

<i>To be filled in by the Jury. Please do not make any notes here!</i>						
CODE	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Total points
	Max 25	Max 25	Max 15	Max 15	Max 20	Max 100

HISTORY

10th Grade

to be completed within 120 minutes
Maximum score – 100 points

Task 1. *(maximum grade - 25 points)*

Read the text and answer the questions.

Acting under the instructions of King Louis IX, Flemish Franciscan missionary William of Rubruck went to the East in 1253-1255. Leaving from Palestine, Rubruck reached the capital of a country, which then included a large part of Eurasia.

His travel diary described this city as such: “...you must know that, exclusive of the palace of the Chan, it is not as big as the village of Saint-Denis, and the monastery of Saint-Denis is ten times larger than the palace. There are two quarters in it; one of the Saracens in which are the markets, and where a great many Tartars gather on account of the court, which is always near this city, and on account of the great number of ambassadors; the other is the quarter of the Cathayans, all of whom are artisans. Besides these quarters, there are great palaces, which are for the secretaries of the court. There are there 12 idol temples of different nations, two mosques in which is cried the law of Machomet, and one church of Christians in the extreme end of the city. The city is surrounded by a mud wall and has four gates. At the eastern is sold millet and other kinds of grain, which, however, is rarely brought there; at the western one, sheep and goats are sold; at the southern, oxen and carts are sold; at the northern, horses are sold.”

“...situated next to the city walls, enclosed within a high wall like those which enclose monks' priories among us. Here is a great palace ... and the palace is like a church, with a middle nave, and two sides beyond two rows of pillars, and with three doors to the south.”

Which city is William of Rubruck describing? Who founded this city and when? What role did this city play? What current country is now home to this city? Why would a traveler like William of Rubruck be so surprised by the diversity of religious institutions in such a place?
