

Outline for Question 1-A

Par. #1: Introduction

A. Discuss the importance of economics in a country and the role it plays in the rise and fall of civilizations. (*This is where you can pick through the question for material.*)

B. Thesis: *Economics has played a major role in the development, prosperity, decline, destruction, and warfare of civilizations since the Neolithic Revolution. No country has benefited more from this economic blueprint than the United States of America.*

(Be sure to **underline** your thesis statement.)

Note: Your thesis will serve as your transition from Paragraph #1 to #2.

Par. #2: Neolithic Revolution

A. Between 8000-7000 BC, humans shifted from nomadic hunters/gatherers to farmers; this resulted in development of civilizations.

B. The first four major civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China) all developed along rivers (Tigris/Euphrates, Nile, Indus, and Yellow/Yangtze).

C. Other early civilizations (Mesoamerica, Greece, and Rome) also developed close to bodies of water (Aegean, Mediterranean, and Gulf of Mexico/Atlantic).

D. Rivers and bodies of water provided these early civilizations with food/drink, irrigation, transportation, trade, and protection. Strong militaries were formed to protect their natural resources as well as the prosperity they created.

E. Eventually these civilizations were linked by trade (*Ex: Silk Road from Rome to China*).

Note: The Silk Road serves as your transition from Paragraph #2 to #3.

Par. #3: Transformation of Roman World

A. Rome used its powerful military to expand to all corners of the Mediterranean; eventually grew too big; vulnerable to attacks on frontiers.

B. To try to save the empire, a co-emperor system was implemented, splitting the Roman Empire into two: Western Roman Empire (with Rome as its capital in Italy); Eastern Roman Empire (with Constantinople as its capital in Greece).

C. After repeated attacks by Goths, Vandals, and Visigoths, the Western Roman Empire fell in 476 AD.

- D.** Rome's collapse left three heirs behind:
- a.** Western Roman Empire disintegrated into a hodgepodge of warring kingdoms in Europe; feudalism created new European empires.
 - b.** Eastern Roman Empire became known as the Byzantine Empire; assumed the role of "protector of Christianity".
 - c.** Islamic World gobbled up former Roman territory in North Africa; "new" religion of Islam seen as a threat to Christianity in Europe and Byzantine Empire.

Note: The threat of Islam serves as your transition from Paragraph #3 to #4.

Par. #4: Crusades

- A.** After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire was left defending Christianity against the Muslims that were moving into the former Roman territories.
- B.** During the Middle Ages, Muslims seized control of the Christian Holy Land (Jerusalem).
- C.** Byzantine Empire proved too weak to protect Christianity; called on troops and support from Western Europe; the Pope calls for a "Crusade".
- D.** There were nine Crusades that lasted a total of 177 years.
- E.** After taking back Jerusalem during the 1st Crusade, Christians creating four Crusader states in hopes of having permanent Christian presence in Middle East and to serve as a new center of trade.
- F.** Muslims attacked these four Crusader states, which resulted in eight more Crusades.
- G.** In the end, Jerusalem was recaptured by Muslims; all four Crusader states were destroyed.
- H.** Italy prospered during Crusades because Crusaders visited Rome to be blessed by the Pope; as such, Italian cities grew wealthy, paving the way for the Renaissance ("rebirth"), which began in Italy.
- I.** Angered by Crusades, Muslims cut off all overland trade between Europe/Rome and India/China; new trade routes are now needed to access these places.

Note: The need of new trade routes serves as your transition from Paragraph #4 to #5.

Par. #5: Colonialism

- A. Desperate for trade with the Far East, explorers tried to find water routes to India and China.
- B. Christopher Columbus “got lost” looking for India; ended up over in the Bahamas of the “New World” in the Western Hemisphere.
- C. This launched an Age of Colonialism as several European countries (now wealthy thanks to Renaissance and numerous European wars) competed for new colonies.
- D. England battled France for colonial supremacy around the world; biggest showdown came in North America with the French & Indian War.
- E. England defeated France in the F&I War, leaving England the “masters” of North America but deeply in debt.

Note: England's F&I War debt serves as your transition from Paragraph #5 to #6.

