ONTARIO WORLD HISTORY TO THE END OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, GRADE 11, UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PREPARATION (CHW3M) · UNIT C · 25 QUESTIONS

Civilizations in Decline — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Source I - A Roman Official Writes in the Fifth Century

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

The roads I once travelled safely are now watched by bands I cannot name, and taxes that once filled the treasury arrive late or not at all. In the west, generals make emperors, and emperors last a season. In the east, Constantinople still stands, wealthy and walled, and merchants tell me its markets are full.

I do not think Rome fell in a single day. It thinned, like a river in summer: armies smaller, coin weaker, cities emptier, until the west was governed by kings who once served Rome. The east endured, and that, too, is part of the story.

- An invented account in the voice of a late Roman official

1 **The official account describes western decline as**

- **A** a gradual thinning of armies, coin, and cities, not one day
- **B** a single battle that ended Rome
- **C** an earthquake destroying Rome
- **D** a plague killing every Roman

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2 **The contrast in the account is between a weakening west and**

- A Constantinople in the east, still wealthy and walled
- B a strong west and weak east
- C Rome and Greece equally
- D the east falling first

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3 **Generals making emperors who last a season suggests**

- A rule by the Senate alone
- B peaceful transfers of power
- C political instability in the late western empire
- D stable hereditary succession

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4 **A historian would note this account is valuable because it**

- A dates the fall to one year
- B stresses gradual change and regional difference
- C claims Rome never declined
- D ignores the eastern empire

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5 **The kings who once served Rome governing the west suggests**

- A continuity, with Roman institutions adapted by new rulers
- B complete disappearance of Roman influence
- C kings with no Roman contact
- D a return to city states only

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Source II - A Maya Farmer After the Great Cities Faded

Use this reading for questions 6 to 10.

My grandfather spoke of a city with tall temples and a king who ordered stelae carved, but the city is now quiet, and forest covers the plazas. We still farm maize and beans in the valleys, and we still gather for festivals, but the great building has stopped. Some say drought dried the reservoirs. Some say wars between cities broke the trade that fed the kings.

I do not know which cause matters most. I know our village endures, smaller than the city, and that life continues without kings ordering stone. The past is not gone. It is overgrown, and we live beside it.

- An invented account in the voice of a Maya farmer

6 **The farmer account suggests Maya cities declined while**

- **A** all Maya people disappeared
- **B** farming stopped entirely
- **C** festivals were banned
- **D** village farming and festivals continued

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7 **Possible causes mentioned for the decline include**

- A a single earthquake only
- B abandonment of maize farming
- C drought drying reservoirs and wars breaking trade
- D invasion by Rome

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8 **The farmer uncertainty about which cause matters most reflects**

- A a single proven cause
- B historical debate over multiple interacting causes
- C a lack of any evidence
- D agreement among all historians

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9 **The image of the past as overgrown suggests**

- **A** continuity alongside change, with old cities beside living villages
- **B** total erasure of Maya culture
- **C** cities still fully inhabited
- **D** forest destroying all memory

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10 **A historian would use this account to challenge the idea that**

- **A** all cities fall for one reason
- **B** farmers caused city decline
- **C** Maya culture ended completely
- **D** civilization collapse means the end of a people

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11 **The western Roman Empire is conventionally dated as falling in**

- **A** 1453, when Constantinople fell
- **B** 800, when Charlemagne was crowned
- **C** 476, when the last western emperor was deposed
- **D** 410, when Rome was sacked only

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12 **A major internal problem of the late Roman Empire was**

- **A** the absence of any emperor
- **B** political instability, civil war, and reliance on mercenary armies
- **C** a lack of trade with the east
- **D** too few provinces to govern

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13 **The sack of Rome by the Visigoths in 410 was significant because**

A it shocked the Roman world, though the empire continued

B it ended the eastern empire

C it destroyed Rome permanently

D it began the Roman Republic

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14 **The Eastern Roman Empire, centred on Constantinople, survived until**

A 476, with the west

B 800, under Charlemagne

C 1204, during the Crusades only

D 1453, when the Ottomans conquered the city

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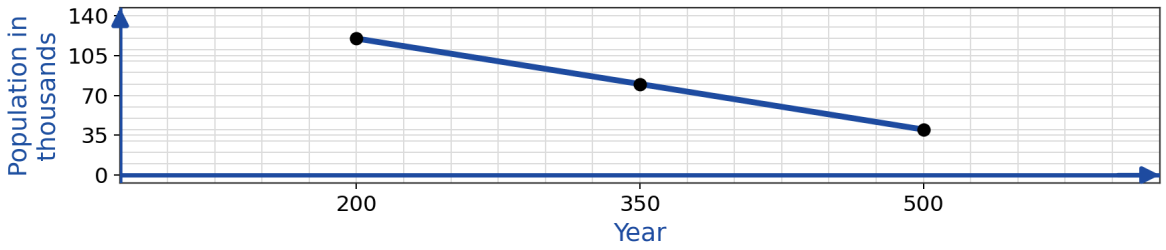
15 **The graph shows the population in thousands of a Roman city. The decrease between 200 and 500 was about**



- **A** 120 thousand
- **B** 60 thousand
- **C** 80 thousand
- **D** 40 thousand

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16 **After the Han fall, China experienced**

- **A** an end to Chinese culture
- **B** the Three Kingdoms period of division
- **C** unification under one dynasty at once
- **D** rule by the Roman Empire

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17 **The Gupta Empire in India declined after**

- A Hun invasions and internal weakening in the fifth and sixth centuries
- B conquest by Alexander
- C a single volcanic eruption
- D trade with Rome ending

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18 **Maya Classic period cities declined around the ninth century amid**

- A Spanish conquest in the ninth century
- B a Roman invasion
- C a single Maya king decision
- D drought, warfare, and political breakdown, with debate over causes

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19 **The term Dark Ages for early medieval Europe is now questioned because**

A Europe had no kingdoms at all

B the period lasted only ten years

C learning, trade, and culture continued in many places

D no sources survive from the period

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20 **Barbarian invasions is a term historians now use carefully because**

A Rome invited no outsiders

B many groups were also settlers, soldiers, and neighbours of Rome

C no groups ever entered Roman territory

D all groups were uncivilized

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21 **The division of the Roman Empire in 395 split it between**

A sons of Theodosius, into western and eastern halves

B Julius Caesar and Augustus

C the Senate and the army

D Rome and Carthage

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22 **Economic problems in the late Roman west included**

A a surplus of gold for all citizens

B trade growing without interruption

C taxes abolished by emperors

D heavy taxation, debased coinage, and disrupted trade

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23 **The Venn diagram compares Western Rome and Eastern Rome. The feature found in both is**



A survived to 1453

B Latin language only

C Roman law heritage

D fell in 476

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24 **Invasions by Germanic peoples contributed to western Roman decline by**

A uniting Rome under one king

B pressuring borders and settling within imperial territory

C creating the eastern empire

D ending all Roman law at once

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25 **The Byzantine Empire preserved Roman law and Greek learning while**

A developing its own Orthodox Christian culture

B speaking only Latin always

C abandoning Roman law

D ending trade with Asia

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ANSWER KEY

1.	A	**10.**	D	**19.**	C
2.	A	**11.**	C	**20.**	B
3.	C	**12.**	B	**21.**	A
4.	B	**13.**	A	**22.**	D
5.	A	**14.**	D	**23.**	C
6.	D	**15.**	C	**24.**	B
7.	C	**16.**	B	**25.**	A
8.	B	**17.**	A		
9.	A	**18.**	D		

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