Question 2 — Continuity/Change over Time

Note: Essay does not have to address both beliefs and practices.

**BASIC CORE** (competence) 0–7 Points

1. Has acceptable thesis. 1 Point
   - The thesis correctly specifies BOTH continuity and change in religion from 1450 to the present.
   - Thesis must be explicitly stated in the introduction or the specified conclusion of the essay.
   - The thesis may appear as one sentence or multiple sentences.
   - A thesis that is split among multiple paragraphs or merely restates the prompt is unacceptable. For example, “There were many continuities and changes … ” is not acceptable.
   - “Practices” is meant to be interpreted broadly (e.g., role of religion in politics).
   - Beliefs and practices can be treated together.
   - The thesis CANNOT count for any other point.

2. Addresses all parts of the question, though not necessarily evenly or thoroughly. 2 Points
   **For 2 points:**
   - Essay addresses BOTH continuity AND change in religious beliefs and practices with historically relevant specificity.
   **For 1 point:**
   - Addresses continuity OR change in religious beliefs and practices but not BOTH.
   - “Addressing … ” CANNOT count as any other point.

3. Substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence. 2 Points
   **For 2 points:**
   - Provides at least five pieces of historically accurate evidence of continuity AND change in patterns of religious beliefs and practices.
     - Each piece of evidence must be a supporting example of continuity OR change in patterns of religious beliefs and practices.
     - Examples: practice of indigenous religions in 1450 and its continuation; impact of monotheism in Latin America/Caribbean; end of human sacrifice in Latin America; spread of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa; introduction of Christianity to new areas of sub-Saharan Africa; less practice of indigenous religions.
   **For 1 point:**
   - Partially substantiates thesis with appropriate historical evidence.
     - Provides at least four pieces of accurate evidence of continuity AND/OR change in patterns of religious beliefs and practices.

4. Uses relevant world historic context effectively to explain continuity and change over time. 1 Point
   - Essay relates or describes extraregional (e.g., North Africa or Europe) connection or a global process (e.g., slave trade or expansion of trade networks) to explain continuity or change in patterns of religious beliefs and practices.
     - Using “relevant world historical context” CANNOT count for the analysis point (#5) but can be included in the evidence count (#2), if appropriate.
5. Analyzes the process of continuity and change over time. 1 Point
   • Accurately explains reason for or impact of a continuity OR a change in patterns of religious belief and practice.
   • “Analyzes … ” CANNOT count for “uses relevant world historical context” (#4) but can be included in the evidence count (#2), if appropriate.

Subtotal 7 Points

EXPANDED CORE (excellence) 0–2 Points
Expands beyond basic core of 1–7 points. A student must earn 7 points in the basic core area before earning points in the expanded core area.

Examples:
   • Has a clear, analytical and comprehensive thesis.
   • Analyzes all issues of the question (as relevant): global context, chronology, causation, change, continuity, effects, content.
   • Provides ample historical evidence to substantiate thesis.
   • Provides links with relevant ideas, events and trends in an innovative way.

Subtotal 2 Points

TOTAL 9 Points
During the period from 1450 to the present, many changes and continuities can be seen in the religious beliefs and practices in Sub-Saharan Africa. There are changes visible in that new religions, such as Islam and Christianity, began to come into the area while continuities can be seen in the continued practice of traditional animism.

The changes in Africa's religion from the 1450s on are easily visible. First, new religions which hadn't existed there in previous times began to come in. As the Europeans entered the Age of Exploration, explorers such as Vasco da Gama traveled along the African coast. They spread their religion, Christianity, as they went. Although most continued traditional religions, some, such as Alfonso I of the Congo, adopted Christianity. The reason for this change was that the adoption of European religions could have political incentives as well. It was a way for African leaders to associate themselves with the advanced societies and perhaps to gain favor with them so that they could find aid in the future.
Another change was that these outside religions began to spread, not just places like the Gold Coast and Swahili coast where there was trade with other societies, but also to the interior. During the Berlin Conference of 1885, Africa was divided up between the European nations. This colonialism led to further religious influence. The French in particular had a system of direct rule in which they would culturally assimilate local populations. Thus, by the end of this period, many African nations began to practice Christianity, and also Islam, which came in from the Middle East. Even after they became independent, they kept much of the culture and religious beliefs gained during the colonial era.

There were also continuities in religion during this time. First, animistic beliefs still continued to play a major role in many African societies. At first, leaders such as Sundiata tried to balance these traditional beliefs with new ones such as the Islamic practices coming in during
his time, some traditional practices based on religion, such as clitoridectomy, continue to this day, despite women's rights increasing in many places. The reason for this continuity is that Africa's geography causes it to be very decentralized, and many isolated societies would have no reason to change their traditional beliefs and practices. Another continuity is the knowledge and practice of some religions originating outside of Africa, particularly on the Eastern coast due to Indian Ocean trade, societies such as Kilwa and Great Zimbabwe had influences from Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism and other outside religions. Some of this diversity continues in Africa's large cities.

