Discuss the following for each of the documents:

1. What region and state does it represent?
2. What SPICE category(s) does it reflect?
3. What is the document and what does it say – summary.
4. What is the significance of the document? In other words, what does it show about a SPICE development in that state or region?
5. What outside evidence (facts) can you add to elaborate on what the speaker is saying?
6. How would you rate the course? In other words, write a POV or CAP to explain why he is saying what he is saying.

**Doc A**

Source: Ralph Fitch, British merchant, an account of his travels to the East Indies, published in 1599.

When the Portuguese go from Macao, the most southern port city in China, to Japan, they carry much white silk, gold, perfume, and porcelain and they bring from Japan nothing but silver. They have a great ship that goes to Japan every year, and brings back more than 600,000 coins’ worth of Japanese silver. The Portuguese use this Japanese silver to their great advantage in China. The Portuguese bring from China gold, perfume, silk, copper, porcelain, and many other luxury goods.

**Doc B**

Source: Xu Dunqiu Ming, writer, in his essay in *The Changing Times*, about the commercial city of Hangzhou, 1610.

In the past, the dye shops would allow customers to have several dozen pieces of cloth dyed before settling accounts and charging the customers. Moreover, customers could pay for dying the cloth with rice, wheat, soybeans, chickens, or other fowl. Now, when you have your cloth dyed you receive a bill, which must be paid with silver obtained from a moneylender.
Doc C

Source: Antonio Vázquez de Espinosa, a Spanish priest, *Compendium and Description of the West Indies*, 1620’s.

The ore at Potosí silver mine is very rich black flint, and the excavation so extensive that more than 3,000 Indians worked away hard with picks and hammers, breaking up that flint ore; and when they have filled their little sacks, the poor fellows, loaded down with ore, climb up those ladders or rigging, some like masts and others like cables, and so trying and distressing that even an empty-handed man can hardly get up them.

So huge is the wealth that has been taken out of this range since the year 1545, when it was discovered, up to the present year of 1628, that merely from the registered mines, according to most of the accounts in the Spanish royal records, 326,000,000 silver coins have been taken out.

This does not count the great amount of silver taken secretly from these mines to Spain, paying no 20 percent tax or registry fee, and to other countries outside Spain, including the Philippines and China.

Doc D


Since we were supplanted in the spice-trade by the Dutch, our chief investments or importations from the East Indies have been in dyed cotton cloth, silks, drugs, cotton-yarn, and wool; part of which commodities are for our own use, but a much greater part, in times of peace, were brought to London for sale to France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and our colonies.

For Europe draws from Asia nothing of solid use; only materials to supply luxury, and only perishable commodities, but sends to Asia gold and silver, which is there buried and never returns.

But since Europe has tasted of this luxury, since the custom of a hundred years has made Asian spices seem necessary to all degrees of people, since Asian silks are pleasing everywhere to the better sort, and since their dyed cotton cloth is useful wear at home, and in our own colonies, and for the Spaniards in America, it can never be advisable for England to quit this trade, and leave it to any other nation.