**AP U.S. History Summer Assignment**

**Short Answer Question (SAQ) #2**

“The Columbian connection had a devastating effect on the indigenous human societies of the Americas. . . . New disease vectors suddenly introduced into the vulnerable populations of

the New World began a sequence of horriﬁc pandemics. Rapidly spreading infectious disease devastated indigenous peoples of the New World. It thinned their numbers, destroyed their institutions, and broke their resistance to Spanish aggression. . . . Demographic recovery after major pandemics was hindered by reduced fertility, stillbirths, and other physical effects, as well as by cultural depression, hopelessness, and malaise resulting from Spanish colonial domination.”

John R. Richards, The Unending Frontier, 2006.

“The New World provided soils that were very suitable for the cultivation of a variety of Old World products, . . . The increased supply lowered the prices of these products signiﬁcantly, making them affordable to the general population for the ﬁrst time in history. The production of these products also resulted in large inﬂows of proﬁts back to Europe, which some have argued fueled the Industrial Revolution and the rise of Europe. The Old World gained access to new crops that were widely adopted. . . . The improvement in agricultural productivity . . . had signiﬁcant effects on historic population growth and urbanization.”

Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian, “The Columbian Exchange,” 2010.

**Question #2: Using the excerpt, answer A, B, and C. (Use 3-4 complete sentences, not an outline or bulleted notes, for each answer.)**

A. Brieﬂy explain ONE speciﬁc historical difference between Richards’s and Nunn and Qian’s interpretations.

B. Brieﬂy explain how ONE speciﬁc historical event or development not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Richards’s interpretation.

C. Brieﬂy explain how ONE speciﬁc historical event or development not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Nunn and Qian’s interpretation.