

## TPO63 P1-The Sumerians and Regional Interdependence

【Paragraph 1】 With the emergence of the Sumerian civilization in about 3100 B.C., a new era in human experience began—one in which the economic, political, and social mechanisms created by humans began to affect the lives of cities, towns, and villages located hundreds and perhaps thousands of miles apart. In a real sense, a rapidly evolving world system linked hundreds of Southwest Asian societies all the way from modern-day eastern Iran to the eastern Mediterranean and the Nile Valley. This nascent world system developed as a result of insatiable demands for nonlocal raw materials in different ecological regions where societies were developing along very similar evolutionary tracks toward greater complexity. In each area, social developments and technological innovations were triggered not only by basic economic needs but also by the competitive instincts of newly urbanized elites, who used lavish display and exotic luxuries to reaffirm their social prestige and authority. Sumerian civilization is a mirror of this developing regional interdependence.

【Paragraph 2】 Sumerian civilization came into being as a result of a combination of environmental and social factors. The Sumerians lived in a treeless, lowland environment with fertile soils but no metal little timber, and no semiprecious stones. They obtained these commodities by trading with areas where such items were in abundance. Sumerian rulers controlled not only large grain surpluses that could be moved in river craft but also a flourishing industry in textiles and other luxuries. The trade moved up and down the great rivers, especially the placid Euphrates. Ancient overland trade routes linked the Tigris and Euphrates rivers with the distant cities and ports in the Levant (eastern Mediterranean area). Even as early as Sumerian times, caravans of pack animals joined Anatolia to the Euphrates, the Levant to Mesopotamia, and Mesopotamia to isolated towns on the distant Iranian highlands to the east.

【Paragraph 3】 Bronze technology produced tougher-edged, more durable artifacts that could be used for more arduous day-to-day tasks. One resulting innovation was the metal- and wood-tipped plow, an implement dragged by oxen that was capable of digging a far deeper furrow than the simple hoes and digging sticks of earlier times. The plow was developed as irrigation agriculture assumed greater importance in Sumer, and the combined innovations increased agricultural yields dramatically. These yields not only supported larger urban and rural populations but also provided a means for the rulers of city-states both in Sumer and farther afield to exercise more control over food surpluses and over the wealth obtained by long-distance exchange.

【Paragraph 4】 An intricate and ever-changing system of political alliances and individual obligations of friendship linked community with community and city-state with city-state. In time, financial and logistical checks and balances were maintained by an administrative system based in the temples to bring order to what had begun as informal bartering. Specialized merchants began to handle such commodities as copper and lapis lazuli, a semiprecious stone. There was wholesaling and contracting, loans were floated, and individual profit was a prime motivation. Increasingly, every city-state, and even entire civilizations, came to depend on the world system, not so much for political stability but for survival.

【Paragraph 5】 As the volume of long-distance trade increased dramatically, so competition over resources intensified. Each state raised an army to defend its water rights, trade routes, and city walls. The onerous tasks of defense and military organization passed to despotic kings supposedly appointed by the gods. Such Sumerian city-states as Erech, Kish, and Ur had periods of political strength and prosperity when they dominated their neighbors. Then, just as swiftly, the tide of their fortunes would change and they would sink into obscurity.

【Paragraph 6】 Inevitably, the ambitions of some proud Sumerian leaders led them to entertain bolder visions than merely the control of a few city-states in the lowlands. They were well aware that the control of lucrative sources of raw materials and trade routes was the secret of vast political power. In about 2400 B.C., a monarch named Lugalzagesi boasted of overseeing the entire area from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean. This boast was probably false. It is likely that Sumerian cities dominated the overland routes that linked Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and the Levant, but their influence was never permanent, their control probably illusory.

