**QUESTION 1:**
What motivated the Mongols to expand beyond the Central Asian steppe?

**Document 1**

Source: Anonymous monk in Novgorod, Russia

In 1238, the Tatars came in countless numbers, like locusts, into the land of Ryazan [a trading city near Moscow]. ...They sent their ambassadors to Ryazan, demanding from them one-tenth of everything.

And the people of Ryazan said to them: “Only when none of us remain then all will be yours.”

But it was too late to resist the wrath of God... And then the pagan foreigners surrounded Ryazan.

They killed me, women, and children, monks, nuns, and priests, some by fire, some by sword, and violated nuns, priests’ wives, good women, and girls in the presence of their mothers and sisters...

**Document 2**

Source: An anonymous eyewitness account

That summer, Genghis Khan pitched his camp on the Snowy Mountain. He sent soldiers out against those Tangut people who had rebelled against him... The whole tribe was completely wiped out. Then he showed favor to Bo’orchu and Mugali [loyal allies of Genghis Khan], saying: “Take what you want, until you can carry no more... Make their fine sons follow behind you, holding your falcons. Bring up their daughters to arrange your wives’ skirts.”

**Document 3**

Source: Excerpt of a letter from Genghis Khan to Pope Innocent IV

Those whom you speak showed themselves to be highly arrogant and slew your ambassadors. Therefore, in accordance with the commands of the Eternal Heaven, the inhabitants of the aforesaid countries have been slain and annihilated. If not by the command of Heaven, how can anyone slay or conquer out of his own strength?

Thanks to the power of the Eternal Heaven, all lands have been given to us from sunrise to sunset. How could anyone act other than in accordance with the commands of Heaven? Now your own upright heart must tell you: “We will become subject to you, and will place our powers at your disposal.” You in person, at the head of the monarchs, all of you, without exception, must come to tender us service and pay us homage, then only will we recognize your submission. But if you do not obey the commands of Heaven, and run counter to our orders, we shall know you are our foe.”