education

Department of
Education
FREE STATE PROVINCE

GRADE 10

HISTORY

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MARCH 2026
TASK 2

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MARKS: 100
TIME: 2 HOURS

This question paper consists of 5 pages and an addendum of 5 pages.

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This question paper consists of SECTION A and SECTION B based on the prescribed content framework in the CAPS document.

   SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

   QUESTION 1: THE WORLD AROUND 1600: CHINA

   SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTIONS

   QUESTION 2: EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND CONQUEST:
   THE DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY IN AFRICA

2. SECTION A consists of ONE source-based question. Source material that is required to answer this question can be found in the ADDENDUM.

3. SECTION B consists of ONE essay question.

4. Answer BOTH questions.

5. You are advised to spend at least ONE hour per question.

6. When answering questions, you should apply your knowledge, skills and insight.

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7. You will be disadvantaged by merely rewriting the sources as answers.

8. Number the questions correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.

9. Write neatly and legibly

SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: DID ZHENG HE'S MARITIME EXPEDITIONS EXPAND CHINESE POWER AND INFLUENCE?

Study sources 1A, 1B, and 1C and 1D and answer the questions that follow:

1.1 Refer to Source 1A.

1.1.1 According to the source, when and where was Zheng He born? (2 x 1) (2)

1.1.2 Define the term *dynasty* in your own words. (1 x 2) (2)

1.1.3 Why was it beneficial for the emperor to employ eunuchs? (1 x 2) (2)

1.1.4 According to the source, how is Zheng He described, despite the hardship of his early capture by the Ming soldiers? (3 x 1) (3)

1.1.5 Comment on what is implied by the statement, 'This background later helped shape his understanding of foreign lands and religions.' (1 x 2) (2)

1.2 Consult Source 1B.

1.2.1 Explain the concept *maritime expeditions* in context of the voyages undertaken by Zheng He. (1 x 2) (2)

1.2.2 According to the source, what was the series of grand maritime expeditions designed to do? (2 x 1) (2)

1.2.3 Why was the fleet referred to as the "Treasure Fleet"? (2 x 2) (4)

1.2.4 Name the ports visited by the Ming fleets? (2 x 1) (2)

1.2.5 What is meant by the statement, 'Zheng He's missions were not focused on colonisation but on diplomacy, trade, and tribute? (2 x 2) (2)

1.3 Examine Source 1C.

1.3.1 Name two places Zheng He visited on his expeditions. (2 x 1) (2)

1.3.2 Why were these voyages important to the Ming dynasty? (2 x 2) (4)

1.3.3 Where was the origin of all seven voyages? (1 x 2) (2)

1.3.4 Why would a historian regard this source as useful when researching the seven expeditions of Zheng He? (1 x 2) (2)

1.4 Refer to Sources 1B and 1C. Explain how the information in Source 1B supports the evidence in Source 1C regarding the expeditions undertaken by Zheng He's treasure fleets. (1 x 2) (2)

1.5 Refer to Source 1D.

1.5.1 When, according to the source, was Zheng He's final voyage? (1 x 2) (2)

1.5.2 Name, from the source, the factors that contributed to the decision to end large-scale naval expeditions. (3 x 1) (3)

1.5.3 What is implied by the statement, 'China shifted its focus inward'? (2 x 2) (4)

1.6 Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, write a paragraph of about SIX lines (about 60 words) explaining if Zheng He's maritime expeditions expanded Chinese power and influence? (6)

[50]

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SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTION

Your essay should be 3 pages in length.

QUESTION 2: THE DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY IN AFRICA

The Dutch East India Company's determination to dominate trade routes and markets in the East contributed to a settlement at the Cape that impacted the indigenous and slave populations.

Do you agree with the above statement? Use evidence to support your answer.

[50]

TOTAL: 100



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ADDENDUM

This addendum consists of 5 pages.

QUESTION 1: DID ZHENG HE'S MARITIME EXPEDITIONS EXPAND CHINESE POWER AND INFLUENCE?

SOURCE 1A

The source below provides a brief biography of Zheng He's background and military and diplomatic training.

Zheng He was born in 1371 in Yunnan province during the early years of the Ming Dynasty. His birth name was Ma He. He came from a Muslim family of Central Asian descent; his father and grandfather had made the pilgrimage to Mecca, which influenced his early exposure to Islamic beliefs, diverse cultures, and long-distance travel traditions. This background later helped shape his understanding of foreign lands and religions.

When Zheng He was around ten years old, Ming forces conquered Yunnan, which had remained loyal to the previous Yuan Dynasty. During this conflict, he was captured by soldiers and taken to the Ming capital. There, he was made a court eunuch (a man who has been castrated) and placed in the service of Prince Zhu Di, who would later become the Yongle Emperor. Despite the hardship of his early capture, Zheng He proved to be intelligent, brave, and loyal.

While serving Zhu Di, Zheng He received military and diplomatic training. He accompanied the prince on campaigns and gained valuable leadership experience. His close relationship with Zhu Di was crucial; when the prince seized the throne in 1402, he rewarded Zheng He with positions of great responsibility. These early experiences of displacement, discipline, and service prepared Zheng He for his future role as one of China's greatest naval commanders and explorers.

SOURCE 1B

The source below highlights Zheng He's career as an admiral in the Ming Dynasty's fleet that undertook seven voyages under his leadership.

Zheng He rose to prominence during the reign of the Yongle Emperor of the Ming Dynasty. After proving his loyalty and leadership skills in military campaigns, he was appointed to lead a series of grand maritime expeditions designed to expand China's influence and demonstrate imperial power. Beginning in 1405, Zheng He commanded the first of seven voyages across the Indian Ocean.