# TPO63 阅读P1

TPO63 Reading P1

1. (单选题) It can be inferred from paragraph 1 that before the rise of the Sumerian civilization: Southwest Asian societies had been

- A. more densely populated
- B. more independent of other societies in the region
- C. more complex economically
- D. more dependent on authority

2. (单选题) Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? In correct choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information. 【This nascent world system developed as a result of insatiable demands for nonlocal raw materials in different ecological regions where societies were developing along very similar evolutionary tracks toward greater complexity.】

- A. As complex societies evolved in more and more regions, demands for a new world order increased
- B. The new world system placed increasing demands on regions of Southwest Asia in which more complex societies had developed.
- C. Less complex societies in the new world system had to demand locally unavailable raw materials from more complex societies in Southwest Asia.
- D. Demands by developing Southwestern Asian societies for raw materials available outside their territories led to the emergence of a world system

3. (单选题) According to paragraph 1, one of the causes of the social and technological developments in Southwest Asia at the time of the Sumerian civilization was

- A. increased access to information
- B. improved educational opportunities
- C. competition for prestige and authority
- D. stronger governmental control

4. (单选题) The word "flourishing?" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. new
- B. prosperous
- C. well-organized
- D. promising

5. (单选题) According to paragraph 2, Sumerians lacked all of the following EXCEPT

- A. semiprecious stones
- B. metals
- C. grain
- D. timber

6. (单选题) The word "arduous" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. frequent
- B. important
- C. difficult
- D. specialized

7. (单选题) Paragraph 3 suggests that before the invention of the plow, Sumerians used which of the following in agriculture?

- A. Fertilizer
- B. Tools capable of digging deep furrows
- C. Oxen
- D. Simple hoes and digging sticks

8. (单选题) According to paragraph 3, in addition to the plow, which of the following was responsible for large increases in agricultural productivity in Sumer?

- A. legation
- B. Large populations
- C. Increased control by rulers
- D. Increased use of digging sticks

9. (单选题) According to paragraph 4, all of the following statements about the Sumerian economic system are true EXCEPT:

- A. Temple officials oversaw commercial transactions.
- B. It was possible for individuals to borrow money.
- C. Goods were informally bartered in the temples.
- D. Merchants specialized in particular types of goods

10. (单选题) The word "swiftly" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. importantly
- B. quickly
- C. clearly
- D. predictably

11. (单选题) Paragraph 6 supports which of the following statements about the Sumerian monarch Lugalzagesi?

- A. He probably ruled over the entire area from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean
- B. He probably did not control more than a few Sumerian city-states in the lowlands.
- C. He probably dominated the overland trade routes that linked Mesopotamia: Anatolia, and the Levant
- D. He probably lost control of the trade routes started by previous Sumerian monarchs.

12. (单选题) The word "lucrative" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. distant
- B. profitable

- C. major
- D. particular

13. (单选题) Look at the four squares 【】 that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage

It produced constant disputes and conflicts between neighboring states.

Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square 【】 to add the sentence to the passage.

【Paragraph 5】 As the volume of long-distance trade increased dramatically, so competition over resources intensified. 【A】 Each state raised an army to defend its water rights, trade routes, and city walls. The onerous tasks of defense and military organization passed to despotic kings supposedly appointed by the gods. 【B】 Such Sumerian city-states as Erech, Kish, and Ur had periods of political strength and prosperity when they dominated their neighbors. 【C】 Then; just as swiftly, the tide of their fortunes would change and they would sink into obscurity. 【D】

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

14. (多选题) The Sumerian civilization typifies the regional interdependence that emerged among Southwest Asian societies around 3100 B.c.

Answer Choices

- A. Urban elites in Sumerian society used luxury items to demonstrate their wealth and high social position
- B. Sumerians developed a sophisticated commercial economy overseen by an administrative system based in the temples.
- C. A few Sumerian city-states dominated their neighbors and remained in power throughout the history of the Sumerian civilization.
- D. Sumerians used river and land routes to trade their large grain surpluses and other products for commodities they lacked
- E. During the era in which the Sumerian civilization emerged, no other complex societies had yet developed elsewhere.
- F. Competition for valuable resources and trade routes eventually led to wars and power shifts among Sumerian city-states

【Paragraph 1】 Astronomers now have a fairly good idea of what a comet really is. When it is far from the Sun, it is a very small object only a few kilometers across. It consists mainly of ices (water, methane, ammonia) with bits of dust embedded in it—a kind of dirty ice ball. As it approaches the Sun, radiation from the Sun vaporizes the icy matter and releases some of the dust. This forms a gigantic halo around the ice ball. This halo—called the coma—extends out tens of thousands of kilometers from the icy core, which is the nucleus of the comet. Sunlight reflected off the dust particles makes the coma visible to observers on Earth. Ultraviolet radiation from the Sun breaks down the vapor molecules into their constituents. These components can be excited by absorbing radiation from the Sun. In returning to lower-energy states, the excited atoms and ions emit light, contributing to the luminosity of the coma.

