

## AP WORLD HISTORY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

All work **MUST** be done in the notebook provided by Ms. Skalski. This assignment is **NOT** to be typed but handwritten in the notebook. This assignment is due on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9.**

1. Outline each of the first 6 chapters of the textbook (specific instructions are attached).
2. Answer the following questions. Please put all answers in complete sentences and paragraph form. Skip a line between each question.

**THIS ENTIRE ASSIGNMENT MUST BE DONE IN PEN, NOT PENCIL.**

**IF YOU FILL UP THE NOTEBOOK, PURCHASE ANOTHER SIMILAR NOTEBOOK TO FINISH THE ASSIGNMENT. DO NOT DO ANY PART OF THE ASSIGNMENT ON LOOSE LEAF PAPER.**

### Chapter 1

#### Before History

1. What was the significance of the discovery of Lucy's bones?
2. What set the genus Australopithecus apart from other animal species of the time?
3. What were the most important changes in the evolution from Australopithecus to Homo erectus?
4. What advantages did Homo sapiens possess over Homo erectus?
5. What were the differences between the Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon people?
6. What is the significance of the cave art? The Venus figurines?
7. How did the gradual transformation from hunting and gathering to agriculture probably occur? How did it spread?
8. What were the most significant positive and negative effects of the agricultural transition on human society?
9. What were the earliest craft industries to emerge and how did they benefit those living in Neolithic villages?
10. How did early cities differ from Neolithic villages and towns?
11. Would you say that early hunting/gathering cultures were based more on cooperation or competition? Justify your response.
12. What does the appearance of art forms like sculpture and painting tell us about Paleolithic cultures?

13. The development of human societies discussed in this chapter all point to the increasing complexity in people's lives and cultures. What strategies or institutions did people have to develop to cope with this complexity, and why?

## Chapter 2                      Early Societies in Southwest Asia and the Indo-European Migrations

1. What does the Epic of Gilgamesh tell us about the culture in which it emerged?
2. What was the significance of the need for irrigation to the political development of Mesopotamia?
3. What were the underlying principles of Hammurabi's code of laws, and what does the law code tell us about the kind of society that existed in Mesopotamia at the time?
4. Why were the Assyrians such formidable conquerors?
5. What were the technological innovations of the early Mesopotamians, and how did they contribute to the development of the culture and to its overall economic prosperity?
6. What were the social strata in ancient Mesopotamia and, in general, what roles did women play?
7. What is the significance of the development of cuneiform writing to the Mesopotamian culture and the surrounding areas?
8. Compare and contrast the history of the early Jewish community and the Phoenician culture. How did the Mesopotamians influence each?
9. What were the origins and early development of the Indo-Europeans?
10. Discuss where and how the Indo-European cultures spread through Eurasia.
11. Some historians refer to Mesopotamia as the "cradle of civilization". Why is this? Do you agree that "civilization" originated there? Why or why not?
12. Compare and contrast the lasting contributions of the Sumerians, Jews, Phoenicians, and Indo-Europeans. Which culture do you believe made the most significant contributions? Why?
13. Warfare was a significant factor in the development of all the cultures discussed in this chapter. Analyze how political institutions, economic factors, social factors, and technology interplayed to create conflict and war throughout this region.

## Chapter 3                      Early African Societies and the Bantu Migrations

1. How did Egyptian religious beliefs reflect their society, lifestyle, and geographic location?
2. How did climatic change influence the early development of African cultures?
3. How did the institution of the pharaoh evolve, and what was the nature of the pharaoh's power through the Old Kingdom period?

4. Describe the early Kingdom of Kush. What was its relationship with Egypt like?
5. How did the invasion of the Hyksos influence the later development of Egypt?
6. In what ways was the New Kingdom period of Egypt different from the earlier ones? What were the relations with Kush like during this period?
7. What was society like in Egypt and Nubia in terms of both social classes and gender roles?
8. What kind of transportation systems did the Egyptians use, and how did their transportation influence the development of their trade networks?
9. What was the significance of the cult of Osiris?
10. How did the Bantu migrations influence the development of the societies of sub-Saharan Africa?
11. Compare and contrast Egyptian and Nubian society. Why is there so much more known about Egypt? Come up with at least five good reasons.
12. Herodotus said that Egypt was the “gift of the Nile”. What does this mean? In what ways did the Nile affect Egyptian culture? Hint: think about more than just agriculture.
13. Agriculture spread through sub-Saharan Africa considerably later than it did through other parts of the world. Why do you think this is so? Come up with at least three possible explanations.

