

World Civilizations: The Global Experience, AP Edition, 6e (Stearns)
Chapter 11 The Americas on the Eve of Invasion

Multiple-Choice Questions

- 1) During the postclassical period, societies in the Americas
- A) remained entirely separate from those of the Old World.
 - B) experienced the initial contacts that led to the European invasion of the New World.
 - C) failed to develop imperial forms of government similar to European society.
 - D) were united under a single government.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 244

Topic: Introduction

Skill: Factual

- 2) Which of the following was NOT a characteristic of American civilizations during the postclassical period?

- A) Large cities based on elaborate political and economic organization
- B) Elaborate cultural systems
- C) Monotheistic practices
- D) Highly developed agriculture

Answer: C

Page Ref: 248-250

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

- 3) The northern nomadic peoples who entered central Mexico following the decline of Teotihuacan were the

- A) Aztecs.
- B) Incas.
- C) Olmecs.
- D) Toltecs.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 245

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

4) The Toltec capital was established at

- A) Teotihuacan.
- B) Tula.
- C) Tenochtitlan.
- D) Tlotelolco.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 245

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

5) What was the relationship between the Toltecs and their predecessors in central Mexico?

- A) The former residents of central Mexico were wiped out during the Toltec invasions.
- B) The entry of the Toltecs into central Mexico marks an abrupt break in the cultural development of the region.
- C) The Toltecs adopted the animistic religion of their predecessors, but failed to develop cities or ceremonial centers.
- D) The Toltecs adopted many cultural features from their predecessors to which they added a strong military ethic and human sacrifice.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 245

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

6) How did the Aztecs view the cultural achievements of the Toltecs?

- A) As barbarians who lacked culture
- B) As slaves, fit only for conquest
- C) As the origin of civilization
- D) As heretics, who practiced a forbidden religion

Answer: C

Page Ref: 248, 249

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

7) The Toltec empire lasted until about what date?

- A) 1000
- B) 1150
- C) 1236
- D) 1434

Answer: B

Page Ref: 247

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

8) After the sack of Tula, the center of population and political power in Mexico shifted to

- A) the Yucatan peninsula.
- B) the valley of Mexico and the shores of a chain of lakes in that basin.
- C) Teotihuacan and the area west of the Pacific.
- D) the southern Pacific coast.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 247

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

9) The people who succeeded the Toltecs as the rulers of central Mexico were the

- A) Olmecs.
- B) Maya.
- C) Incas.
- D) Aztecs.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 247

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

10) Around what year did the Aztecs migrate to the central valley of Mexico?

- A) 1000
- B) 1150
- C) 1325
- D) 1434

Answer: C

Page Ref: 247

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

11) In the period shortly after the arrival of the Aztecs in the valley of Mexico, what was the nature of the political organization of the region?

- A) Imperial
- B) Regional kingdoms
- C) City-states
- D) Hunting and gathering groups

Answer: C

Page Ref: 247

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

12) At the time of their migration to the shores of Lake Texcoco, the Aztecs numbered about

- A) 1,000
- B) 10,000
- C) 50,000
- D) 100,000

Answer: B

Page Ref: 247

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

13) What city did the Aztecs establish circa 1325 on a marshy island in Lake Texcoco?

- A) Teotihuacan
- B) Culhuacan
- C) Texcoco
- D) Tenochtitlan

Answer: D

Page Ref: 248

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

14) The Aztecs awaited the appearance of an eagle landing on a cactus with a serpent in its mouth. When this appeared

- A) their capitol would be destroyed.
- B) Lake Texcoco would dry up.
- C) the sun would not shine.
- D) their wanderings would end.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 247-248

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

15) Which of the following did NOT occur as a result of the Aztec rise to power?

- A) The emergence of a ruler with supreme powers
- B) The abandonment of human sacrifice
- C) The subsequent expansion of power and the boundaries of Aztec control
- D) A highly urbanized society

Answer: B

Page Ref: 248, 249

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

16) What was the impact of expansion and conquest on the Aztec social system?

- A) From a loose association of clans, Aztec society became a highly stratified society.
- B) Conquest opened up Aztec society to incursions by the indigenous peoples who began to form a trained bureaucracy.
- C) Aztec society was transformed in the sense that the Mexicans adopted the social patterns of the Maya.
- D) Despite the stress of warfare and invasion, Aztec society remained remarkably unchanged by the process.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 248

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

- 17) Which of the following statements concerning Aztec religion is most accurate?
- A) Shortly after establishing their empire, the Aztecs abandoned all gods other than their patron, Huitzilopochtli.
 - B) Aztec deities were normally associated only with male forms.
 - C) Aztec deities were numerous and had different forms or manifestations somewhat like the avatars of the Hindu deities.
 - D) There was little or no animism in the religious world of the Aztecs.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 248

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

- 18) Which of the following was NOT one of the major themes or cults of Aztec religion?