【Paragraph 2】 When the comet gets even closer to the Sun, one of its most spectacular parts begins to form—the tail. Actually, there are two kinds of tails—the dust tail and the ion tail. The dust tail is produced by the light from the Sun reflecting off the dust particles in the coma. A photon carries momentum. In bouncing off a dust particle, it imparts a tiny, but perceptible, momentum change to the dust particle, driving it away from the coma. As the comet sweeps along its orbit, it leaves a curving trail of dust behind in its path. This visible dust tail can extend for tens or hundreds of millions of kilometers out from the nucleus. The dust tail is characterized by its gently curving shape and its yellowish color.

【Paragraph 3】 A different mechanism is responsible for the ion tail. Near the Sun, ultraviolet radiation from the Sun (solar wind) ionizes and excites the atoms in the coma. As the solar wind sweeps through the coma, the high-velocity charged particles of the solar wind interact with the electrically charged excited ions in the coma, driving them away from the head of the comet. In returning to lower-energy states, these excited ions emit photons and form a luminous, bluish-colored tail extending out from the comet directly away from the Sun. Since both kinds of tails are produced by radiation streaming out from the Sun, they extend out from the coma in the general direction away from the Sun. A comet may exhibit several tails of each kind.

【Paragraph 4】 Although the nucleus is of the order of a few kilometers in size, the diameter of the coma may be tens or hundreds of thousands of kilometers, the tails typically extend out tens or hundreds of millions of kilometers away from the coma.

【Paragraph 5】 A comet leaves a trail of matter behind it as it moves through the inner solar system. Some of this debris may get strewn across Earth's orbit around the Sun. When Earth passes through this part of its annual path, it sweeps through the dust trail. The particles enter Earth's atmosphere at high velocity. The air friction can cause one of these bits of matter to produce a brief streak of light as it burns up in the atmosphere.

【Paragraph 6】 Since a comet loses matter on each pass by the Sun, eventually it will be depleted to the point where it is no longer visible. Comets that approach the Sun have finite lifetimes. Given the typical sizes of comets and the typical rates at which they lose matter, astronomers have concluded that the lifetimes of comets with orbits that bring them near enough to the Sun to be seen from Earth are very much shorter than the age of the solar system. Where do the new comets come from to replace the old ones that dissipate and vanish from view?

【Paragraph 7】 Dutch astronomer Jan Oort proposed that a giant cloud of matter left over from the formation of the solar system surrounds the Sun and extends out to about 50,000 astronomical units. This cloud contains large chunks of matter like the nuclei of comets. The gravitational influence of a passing star can be sufficient to perturb the orbit of one of these chunks to send it toward the inner solar system and bring it near the Sun.

## TPO63 阅读P2

TPO63 Reading P2

1. (单选题) Which part of a comet is described in the passage as a “dirty ice ball”?
- A. The nucleus  
 B. The coma  
 C. The dust tail  
 D. The ion tail
2. (多选题) Select the TWO answer choices from paragraph 1 that describe changes that occur as a comet approaches the Sun. To receive credit, you must select TWO answers.
- A. Water, methane, and ammonia condense into a core.  
 B. The icy content of the comet begins to vaporize  
 C. The comet’s halo decreases in size  
 D. Dust particles and vapor form a coma
3. (单选题) The word “luminosity” in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. immensity  
 B. development  
 C. display  
 D. brilliance
4. (单选题) The word “imparts” in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. shows  
 B. gives  
 C. confirms  
 D. maintains
5. (单选题) According to paragraphs 2 and 3, all of the following statements about comet tails are true EXCEPT:
- A. Ion tails are created by ultraviolet radiation  
 B. Photons are active in creating both ion tails and dust tails.  
 C. Dust tails follow in the path of a comet.  
 D. Ion tails have a curved shape and yellowish color.
6. (单选题) According to paragraph 3, the tails of a comet
- A. flow in the same direction as the radiation that produces them  
 B. become straighter as the comet moves away from the Sun  
 C. are pulled toward the Sun

D. can become detached from the comet head if the solar winds are strong enough

7. (单选题) Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information. 【Paragraph 4】 Although the nucleus is of the order of a few kilometers in size, the diameter of the coma may be tens or hundreds of thousands of kilometers, the tails typically extend out tens or hundreds of millions of kilometers away from the coma.

