

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Session	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Assessable Content
1	1	MC	A	6.2.9 Describe the characteristics, significance, and influences of feudalism, the Crusades, and the growth of towns and cities through trade and commerce during the Middle Ages
1	2	MC	D	6.2.9 Describe the characteristics, significance, and influences of feudalism, the Crusades, and the growth of towns and cities through trade and commerce during the Middle Ages
1	3	MC	A	6.2.9 Describe the characteristics, significance, and influences of feudalism, the Crusades, and the growth of towns and cities through trade and commerce during the Middle Ages
1	4	MS	B, D	6.6.4 Explain how the development of trade and taxation influenced economic growth in the ancient world
1	5	MC	B	6.6.4 Explain how the development of trade and taxation influenced economic growth in the ancient world
1	6	TEI	see TEI key	6.2.9 Describe the characteristics, significance, and influences of feudalism, the Crusades, and the growth of towns and cities through trade and commerce during the Middle Ages
1	7	MC	B	6.3.4 Determine world migration patterns and population trends by interpreting maps, charts, and graphs
1	8	MC	A	6.6.4 Explain how the development of trade and taxation influenced economic growth in the ancient world
1	9	MC	C	6.6.3 Describe the economic motivation for expanding trade and territorial conquests in world civilizations using economic concepts
1	10	MC	D	6.2.6 Analyze the origin and spread of major world religions as they developed throughout history
1	11	MC	B	6.4.2 Explain how world migration patterns and cultural diffusion influenced human settlement
1	12	CR	see rubric	6.2.7 Summarize key features of ancient West African kingdoms (Ghana, Mali, and Songhai)
1	13	MC	C	6.3.4 Determine world migration patterns and population trends by interpreting maps, charts, and graphs

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Session	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Assessable Content
1	14	MC	A	6.4.1 Identify and describe physical features and climate conditions that contributed to early human settlement in regions of the world
1	15	MS	C, E	6.4.2 Explain how world migration patterns and cultural diffusion influenced human settlement
1	16	MC	C	6.2.1 Analyze the relationship between geographical features and early settlement patterns using maps and globes
1	17	MC	B	6.2.2 Examine how the achievements of early humans led to the development of civilization
1	18	MC	D	6.4.3 Explain the connection between physical geography and its influence on the development of civilization
1	19	MC	B	6.2.10 Examine the significance of the people and ideas that influenced the Renaissance in Europe
1	20	MC	D	6.2.10 Examine the significance of the people and ideas that influenced the Renaissance in Europe
1	21	MS	A, F	6.2.10 Examine the significance of the people and ideas that influenced the Renaissance in Europe
1	22	MC	C	6.2.10 Examine the significance of the people and ideas that influenced the Renaissance in Europe
1	23	TEI	see TEI key	6.2.10 Examine the significance of the people and ideas that influenced the Renaissance in Europe
1	24	MC	B	6.2.6 Analyze the origin and spread of major world religions as they developed throughout history
1	25	MC	D	6.2.6 Analyze the origin and spread of major world religions as they developed throughout history
1	26	MC	C	6.2.6 Analyze the origin and spread of major world religions as they developed throughout history
1	27	MC	A	6.4.2 Explain how world migration patterns and cultural diffusion influenced human settlement
2	28	MC	D	6.6.3 Describe the economic motivation for expanding trade and territorial conquests in world civilizations using economic concepts
2	29	MC	C	6.6.2 Analyze the progression from barter exchange to monetary exchange