- A) Creator deities
- B) Gods of warfare and sacrifice
- C) Deities devoted to contemplation and salvation
- D) The agricultural cycle

Answer: C

Page Ref: 249

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

- 19) The central figure of the cult of human sacrifice and the most sacred deity of the Aztecs was

- A) Quetzalcoatl.
- B) Tlaloc.
- C) Tonatiuh.
- D) Huitzilopochtli.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 248, 249

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

20) What was the Aztec view of history?

A) They believed in a linear view of history dedicated to the premise of Aztec superiority for eternity.

B) Like other Mesoamerican peoples, the Aztecs believed in a cyclical pattern of repetitive destructions of the world.

C) Unlike other Mesoamerican peoples, the Aztecs rejected the cyclical view of history for a more modern historical view based on the history of their empire.

D) They believed in a linear history ending with their total destruction at the hands of the people from the East.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 250

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

21) Which of the following statements concerning the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan is NOT accurate?

A) It was built on an island in the middle of a lake.

B) By 1519 it probably had a population of about 150,000.

C) Unlike other Mesoamerican cities it lacked a temple complex.

D) The city was divided into more than 60 wards controlled by kinship groups.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 244

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

22) The Aztec innovation in intensive agriculture in the aquatic environments of the lakes of central Mexico was the development of

A) *chinampas*.

B) *pipiltin*.

C) *quipus*.

D) *calpulli*.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 250

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Factual

23) What was the nature of the Aztec economy?

- A) The Aztecs failed to develop a merchant class, so all distribution of goods was carried out by the state.
- B) The Aztecs developed a free-market economy in which all trade was in the hands of specialized merchants.
- C) The Aztec state redistributed many goods received as tribute, and there was a specialized merchant class.
- D) There was little trade within Aztec society, as almost all communities were self-sufficient.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 250, 251

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

24) One of the most permanent features of Aztec society was its organization into clans or

- A) *chinampas*.
- B) *pipiltin*.
- C) *quipus*.
- D) *calpulli*.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 251

Topic: Aztec Society in Transition

Skill: Factual

25) Which of the following was NOT a function of Aztec kinship groups?

- A) Assignment of people to cult groups
- B) Distributing land to household heads
- C) Organizing military units for warfare
- D) Maintaining temples and schools

Answer: A

Page Ref: 251

Topic: Aztec Society in Transition

Skill: Conceptual

26) Closely identified with the cult of sacrifice and the military, the Aztec social hierarchy developed a nobility referred to as the

- A) *chinampas*.
- B) *pipiltin*.
- C) *quipus*.
- D) *pochteca*.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 251

Topic: Aztec Society in Transition

Skill: Factual

27) Which of the following is NOT true of the Aztec view of marriage and the family?

- A) Virginity at marriage was highly regarded for young women.
- B) Polygamy was common throughout society.
- C) Marriages were often arranged between lineages.
- D) Young girls were often trained by the older women of the *calpulli*.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 252

Topic: Aztec Society in Transition

Skill: Factual

28) While the position of Aztec women in many ways paralleled that of women in other civilizations at a similar stage of development, what was the significant difference between the lives of women in Mesoamerica and in the Mediterranean world?

- A) Women in Mesoamerica participated fully in the military.
- B) Aztec women were unable to inherit or to pass property on to heirs.
- C) Aztec women had to spend many more hours grinding grain for food.
- D) Peasant women were more highly educated in Mesoamerica.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 252

Topic: Aztec Society in Transition

Skill: Conceptual

29) What was the nature of the Aztec administration of subject territories?

- A) The Aztecs placed members of the Aztec nobility as rulers over subject peoples.
- B) All territories conquered by the Aztecs became part of a singular administration run by a trained bureaucracy located in Tenochtitlan, much like the Byzantine Empire.
- C) Conquered territories were often left relatively unchanged under their old rulers as long as they recognized Aztec supremacy and paid tribute.
- D) The Aztecs established a military administration with subject territories controlled by regional generals.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 254

Topic: Aztec Society in Transition

Skill: Conceptual

30) The most powerful of the Andean states between 900 and 1465 following the decline of Tihuanaco and Huari was

- A) Chimor.
- B) Titicaca.
- C) Texcoco.
- D) Chichen Itza.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 254, 255

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Factual

31) What was the primary difference in the political situation between the Mesoamerican and Andean zones following the breakup of the classical states?

