1. In what specific ways did trade foster change in the world of the early modern era?
   • It created completely new trade networks across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.
   • The slave trade brought large numbers of Africans to the Americas.
   • It drew the remote peoples of Siberia and North America into global trade networks through the fur trade.
   • It slowed population growth, disrupted the economy, and sometimes shaped the political system in West Africa.
   • It was the driving force behind the large-scale slave economy that emerged in the Americas.
   • It further commercialized the economies of the world, especially that of China, through inflows of silver from South America and Japan.

2. To what extent did Europeans transform earlier patterns of commerce, and in what ways did they assimilate into those older patterns?
   • Europeans for the first time operated on a global scale, forging new trade networks across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.
   • They also facilitated the full integration of fur-supplying regions into wider trade networks.
   • But in other ways, the Europeans assimilated older patterns, as in the Indian Ocean, where they sought to dominate previously established trade routes, and they continued to trade many of the same products.

3. How should we distribute the moral responsibility for the Atlantic slave trade?
   • This is obviously a question intended to encourage student thought, without a simple or clear-cut answer.
   • It is evident that Europeans played an important role both in stimulating the slave trade and in developing a slave system that was unusually dehumanizing, degrading, and dangerous for those forced to participate as slaves.
   • It is also clear that some Africans willingly participated in the trade, capturing and selling slaves to the Europeans.
   • Whether assessing moral responsibility or blame is a task appropriate for historians is debatable. One could reasonably make a case for or against this idea.
   • Students should be encouraged to think about historical context, rather than judging by the standards of our own era.

4. What lasting legacies of early modern globalization are evident in the early twenty-first century? Pay particular attention to the legacies of the slave trade.
   • The Atlantic trading network
   • The Pacific trading network between the Americas and East Asia
   • The influence of European civilizations, especially in the Americas and the Philippines
• The engagement of even remote peoples, such as those of Siberia, in world trade networks
• The large populations in the Americas of peoples of African and European origins;
• African cultural influences in the Americas
• Ideas of race, particularly of “blackness”
• The demographic and economic legacy of the slave trade in West Africa