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Session	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Assessable Content
2	30	MC	A	6.6.4 Explain how the development of trade and taxation influenced economic growth in the ancient world
2	31	MC	B	6.6.4 Explain how the development of trade and taxation influenced economic growth in the ancient world
2	32	ER	see rubric	6.6.4 Explain how the development of trade and taxation influenced economic growth in the ancient world
3	33	MC	B	6.4.3 Explain the connection between physical geography and its influence on the development of civilization
3	34	MC	C	6.2.8 Identify key characteristics of Chinese dynasties' political, economic, and social structures
3	35	MC	A	6.2.8 Identify key characteristics of Chinese dynasties' political, economic, and social structures
3	36	MS	C, E	6.2.8 Identify key characteristics of Chinese dynasties' political, economic, and social structures
3	37	MC	D	6.2.8 Identify key characteristics of Chinese dynasties' political, economic, and social structures
3	38	CR	see rubric	6.6.3 Describe the economic motivation for expanding trade and territorial conquests in world civilizations using economic concepts
3	39	MC	C	6.3.3 Compare and contrast physical and political boundaries of civilizations, empires, and kingdoms using maps and globes
3	40	MS	D, F	6.2.4 Describe the development of the Greek city-state, the culture and achievements of Athens and Sparta, and the impact of Alexander the Great's conquests on the spread of Greek culture
3	41	MC	A	6.5.1 Describe the essential elements of Greek city-state government that influenced the development of democracy
3	42	MC	B	6.5.1 Describe the essential elements of Greek city-state government that influenced the development of democracy
3	43	MC	D	6.5.1 Describe the essential elements of Greek city-state government that influenced the development of democracy

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Session	Sequence	Item Type	Key	Assessable Content
3	44	TEI	see TEI key	6.2.4 Describe the development of the Greek city-state, the culture and achievements of Athens and Sparta, and the impact of Alexander the Great's conquests on the spread of Greek culture
3	45	MC	B	6.4.3 Explain the connection between physical geography and its influence on the development of civilization
3	46	MC	B	6.5.2 Describe the government of the Roman Republic and how it influenced the development of democracy
3	47	MC	C	6.2.5 Describe the characteristics of Roman civilization, its cultural, political, and technological achievements, and its influence on other later cultures
3	48	MC	D	6.2.5 Describe the characteristics of Roman civilization, its cultural, political, and technological achievements, and its influence on other later cultures
3	49	MC	C	6.2.6 Analyze the origin and spread of major world religions as they developed throughout history
3	50	MC	C	6.4.1 Identify and describe physical features and climate conditions that contributed to early human settlement in regions of the world
3	51	MC	B	6.2.2 Examine how the achievements of early humans led to the development of civilization
3	52	MC	D	6.2.10 Examine the significance of the people and ideas that influenced the Renaissance in Europe
3	53	MC	C	6.5.2 Describe the government of the Roman Republic and how it influenced the development of democracy
3	54	MC	A	6.6.2 Analyze the progression from barter exchange to monetary exchange
3	55	MC	D	6.6.1 Explain the impact of job specialization in the development of civilizations
3	56	MC	B	6.4.3 Explain the connection between physical geography and its influence on the development of civilization

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Scoring for Session 1 Item 6

Benefits of Feudalism for the Nobility	Benefits of Feudalism for Peasants
allowed them to focus on defense for a specific area	provided them with land to grow crops
provided them with a steady supply of workers	provided them with military protection

Two points = four statements in the correct positions

One point = three or two statements in the correct positions

Zero points = one or zero statements in the correct positions

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Scoring for Session 1 Item 12

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, describe **one** characteristic of the West African Kingdom of Mali and explain how that characteristic influenced trade in the kingdom.

Scoring Information	
Score Points	Description
2	Student's response correctly describes one characteristic of the West African Kingdom of Mali and correctly explains how that characteristic influenced trade in the kingdom.
1	Student's response correctly describes one characteristic of the West African Kingdom of Mali but does not correctly explain how that characteristic influenced trade in the kingdom. OR Student's response does not correctly describe a characteristic of the West African Kingdom of Mali, but correctly describes one way in which trade in the kingdom developed.
0	Student's response is blank, incorrect, or does not address the prompt.

Scoring Notes:

Characteristics of the Kingdom of Mali and how each characteristic influenced trade in the kingdom:

- Islam
 - Mosques attracted Muslim travelers who also participated in trade.
 - Muslim merchants from different parts of the kingdom traded with each other.
- Many people were prosperous and successful.
 - Mali's wealthy ruler impressed other countries, increasing chances for trade.
 - Expensive trade goods were imported and enjoyed by the population.
- There were many merchants.
 - Some merchants traveled for trade; some remained to own or manage shops.
 - Many merchants sold or traded goods that were created by artisans from Mali.

