

1

Respond to EITHER of the following prompts.

1) The EU has achieved many successes, and provides numerous benefits to its member countries and their citizens. In this discussion I'd like you to identify of these achievements of, or benefits of belonging to ,the EU for its member countries and their citizens. Pick ONE benefit or achievement, describe and explain it (in about 200 words).

OR

2) All governments, economies, and institutions face challenges, but those facing the European Union are particularly varied and complex. Identify ONE issue or problem in the EU that you find especially important and explain why. (Consider, among other possibilities, the loss of the UK due to Brexit, ongoing financial concerns and immigration challenges, an aging population, internal dissent on governance, and increasing populism and bad behavior on the part of some members, such as Hungary and Poland.)

2

The Demographic Transition began first in Europe, and has progressed further in this region than any other. The goal of this discussion is to explore the consequences of having made it to Stages 4 and 5 of the DTM.

What do you see as one of the chief consequences of the Demographic Transition in European countries today? You can think about it in terms of population size and structure, of course, but consider the implications for economies, the environment, public policy, immigration, culture, and other potential "side effects". Choose ONE consequence, describe and explain it as best you can in about 200 words (think one long or two shorter paragraphs).

3

What is distinctive about cities and the process of Urbanization in Latin America? Are the causes of the growth of cities in this region similar to the process as it occurred or is occurring in other regions, at least as you understand it, or are they different? (Think about the growth of cities historically in North America, for example.) Is there anything about the consequences of urbanization in this region that surprises or intrigues you? What and why? Have you visited any cities in Latin America and if so, how do your experiences compare to the characterization of these cities in the course content?

Respond to ANY PART of this prompt that interests you - do NOT feel obligated to address all of the sub-questions!

Based on the readings and videos, how would you explain the issue of deforestation in Latin America to a friend or sibling? What do you think is/are the most important driver(s) (what could also be called underlying causes) of deforestation in this region? Do causes differ from place to place, and decade to decade, and if so, how and why? What do you think are the most important consequences of deforestation? (Think about both environmental and human consequences.) Are there ways to stop or slow the process that have worked in the past, or could work in the future? Which of these solutions is most interesting to you, or most promising, from your point of view?

As with the prompt on urbanization, respond to only the part of the prompt that most interests you.