**STANDARD 2 PART 2 NOTES**

**DAYS 1-7**

Empires (Man v. Competition)

o How does a city-state become an empire?

Take someone else’s stuff!

Sargon of Akkad – first emperor in history (Akkadians in Middle East)

Middle Eastern Empire Chain

o Akkadians

Babylonians (Hammurabi)

Hittites

Assyrians

Babylonians (Nebuchadnezzar)

Persians (Cyrus the Great/Darius I)

Exert social, economic, political, or cultural domination over

others

Aztecs, Alexander the Great (Macedonians), Inca, Rome,

Aryans/Mauryans/Guptas in India

o What are the challenges of becoming a large empire?

Managing conquered people (Aztecs, Romans)

Economic Differences (Persia)

Organizing Territory (Inca)

o How have various empires treated conquered peoples?

Forced cultural assimilation (absorbing ideas) – Alexander the Great

Required tributes/taxes/human capital – Aztecs, Romans, Assyrians

Moral justice – Mauryans

Respect for local customs (changing the name on the door) – Persians

o What are the positive and negative effects of imperialism?

Positive

Secures resources and power/influence for the ruling country.

Can stabilize trade in unstable regions

Negative

Oppression of native peoples socially, culturally, economically (Assyrians, Aztecs)

Eventually gets too big to maintain (Rome)

o What are the various strengths and weaknesses of imperial rulers throughout this period?

Strengths

Fair (Cyrus the Great, Hadrian, Asoka)

Charismatic (Alexander the Great, Pericles, Julius Caesar)

Organized (Wudi, Augustus, Diocletian, Chandragupta Maurya)

Weaknesses

Harsh (Shi Huangdi, Hammurabi, Ashurbanipal)

Poor Leaders (Nero, Caligula)

o What are the factors that have led to the rise and collapse of various empires?

Middle Eastern Empires (Akkadians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians, etc.)

Rose due to control of the river region

Fell due to conquest by other peoples in the region

Indian Empires (Mauryas, Guptas)

Rose because of organized governments and stability

Fell due to poor leadership, invaders

Chinese Dynasties (Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han)

Rose through a strong central figure overthrowing a previous government or

uniting several groups

Fell due to crises of invaders, disharmony with the leadership

Athens (Greek City-State) \*

Rose in the wake of the Persian Wars through cultural, economic domination

Fell after losing the Peloponnesian War with Sparta

Macedonians

Rose through conquests by Philip II, Alexander the Great

Fell after the death of Alexander

Rome (Kingdom)

Republic

Empire

Collapse

Rose through military force in the Mediterranean

Fell due to economic struggles, invaders

Aztec/Inca

Rose through conquests and alliances

Fell to invasion by the Spanish in the 1500’s

o How does trade impact the rise of empires?

Domination of trade networks can increase an empire’s profile

Rome controlled the Mediterranean after defeating Carthage in the Punic Wars

Despite the legends, many historians agree the Trojan War was over control of

sea trade

The Hans gained influence through the opening of the Silk Road, and its western

half was under Persian control for most of this period.

o What cultural consequences can result from imperial conquest?

Assimilation

Hellenistic culture in the wake of Alexander’s conquests

Cultural Domination

Athens

Spread of ideas

Indians/Chinese with the West

o What impact have various empires had on history?

Romans – Cultural influence, government structures

Athens – Philosophy, theater, democracy

Indians – Spread of Buddhism

Religion (Man v. Eternity)

o What do people seek in a religion?

Peace against fear of death

Moral/Ethical Principles

Inward Reflection/Improvement

Explanation of the unexplainable

o What is the difference between Eastern religions and Western religions?

Eastern Religions

Mostly polytheistic

Focused on the journey to spirituality

Destination is a higher plane of existence/knowledge (moksha in Hindusm/nirvana

in Buddhism)

Less political

Western Religions

Mostly monotheistic

Focused on following a higher power

Destination is a literal place of rest/reward (Heaven)

More political

o What is the chief difference between monotheistic and polytheistic religions?

Number of gods worshipped

Monotheistic: One

Polytheistic: Many

o How can belief systems unite and/or divide people?

Unity

Common bonds within followers

Principles of ethical behavior/love/kindness

Division

Disagreement between belief systems

Cause of exclusionary policies, practices

o How have the fundamental beliefs of various religions affected different areas of the world?

Ancient Polytheistic Religions

Religion depended on relationship with the environment

o Sumerians: fatalistic, ugly afterlife

o Egyptians: peaceful, beautiful afterlife

Zoroastrianism

State religion of Persia

Ideas of Judgment Day, Sin, Heaven and Hell

Guided behavior among Persians

Judaism

Jewish Diaspora: Jews move to parts of different empires, stay in close-knit

groups and observe traditions together

Hinduism

Influenced the caste system, used to divide Indians socially

Buddhism

Belief in a peaceful existence

Members mostly co-exist with other religions

Don’t seek to convert people

Christianity

Christianity starts out as underground religion, eventually becomes state religion

of Rome

Christianity grows to become the dominant force in Europe in later periods

Islam (doesn’t emerge until later periods)

Islam spreads out from Arabian Peninsula

Strong emphasis on trade facilitates growth and expansion into Africa, Middle East

o How are Christianity, Islam and Judaism similar and different?

Similar:

Trace their lineage back to Abraham

Monotheistic

Believes in Heaven and Hell

Strong emphasis on faith

Different:

Disagree about the role of Jesus of Nazareth (Jesus Christ)

o Christians: He’s the Messiah

o Muslims: He was a prophet only

o Jews: He’s not the Messiah

Variances in strictness of daily routine

Each religion has a variety of sects (different groups within a religion)

o What is the role of missionaries, traders and conquerors in the spread of religion?

Bring new ideas through their faith or business

Push the religion on conquered people or make them subject to it

o What are the holy books of the various religions?

Islam

Qu’ran

Christianity

Bible

Judaism

Torah

Trade (Man v. Resources)

o What is a traditional economy?

Economy based on habit, custom or ritual.

o What is the purpose of economics?

To manage unlimited wants with limited resources.

o What is the difference between a barter economy and a money economy?

Money economies involve a currency that is given in exchange for a good or service.

Barter economies involve trading of goods for other goods.

o What are the positives and negatives of a monopoly?

Positives: Price stability

Negatives: Price could be too high

o What problems does a surplus create?

Getting value out of it

Protecting it

o What geographical features are more conducive to trading?

Water routes, flat land routes, roads

**DAY 8**

Social Class (Man v. Others)

o How is a philosophy different from a religion?

A philosophy is only concerned with life and ways to live, and a religion involves the

afterlife as well.

o How have religious beliefs affected the social roles in various groups?

India: Caste system dictates social status and mobility is limited

Priests (Brahmins)

Warriors (Kshatriyas)

Merchants (Vaishas)

Laborers (Shudras)

Untouchables

Jewish societies are typically patriarchal due to the strong male roles in the Torah.

o What other themes of history affect social status?

Political: Based on political power

Economics: Based on wealth

o What affect can social roles have on a culture?

Prejudice

Honor

Culture (Man v. Choices)

o How have science and technology helped people meet their needs and wants?

Made tasks easier, simpler

o What do the unique features of cultures reveal about them?

Lifestyles (Greek architecture/outdoor activity)

Religious Beliefs (Mummification in Egypt)

Organization (Roads in Incan Empire)

o How can writing develop outside of an economic context?

Preservation of memories

Peace treaties, letters, artwork

o How did the life of Socrates affect his later pupils?

Socrates’ death led to future pupils distrusting authority because he was sentenced to

death for challenging authority.