**UNIT 4 (1450 CE – 1750 CE) Critical Thinking Questions**

**CHAPTER 23 – Transoceanic Encounters and Global Connections**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Examine European exploration: What did European nations seek to gain from exploration (motivating factors)? What factors facilitated exploration by Europeans? What events leading up to 1450 CE impacted European exploration?
2. Analyze the role of European nations in trade and exploration: What role did the Portuguese play? What role did the English and Dutch play? What advantages did the English and Dutch demonstrate? How did conquest change the nature of interactions in Asia? What were the sources of conflict between European nations? How did the Spanish/Portuguese differ from the Dutch/English?
3. Evaluate the impact of the Columbian Exchange: How did the Columbian Exchange impact Europe? The Americas? How did the Columbian Exchange lay the foundation for global trade networks?

**CHAPTER 24 – The Transformation of Europe**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Examine the centralizing efforts in countries like France, Spain, and England. How and in what ways were they successful? Why was the Holy Roman Empire not as successful as other European states in centralizing power?
2. Examine the career of Martin Luther. What were the foundations of his Reformation? What legacy did he leave Europe? Why did earlier reformers not have the same impact? Was there a political side to the sixteenth-century reformation movements? How did it relate to the religious issues?
3. Examine the rise of capitalist thought and practice. What factors led to this rise? How did capitalism lead to global change? (EXTRA)
4. How were the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment major deviations from previous ideological revolutions? What were the most significant impacts of these periods of thought? (Separate impact of Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment). (Enlightenment is EXTRA)

**CHAPTER 25 – New Worlds: The Americas and Oceania**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Analyze the interactions between Europeans and Americans: What factors in American civilizations most significantly impacted their interactions with Europeans? How did the Spanish/Portuguese conquer the Americas with relative ease? (Distinguish the experience in Mexico and South America). How was the experience in North America different from that of Mesoamerica/South America?
2. Evaluate the impact of Europeans on the Americas: What impacts did the Spanish settlers have on the natives? How did the Americas fundamentally change politically, economically and socially (Include both North and South/Meso America)? How did the organization of colonial governments and social structures enhance the power of Europeans and disenfranchise the natives?
3. Examine the economic implications of European interactions in the world in this period: What role did the Pacific play in European economic growth? How were pacific island societies different from those of the Americas? How did European interactions in this period lay the foundation for European hegemony? What were the Europeans economic strengths? What challenges did they have to overcome?

**CHAPTER 26 – Africa and the Atlantic World**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Examine the African Political and Social Structures throughout Africa: What factors in African civilizations most significantly impacted their interactions with Europeans? How did African political and social structures impact their interactions with Europeans? Why were Europeans able to take advantage of African civilizations in West and Central Africa? Why were they less effective in East Africa?
2. Analyze the impact of religion on Africa: What role did Islam play in African societies politically, socially and economically? What made Christianity attractive to kingdoms such as the Kongo? What are some possible reasons that Christianity was less prominent than Islam?
3. Analyze the impact of the slave trade on Africa: What were the foundations of the slave trade in Africa? How did Europeans take advantage of existing conditions in Africa to facilitate the Atlantic Slave Trade? What Social, Economic and Political impacts did the slave trade have on Africa? What Social, Economic and Political impacts did the slave trade have on European nations? What factors contributed to the end of the Atlantic Slave Trade?

**CHAPTER 27 – Tradition and Change in East Asia**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. In a letter to King George III, the Chinese emperor Qianlong gave specific trade instructions to the English ruler and reminded him to “Tremblingly obey and show no negligence!” What does this exchange tell you about China’s position in the world in the late eighteenth century? Why were they so powerful? Could there be a danger in the Chinese attitude?
2. Examine the changing social world of the Ming and Qing period. What were the most important political, social and economic changes taking place? In what ways did the older traditions survive? In the battle between new ideas in traditional thinking which side won out and why?
3. Compare CHINA to the rest of the world during this time period? In what ways did they continue to display strength? How were other areas able to gain such power relative to China in this period? What are the reasons for the changing power structures in the world?
4. Analyze changes in Japan in this time period: How did the Unification of Japan impact the social, political and economic structures in Japanese society? What role did Europeans play in Japan? How did European interactions impact Japan in this time period?

**CHAPTER 28 – The Islamic Empires**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Examine the role of Islam in the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires: How did the foundations of Islamic civilization from the previous period influence the development of these empires (Social, Political, Economic)? In which ways did these societies benefit form the traditions of Islamic civilization? What challenges did they face as a result of their traditions? How were their interactions impacted by these traditions?
2. Evaluate the policies and practices of these empires: What were the primary factors that caused the deterioration of these empires? What changed in these empires that contributed to their demise?
3. Compare the Ottomans, Safavids and Mughals: What factors made each of these empires unique from the others? How was the location of the Ottoman empire both a strength and a weakness? How did India’s unique political, social and religious traditions impact the Mughal empire? What made the Safavids different from the other empires and how did that difference shape their civilization?