

## **CH. 7 READING QUESTIONS – Carter Brehm**

### **1. Evaluate the weaknesses of the later Abbasid Empire.**

- a. Since the empire was so diverse, it could not be governed very effectively. Regions near the borders of the empire started to split off and fracture the empire. In addition the officials grew to like material wealth and turned into Sunnis which angered the general populace.

### **2. Describe the position of women in the Abbasid Empire.**

- a. Once the Abbasid's took power, women's rights dropped drastically. The harem and the veil became key symbols when referring to women, and most women stayed in their houses at all times and were controlled by their husbands. It eventually got so bad that being a slave woman gave you more rights than being a free woman.

### **3. Describe the economy of the later Abbasid Empire.**

- a. With the help of slave labor, the economy grew massively, even if the political sphere was collapsing slowly. With new trade routes, they were even able to trade with the Western Christians and Jews. New trading vessels allowed for overseas trade.

### **4. Trace theological developments within Islam during the Abbasid Empire.**

- a. During the entire course of the Abbasid empire, the Qu'ran was able to hold Greek religious influence back. Scholars attempted to mix Greek and Islamic ideas, but these people were deemed rejects and no progress was made.

### **5. Trace the stages of Islamic incursion into India.**

- a. In 711, the Muslims pushed into India on horses and camels. They claimed the land property of the Muslims, and it didn't really do much to affect the existing civilizations. Some smaller towns surrendered to the Muslims because of promises of lower taxes and religious tolerance. When they pushed in for the second time, more land was captured towards the north. Much of the Indus Valley was under the control of the Arabs by the end of their conquest.

### **6. To what extent were Muslims successful in converting Indians to Islam?**

- a. Some small communities of Muslims were formed all over, but Hinduism remained priority. Some radical Muslims attacked Buddhist shrines, but it did nothing to affect believers of the religion.