## Chapter 4

## Early Societies in South Asia

1. Why is so little known about the Harappan society? What is it that we do know about the nature of that society?
2. How do historians and archaeologists explain the decline of the Harappan culture?
3. How were the Indo-European migrants different from the cultures that already existed in India?
4. Trace the origins of the caste system, making sure to include a discussion of varna and jati.
5. Discuss the nature of patriarchy in early Indian societies. What is the Lawbook of Manu and how does it relate to gender roles?
6. What are the Vedas and what do they teach us about early Indian societies?
7. What are the fundamental religious teachings of the Upanishads?
8. How did the religious beliefs as expressed in the Upanishads dovetail with the social order during the Vedic Age?
9. In what ways did the religion of the Upanishads include an ethical system?
10. How did the Dravidian and Aryan cultures blend during this period?
11. There are very few names of prominent individuals included in this chapter. Why is this so? What is it about the nature of the society and the available historical sources that makes it difficult to discern individuals?
12. What were the advantages of the caste system to the development of Indian societies during this time period? Why do you believe this system managed to persist for millennia?
13. The religious beliefs of this period emerged as a result of the blending of Aryan and Dravidian traditions and significant developments in the later Vedic age.

These beliefs were the underpinnings of the Hindu religion, which is still the most prevalent religion of the Indian subcontinent. What aspects of this belief system make it so appealing to people? How did it both reflect and support other social institutions?

## Chapter 5 Early Society in East Asia

1. What do the legends of the three sage-kings tell us about the matters of greatest importance to the people of the early east Asian societies?
2. How did the physical features of the land and waters in east Asia influence the development of the culture?
3. What does the term mandate of heaven mean? How did it influence political developments in early east Asia?
4. What were the causes of the decline and eventual fall of the Zhou dynasty?
5. Describe the different social orders that developed during the first three dynasties.
6. What is the relationship between patriarchy and ancestor worship in early China?
7. What was the purpose of oracle bones during the Shang? What do they tell us about life at that time?
8. What do we know about writing and literature during the Zhou? Why is our knowledge so limited?
9. Describe the relationship between the Chinese society under the dynasties and the people of the steppe lands. How did these cultures differ? How did they influence each other?
10. What was the relationship between the culture of the Yellow River and that of the Yangzi River valley?
11. Many of the institutions and customs that emerged in east Asia during this era persisted until the twentieth century or even the present. Why do you think this is so? Why does there seem to be more continuity in east Asian history than in other parts of the world?
12. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a form of writing that is pictographic and ideographic (like Chinese) versus one that is alphabetic?
13. How do early east Asian religious beliefs and practices differ from those of the other early cultures you have studied so far? What do these differences imply about the societies' structures and their most important values?

## Chapter 6 Early Societies in the Americas and Oceania

1. How did humans come to settle in all parts of the Americas and in Oceania?
2. What traditions begun by the Olmecs were later adopted by other Mesoamerican societies?

3. How did the religion of the Maya reflect and reinforce their economy and governmental structure?
4. What role did human sacrifice play in early American societies?
5. For what were the people of the Teotihuacan culture most noted?
6. How did the geography of South America influence the development of the early complex societies there?
7. Compare and contrast the societies that existed under the Chavin cult and the Mochica state.
8. Where and how did agriculture spread in Oceania?
9. Describe the origins and development and the decline of the Lapita society.
10. In general, how did political structures evolve on the islands of Oceania?
11. Consider the meaning of bloodletting and human sacrifice to the Mesoamericans. How do these practices make sense in the context of their belief systems? How did their societies evolve to support these beliefs and these practices? What sorts of practices evolved out of different belief systems in other parts of the world?
12. How did the geography of the Americas and Oceania contribute to their unique development? What are the similarities in their patterns of development in spite of the geographical differences?
13. The paucity of written documentation for these cultures makes for large gaps in our understanding of them. What sorts of information can we obtain about cultures such as these without written texts and what will we never know?

Skeleton outline of Chapter 1. (You should follow this format for all outlines.)

## Chapter 1

### I. Before History

#### A. Introduction/Eyewitness

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

### II. The Evolution of Homo Sapiens

#### A. Introduction

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

#### B. Hominids

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

#### C. Homo Sapiens

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

### III. Paleolithic Society

#### A. Introduction

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

#### B. Economy and Society of Hunting and Gathering Peoples

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

### C. Paleolithic Culture

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

## IV. The Neolithic Era and the Transition to Agriculture

### A. Introduction

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

### B. The Origins of Agriculture

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

### C. Early Agricultural Society

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

### D. Neolithic Culture

- 1.
- 2.
3. etc.

### E. The Origins of Urban Life

- 1
- 2.
3. etc.

All sections must have a MINIMUM of 3 specific details from that section.

Do not use the gold subheadings in your outlines.