- A. The diameter of a coma is usually larger than the tails that extend away from it while the nucleus is much smaller.
- B. The diameters of the nucleus, coma, and tail of a comet exhibit minor differences in size.
- C. The nucleus is reduced in size, while the coma and tails extend far into space
- D. Comet tails are much larger than the coma, which is much larger than the nucleus

8. (单选题) The word “strewn” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. combined
- B. damaged
- C. observed
- D. scattered

9. (单选题) According to paragraph 5, what happens when Earth passes through the dust trail of a comet?

- A. Dust particles burn up in Earth’s atmosphere.
- B. The comet’s orbit is changed.
- C. The dust trail is completely destroyed
- D. The comet’s tails change direction.

10. (单选题) What does paragraph 6 imply about comets that are visible from Earth?

- A. The visible comets grow brighter as they grow older
- B. The comets that are visible from Earth today have not been orbiting close to the Sun throughout the history of the solar system
- C. There were fewer visible comets during the early history of the solar system than there are today.
- D. The average lifetime of the visible comets is decreasing.

11. (单选题) Why does the author end paragraph 6 with a question?

- A. To indicate that certain information about comets is unknown
- B. To introduce a topic that will be clarified in the next paragraph
- C. To propose an area that requires further research
- D. To challenge theories that were presented earlier in the passage

12. (单选题) According to paragraph 7, how did astronomer Jan Oort contribute to our understanding of comets?

- A. He theorized that comets form when passing stars push chunks of debris from the outer to the inner solar system
- B. He proposed a way of comparing comets in our own solar system with those that orbit other stars.
- C. He explained that the lifetime of a comet depends on its distance from the Sun at the time the solar system was formed.
- D. He suggested that all comets follow elliptical orbits around the sun and that the limits of the solar system

D. He proved that old comets do not really disappear; they just move beyond the limits of the solar system.

13. (单选题) Look at the four squares 【】 that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage

This streaking phenomenon is called a meteor or sometimes a falling star or shooting star.

Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square 【】 to add the sentence to the passage.

【Paragraph 5】 A comet leaves a trail of matter behind it as it moves through the inner solar system. Some of this debris may get strewn across Earth's orbit around the Sun. 【A】 When Earth passes through this part of its annual path, it sweeps through the dust trail. 【B】 The particles enter Earth's atmosphere at high velocity. 【C】 The air friction can cause one of these bits of matter to produce a brief streak of light as it burns up in the atmosphere. 【D】

A. A

B. B

C. C

D. D

14. (多选题) Astronomers have acquired much information about the composition of comets and the ways comets change as they move through the solar system.

Answer Choices

A. Ices and dust particles compose the nucleus of a comet.

B. The type of tail exhibited by a comet depends on its proximity to the Sun

C. The solar system contains a limited number of comets

D. A comet produces tails and a coma as it approaches the Sun.

E. The coma of a comet is typically larger than the tail of a comet

F. Comets lose matter each time they pass by the Sun, until they eventually disappear.

【Paragraph 1】 After the formation of the Roman Republic in 509 B C., the Romans expanded the borders of their realm through near-continuous warfare. At its greatest extent, in the early second century A.D, the Roman Empire reached from the Euphrates River in southwest Asia to Scotland in the West. The vast territory ringed the Mediterranean Sea-mare nostrum, or "our sea," the Romans called it. As the Romans absorbed the peoples they conquered, they imposed on them a legal, administrative, and cultural structure that endured for some five centuries-in the eastern Mediterranean until the fifteenth century AD-and left a lasting mark on the civilizations that emerged in Europe.

【Paragraph 2】 Conquering and maintaining a vast empire required not only inspired leadership and tactics but also careful planning, massive logistical support, and great administrative skill. Some of Rome's most enduring contributions to Western civilization-its system of law, its governmental and administrative structures, and its sophisticated civil engineering and architecture-reflect these qualities.

