

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

Nomadic Empires (The Mongols)

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

NOMADS = organised pastoral society of the Central Asian STEPPE; move seasonally with herds (horses, sheep, goats); clans + tribes, NOT aimless wanderers.

INTERDEPENDENCE: nomads produced animals/hides/wool but NEEDED grain, metal, weapons, cloth from settled societies → traded with AND raided them.

TEMUJIN = birth name; he became CHINGGIS (Genghis) KHAN — a TITLE taken at the QURILTAI (assembly) of 1206 after uniting the tribes.

MILITARY GENIUS: reorganised people into DECIMAL units — 10 / 100 / 1,000 / 10,000 (= TUMEN); MIXED tribes so loyalty = to the unit + the Khan, NOT the clan.

This BROKE old tribal loyalties → a single disciplined army of mobile horse-archers.

CAMPAIGNS: against the JIN/CHIN of north CHINA; destruction of the KHWARAZM (Khwarizm) empire in Central Asia/Iran.

EMPIRE'S REACH (13th c.): from the PACIFIC to the CASPIAN — the largest contiguous land empire in history.

ADMINISTRATION 1 — YAM = courier-RELAY system; relay stations with fresh horses → fast messages across the empire.

ADMINISTRATION 2 — YASA = the CODE / customary law linked to Chinggis Khan (rules for army, hunt, discipline, conduct).

ADMINISTRATION 3 — used literate UIGHURS + conquered

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

1 How did Chinggis Khan organise his army / fighting force

8 marks · 80% of years

Problem (divided steppe) → decimal units 10/100/1,000/tumen with tribes MIXED → loyalty to Khan not clan → disciplined horse-archers → conquest of China + Khwarazm, held by yam + Yasa.

2 Rise of Temujin to Chinggis Khan / unification of the tribes

8 marks · 60% of years

Temujin's early hardship → built alliances and defeated rival chiefs → united the steppe tribes → acclaimed CHINGGIS KHAN ('universal ruler') at the QURILTAI of 1206.

3 Source-based passage on nomads / yam / Yasa / a campaign

5 marks · 55% of years

Underline named terms; answer identify in 1 line, explain in 2; finish the evaluate sub-question with a chapter fact (e.g. organisation, not force alone, held the empire).

4 How did the Mongols administer the empire? / yam + Yasa

4 marks · 45% of years

Yam (courier relay, fresh horses) + Yasa (the code) + Uighur/Persian/Chinese scribes + safe Silk Route + religious tolerance. Distinguish yam (relay) from Yasa (law).

5 Nomad-settled relations / Mongols after Chinggis (uluses, Kubilai, trade)

4 marks · 40% of years

Nomads needed grain/metal/cloth → trade + raid (interdependence). After 1227: uluses among sons; Kubilai ruled China (Yuan); Silk-Route trade + tolerance.

90-MIN REVISION FLOW

0-15 min

Draw the map from memory: the Mongolian steppe, arrows of conquest to China (east) and Khwarazm/Iran (west), empire Pacific → Caspian. Write the key markers: Temujin → Chinggis Khan, quriltai 1206, d. 1227.

15-30 min

Write the military story in four steps: PROBLEM (divided steppe) → DECIMAL units 10/100/1,000/1,000/tumen with tribes mixed → LOYALTY to the Khan not the clan → CONQUEST (China, Khwarazm). Say the 8-mark answer aloud.

30-45 min

Write the administration trio: YAM (courier relay) + YASA (the code) + Uighur/Persian/Chinese scribes; add safe Silk Route + religious tolerance. Draw the empire-as-system web.

45-60 min

Note nomad-settled interdependence (nomads needed grain/metal/cloth → trade + raid) and the after-Chinggis story (uluses among sons; Kubilai → Yuan China). List the sources (Juwaini, Rashiduddin, Chinese; mostly hostile) and the shifting image of Chinggis Khan.

60-75 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under a 20-minute timer. Target ≥ 12/15.

75-90 min

Review every wrong answer; re-read the matching notes-slide. Re-draw the decimal-army pyramid once more. Done.

Persians/Chinese as scribes/
officials (borrowed expertise).

AFTER CHINGGIS (d. 1227):
empire divided among his SONS
into ULUSES → a confederation
of related Mongol states,
drifting apart.

KUBILAI (Khubilai) KHAN
(grandson) ruled CHINA →
founded the YUAN dynasty.

PROMOTED the SILK ROUTE
(made trade routes safe) +
RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE →
moved merchants, craftsmen,
ideas (printing, gunpowder, art)
across Eurasia.

SOURCES = mostly HOSTILE
outsiders — Persian chronicles
(JUWAINI, RASHIDUDDIN /
Rashid al-Din) + Chinese
records; Mongol 'Secret History'
limited; read critically.

SHIFTING VIEW: image of
Chinggis Khan moved from
'barbaric destroyer' → revered
NATIONAL FOUNDER in modern
Mongolia. Class 11 = SCHOOL
paper, ~6-8 marks.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.
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