- A) In Mesoamerica there was no real political decline, as new peoples simply took over the institutions of their predecessors.
- B) In the Andean zones a number of relatively large states continued to be important, rather than the breakdown of power that was typical of Mesoamerica.
- C) The Andean political experience lacked the militaristic overtones that accompanied the breakdown of power in Mesoamerica.
- D) The Andean region was more compact and therefore quickly reunited under the leadership of the Inca.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 254, 255

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

32) The capital of the Inca empire was

- A) Cuzco.
- B) Chan Chan.
- C) Tihuanaco.
- D) Cajamarca.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 255

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Factual

33) The Inca ruler associated with the creation of the Inca empire in 1438 was

- A) Topac Yupanqui.
- B) Ahuitzotl.
- C) Pachacuti.
- D) Moctezuma II.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 255

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Factual

34) What do the authors suggest was the principal reason for Inca conquest and expansion?

- A) Their need for human sacrificial victims
- B) The practice of split inheritance
- C) The absence of irrigation systems within the Inca empire
- D) The existence of long-distance trade merchants within the imperial administration

Answer: B

Page Ref: 255

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

35) What was the Inca practice of split inheritance?

- A) On the death of the previous ruler, the throne passed to two descendants from the ruler's family.
- B) On the death of the previous ruler, the family's wealth was equally divided among all male heirs.
- C) On the death of the previous ruler, the inheritance passed through the family of the senior wife to her oldest brother.
- D) All political power and titles went to the ruler's successor, but his wealth was kept in the hands of the male descendants to support the cult of the dead Inca's mummy.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 255

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

36) The religious practice most closely associated with the Inca was the cult of

- A) human sacrifice.
- B) the rain god.
- C) the sun.
- D) Quetzalcoatl.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 256

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Factual

37) Which of the following was utilized in the Inca empire, but NOT by the Aztecs?

- A) A semi-divine emperor
- B) Extensive colonization
- C) Use of local rulers in exchange for recognition of sovereignty
- D) Elaborate road systems

Answer: B

Page Ref: 257

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

38) Tambos were

- A) labor turns exacted by the Inca authorities.
- B) knotted strings used for record keeping.
- C) the Aztec term for local rulers.
- D) way stations along roads in the Inca empire.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 257

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Factual

39) What was the Andean principle of inheritance?

- A) Matrilineal, inheritance passing in the female line
- B) Patrilineal, inheritance passing in the male line
- C) Parallel descent: women passed rights and property to daughters, men to sons
- D) Extended family split inheritances evenly

Answer: C

Page Ref: 258

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Factual

40) The Inca nobility were

- A) drawn from 10 royal ayllus and the city of Cuzco.
- B) drawn from the noble ayllus of conquered populations.
- C) not distinguished from commoners by appearance or dress.
- D) often commoners who distinguished themselves in battle.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 259

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Factual

41) Which of the following existed in the Aztec empire, but NOT in the Inca empire?

- A) A tribute system
- B) Redistribution of tribute by the state
- C) Extraction of labor for use on temple projects
- D) An extensive merchant class

Answer: D

Page Ref: 259

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

42) The modern image of the Inca empire as a carefully organized system in which every community collectively contributed to the whole and the state regulated the distribution of resources on the basis of need is referred to as

- A) Inca despotism.
- B) Indian utilitarianism.
- C) Inca socialism.
- D) Mesoamerican capitalism.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 258

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

43) Which of the following views of the Aztec practice of human sacrifice can be associated with Marvin Harris's interpretation of the "cannibal kingdom"?

- A) The incidence of human sacrifice was grossly exaggerated by the Spanish for political purposes.
- B) It was an essentially religious act central to their belief that humans must sacrifice that which was most precious to them in order to receive the sun, rain, and other blessings.
- C) It was the intentional manipulation of a traditional practice to terrorize their neighbors and to keep the lower classes subordinate.
- D) It was a response to the lack of available protein in the form of large mammals.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 259

Topic: The "Troubling" Civilizations of the Americas

Skill: Conceptual

44) Which of the following represents a cultural difference between the Incas and Aztecs?

- A) Monumental architecture
- B) Practice of human sacrifice
- C) Lack of a writing system
- D) Lack of a priest class

Answer: C

Page Ref: 260

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

- 45) In terms of the integration of a centralized empire, how did the Incas and Aztecs compare?
- A) The Aztecs and Incas both made little attempt to integrate conquered territories and permitted self-rule in return for loyalty and tribute.
 - B) The Aztecs were more advanced than the Incas in consolidating their government into an integrated unit.
 - C) The Incas attempted to create an over-arching political state and made conscious attempts to integrate their empire as a unit, while the Aztecs did less in this regard.
 - D) Both the Incas and the Aztecs created fully integrated empires complete with central bureaucracies and military administrative units that controlled all conquered regions.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 260

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

- 46) Which of the following represents a significant difference between the Andean and Mesoamerican civilizations?