【Paragraph 3】 To facilitate the development and administration of the empire, as well as to make city life comfortable and attractive to its citizens, the Roman government undertook building programs of unprecedented scale and complexity, mandating the construction of central administrative and legal centers (forums and basilicas), recreational facilities (racetracks and stadiums), theaters, public baths, roads, bridges, aqueducts (bridge-like structures for carrying fresh water from the mountains), middle-class housing, and even new towns. To accomplish these tasks without sacrificing beauty, efficiency, and human well-being, Roman builders and architects developed rational plans using easily worked but durable materials and highly sophisticated engineering methods. The architect Vitruvius described these accomplishments in his Ten Books of Architecture.

【Paragraph 4】 To move their armies about efficiently, speed communications between Rome and the farthest reaches of the empire, and promote commerce, the Romans built a vast and sophisticated network of roads and bridges. Many modern European highways still follow the lines laid down by Roman engineers, and foundations dating from the Roman era underlie the streets of many cities Roman bridges are still in use. and remnants of Roman aqueducts need only repairs and connecting links to enable them to function again The Pont du Gard, near Nimes in southern France, for example, is a powerful reminder of Rome' s rapid spread and enduring impact Entirely functional, the Roman aqueduct conveys the balance, proportion, and rhythmic harmony of a great work of art and fits naturally into the landscape, a reflection of the Romans' attitude toward the land.

【Paragraph 5】 Despite their sophistication as city-dwellers, Romans liked to portray themselves as simple country folk who had never lost their love of nature. The middle classes enjoyed their town-home gardens, wealthy city dwellers maintained rural estates, and Roman emperors had country villas that were both functioning farms and places of recreation. Wealthy Romans even brought nature indoors by commissioning artists to paint landscapes on the interior walls of their homes.

【 Paragraph 6 】 The Romans particularly admired Greek art. Historians have even suggested that although Rome conquered the Greek world, Greek culture conquered Rome. The Romans used Greek designs and Greek styles of columns in their architecture, imported Greek art, and employed Greek artists. In 146 B.C., for example, they stripped the Greek city of Corinth of its art treasures and shipped them back to Rome Ironically, this love of Greek art was not accompanied by admiration for its artists. In Rome, as in Greece, professional artists were generally considered little more than skilled laborers.

【 Paragraph 7 】 Although the Romans had gods of their own, they also adopted many Greek gods and myths and assimilated Greek religious beliefs and practices into a form of state religion To these gods they added their own deified emperors, in part to maintain the allegiance of the culturally diverse populations of the empire. Worship of ancient gods mingled with homage to past rulers, and oaths of allegiance to the living ruler made the official religion a political duty-increasingly ritualized, perfunctory, and distant from the everyday life of the average person As a result, many Romans adopted the more personal religious beliefs of the people they had conquered These unauthorized religions flourished, despite occasional government efforts to suppress them.

## TPO63 阅读P3

TPO63 Reading P3

1. (单选题) According to paragraph 1, which of the following is true of the Roman Empire?

- A. It included more territory in the early second century A.D. than at any other time.
- B. It had reached the Euphrates River in southwest Asia by 509 B.C.
- C. It endured in the eastern Mediterranean for about five centuries.
- D. It allowed conquered peoples to keep their own government and cultural structures.

2. (单选题) Paragraph 1 suggests that the Romans called the Mediterranean Sea *mare nostrum*, or "our sea," because they

- A. controlled all the territory that surrounded the Mediterranean.
- B. had explored the Mediterranean more thoroughly than any other group of people.
- C. extended Roman rule by absorbing Mediterranean culture from other countries.
- D. thought that only Roman ships should sail on the Mediterranean.

3. (单选题) The word "mandating" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. allowing
- B. ordering
- C. funding
- D. designing

4. (单选题) The word "durable" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. convenient
- B. attractive
- C. low-cost
- D. long-lasting

5. (单选题) The word "remnants" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. copies
- B. Plans
- C. remains
- D. surfaces

6. (单选题) Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage?

Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information. 【Paragraph 4】【Entirely functional, the Roman aqueduct conveys the balance, proportion, and rhythmic harmony of a great work of art and fits naturally into the landscape, a reflection of the Romans' attitude toward the land.】

- A. Because the Romans believed that works of art fit more naturally into the landscape than practical structures, their aqueducts were always in use.
- B. The Roman aqueduct is a functional and artistic structure reflecting the idea that architecture should blend naturally with the