

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