

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

TEST ITEM SET

# **WORLD HISTORY I**

## **2008 History and Social Science Standards of Learning**

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**SAMPLE**

**The Great Wall of China was built to —**

- ☐ **A** close China to foreign trade
- ☐ **B** provide a trade route across Asia
- ☐ **C** protect China from invaders
- ☐ **D** create a monument to Mongol rule

**During the Neolithic Era, which change first resulted in the creation of settled communities?**

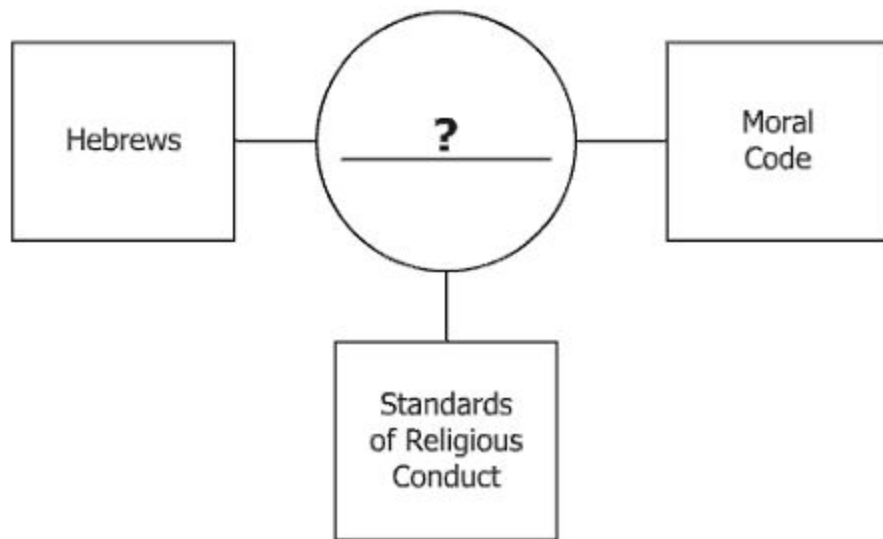
- ☐ **A** Invention of written language
- ☐ **B** Development of agriculture
- ☐ **C** Specialization of labor
- ☐ **D** Use of pottery

**Which factor had the greatest effect on the movements of early nomadic societies?**

- ☐ **A** Mineral deposits
- ☐ **B** Religious beliefs
- ☐ **C** Survival needs
- ☐ **D** Tribal treaties

**The defining characteristic of polytheistic religions is the idea that —**

- ☐ **A** there is an eternal struggle between good and evil
- ☐ **B** beings undergo many cycles of rebirth
- ☐ **C** past actions control the destiny of each person
- ☐ **D** there are many gods and goddesses in existence



**Which of these best completes this diagram?**

- ☐ **A** Vedas
- ☐ **B** Upanishads
- ☐ **C** Twelve Tablets
- ☐ **D** Ten Commandments

### The Indus River System



**Which empire is associated with this river system?**

- ☐ **A** Gupta Empire
- ☐ **B** Chinese Empire
- ☐ **C** Phoenician Empire
- ☒ **D** Babylonian Empire

**The Vedas and the Upanishads are sacred writings of —**

- ☐ **A** Hinduism
- ☐ **B** Judaism
- ☐ **C** Zoroastrianism
- ☐ **D** Buddhism



**According to the Mandate of Heaven, a Chinese emperor could remain in power as long as he —**

- ☐ **A** obeyed the priests
- ☐ **B** controlled the army
- ☐ **C** governed as a just ruler
- ☐ **D** conquered new territories

You only lose what you cling to.

— Siddhartha Gautama

**This quotation best represents the religious views of —**

- ☐ **A** Hindus
- ☐ **B** Zoroastrians
- ☐ **C** Buddhists
- ☐ **D** Jews

**Living in harmony with nature is an important part of Chinese culture primarily because of —**

- ☐ **A** Hinduism
- ☐ **B** Taoism
- ☐ **C** Buddhism
- ☐ **D** Confucianism

Term	Definition
Achilles' heel	Weak spot
Odyssey	Adventurous journey
Titanic	Something large and strong
Trojan horse	Device used to gain access by stealth

**Which statement describes the origin of these terms?**

- ☐ **A** They are events from Roman history.
- ☐ **B** They are found in Babylonian legends.
- ☐ **C** They are taken from Greek mythology.
- ☐ **D** They are actions of Egyptian gods.

