What does the name "Iran" mean, and how did it originate from the Aryan tribes?

The region became known as Ariana or Iran (Land of the Aryans) after the immigration of Aryan (Indo-Iranian) tribes.

How did the Medes influence the early history of the Persians, and what role did Cyrus the Great play in overthrowing them?

The Medes had subjugated the territory of early Persians, and Cyrus the Great played a major role in their overthrowing.

What cultural advancements are attributed to the early Persians and Medes, and how did Cyrus II contribute to their development on a larger scale?

The qanat system of irrigation, the yakhchal, and military organization were attributed to the early Persians and Medes. Cyrus II contributed to their development through his recognition and wide-scale adoption of the concepts.

How did Persian culture influence other civilizations, including the Greeks, and why is its impact still relevant today?

Elements of both Persian and Greek culture have cross-fertilized throughout history, with these shared ideals going on to impact further cultures.

What was Cyrus the Great's vision of an empire, and how did his approach contribute to the vitality and influence of Persian culture?

Cyrus the Great’s ideal empire was one in which the citizens could live and worship freely, on the condition that they paid tax and avoided trouble with their neighbors or the king. This fundamental principle of Persian culture significantly

What was the nature of the religion brought by the Aryan tribes to the Iranian Plateau, and who was their supreme being?

Explain the ritual of yazna and the significance of the drink hauma and fire in the ceremony.

Who was Zoroaster, and what key changes did he introduce to the earlier polytheistic religion?

Describe the opposing forces in Zoroastrianism and how these forces influenced human life and choices.

How did Zoroastrian beliefs about a messiah and the end of time reflect concepts found in later religions?

In what ways did Zoroastrianism shape the social hierarchy in Persian culture, particularly regarding the role of the king?