**Remarkable new transoceanic maritime reconnaissance occurred in this period.**

A. Official Chinese maritime activity expanded into the Indian Ocean region with the naval

voyages led by Ming Admiral Zheng He, which enhanced Chinese prestige.

B. Portuguese development of a school for navigation led to increased travel to and trade

with West Africa, and resulted in the construction of a global trading-post empire.

C. Spanish sponsorship of the first Columbian and subsequent voyages across the Atlantic

and Pacific dramatically increased European interest in transoceanic travel and trade.

D. Northern Atlantic crossings for fishing and settlements continued and spurred European

searches for multiple routes to Asia.

E. In Oceania and Polynesia, established exchange and communication networks were not

dramatically affected because of infrequent European reconnaissance in the Pacific Ocean.

V. The new connections between the Eastern and Western hemispheres resulted in

the Columbian Exchange.

A. European colonization of the Americas led to the spread of diseases (such as smallpox,

measles or influenza) that were endemic in the Eastern Hemisphere among Amerindian

populations and the unintentional transfer of pests (such as mosquitoes or rats).

B. American foods (such as potatoes, maize or manioc) became staple crops in various parts

of Europe, Asia and Africa, while cash crops (such as cacao or tobacco) were grown

primarily on plantations with coerced labor and were exported mostly to Europe and the

Middle East in this period.

C. Afro-Eurasian fruit trees, grains, sugar and domesticated animals (such as horses, pigs or

cattle) were deliberately brought by Europeans to the Americas, while other foods (such as

okra) were brought by African slaves.

D. Populations in Afro-Eurasia benefitted nutritionally from the increased diversity of

American food crops.

E. European colonization and the introduction of European agriculture and settlements

practices in the Americas often affected the physical environment through deforestation and

soil depletion.

**VI. The increase in interactions between newly connected hemispheres and**

**intensification of connections within hemispheres expanded the spread and reform of existing religions and created syncretic belief systems and practices.**

A. The practice of Islam continued to spread into diverse cultural settings in Asia and Africa.

B. The practice of Christianity was increasingly diversified by the Reformation.

C. Buddhism spread within Asia.

D. Syncretic forms of religion (such as African influences in Latin America, interactions between Amerindians and Catholic missionaries, or Sikhism between Muslims and Hindus in India and Southeast Asia) developed.

**VII. As merchants’ profits increased and governments collected more taxes, funding**

**for the visual and performing arts, even for popular audiences, increased.**

A. Innovations in visual and performing arts (such as Renaissance art in Europe, miniature paintings in the Middle East and South Asia, or post-conquest codices in Mesoamerica) were seen all over the world.

B. Literacy expanded and was accompanied by the proliferation of popular literary forms in Europe and Asia (such as Shakespeare, Cervantes, *Journey to the West*).