Teacher Overview: *Suggested* Enduring Issues Essay Preparation

Please note that these materials were created as open educational resources by New Visions for Public Schools, a New York City based nonprofit. All of our resources are intended to guide teacher decision making. Unit and course-level decisions should be made by individual teachers, administrators or districts. These are *suggested materials* to support individual teachers, administrators, or districts in preparing students for the new Global History and Geography Regents exam.

For more information about the new exam, please click here. For more Regents resources, please click here.

If you have any questions, please contact us:
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Objective:

- **Deconstruct** the Enduring Issues Essay Prompt.
- **Draw** and use the Document Analysis and Pre-Writing Charts.

➡ Directions: Read the scenario below, then answer the questions that follow.

Alicia and Roderick are jewelry thieves and the most priceless jewel in the world, the Pink Star Diamond, is going to be on display at a local museum for the next week. They have the museum’s floor plan and all of the specifications of the museum’s security system and they bought all of the grappling hooks, suction cups, and glass cutters they will need.

Though they know when the security guards change shifts, they do not know which guard will be on duty, which is unfortunate because the guards are not equally skilled. Charles Ghent, for example watches his phone for most of his shift and if he’s sitting down, he often falls asleep, but Amy Schneiderman is always alert, is in peak physical condition and has already thwarted three robberies this year.

Once inside the museum, Alicia and Roderick will have ten minutes to nab the Pink Star Diamond and get out of the building.

What can Alicia and Roderick do to get ready for the heist?
Preparing for the Enduring Issues Essay: The Prompt

Like Alicia and Roderick, you have a difficult mission ahead of you, the Enduring Issues Essay. This essay will be the only one on the Global History and Geography II Regents Exam. Like the jewelry heist, you will be timed, and like Alicia and Roderick you already have most of the information you’ll need to prepare for the essay and succeed on it. There are just a few variables that you will not be able to plan for.

The first step to preparing for the Enduring Issues Essay to study the prompt and know exactly what it is asking. Luckily, the prompt will be the same on EVERY Regents exam.

Directions: Read and annotate the prompt for the Enduring Issues Essay by following the directions below, then complete the tasks that follow.

- Underline important words and phrases that indicate what you will need to do in your essay.
- Circle words and phrases that you do not know or have questions about.
- Ask questions and add comments that you have in the left and right margins.

PART 3—EXTENDED ESSAY
An enduring issue is a challenge or problem that has been debated or discussed across time. An enduring issue is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

In your essay
- Identify and define an enduring issue raised by this set of documents.
- Using your knowledge of Social Studies and evidence from the documents, argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across time.

Be sure to
- Identify the issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of three documents.
- Define the issue using evidence from at least three documents
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
  - How the issue has affected people or been affected by people
  - How the issue has continued to be an issue or changed over time
- Include outside information from your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents.

Based on the prompt above, what do you think will be easy about this new essay? Based on the prompt above, what do you think will be difficult about this new essay?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Reading</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Post-Reading and Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review the prompt (Round 1)</td>
<td>Annotate to look for commonalities and enduring issues (Rounds 2-6)</td>
<td>Review annotations to draft a claim and plan your essay (Rounds 7-8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Round 1 (Pre-Reading): Define Your Purpose for Reading**
**PART 3—EXTENDED ESSAY**
An enduring issue is an issue that exists across time. It is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

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Document 1

The most significant result of the Crusades was a greatly expanded knowledge of geography gained by the West, with the coming of each new horde of crusaders from all points of Europe, the new world (the "New World") had been explored.

The Arab builders brought knowledge of military strategy from the Crusaders who had brought this knowledge from Normandy and Italy. In constructing the famous castle of Carcassonne, Saladin had taken some of the features of Crusaders' castles he had observed up and down the coast (lands of the Eastern Mediterranean). Then, when the great cathedrals of Europe began to rise in a somewhat later period, their builders installed windows of stained glass made with a technique which had originated with the ancient Phoenicians of Syria and passed along by Syrian Arabs to Europeans filling their castles.

From a purely military point of view, the Crusades must be written off as a failure for the West, because, after changing hands so many times, the territory comprising the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem reverted to the Moslems (Muslims) for good. But during that two-century struggle between East and West, it is plain now that each side made major contributions to the culture of the other. That vast exchange lasted for a few years of short-term, short-sighted, and self-centered for the good of generations that had always existed between Europe and Asia.

