Assessment: China’s Contacts with the Outside World

Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. Under the Tang dynasty, how did the return of Xuan Zang from India influence Chinese culture?
   A. popularized the practice of binding girls’ feet
   B. increased Chinese knowledge of Buddhist writings
   C. introduced the process to make sugar from sugarcane
   D. made many Chinese suspicious of any contact with foreigners

2. Which word best describes the attitude of China toward foreigners for most of the Tang dynasty?
   A. fear
   B. anger
   C. jealousy
   D. welcome

3. Which items did the Chinese receive in trade during the Tang dynasty?
   A. paper and jade
   B. cotton and ivory
   C. silk and bamboo
   D. porcelain and iron

4. One main reason why the Tang government destroyed Buddhist monasteries after 843 was to
   A. get control of their wealth.
   B. give their land to foreigners.
   C. support Muslim missionaries.
   D. punish their support for rebels.

5. What was a major role of Buddhist monks and nuns during the Tang dynasty?
   A. They conducted most of the trade with foreigners.
   B. They set up universities to teach Confucian ideals.
   C. They ran schools, public baths, hospitals, and inns.
   D. They did the chores that others considered too unpleasant.

6. Which of the following led directly to the rule of China by foreigners?
   A. conquest by the Mongols
   B. trade along the Silk Road
   C. invasion by a Song ruler
   D. spread of Buddhist beliefs

7. Which fact enabled the Tang and Yuan dynasties to make the Silk Road safer?
   A. Their astronomers studied the skies, so they could predict the weather.
   B. They controlled much or all of Central Asia, so they could keep the peace.
   C. Chinese travelers preferred to go in large groups, so they rarely attracted robbers.
   D. Chinese engineers developed a way to make smooth pavement, so there were fewer accidents.
8. Which group probably used the Silk Road most frequently?
   A. merchants
   B. tourists
   C. warriors
   D. scientists

9. How did the new Yuan capital, now Beijing, show the influence of foreigners?
   A. Spanish doctors ran its hospitals.
   B. English sailors controlled its port.
   C. Muslim architects designed its buildings.
   D. Jewish missionaries converted many of its people.

10. The attitude of the Yuan dynasty toward foreigners is reflected by the fact that
    A. Chinese students had to learn foreign languages.
    B. Chinese farmers got the top jobs in government.
    C. Foreign explorers were often sold as slaves in China.
    D. Foreign merchants did not have to pay taxes in China.

11. Which of the following was the most significant result of Marco Polo’s travels?
    A. start of a new route between Europe and China
    B. anger among Chinese people toward foreigners
    C. increased European interest in trade with China
    D. spread of Christianity as a popular faith in China

12. How did the focus of Ming dynasty foreign policy change over time?
    A. from politics to trade
    B. from alliance to rivalry
    C. from warfare to friendship
    D. from interaction to isolation

13. What did China’s tributaries receive from the Ming dynasty?
    A. most Chinese government jobs
    B. Chinese questions about culture
    C. estates in China run by peasants
    D. the privilege of trading with China

14. What was the purpose of Zheng He’s seven expeditions for the emperor between 1405 and 1433?
    A. to gather information in secret
    B. to stop pirates in the China Sea
    C. to get new tributaries for China
    D. to gain control of the Silk Road

15. Which of the following would a Chinese ruler be most likely to say toward the end of the Ming dynasty?
    A. "We want to protect China from outside influence."
    B. "We hope that China will learn a lot from other countries."
    C. "We plan for China to develop a more active foreign trade."
    D. "We will send explorers from China to every part of the world."
16. Which of the following sentences best summarizes Chinese attitudes toward foreigners during the Tang, Yuan, and Ming dynasties?
A. The Chinese valued Chinese goods more than goods from other countries.
B. The Chinese welcomed foreigners sometimes, but at other times they limited contact.
C. The Chinese appreciated foreigners, but would not let them have government jobs.
D. The Chinese encouraged contact with those foreigners who accepted Chinese superiority.

Applying Social Studies Skills
Use the map and your knowledge of history to complete the sentences below.

17. Based on the map, Kashgar became an important trading city because

18. Dunhuang and Kashgar were both oasis towns. Between them, the most important factor affecting the location of routes for travel was

19. Why do you think that the Silk Road extended to the Mediterranean Sea and not into Persia or India?
Exploring the Essential Question: How did the foreign-contact policies of three medieval Chinese dynasties affect China?

20. Write a brief newspaper editorial evaluating the Chinese government policy toward foreigners. Your editorial should include the following:
   • the time period and dynasty about which you are writing (early Tang, later Tang, Yuan, early Ming, or late Ming)
   • a summary of the policy at that time
   • how China benefits from the policy, with supporting details
   • how the policy harms China, with supporting details
   • your overall evaluation of the government’s policy toward foreigners