

Name: _____

METHODS IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND EXPOSITION

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

I. Vocabulary

Please use the word bank to fill in the most appropriate term for each sentence.

- The _____ between the theory and practice of government often results in problems for society.
- Although some feel that many questions investigated by cognitive scientists are so specific and narrow that they are _____, I am convinced that their answers will all prove important someday.
- The _____ of that misbehaving child renders her mother quite frustrated at times.
- "While the freshman class is _____ composed of students interested in political science, I am certain that you will be able to find someone else who enjoys studying visual art," the dean said to me.
- Decentralized politics, an overstretched military, brain-diseased emperors, perhaps lead-poisoned citizens—such abject conditions would cause nearly any empire to _____.
- I consider the good weather on our wedding day a(n) _____ for our future happiness together.
- While the canal running through the Tsinghua University gardens used to be romantic and beautiful, the water within is now _____, still, and noisome (smelly).
- "Enough of your empty _____," she snapped; "I really don't think I'm that good at playing piano."
- My father is usually a pretty nice guy, but when he gets angry, he can become downright _____.
- It was not until missionaries began to _____ the teachings of Christianity throughout Asia that South Koreans started to convert to Roman Catholicism in fairly significant numbers.
- While the teachings of the Indian sutras seem at first inaccessible and _____, with just a little bit of effort and time, they become much easier to understand.
- While his constant negative attitude _____ his progress a bit, he still managed to

Word Bank

abstruse
augury
conflation
discrepancy
encomia
founder
hampered
hegemon
incorrigibility
minatory
picayune
predominantly
propagate
stagnant
sybaritic

learn a lot of Swahili in just a short time.

13. She eats truffles, imported chocolate, and shark-fin soup for breakfast, drives a gold-plated sports car, wears diamond-studded suits and ermine furs even in the summer, and gets a professional Turkish massage every weekend. With such _____ habits, how can she ever hope to save money?
14. As the world slowly moves from a unipolar to multipolar balance of power, it is important that we do not simply replace one arbitrary _____ with another.
15. The _____ of the concepts "sex" and "gender" is offensive to some who feel that the two terms describe entirely different concepts, the former biological and the latter socially constructed.

II. Grammar and Formatting

Please find **and correct** at least 15 **grammatical** and **formatting** errors in the sample essay (attached; mark brief corrections on the text itself).

III. Critique

Please write a brief paragraph (100-200 words) critiquing the **argumentative** and **stylistic** quality of the sample essay. **Make sure to support your assertions with citations from the work itself.**

IV. Argument

Please use the following passage to answer the question below.

Intruders from Another Ocean¹

The Pacific islanders were not totally isolated from the rest of the world before their encounter with Europeans. The introduction of the sweet potato to eastern Polynesia indicates a maritime connection with South America, although at present we do not know whether the tuber was carried to Polynesia by South American raft voyagers, or whether some intrepid Polynesian seafarers sailed all the way to South America and then returned to their islands carrying it with them. Disabled Japanese fishing vessels may have occasionally drifted into Polynesian waters in earlier times, as we know they did in more recent centuries, and wayward Chinese junks may also have made landfalls on some oceanic islands. There is some archaeological evidence of continuing contact between Belau (Palau) on the western edge of Micronesia and the Philippines, and there was no natural border between New Guinea and the islands of eastern Indonesia that prevented travel and trade. Nonetheless, the island societies of Remote Oceania remained neolithic outposts that were largely isolated from the outside world until seafarers from another ocean began to intrude into the Pacific.

Magellan's voyage across the Pacific marked the beginning of the end of this isolation, although the full opening of Oceania to the outside world took several centuries. The Europeans' limited capability for long-range voyaging and even more limited ambitions for exploring for its own sake prolonged the process. Magellan and his crew were unprepared for the immensity of the Pacific. They had expected to cross it in a matter of weeks. Instead it took them an agonizing three months and twenty days to sail across a sea that seemed to a stunned chronicler to be "so vast that human mind can scarcely grasp it."² Magellan, as well as most of the other European navigators who followed over the next two centuries, did not want to explore the Pacific, much less to settle it as the Austronesians had done. Like the proverbial chicken, the Europeans simply wanted to get to the other side, typically to reach rich Asian ports. The few expeditions that did set out to find fabled islands or the hypothesized Southern Continent of cosmographers did not develop into sustained exploration programs. Exploration of so vast a region strained European sea-faring technology and abilities. Further, the Spanish and Dutch, the main sea powers active in the Pacific at that time, had more than enough on their hands with their American and Asian possessions. Officials were understandably hesitant to fund speculative exploratory ventures into the South Seas.³

To be sure, European navigators did bump into Pacific islands here and there on their passages across the ocean. Only Guam, however, received much sustained attention. Magellan's landfall proved to be an ideal place to stop on the Manila galleon route, and the Chamorro people there became the first Pacific islanders to suffer systematically from colonial occupation. More typical of those first centuries was the situation in Polynesia. European ships, including the galleons plying between Mexico and Manila, managed to sail clean through Polynesian waters for two and a half centuries without anyone noticing that they were passing through an island realm populated by peoples of a common cultural heritage. What landfalls were made here and there in Polynesia did not result in the linguistic and cultural inquiries that would have led to recognition of the cultural unity of the widely dispersed Polynesians. Nor did they lead to any sustained relations between the Polynesians and the outside world.

¹ Finney, Ben. "The Other One-Third of the Globe." *Journal of World History* 5, no. 2 (1994: 273-297).

² Maximilian Transylvanus, in a letter to the cardinal-archbishop of Salzburg written in 1522, cited by John Beaglehole, *The Life of Captain James Cook* (London: Hakluyt Society, 1974), p. i09n.

³ 16 John Beaglehole, *The Exploration of the Pacific* (London: A. and C. Black, 1934).

QUESTION: In a coherent and well organized essay with a thesis and at least three supporting body paragraphs, please discuss the manifestations of *bias* present in the above passage. While **your essay must be supported with quotations from the text**, you need not cite their source with footnotes.