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

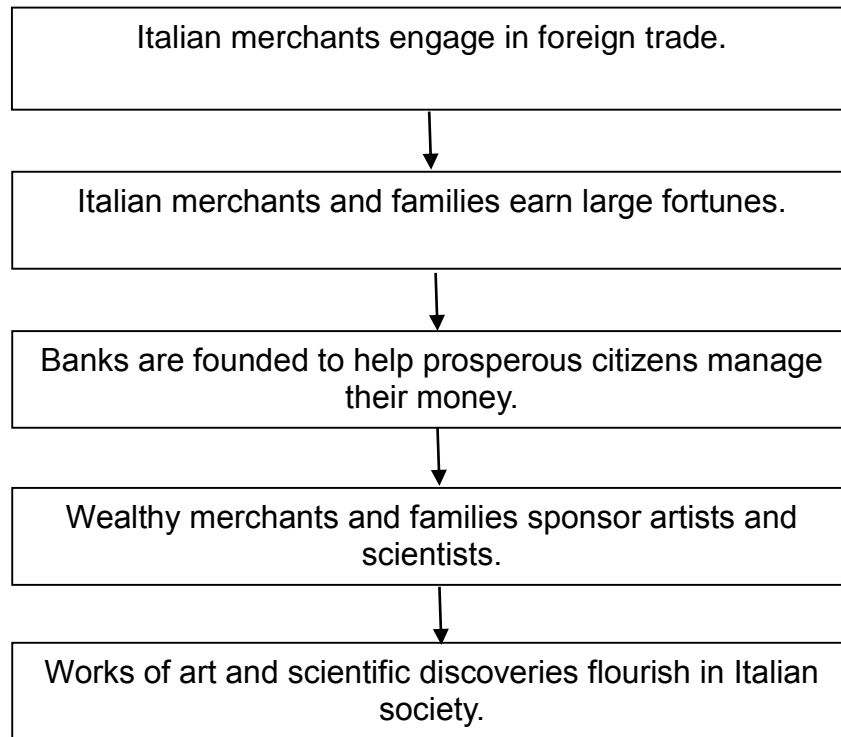
- Mali had plentiful natural resources, such as gold.
 - Mali's resources were valuable and in high demand.
 - Nearby kingdoms wanted the goods and products made with Mali's resources, which encouraged trade.

Accept other reasonable responses.

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Scoring for Session 1 Item 23

The Development of the Renaissance in Italy



Two points = four statements in the correct positions

One point = three or two statements in the correct positions

Zero points = one or zero statements in the correct positions

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Scoring for Session 2 Item 32

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, analyze how the Silk Road affected the economic and social development of Europe and Asia.

As you write your response, be sure to complete the following:

- Show an in-depth understanding of the topic.
- Answer all parts of the question.
- Include ample, well-chosen evidence from the sources to support and develop your response.
- Include accurate and relevant factual information from your own knowledge, beyond the information that is given in the sources, to support your response.
- Communicate your ideas well and use logical reasoning.
- Write enough to fully answer the question. This will usually require more than one paragraph.

Following the steps below will help you write a successful extended response.

Step 1: Planning and Writing

- Read the question carefully.
- Think about what you will write before you begin.
- Answer **all** parts of the question.
- Include ample, well-chosen evidence from the sources to support your response.
- Include accurate and relevant factual information from your own knowledge to support your response.
- Communicate your ideas clearly.
- Organize your ideas in a logical order.
- Use paragraphs to separate different main ideas.

Step 2: Proofreading

- Review the checklist to make sure you have covered all the expectations.
- Reread your response.
- Revise if needed.
- Correct any errors you find.

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Scoring

The response should be scored **holistically** on its adherence to two dimensions: Content and Claims. Each response should be given the score that corresponds to the set of bulleted descriptors that **best** describes the response.

