

Trade Routes: Comparison Essay Claim Statement Examples

Analyze **similarities** and **differences** in TWO of the following trade networks in the period 600 C.E. to 1450 C.E. Your response may include comparison of biological, commercial, or cultural exchanges.

- Silk Roads
- Indian Ocean
- Trans-Sahara

- A. Regardless of the **differences in geographic location and economic goods exchanged** between the Silk Road and Trans-Saharan trade routes, the expansion of trade in the Post-Classical era brought **both economic diversity and shifts in social hierarchy**, which **created stronger connections between regions and ultimately linked more of the existing world**.
- B. While trade networks between the Silk Roads and across the Indian Ocean **differed in the goods and the cultural beliefs that were spread**, **the overall diffusion of previously region-specific ideas** led to **an increase of interregional connectivity and economic growth across Afro-Eurasia**.
- C. The Silk Road, as well as the Indian Ocean trade routes, **spread religious ideas and cultural traditions while boosting their economies with luxury goods**, but each region **utilized different goods and modes of transportations** to achieve those ends. As a result of this growing cultural and economic exchange in the Post-Classical period, **interregional connectivity increased, but more conflict emerged between differing cultures and disease spread minimizing the overall growth of civilizations between 600 C.E. to 1450 C.E.**
- D. While **differing in overall structure and specific resources and products exchanged**, the Silk and Sand roads **facilitated cultural diffusion, stimulated technological innovations, and merged political power** in the Post-Classical era. However, **the manner in which certain cultural and commercial ideas, as well as disease, spread across Afro-Eurasia varied from region to region**. Therefore, **the resulting increased connectivity and unity through these transactions, increased wealth and power in more geographically favorable regions**.
- E. The Silk Roads, Indian Ocean, and Trans-Saharan trade routes **differed in the commodities exchanged, how these goods were traded, and the cultural traditions that were diffused in the process**. However, the increase in trade between these regions allowed for **similar growth of economic activity, as well as the spread of cultural and social beliefs**. Therefore **location and proximity to these trade networks determined the ultimate success or failure of these post-classical civilizations**.
- F. The varying geography and environment along the Silk Roads and Indian Ocean trade system caused both regions **to use different modes of transportation to exchange their unique goods, resource, and products**. However **both trade regions were impacted by the diffusion of religions and the growth of their economies**. Therefore **the civilizations surrounding the Indian Ocean and encompassed within the Silk Roads trading network shared high levels of economic growth and success and an increasing interregional connectivity intensified integration and diversity across Afro-Eurasia**.