

3.5 The Dutch Golden Age

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Dutch** commercial ascendancy.

You must be able to:

- name the sources of Dutch commercial advantage
- explain the role of the republic's political form
- describe the relationship between toleration and commerce
- explain why the ascendancy did not last

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The advantages

Shipping efficiency and low freight costs, a dominant entrepôt trade, financial institutions including a public bank and an exchange, and access to capital at low interest.

■ Political form

A federal republic dominated by merchant elites made policy that served commerce directly, and its decentralisation limited the state's ability to burden trade for dynastic ends.

■ Toleration and commerce

Relative religious toleration attracted skilled and capitalised refugees, and made the republic a place where people could transact without confessional test. Commerce and toleration reinforced each other.

■ Why it ended

Larger neighbours with greater populations and fiscal-military capacity out-built and out-fought the republic, and protective legislation abroad closed markets it had carried.

2 Practice

2.1 Name two sources of Dutch commercial advantage. [2]

2.2 Explain how toleration and commerce reinforced each other. [2]

2.3 The republic's ascendancy declines in the eighteenth century.

(a) State one reason. [1]

(b) State one structural disadvantage. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A federal republic dominated by merchants tends to produce policy that [1]

- **A** ignores commerce
- **B** serves commerce directly
- **C** favours dynastic war
- **D** raises freight costs

3.2 Relative toleration benefited the Dutch economy mainly by [1]

- **A** reducing shipping costs
- **B** attracting skilled and capitalised refugees
- **C** creating a monarchy
- **D** closing markets

3.3 Neighbouring states pass laws requiring goods to travel in their own ships.

(a) State the effect on Dutch carriage. [1]

(b) Explain why this hurt the republic particularly.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 any two of: shipping efficiency and low freight costs; entrepôt trade; financial institutions; cheap capital.

2.2 toleration attracted skilled and capitalised refugees, and a place where people could transact without confessional test drew trade.

2.3 (a) larger neighbours with greater fiscal-military capacity out-built and out-fought it. (b) a small population and territory relative to its rivals.

3.1 B. the policymakers were the merchants.

3.2 B. skills and capital arrived with the refugees.

3.3 (a) it is excluded from carrying those goods. (b) carriage was the republic's central advantage, so legislation aimed at it struck the basis of the economy rather than one sector.