

## Foundations Test Essential Questions

1. What were the basic characteristics of hunter-forager societies? Consider the following: migration, technology, religion, social and economic organization.
2. What was the Neolithic Revolution?
  - a. Why and where (hint: several locations) did the Neolithic Revolution start?
  - b. What were the long-term demographic, social, political, economic, environmental, and technological effects of the Neolithic Revolution?
3. What is a civilization? What are the defining characteristics of a civilization?
  - a. Where did the earliest civilizations develop? Be able to identify the *location* of the following civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, Shang China, the Olmec, and the Chavin.
  - b. Why did civilization develop in these locations?
4. What were the political characteristics of the early civilizations? Consider: leadership, expansion, legal system, etc. Hint: Use Egypt and Mesopotamia as primary examples, but do NOT overlook unique political characteristics of other early civilizations.
5. What methods did early civilizations use to unify their populations? Consider: architecture, forms of writing, literature, trade, and social/gender hierarchies. Hint: Use Egypt and Mesopotamia as primary examples, but do NOT overlook unique political characteristics of other early civilizations.
6. What are the basic characteristics of the classical period's major religions/belief systems (animism/polytheism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Greco-Roman philosophy, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism)?
  - a. How did religions/belief systems help strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties within societies?
    - i. How did religions affect gender roles in their respective societies?
  - b. How and where did Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism spread by 600 CE?
7. What is an empire and what were empires' common characteristics during the Classical Era? Hint: think Conrad-Demarest model of empire.
  - a. Be able to identify the *location* of the following states and empires: Persian Empire, Qin and Han dynasties, Maurya and Gupta India, Phoenician and Greek colonization and Hellenistic Empire, Roman Empire, Teotihuacan, Maya city-states, and Moche.
8. What are the basic characteristics of the major classical empires (Rome, Greece, Maurya and Gupta India, Qin and Han China)? Be sure to identify similarities and differences between these societies. Hint: Use a SPICE (Social, Political, Interaction with environment, Cultural, and Economic) chart to help organize information.

- a. What techniques did classical empires create to govern their territories? Hint: consider centralized government, bureaucracy, legal systems, military power, etc.
  - b. What unique social and economic characteristics existed in these empires? Hint: consider social classes, labor systems, gender and family structures, role/function of cities, trade, etc.
9. What caused classical empires to decline, collapse, or transform into something else? Remember internal weakness (environmental issues, social unrest, poor leadership, etc.) or external pressure (invasions).
10. How did Classical era trade networks compare to early civilization trade networks? What forces contributed to the changes between the two eras?
- a. Identify the basic characteristics of the following trade networks during the Classical era: Silk Roads, Trans-Saharan, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean.
  - b. What technologies enabled long-distance overland trade and maritime trade?
  - c. What goods, technology, ideas, etc. spread along the Classical trade networks?

## Essential Key Terms

### Historical Terms

hunter-forager  
animism  
Polynesians  
Indo-Europeans  
Bantu  
agriculturalists  
pastoralists  
patriarchy  
specialized labor  
Mandate of Heaven  
quipu  
oracle bones  
Phoenicians  
Hittites  
Babylonians  
Nubians  
Epic of Gilgamesh  
Jewish Diaspora  
Asoka (Ashoka)  
Constantine  
Aristotle  
ancestor veneration  
Alexander the Great  
Caesar Augustus

Pax Romana  
Qin Shihuangdi  
Wudi  
examination system  
scholar-gentry  
Rome (city)  
Germans  
Xiongnu  
Yellow Turban rebellion  
jati

### Social Science Terms

aristocracy  
assimilation  
autocratic  
bureaucracy  
centralized (decentralized)  
city-state  
civil service  
civilization  
cosmopolitan  
debt slavery  
democracy  
despotism

diplomacy  
domesticated animals  
egalitarian  
imperial  
infrastructure  
kinship  
patriarchy (patriarchal)  
republic  
regionalism  
slavery  
syncretism  
theocracy  
tribute  
urbanization