Dimension: Content	
Score	Description
4	<p>The student's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects thorough knowledge of how the Silk Road affected the economic and social development of Europe and Asia, by incorporating ample, focused factual information from prior knowledge and the sources; • Contains accurate understandings with no errors significant enough to detract from the overall content of the response; • Fully addresses all parts of the prompt.
3	<p>The student's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects general knowledge of how the Silk Road affected the economic and social development of Europe and Asia, by incorporating adequate factual information from prior knowledge and the sources; • Contains mostly accurate understandings with minimal errors that do not substantially detract from the overall content of the response; • Addresses all parts of the prompt.
2	<p>The student's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects limited knowledge of how the Silk Road affected the economic and social development of Europe and Asia, by incorporating some factual information from prior knowledge and the sources; • Contains some accurate understandings with a few errors that detract from the overall content of the response; • Addresses part of the prompt.
1	<p>The student's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects minimal knowledge how the Silk Road affected the economic and social development of Europe and Asia, by incorporating little or no factual information from prior knowledge and the sources; • Contains few accurate understandings with several errors that detract from the overall content of the response; • Minimally addresses part of the prompt.
0	The student's response is incorrect or does not address the prompt.
B	Blank. The student wrote no response.

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Dimension: Claims	
Score	Description
4	<p>The student's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops a valid claim that effectively expresses a solid understanding of the topic; • Thoroughly supports the claim with well-chosen evidence from the sources; • Provides a logically organized, cohesive, and in-depth explanation of the connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and/or contexts within or across time and place.
3	<p>The student's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops a relevant claim that expresses a general understanding of the topic; • Supports the claim with sufficient evidence from the sources; • Provides an organized explanation of the connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and/or contexts within or across time and place.
2	<p>The student's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents an inadequate claim which expresses a limited understanding of the topic. • Includes insufficient support for the claim but does use some evidence from the sources; • Provides a weak explanation of the connections, patterns, and trends among ideas, people, events, and/or contexts within or across time and place.
1	<p>The student's response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not develop a claim but provides evidence that relates to the topic, OR develops a substantially flawed claim with little or no evidence from the sources; • Provides a vague, unclear, or illogical explanation of the connections among ideas, people, events, and/or contexts within or across time and place.
0	The student's response is incorrect or does not address the prompt.
B	Blank. The student wrote no response.

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Scoring Notes for Claims Rubric

A response that develops a **valid** claim expresses a **solid** understanding of the social studies topic. The response is supported by **ample and well-chosen** evidence from the sources. The explanation is logical, organized, and cohesive, as demonstrated by connections, patterns, or trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and place. A **valid** claim shows a deep understanding of the complexity of social studies themes that is supported by convincing evidence. The analysis may include the ability to discuss cause-and-effect relationships; analyze the importance of and connection between source documents; classify patterns of continuity and change; evaluate differing perspectives; provide in-depth interpretations of historical events, etc.

A response that develops a **relevant** claim expresses a **general** understanding of the social studies topic. The response is supported by **sufficient** evidence from the sources. The explanation is organized and includes connections, patterns, or trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and place but fails to reach the valid level. A **relevant** claim shows an accurate understanding of social studies themes but is less complex and includes more generalized evidence. The explanation may identify cause-and-effect relationships; describe patterns of continuity or change; recognize perspectives on a single topic or theme; identify the importance of or connection between source documents; provide general interpretations of historical events, etc.

A response that includes an **inadequate** claim expresses a **limited** understanding of the social studies topic and uses insufficient evidence from the sources to develop the claim. The explanation includes weak connections, patterns, or trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and place. An **inadequate** claim shows some understanding of social studies themes but is limited in its analysis and evidence. The explanation may include insufficient understanding of cause and effect relationships; little recognition of patterns of continuity or change; limited knowledge of perspectives on a single topic or theme; misconceptions regarding the importance of or connections between source documents; limited interpretation of historical events, etc.

A response that develops a **substantially flawed** claim expresses **little** understanding of the social studies topic. The explanation, if present, may include vague or illogical connections, patterns, or trends among ideas, people, events, and contexts within or across time and place. It fails to reach the inadequate level for a variety of reasons. For example, the response may provide some evidence that relates to the topic, but is ineffective in supporting a claim, if one is made.