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Document 2


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Document 3a

Source: Facts and File, Inc. (adapted from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Examination, January 2012).

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Document 3b


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Document 4

In 1500, Christopher Columbus sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean and landed in the West Indies. The result led to the colonization of the Americas by European countries like Portugal, Spain, and France. Trade between the Americas, Europe, and Africa became known as interregional trade.

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Main Idea

E I?

- Interconnectedness
- Conflict
- Neoequity

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Main Idea

E I?

- Ideas and beliefs
- Interconnectedness

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Globalization is the process by which the world is becoming increasingly interconnected as a result of increased trade and cultural exchange.

Throughout most of human history, we have become more interconnected through trade and cultural diffusion, but since the mid-1900s the pace of globalization has accelerated rapidly. This is because of advancements in communications technology like the internet, phones and the Internet, and improvements in shipping technology that have made it faster and less expensive to ship goods long distances.

One overall effect of globalization is that people in the world have become more wealthy with greater access to technology, education, and health care, but some benefit from globalization more than others. Those who own international companies and who have invested in them have benefited more from globalization than those who have not. Since the world has become more interconnected, it is easier to ship goods around the globe and for companies to produce their goods in other countries. Often, companies move their factories to countries where wages are lower so that their products can be sold more cheaply. When the students can receive jobs from these companies, they can bring those jobs to their own local communities.


![Chart showing the increase in goods exported globally from 1960 to 1993.](chart.png)

*Source: AP® Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2021*
Round 3: Skim Documents and Annotations to Identify and Define Common Enduring Issue

**Document 1**

...One positive, unanticipated result of the Crusades was a greatly expanded knowledge of geography gained by the West. With the coming of each new horde of invaders from all parts of Europe, the world of the "Mediterranean" had been thrust for good...

The Arab builders learned much about military manuver from the Crusaders who had brought this knowledge from Normandy and Italy. In constructing the famed Citadel of Cairo, Saladin had taken note of the tactics of Crusaders' castles he had seen or read about and down the Levant (lands of the Eastern Mediterranean). Thus, when the great cathedrals of Europe began to rise in a somewhat later period, their builders installed windows of stained glass made with a technique which had originated with the ancient stained-glass of Syria and passed along by Syrian Arabs to Europeans living in the East...

From a purely military point of view, the Crusades must be written off as a failure for the West, because, after changing hands so many times, the territory comprising the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem reverted (eventually) to the Muslims (Arabs) for good. But during that two-century struggle between East and West, it is plain now that each side made major contributions to the culture of the other. That vast interplay set in a few rays of light over a darkened Europe, and strengthened for good the wall of ignorance that had always existed between Europe and Asia...


**Document 2**

**Origins and Spread of the Black Death in Asia**


**Document 3**

**Percentage of Buddhist Population in Each Country Worldwide (2012)**

Source: Facts and Fig, Inc. (adapted) from the WSS Global History and Geography Regents Examination, January 2012.

**Document 4**

In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean and landed in the West Indies. His voyage led to the exploration of the Americas by European countries like Portugal, England, Spain, and France. Trade between the Americas, Europe, and Africa became known as triangular trade.

Source: Steven Goldberg and Justin Porter (eds.), In Brief Essays in Global History and Geography, Prentice Hall (adapted) from the WSS Global History and Geography Regents Exam.
Globalization is the process by which the world is becoming increasingly interconnected as a result of increased trade and cultural exchange. Throughout most of human history, we have become more interconnected through trade and cultural exchange, but since the mid-1990s the pace of globalization has increased rapidly. This is because of advancements in communication technology, like the cellular phone and the Internet, and improvements in shipping technology that have made it faster and less expensive to ship goods long distances.

One overall effect of globalization is that people in the world have become more wealthy with greater access to technology, education, and health care, but some benefit from globalization more than others. Those who own international companies and who have invested in them have experienced most because they have become wealthier. Since the world has become more interconnected, it is easier to ship goods around the globe and for companies to produce their goods in other countries. Often, companies move their factories to countries where workers will work for the least amount of money. This benefits workers in those countries because they get jobs they did not have before, but workers in countries where there are higher wages sometimes lose their jobs when factories move away.