- A) Climate and geography
- B) Kin-based social groups
- C) Sedentary agricultural systems
- D) Tribute systems

Answer: A

Page Ref: 260, 261

Topic: Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

- 47) Which of the following statements about the population of the Americas before 1500 C.E. is most true?

- A) The population is easy to calculate.
- B) North America was more densely populated than Mesoamerica or the Andes.
- C) Population estimates continue to be revised upward.
- D) The early 20th-century estimate of 8.4 million still seems the most accurate.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 261, 262

Topic: The Other Peoples of the Americas

Skill: Conceptual

48) By 1500, agriculture was

- A) largely diffused throughout the Americas, although not always in sedentary agricultural communities.
- B) virtually unknown outside of the Andean and Mesoamerican civilization zones.
- C) practiced in sedentary communities throughout the Americas.
- D) practiced in sedentary communities and by nomadic pastoralists throughout the Americas.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 262

Topic: The Other Peoples of the Americas

Skill: Conceptual

49) Which of the following does NOT represent a characteristic of most Indian societies other than the Andean and Mesoamerican civilizations?

- A) Strongly kin-based societies
- B) Wealth as the basis of social ranking
- C) Communal action and ownership of resources
- D) Important social and political roles for women

Answer: B

Page Ref: 263

Topic: The Other Peoples of the Americas

Skill: Conceptual

Essay Questions

1) In what ways did the Aztecs continue the culture of the classical Mesoamerican civilization and the Toltecs?

Answer: Toltecs considered givers of civilization; shared same language; use of human sacrifice; establishment of empire centered on central Mexico; militarism of society; concept of nobility tied to Toltec lineage initially; use of city-state organization; temple complexes associated with state; many deities of pantheon of gods (Tlaloc, Quetzalcoatl); tribute based on sedentary agricultural system; cyclical view of history and calendar system.

Page Ref: 245-250

Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E.

Skill: Conceptual

2) Describe Aztec social organization.

Answer: At top was emperor who was held to be semi-divine; nobility or *pipiltin* developed after early conquest, separated themselves from clan groups (*calpulli*), associated with priesthood and military; large mass of commoner groups in *calpulli*, land distributed by clan heads, provided tribute, labor to temples; class of serfs associated with lands of nobility; scribes, artisans, healers; long-distance merchants (*pochteca*).

Page Ref: 251-254

Topic: Aztec Society in Transition

Skill: Conceptual

3) Compare and contrast the Inca and Aztec empires in terms of political administration.

Answer: Similarities: each had an emperor supported by nobility that served as personnel of state; both based on tribute system with imperial redistribution of goods; both were militaristic; each recognized indigenous rulers in return for recognition of imperial sovereignty. Differences: Inca empire more integrated; Aztec empire based more on concept of city-states; Aztec empire more open to trade; Inca empire almost entirely relied on state redistribution of goods; Aztec use of human sacrifice as weapon of political terror.

Page Ref: 258-261

Topic: Tawantinsuyu: World of the Incas

Skill: Conceptual

4) How did the Indian cultures outside the Andean and Mesoamerican civilization zones contrast in political and social organization with the Aztec and Inca empires?

Answer: Lack of state formation; existence of all levels of social complexity from large chiefdoms to hunting-and-gathering groups; greater reliance on strictly kin-based social organization; tendency to communal ownership of resources; wealth not a basis for social status; women held positions of greater political and social importance; less dependence on sedentary forms of agriculture; vastly less demographic density; lack of monumental architecture, with some exceptions.

Page Ref: 261-264

Topic: The Other Peoples of the Americas

Skill: Conceptual

5) How have historians explained the existence and prevalence of human sacrifice among the Aztecs?

Answer: Historians have offered the following explanations: Sacrifice was greatly exaggerated by the Spanish as a means of validating European conquest and cultural superiority; it was a religious act essential to the grant of rain, sun, and other blessings of the gods; it was an intentional use of a widespread practice to terrorize their neighbors and to keep the lower classes subordinate; it was a form of population control to lower population density; it was a response to a lack of protein and the absence of large mammals associated with animal sacrifice.

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Topic: Postclassic Mesoamerica, 1000–1500 C.E./The "Troubling" Civilizations of the Americas

Skill: Conceptual

Document-based Questions

1) Which virtue did the mature woman NOT possess?

- A) Resolution
- B) Constancy
- C) Courage
- D) Impatience

Answer: D

Page Ref: 253

Topic: Aztec Men and Women

Skill: Factual

2) In the excerpt that describes proper behavior, which kind of person is NOT described?

- A) Physician
- B) Ruler
- C) Mother
- D) Child

Answer: D

Page Ref: 253

Topic: Aztec Men and Women

Skill: Factual