

# Unit 1 – Key Questions/Essay Topics

1. In what ways did geography and climate affect the development of human society?
2. What were the economic and social results of the agricultural revolution?
3. What are the issues involved in using “civilization” as an organizing principle in world history?
4. What is the most common source of change: connection/diffusion or independent invention?
5. How do agricultural, pastoral and foraging societies differ? Use evidence from Africa, the Americas and Southeast Asia.
6. What was the impact of agriculture on the environment?
7. What was the importance of the introduction of bronze and iron?
8. Compare the basic features of two early civilizations? Choose two of the following: Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica, Shang, Indus
9. Compare the development of political structures in China with those in India.
10. How did social and gender structures in India differ from the Mediterranean?
11. Which regions were favored as areas of human settlement, given the technology available during the Classic period?
12. Describe the major classical period trading patterns within and among China, India, and the Mediterranean?
13. What were the scientific and technological contributions of China, India, and the Mediterranean?
14. What were the artistic contributions of China, India, and the Mediterranean?
15. What were the basic features of the major world belief systems?
  - a. Polytheism
  - b. Hinduism
  - c. Daoism
  - d. Judaism
  - e. Christianity
  - f. Buddhism
16. What were the main emphases and the main changes in organized religion during the Classic period?
17. What interactions among regions favored changes in human society?
18. What changes in population and culture were brought about by migrations?
19. What were the Greek approaches to science and philosophy? Explain the role of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.
20. What led to the diffusion of the major religions?
21. Why was the collapse of empire more severe in western Europe than it was in the eastern Mediterranean or in China?