

World Civilizations: The Global Experience, AP Edition, 6e (Stearns)
Chapter 2 Classical Civilization: China

Multiple-Choice Questions

1) One difference between the classical civilizations and the earlier river valley civilizations was that in classical civilizations

- A) most people farmed the land.
- B) political organizations were more elaborate.
- C) trade was introduced.
- D) writing was developed.

Answer: B

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Topic: Introduction

Skill: Conceptual

2) One difference between classical China and the earlier Huang he river valley civilization was that

- A) human sacrifices were suppressed.
- B) traditions emphasized the harmony of nature.
- C) irrigation was widely practiced.
- D) China became relatively isolated.

Answer: A

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Topic: Patterns in Classical China

Skill: Conceptual

3) A "dynasty" in Chinese history was

- A) any emperor who lasted more than two decades.
- B) a family that passed the imperial title from generation to generation.
- C) powerful bureaucrats who ran the state.
- D) big business families who monopolized overseas trade.

Answer: B

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Topic: Patterns in Classical China

Skill: Factual

4) The "Son of Heaven" concept promoted all of the following EXCEPT

- A) loyalty to the emperor.
- B) priests' control of the state.
- C) the remoteness of emperor from subjects.
- D) an explanation of the decline of dynasties.

Answer: B

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Topic: Patterns in Classical China

Skill: Conceptual

5) The Qin dynasty differed from the Zhou dynasty in that

- A) it lasted longer.
- B) it practiced Confucianism.
- C) its government was more centralized.
- D) it was defeated by invading Huns.

Answer: C

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Topic: Patterns in Classical China

Skill: Factual

6) All of the following constituted a function of government in Han China EXCEPT

- A) promotion of scientific research.
- B) promotion of Confucian beliefs.
- C) schools for peasant boys.
- D) punishment of criminals.

Answer: C

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Topic: Political Institutions

Skill: Factual

7) Chinese views of nature emphasized

- A) a harmonious earthly life.
- B) a powerful, all-seeing God.
- C) that nature was uncontrollable.
- D) that the key to understanding lay through scientific experiments.

Answer: A

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

8) Which of the following was a Confucian belief?

- A) Change should be encouraged and modeled by the emperor.
- B) A good society has a hierarchy both in family and state.
- C) Merchants must be valued for their money-making skills.
- D) People of all social classes and abilities should be actively involved in government.

Answer: B

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

9) Ceremony and hierarchy became an important part of upper-class Chinese life because

- A) the Chinese believed that women should regulate the household.
- B) the Chinese believed that it would help unify society and prevent greed.
- C) the Chinese believed that polite behavior was a way to please the gods.
- D) the Chinese believed that courtesy would win salvation in heaven.

Answer: B

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

10) Daoists would agree with Confucianists on all of the following EXCEPT

- A) the importance of political activity.
- B) scorn for greed.
- C) basic harmony of nature.
- D) importance of restraint in personal life.

Answer: A

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

11) The Chinese emperors accepted Daoism for all of the following reasons EXCEPT

- A) Daoists did not have great political ambitions.
- B) Daoists believed that nobles were holier than peasants.
- C) Daoists came to acknowledge the Son of Heaven.
- D) Daoism embraced traditional Chinese beliefs.

Answer: B

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

- 12) Chinese art featured
A) frequent shifts in style.
B) careful craftsmanship and detail work.
C) monumental temples and stadiums.
D) emphasis on God and the holy family.

Answer: B

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

13) Which of the following groups was considered "low standing" in official Chinese social hierarchy?

- A) Students
B) Merchants
C) Scholars
D) Soldiers

Answer: B

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Topic: Economy and Society

Skill: Factual

- 14) One of China's key economic strengths was
A) government encouragement of the merchant class.
B) high levels of technological innovation.
C) early introduction of steam-powered equipment.
D) cheap slave labor.

Answer: B

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Topic: Economy and Society

Skill: Conceptual

- 15) Women in Han Chinese society
A) could rise to the level of the emperor but only if they had no children.
B) sometimes could sometimes gain power in a household.
C) tended to be poor and were sometimes sold into slavery.
D) tended to marry much younger men.

Answer: B

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Topic: Economy and Society

Skill: Conceptual

16) A famous example of "cultural diffusion" in early Chinese history was

A) the spread of paper-making technology from the Middle East.

B) the use of the iron plow from Rome.

C) the development of written Mandarin Chinese characters.

D) the introduction and spread of Buddhism from India.

Answer: D

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Topic: Economy and Society

Skill: Conceptual

Essay Questions

1) What kinds of political problems was the development of bureaucracy in Han China meant to solve?

Answer: Bureaucracy aimed to alleviate political instability, difficulties of centrally controlling outlying provinces, and related competition among landed aristocrats for power and influence.

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Topic: Political Institutions

Skill: Conceptual

2) How does one explain why the early Chinese people were so creative yet their society was relatively isolated?

Answer: The relationship between the Chinese individual and the state tended to lead to a cohesion not usually found in early civilizations. In addition, the ideas of the Confucianists along with the Daoists and the Legalists, spread throughout the entire civilization. This led to the idea that the Chinese were superior to outsiders, which led to a feeling that outside ideas were "suspect." These developments led to a larger population and an increase in agricultural technology.

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

3) How did Chinese culture, particularly Confucian philosophy, support the political structure of the empire?

Answer: Confucianism emphasized order, hierarchy, and deference, including specific injunctions to obey the emperor.

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

4) Why was China able to accept two different basic belief systems, Confucianism and Daoism?

Answer: Responses should emphasize the system's concerns, spirituality and politics respectively and discuss how they could coexist, particularly when Daoism included injunctions regarding political loyalty. The two systems did not directly impinge on each other's goals. Some students could recall that there were some basic concepts, such as Dao, underlying both systems to an extent.

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Topic: Religion and Culture

Skill: Conceptual

5) Aside from periods of outright political decline, what were the chief tensions in Chinese society and culture? How were they handled?

Answer: Responses here could include role of merchants; values disputes among Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism; divisions among classes, especially between landlords and peasants; and the issues related at the end of the period by the outside influence of Buddhism.

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Topic: Patterns in Classical China

Skill: Conceptual

Document-based Questions

1) Though these writings are more than one thousand years old

A) they describe conditions we do not know today.

B) they seem interesting but are old-fashioned.

C) they can be found in the U.S. Constitution.

D) they describe debates that religious people, philosophers, and social critics have today.

Answer: D

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Topic: Teachings of the Rival Chinese Schools

Skill: Conceptual

2) One writer urges the reader to be

A) flamboyant.

B) thoughtful.

C) careless.

D) arrogant.

Answer: B

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Topic: Teachings of the Rival Chinese Schools

Skill: Conceptual