Two Dynasties, Changing China

Trace what changed and what continued from Tang to Song China

WH.3.9 "Examine the role of the Tang and Song Chinese dynasties in establishing political, social, economic, and cultural trends in China."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show a trend continuing from Tang to Song China, and circle two details that show a change. Label each mark P for politics, S for society, E for economy, or C for culture.

From Chang'an to Hangzhou

1 In eighth-century Chang'an, the Tang capital, merchants sold goods carried along the Silk Roads. Tang rulers governed a large territory through officials, some chosen by exams on Confucian writings. Wealthy families still enjoyed advantages, but exams offered another path to office. Buddhism influenced religious life, poetry, and art across the empire.

2 Centuries later, Song cities grew as farmers produced more rice, including fast-ripening varieties from Southeast Asia. More food helped support larger populations and busy markets. Merchants used paper money, and printers made books more available. The Song government expanded the examination system, helping educated men from a wider range of families enter office, though women were excluded.

TWO DYNASTIES AT A GLANCE

Trend	Tang	Song
City trade	Chang'an: Silk Roads links	Southern Song Hangzhou: sea trade links
Government	Exams selected some officials	Exams filled more government posts

3 These changes did not erase older customs. Song officials continued to study Confucian texts, and artists still drew on earlier traditions. Yet Song printing spread learning to more readers, while growing commerce connected cities and villages through trade. Comparing the dynasties shows both continuity in government and new patterns in urban life, exchange, and culture.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the role of government exams change from Tang to Song China?

2. How did the trade links of Tang Chang'an and Southern Song Hangzhou differ?

3. How did a change in Song farming affect social or economic life?

4. Name one cultural trend that continued from Tang to Song China and one that changed.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing Tang and Song China. Explain one change and one continuity, and show how at least one development affected people's lives using evidence from both the passage and the table.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show a trend continuing from Tang to Song China, and circle two details that show a change. Label each mark P for politics, S for society, E for economy, or C for culture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the role of government exams change from Tang to Song China?	**The Tang used exams to select some officials. Under the Song, exams filled more posts and helped educated men from a wider range of families enter office.**
2	How did the trade links of Tang Chang'an and Southern Song Hangzhou differ?	**Chang'an had Silk Roads links, while Hangzhou had sea trade links.**
3	How did a change in Song farming affect social or economic life?	**Greater rice production provided more food, which helped support larger populations and busy markets.**
4	Name one cultural trend that continued from Tang to Song China and one that changed.	**Officials continued to study Confucian texts. Song printing made books available to more readers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Tang Chang'an had Silk Roads links, while Southern Song Hangzhou had sea trade links. Cities remained centers of exchange, but the trade routes connecting them changed. Both dynasties used government exams, and the Song filled more posts through them. This expansion gave educated men from a wider range of families a path to office.

Accept other supported continuities, such as the use of Confucian writings or earlier artistic traditions. For the museum label, look for an accurate change, continuity, and effect supported by evidence from both sources.