Similar processes to those seen here were also obvious in Latin America, as the Europeans expanded there too. Christianity also increased in influence and became a major belief system over even traditional polytheism.
Religion impacted Latin America from 1450 to the present as new culture spread from European missionaries, changing ideas of religion, however the cultural rituals stayed the same.

Navigational discoveries led to "New World" encounters, thus the spread of Christianity came to Latin America. Jesuits, Christian missionaries, converted some Latin Americans to Christianity. The ones that did convert accepted the idea of One God oppose to the old idea of polytheism. Sacrifices of animals and people was abolished by newly converted Latin Americans. These changes led to tribal wars between converters and traditionalists. Also the changes led to killings of Jesuits by the polytheistic traditionalists. And the converters were taught the readings of the "Bible." Although changes occurred, some things remained constant; people continued to "dress" the same way which was hardly any clothes at all. The people still remained in tribes and hunted and scavenged for food. The diseases that were brought over continued to kill those who were not immune.

The changes and continuities that occurred were all influenced or not influenced by the European missionaries. Other occurring events were the mongols rule in Asia and the start of Columbian Exchange in which started the slave trade and Latin American
Revolution. Then, in the 1900s, World Wars occurred, which ended in German defeat and Russian Communism.
Over the years Latin America had many changes in their religious beliefs and practices. In the beginning of the 1450s, Latin America's practices were weak. Now, in the present day Latin America is strong. Over the years Latin America went from polytheistic to monotheistic.

In Latin America, they went through many different government practices. At first, Latin America's government tried to rule the people, but eventually the population fought back and wanted a say. The government then tried to become centralized, but many political reforms were needed. The government then became liberal, but not enough order was given out. Now in present day Latin America, a Democratic government seems to be the best suited government.

Over the years in Latin America, their religious beliefs have changed. In the beginning of the 1450s, they believed in many gods. As time went on, they only believed in one God and that stuck with them to present day today. Many people in Latin America went from being Islamic to becoming Christian with the change of
Religion also came the change of statuses. As time went on, the status of women changed dramatically. Women went from being property of men to being their own strong person. Through the years, Latin America's trade practices also changed and some stayed the same. In Latin America, they were always dependent on other nations. And till this day, they still are. Latin America always trade coffee beans and today they still do. Latin America had many changes throughout the years. These changes made Latin America stronger and better.
Question 2

Overview

This year’s question about continuity and change over time asked students to describe and explain continuities and changes in religious beliefs and practices in either sub-Saharan Africa or Latin America/the Caribbean from 1450 to the present. The intent of the question was to have students explain how those practices and beliefs changed, as well as how they remained the same, over a 550-year time period. Students needed to choose the region or continent about which they felt most knowledgeable. Further, students were asked to accurately explain a reason for or an impact of a continuity or change in patterns of religious beliefs and practices. Understanding of religious beliefs and practices is an important component of instruction in the AP World History course.

Sample: 2A
Score: 9

The thesis appears in the first paragraph and accurately includes the time frame, specific changes and a continuity related to sub-Saharan Africa (1 point). The second paragraph of the essay addresses both change and continuity related to religious beliefs and practices (2 points). The essay includes many pieces of evidence, spread throughout the essay, supporting change and continuity (2 points). World historical context appears in many places with one example in the second sentence on page 2, “During the Berlin Conference of 1885, Africa was divided up between the European nations.” (1 point). Analysis appears in the second paragraph (in the text beginning with “The reason for this change”) as well as in numerous other examples (1 point). The essay moved into the Expanded Core by demonstrating deep knowledge through the use of multiple pieces of evidence, demonstrating multiregional understanding, using sophisticated analyses, and providing many examples of world historical context (2 points).

Sample: 2B
Score: 5

The thesis appears in the first paragraph relating change and continuity in religious beliefs and practices with Latin America during the period 1450–present (1 point). The essay addresses change in the second sentence of the second paragraph (1 point). Continuity related to religious practices and beliefs is not addressed. Four pieces of evidence of change are provided in the second paragraph (1 point) including one that references world historical context (1 point). Analysis is addressed in the second paragraph in the text beginning with “Also the changes led to” (1 point). The essay summarizes world changes up to the present in the last paragraph but does not relate these changes to religious beliefs and practices or to Latin America.

Sample: 2C
Score: 2

A thesis is attempted but does not address continuity in Latin America. The first paragraph addresses change (1 point), and the third paragraph addresses continuity (1 point). There is one piece of accurate evidence of change in the third paragraph. The student attempts to provide additional evidence, but much of the material is historically inaccurate or not relevant to religious beliefs and practices.