Par. #6: American Revolution

- A. To help pay for its F&I War debt, England began taxing its 13 American colonies.
- B. American colonists didn't take offense to the amount England wanted them to pay in taxes; rather, they took offense to England's assumption that it had the right/power to tax Americans without representation or their input. (*Ex: Stamp Act.*)
- C. Americans protested England's taxes by tarring and feathering tax collections and through mass demonstrations, many of which turned destructive (*Ex: Boston Tea Party*) and deadly (*Ex: Boston Massacre*).
- D. Armed hostilities between English troops and colonists erupted in 1775 when a skirmish in Lexington, Massachusetts touched off a war of independence.
- E. Independence declared by the colonists on July 4, 1776; severed all economic ties between the 13 colonies and their “mother country” England.
- F. Americans outsmarted English troops through guerilla warfare and hit-and-run tactics; achieved independence in 1783.
- G. Newly acquired independence was followed by the monumental task of funding the new country's government.

Note: The need to fund new government serves as your transition from Paragraph #6 to #7.

Par. #7: American Republic

- A. Shays' Rebellion (ironically over high taxes) tested the new American republic; resulted in the scrapping of the Articles of Confederation and the penning of the U.S. Constitution in 1788.
- B. New Constitution gave U.S. Government the power to tax (which Articles of Confederation did not); George Washington was elected the nation's first President; he successfully put down the Whiskey Rebellion (which started over a tax on whiskey); this demonstrated the strength of the new government.
- C. A major issue not fully resolved by the Founding Fathers was slavery; Three-Fifths Compromise was a joke; slavery continued to divide the new country into the "free" North and the "slaveholding" South (where slavery was the backbone of their economy).
- D. America's First Industrial Revolution (introduction of machines into labor) resulted in the rapid expansion of American cities and the development of the cotton gin (which allowed for more cotton to be processed at a quicker pace).
- E. Manifest Destiny ("God given right to move East Coast to West Coast") furthered the slave issue by widening America's borders through land acquisition from Native Americans and Mexico.

Note: The slave issue serves as your transition from Paragraph #7 to #8.

Par. #8: Civil War & Reconstruction

- A. Eventually, the slave issue drove the U.S. into a bloody Civil War.
- B. North had enough manpower and economic clout to defeat the South, who, despite overwhelming odds, managed to drag the war out thanks to smarter generals and a "home field" advantage.
- C. Process of uniting the broken nation came in the form of Reconstruction.
- D. Northern businessmen took advantage of new opportunities in South; South responded with KKK and Jim Crow Laws.
- E. Reconstruction was halted in 1877 shortly after U.S. entered Second Industrial Revolution.
- F. Second Industrial Revolution and business tycoons like Andrew Carnegie (steel monopoly), John D. Rockefeller (oil monopoly), and Henry Ford (assembly line) transformed the once fledgling U.S. nation into an economic powerhouse on the eve the 20th Century.

Note: The reference to the U.S. in the 20th Century serves as your transition from Paragraph #8 to #9.

Par. #9: Conclusion

- A. Summarize your essay by revisiting the key topics (Neolithic Revolution, Transformation of Roman World, Crusades, Colonialism, American Revolution, American Republic, and Civil War/Reconstruction) and providing a snapshot review of how each impacted the United States.
- B. Restate (but in different words) your thesis statement to serve as your concluding sentence.

(Do NOT underline any sentence in your conclusion.)

End of Outline

DO NOT...

- 1. **DO NOT** forget to underline your thesis statement.
- 2. **DO NOT** say: “*I think...*”; “*I feel...*”, or “*I believe*” ... anywhere in your response. Don’t say: “*I think Rome fell because it got too big.*” Instead, say: “*Rome fell because it got too big.*”
- 3. **DO NOT** say “*we*”, “*our*”, or “*us*” in reference to humanity or the United States.
Say: “*The colonists beat the English...*” NOT “*We beat the English...*”
Say: “*The U.S. Constitution...*” NOT “*Our Constitution...*”
- 4. **DO NOT** write in the margins of your Blue Book or draw arrows if you leave something out. In the event you forget to write something and you’re too far into your answer to go back and erase, write that material at the end of your conclusion. Yes, you will lose points for your answer being “out of sync”, but, you won’t lose as many points as you would if you left that information out entirely. (FOR THE LOVE OF EVERYTHING HOLY, DO NOT ERASE ENTIRE PAGES TO GO BACK AND ADD SOMETHING!)