Ancient China within the Qin and Han Dynasties (221 BCE - 220 CE)

* The Qin dynasty was the first imperial dynasty of China, from 221-206 BCE.
* Named for its progenitor state Qin, a fief of the confederal Zhou dynasty.
* The predominant form of religious belief in China during the early imperial period focused on *shen* (roughly meaning ‘spirits’), *yin* (陰; 阴; 'shadows'), and the realm they were understood to inhabit.
* The spirit world was believed to be parallel with the earthly one: animal sacrifices were offered to contact it, and the spirits of people were thought to move there upon death.
* In general, ritual served two purposes: to receive blessings from the spirit realm, and to ensure the dead journeyed to and stayed there.
* The Han dynasty succeeded the Qin dynasty, lasting from 202 BCE to 9 CE, then 25-220 CE (9-23 CE – Xin).
* Spanning over four centuries, the Han dynasty is considered a golden age in Chinese history and had a permanent impact on Chinese identity in later periods.
* Families throughout Han China made ritual sacrifices (usually involving animals and foodstuffs) to various deities, spirits, and ancestors.

The Vikings (700-1100 CE)

Archaic Greece (900-600 BCE)

Roman society (753-133 BCE)

Spartan society (circa 700-371 BCE)

Ptolemaic Egypt (331-31 BCE)

The Early Christians (to 337 CE)

Israel and Judah (961-586 BCE)

Persian society (559-330 BCE)

Indian society within the Mauryan Empire (321-185 BCE)

The Celts (1200 BCE - 60 CE)

You MUST focus on beliefs, rituals and funerary practices for your FIA2

Colour coding:

Red: Corroborating – Evaluating, comparison with referral to other sources in the IA2, mentioned seamlessly without disrupting the primary argument of the current source.

Purple: Discussing content of the source (not quality etc.) and (relate/link to) answering own sub-question.

Green: Reliability and usefulness of source + author

Writing with nuance, understanding the subtleties of the topic (relevant observations/comparisons/statements using understanding of context).