![Graph showing expansion of global trade, 1960–1993](source: NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2005)

Main Idea

- Interconnectedness
- Trade and exchange
- Global and local

PART 3: EXTENDED ESSAY

An enduring issue is an issue that exists across time. It is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success. In your essay:

- Identify and define an enduring issue raised by this set of documents.
- Using your knowledge of Social Studies and evidence from the documents, argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across many years.

Be sure to:

- Identify the issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of three documents.
- Define the issue using evidence from at least three documents.
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
  - How the issue has affected people or been affected by people
  - How the issue has continued to be an issue or changed over time
- Include outside information from your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents.
Round 4: Skim Documents and Annotations to Draft a Claim

Document 1

The crusades were not just a military endeavor but a cultural one as well. The introduction of European goods and ideas to the Middle East had a significant impact on the region. The crusades also led to the exchange of ideas and technologies between the East and West. The cultural influence was most evident in the architecture and art of the time. The Moslems had taken the reins of the crusaders' castles and had improved upon them. The Westerners were impressed by the Islamic civilization and its achievements.

From a purely military point of view, the crusades must be written off as a failure for the West. However, when one considers the long-term impact of the crusades on Europe and the Middle East, the story is quite different. The crusades led to the establishment of permanent settlements in the Holy Land and the spread of European ideas and culture to the East. The Westerners were able to learn from the Moslems and improve their own civilization. The crusades also led to the exchange of ideas and technologies between the East and West. The cultural influence was most evident in the architecture and art of the time. The Moslems had taken the reins of the crusaders' castles and had improved upon them. The Westerners were impressed by the Islamic civilization and its achievements.

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Round 5: Select the Documents That Support Your Draft Claim

Document 1

Document 2

Document 3

Document 4

Document 5

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CLAIM: Interconnectedness has had negative impacts on the world.

REVISED CLAIM: Interconnectedness is a significant enduring issue because it has had long-lasting negative impacts on people all over the world.
### Round 7: Create Pre-Writing Chart with Revised Claim

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>CONTEXT</th>
<th>EFFECTS &amp; SIGNIFICANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| DOC #1      | 1066-1291           | WHAT: religious war between Christians and Muslims for control of the "Holy Land"  
WHEN: 1095-1099
WHO: Christians + Muslims  
HOW/WHY: Both Christians and Muslims hold the "Holy Land" to be sacred  
and want control → in early 1200s Muslim threats of invasion prompted Christian raids and conflict   | ☺️ Conflict between Christians and Muslims continued well into today   
☺️ loss of trust between two of the world’s largest religions               |
| THE CRUSADES |                     |                                                                         |                                                                                        |
| DOC #2      | 1348 - 1350         | WHAT: an epidemic (plague) caused by bacillus on rats that spread via fleas  
Crying, hunger and lack of clean and healthy living conditions  
WHEN: 1348-1350
WHO: people in Europe, Asia, N.A., S.A.  
HOW/WHY: infected rats often had fleas that spread the disease  
and cause panic and fear    | ☺️ depopulation of Europe/Asia  
☺️ labor shortages  
☺️ persecution and scapegoating of Jewish people  
☺️ initiation and economic crisis  
☺️ loss of faith in clergy  
☺️ numerous struggles to maintain political stability                  |
| THE BLACK DEATH |                   |                                                                         |                                                                                        |
| DOC #3      | 1500-1600           | WHAT: trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas  
WHEN: 1500
WHO: people in Europe, Africa, and the Americas  
HOW/WHY: After the end of constant warfare  
by Europeans in 1492 European merchants forced religious conversions  
headed exploration to find new lands, to find new wealth, and resources  
and new land hierarchies    | ☺️ spread of smallpox that killed a lot of indigenous people  
☺️ transatlantic slave trade  
☺️ theft of indigenous peoples’ land  
☺️ murder of indigenous peoples by Europeans    |
**Thesis**: Interconnectedness is a significant enduring issue because it has had long-lasting negative impacts on people all over the world as illustrated in the examples of 11th century Crusades between Christians and Muslims, the spread of the Black Death in the 14th century, and the triangular trade beginning in the 15th century.

**Quick Outline**:

- Intro
- BP #1 → Crusades
- BP #2 → Black Death
- BP #3 → Triangular Trade
- Conclusion