

Review Questions for 600-1450

1. How did improved transportation technologies and commercial practices lead to an expansion of trade networks and an increased volume of trade? Think about Chinese, Mongols, and Aztec civilizations.
 - a. What institutions did *merchants* create to foster both trade and cultural diffusion in the postclassical era?
 - b. What advancements in technology allowed merchants to overcome environmental challenges to expand trade networks in the postclassical era?
 - c. What political factors encouraged commercial growth in the postclassical era?
 - d. Why did new urban areas, such as Hangzhou and Tenochtitlan, prosper and grow during the postclassical era? What roles did cities play in their societies during the post-classical era?
2. How did the intensification of inter-regional trade networks and communication affect the diffusion of culture?
 - a. Where did Buddhism expand to during the postclassical period? How and why were these religions able to spread during the postclassical period?
 - b. How did post-classical trade affect the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions? Think about Sinification and Pax Mongolica.
 - c. How did post-classical trade affect the diffusion of scientific and technological traditions?
3. What were the biological effects of post-classical trade?
 - a. What new foods, crops, and agricultural practices spread in the post-classical era?
 - b. What diseases and pathogens spread via post-classical trade networks?
4. How did the Tang/Song dynasties continue the traditions of the Han dynasty? How did the Tang/Song differ from the Han dynasty?
5. What new forms of government emerged in the post-classical period? Consider the following political systems: Mongol Khanates, Japanese Feudalism, Aztec Empire, and Inca Empire.
6. What innovations affected agriculture in the post-classical period? Consider the following innovations: Champa rice, chinampas, terrace farming, etc.
7. How did social and labor systems develop during the post-classical era? How did social and gender hierarchies develop in the post-classical era? Consider Tang/Song China, Japan, Mongols, Aztecs, and Inca.
8. How did the spread of Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism lead to changes in gender relations and family structure?