part in the minds of European monarchs.*

*The missionaries of the Age of Exploration showed the least self-centeredness, although it was present in their hearts as well. Many missionaries genuinely cared for the souls of the native peoples. Missionaries did display self-centeredness in their attitudes of superiority to native cultures. They assumed that European civilization necessarily went along with Christianity, and so they could be thoughtless towards non-Europeans. However, they often sought to serve them. Missionaries denounced mistreatment of "Indians" by the Europeans. In this, missionaries, though not perfect, were the least self-centered of the Europeans.*

*The Age of Exploration was indeed a dark age of self-centeredness, yet it was not completely dark. Although, for the most part, explorers, monarchs, and even some missionaries displayed an arrogant disregard for the peoples they were conquering, some of them at least desired the good of those peoples.*