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Characteristics of a Strong Response

A strong response is logically organized into several paragraphs. Any errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, or capitalization do not interfere with the ability of the reader to understand the ideas presented.

A strong response may develop one or more lines of reasoning to support the claim. Here are some examples.

- The Silk Road affected the economic and social development of Europe and Asia by encouraging the growth of cities. Cities along the Silk Road grew because they served as centers of trade. As people traded in cities, people from different places and cultures were introduced to new goods and ways of doing things. Foods, luxury items, medicines, construction techniques, and methods for producing and handling money are examples of things that were shared among people who met in cities along the Silk Road.
- The Silk Road affected the economic and social development of Europe and Asia by supporting specialization. By participating in Silk Road trade, merchants encouraged their home regions to produce more of the goods that they were best at producing, and that people from other regions wanted. For example, China specialized in silk, jade, and other goods; India specialized in cotton textiles; the Middle East specialized in spices; and the Roman Empire specialized in glassware and food products such as olives and wine. This process encouraged further trade and economic growth along the Silk Road.
- The Silk Road affected the economic and social development of Europe and Asia by enabling people from a wide variety of places to exchange ideas as well as goods. As merchants met one another and traded along the Silk Road, they taught one another about ideas that were important to them, such as their different religious beliefs. This, in turn, encouraged the spread of those beliefs. Buddhism, for example, spread east from India to China and Japan, basically through word of mouth.

A strong response shows understanding of the topic by analyzing the required sources and including well-chosen evidence from the sources, such as:

- The Silk Road covered an extremely large geographic area. (Source 1)
- The Silk Road included a wide variety of regions, societies, and cities. (Source 1)
- Participants in Silk Road trade were exposed to foreign currencies (Source 2) and the rules and regulations of foreign governments (Source 3).
- Trading along the Silk Road had a far-reaching impact of ideas, inventions, devices, and techniques. (Source 4)

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

- Participants in Silk Road trade increased their wealth and, thus, their ability to purchase and enjoy luxury goods created in other societies. (Source 2 and Source 4)

A strong response also includes important information beyond what is presented in the sources, such as:

- Religious ideas spread to new societies as people from European, African, and Asian cultures traveled to areas connected by the Silk Road.
- Slavery was supported as a result of the trading of enslaved people by Silk Road merchants.

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Scoring for Session 3 Item 38

Over time, the Zhou dynasty expanded its territory to include other lands and populations.

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, explain **two** different ways the Zhou dynasty increased its economic power by expanding its territory.

Scoring Information	
Score Points	Description
2	Student's response correctly explains two ways the Zhou dynasty increased its economic power by expanding its territory.
1	Student's response correctly explains one way the Zhou dynasty increased its economic power by expanding its territory.
0	Student's response is blank or does not explain a way the Zhou dynasty increased its economic power by expanding its territory.

Scoring Notes:

Ways the Zhou dynasty increased its economic power by expanding its territory:

- Territorial expansion increased the number of people who were obligated to pay taxes to the dynasty.
- Territorial expansion increased the number of opportunities to trade products created by Zhou artisans.
- Territorial expansion increased the amount of agricultural land available to feed the dynasty's growing population.
- Territorial expansion moved the borders of the dynasty farther from its center, providing security and physical space in which the economy was able to grow.
- Territorial expansion encouraged the production and use of coins throughout the dynasty, promoting economic efficiency and growth.
- Territorial expansion made people feel proud to be a part of such a strong society. This pride made people want to support their leaders and participate in the growing economy.
- Territorial expansion spread the dynasty's ideal of working hard and prospering.

Accept any other reasonable response.

LEAP 2025 Grade 6 Social Studies Practice Test Answer Key

Scoring for Session 3 Item 44

Strengths of Ancient Athens	Weaknesses of Ancient Athens
Citizens controlled decision-making. The navy protected trade.	The empire was spread over a large area. Many people were not citizens.

Two points = four statements in the correct positions

One point = three or two statements in the correct positions

Zero points = one or zero statements in the correct positions