ONTARIO WORLD HISTORY TO THE END OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, GRADE 11, UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PREPARATION (CHW3M) · UNIT C · 5 QUESTIONS

Civilizations in Decline — Practice Test

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Source I - A Merchant in a Divided Empire

Use this reading for questions 1 to 3.

I once carried goods from Gaul to Italy under one law and one coin. Now each king mints his own coin, and tolls rise at every river crossing. I still trade, for people still need oil, cloth, and salt, but my journeys are shorter, and my profits are thinner.

In the east, merchants tell me, the old coin still passes, and the emperor in Constantinople still collects taxes across many provinces. The empire did not vanish everywhere. It changed its shape, and traders like me learned the new shape.

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

1 **The merchant account shows trade after western decline became**

- **A** shorter journeys with varied coins and rising tolls
- **B** impossible in all regions
- **C** unchanged under one coin
- **D** limited to the east only

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2 **Clear glass filled with still water on a plain white surface, bright daylight, no people. The merchant still trades because people still need**



A luxury goods only

B weapons for armies

C grain from Egypt only

D oil, cloth, and salt

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3 **The eastern contrast in the account is that**

- **A** Constantinople stopped trading
- **B** eastern merchants used western coins
- **C** the old coin still passes and taxes are collected widely
- **D** the east also fragmented at once

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4 **A historian would use the merchant account as evidence of**

- **A** a single cause of decline
- **B** economic adaptation amid political fragmentation
- **C** the end of all Mediterranean trade
- **D** merchants causing imperial decline

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5 **The merchant learning the new shape of empire suggests**

A continuity of trade despite political change

B trade ended with the empire

C merchants ruled the new kingdoms

D the east fell before the west

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ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. A

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