Honors World History Proficiency Test

Initial Date: Wednesday, April 22 from 3:30-5 p.m.

Makeup Date: Tuesday, April 28 from 3:30-5 p.m.*

Eligibility:

This test is designed for incoming freshmen who wish to enroll in Honors World History. While all students are welcome to take the test, we especially recommend it for those who:

- Are eager to challenge themselves with advanced reading and writing assignments;
- Have a strong interest in world history.

**Please make every effort to test on one of these dates. If you are unable to, please contact the Scheduling Coordinator, at scheduling@presentationhs.org.*

Test Information:

- The Honors World History test will last 75 minutes, with additional time allotted for instructions and settling in. Students who are also taking the Honors English 9 test will have the opportunity to complete both exams within this period.
- The test will include two reading passages. Students will answer multiple-choice questions on each passage that focus on historical thinking skills. They will also write a response to a prompt that requires information from both passages.

Proficiency Test Questions:

Below is a sample reading passage and map of the Great Wall of China. The Wall was built to protect Chinese states and empires from invasions and raids by northern nomadic groups, including the Xiongnu and Mongols. Construction began as early as the 7th century BCE, with regional walls built by individual states. The most well-known sections were constructed during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644 CE).



Source: Letter written in 169 BCE by Chao Cuo, Imperial Secretary of the Han Dynasty, to Emperor Wen. His recommendations led to the relocation of two million Chinese peasants to Xiongnu territory.

> The Xiongnu live on meat and cheese, wear furs, and possess no house or field. They move like birds and animals in the wild. They stop only at places which abound in grass and water, want of which will start them moving again. Today the Xiongnu are herding at several places and hunting along the frontiers. It will be profitable to you to dispatch generals and officials together with troops to govern the frontier areas. People should be selected to settle along the border areas permanently, who can set up families and grow and grow food grains while getting prepared against possible invasion by the Xiongnu.
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> For the immigrants in such border areas, the government will construct walled cities, well protected by high walls, deep moats, catapults, and thorns. Each city, along strategic points and thoroughfares, will be designed to hold no fewer than one thousand households. Each walled city will have an inner wall and an outer wall 150 paces about 209 meters apart. Each residential area in the outer-wall area is to be surrounded by “sandy fields” to detect the intrusion of enemies in the night intruders will leave {footprints in the soil}.

1. Why can Chao Cuo's letter help us understand why this part of the Great Wall was built?

   A. Because he was a Xiongnu leader who lived outside the Chinese empire.
   B. Because he was an Imperial Secretary of the Han Dynasty and directly advised the emperor on border defense.
   C. Because he wrote about farming techniques unrelated to the frontier.
   D. Because he was a historian writing hundreds of years after the Wall was built.

2. According to Chao Cuo, what measures should be taken to prevent the Xiongnu from invading?

   A. Send diplomats to negotiate peace and trade goods.
   B. Build only a single wall along the frontier without settlers.
   C. Encourage the Xiongnu to settle peacefully within Han Chinese territory.
   D. Settle people along the frontier and build walled cities with strong defenses.

3. According to the passage, what is one benefit of building walled cities along the frontier?
   A. They would make it easier for the Xiongnu to trade with Chinese farmers.
   B. They would encourage the Xiongnu to settle permanently in Chinese territory.
   C. They would allow settlers to farm and prepare defenses against possible Xiongnu invasions.
   D. They would allow the Han government to stop farming in the border regions.

4. Based on the passage, which of the following costs to the Han Chinese does the document imply?
   A. The project forced Chinese farmers to stop growing crops and begin herding animals.
   B. The project caused the Xiongnu to move farther away from the border.
   C. The project helped increase trade between China and the Xiongnu.
   D. An investment of time, money, and labor was required to build and maintain the frontier defenses.

Answers:
1. B
2. D
3. C
4, D