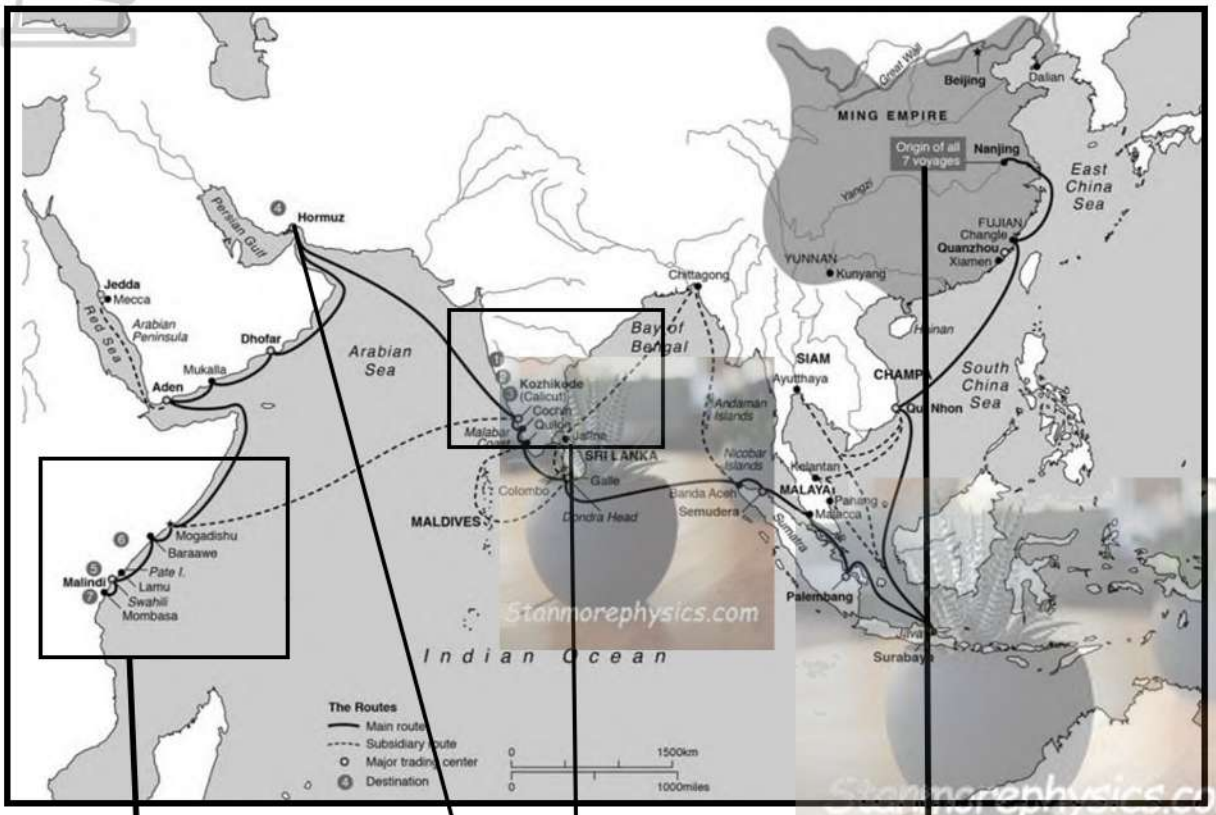
As admiral, Zheng He oversaw a massive fleet known as the "Treasure Fleet." These expeditions travelled to Southeast Asia, India, the Arabian Peninsula, and the east coast of Africa. His fleets visited important ports such as Calicut and Hormuz, establishing diplomatic relations and encouraging foreign rulers to recognize the authority of the Ming emperor. In some cases, Zheng He used military force to suppress piracy or to intervene in local conflicts, reinforcing Ming dominance.

Zheng He's missions were not focused on colonization but on diplomacy, trade, and tribute. He carried silk, porcelain, and other Chinese goods to exchange for exotic items like spices and precious stones. Through his leadership, China projected its power across vast distances, strengthening political ties and expanding maritime trade networks. His voyages remain among the largest naval expeditions in pre-modern history.

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SOURCE 1C

). CUP is the publishing business of the University of Cambridge, operating as a world-leading academic and educational publisher. Founded in the 16th century, it publishes research, academic journals, and educational materials globally, with a focus on spreading knowledge. This map shows the seven expeditions of Zheng He.



5. SWAHILI

6. BARAAWE

7. MOMBASA

4. HORMUZ

*ORIGIN OF ALL VOYAGES - NANJING

1. KHOZIKODE

2. COCHIN

3. QUILON

SOURCE 1D

The source below provides reasons for the gradual end to the Ming Dynasty's large-scale naval expeditions.

After the final voyage of Zheng He in 1433, the Ming dynasty gradually brought its large-scale naval expeditions to an end. Several factors contributed to this decision. First, the voyages were extremely expensive. Building and maintaining the massive Treasure Fleet required significant resources, including timber, labour, and government funding. Many court officials believed these funds could be better spent defending China's northern borders against renewed threats from Mongol groups.

Political changes also played a major role. After the death of the Yongle Emperor, later rulers were less interested in overseas exploration. Confucian scholars at court often viewed foreign trade and distant expeditions as unnecessary and wasteful. They favoured strengthening agriculture and internal stability instead of projecting power abroad.

As a result, shipbuilding was restricted, and records of the voyages were neglected or destroyed. Over time, China shifted its focus inward. This decision marked a turning point, limiting China's naval presence just as European nations would soon begin their own age of oceanic exploration.

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