



## Typical Answer of the American Civilization Exam (Semester 2)

### I. Identify the following items: (1 point for each item)

1. Three ships used by Christopher Columbus to sail from Spain to the Americas: **Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria**
2. A colony founded by William Penn in 1681 as a haven for Quakers and religious tolerance: **Pennsylvania**
3. The first English settlement in North America, founded in 1607 in present-day Virginia: **Jamestown**
4. A Native American woman who helped foster peace between Native Americans and English settlers: **Pocahontas**

### II. Give a short definition for the following terms: (2 points for each definition)

1. **Terra nullius:** It means “nobody’s land”. It is a doctrine that existed in Western countries for centuries and means that ownership by seizure of a thing no one owns is legitimate. Terra nullius was a principle sometimes used in international law to justify claims that territory may be acquired by a state’s occupation of it. (2 points)
2. **Indentured servant:** An indentured servant or indentured laborer was a man (almost never a woman) who took out a loan, most often to pay for the cost of his transportation to a job location: from Europe to North America, for example. In order to pay off this loan, the employee agreed to work without salary for the lender for a specific number of years. (2 points)

### III. Answer the following questions:

#### 1. Examine the treatment of slaves by English settlers in North America. (6 points)

- Terrible living conditions, restricted rights, and systematic persecution. (1 point)
- Living in rudimentary quarters. Their cabins were often basic structures made of wood or other inexpensive materials. (1 point)
- Slaves served on plantations, farms, and in households. They worked from dawn to dusk, often six days a week. (1 point)
- Slaves were whipped and shackled to enforce obedience. Also, slave codes and laws restricted their movement, assembly, and literacy. (1 point)
- Families were torn apart as slaveholders had the authority to buy and sell slaves. Also, children could be separated from their parents. (1 point)
- Slaves were considered property rather than citizens and had no legal recourse against the mistreatment they endured. (1 point)

#### 2. How do you evaluate the exploration of the Americas by European colonists? Illustrate with examples. (6 points)

- Devastating / negative effects it had on Indigenous populations. (1 point)
- European diseases like smallpox swept through the Americas, killing millions of Native Americans who had no immunity (90 % of population wiped out). Warfare and enslavement, led to a dramatic decline in Indigenous populations. (2 points)
- Slave trade. Native Americans were often indentured or enslaved. There were even Native Americans shipped out of colonies like South Carolina into slavery in other places, like Canada. (1 point)
- Removal from their lands, losing their properties, culture and nomadic way of life. (1 point)
- **Examples:** The Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire resulted in the deaths of millions of Aztecs and the destruction of their capital, Tenochtitlan. Hernán Cortés the Killer killed thousands of Aztec members./OR Christopher Columbus enslaved Native Americans and brought them to Spain (1 point)

#### Positive impacts for Europeans (optional but arguments need to be presented)

The Columbian Exchange / new crops/ Exploration and Mapping/ Development of New Societies: USA and Canada