[W]e are called a democracy, for the administration is in the hands of the many and not of the few.

**This is a quotation from —**

- ☐ **A** Pericles
- ☐ **B** Homer
- ☐ **C** Pythagoras
- ☐ **D** Hippocrates

**Which god kept the same name when adopted from Greek mythology by the Romans?**

- ☐ **A** Venus
- ☐ **B** Zeus
- ☐ **C** Juno
- ☐ **D** Apollo



**What was the purpose of this structure?**

- ☐ **A** To make travel easier
- ☐ **B** To carry water
- ☐ **C** To practice a religion
- ☐ **D** To defend a city

**Emperor Constantine influenced the traditions of Western civilization by —**

- ☐ **A** sending Roman soldiers to the Middle East
- ☐ **B** legalizing Christianity within the Roman Empire
- ☐ **C** codifying Roman law in the Middle East
- ☐ **D** unifying Europe by founding the Holy Roman Empire



**Which city was an obstacle to early Rome's control of the Mediterranean region?**

- ☐ **A** Athens
- ☐ **B** Carthage
- ☐ **C** Alexandria
- ☐ **D** Corinth

**How did Rome's military conquests affect the economic and social structures of the Roman Republic?**

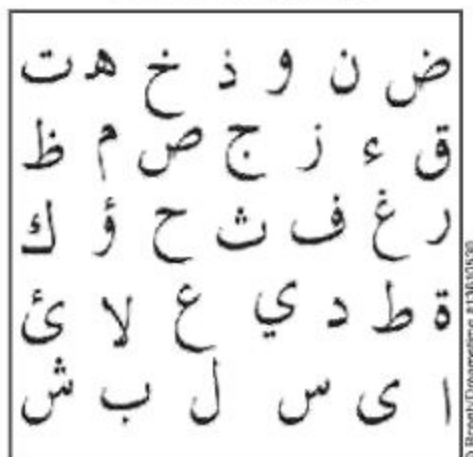
- ☐ **A** Slavery became important to Rome's agricultural production.
- ☐ **B** Soldiers deserted to join enemy armies attacking Rome.
- ☐ **C** Trade routes fell into disuse throughout the Republic.
- ☐ **D** The Republic adopted a monotheistic religion.

- Belief in monotheism
- Jesus as Son and incarnation of God

**These statements describe characteristics of the early —**

- ☐ **A** Buddhists
- ☐ **B** Muslims
- ☐ **C** Zoroastrians
- ☐ **D** Christians

### Written Language



**Which group was most responsible for spreading this cultural characteristic?**

- ☐ **A** Roman soldiers
- ☐ **B** Islamic traders
- ☐ **C** Egyptian pharaohs
- ☐ **D** Sumerian bureaucrats

**Which characteristic describes the early Catholic Church?**

- ☐ **A** Established monasteries in Russia
- ☐ **B** Centered in Mecca
- ☐ **C** Headed by the Pope
- ☐ **D** Conducted services in Greek

**Which art form is most associated with the Byzantine culture?**

- ☐ **A** Tapestries
- ☐ **B** Mosaics
- ☐ **C** Sculpture
- ☐ **D** Music

**Which institution in Western Europe had the most power during the Middle Ages?**

- ☐ **A** The Church
- ☐ **B** Merchant guilds
- ☐ **C** The feudal system
- ☐ **D** Roman universities

**The cause of the split in Islam after Muhammad's death was a difference of opinion concerning —**

- ☐ **A** expansion
- ☐ **B** leaders
- ☐ **C** prayer
- ☐ **D** pilgrimages



**Which characteristic describes the earliest followers of Islam?**

- ☐ **A** Nomads in West Africa
- ☐ **B** Migrated from Central Asia
- ☐ **C** Lived on the Arabian Peninsula
- ☐ **D** Sea traders from South Asia

### St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow



**Which civilization most influenced the architecture of this church?**

- ☐ **A** Greek
- ☐ **B** Roman
- ☐ **C** Byzantine
- ☐ **D** Indian

**Whose codification of Roman law has strongly influenced European laws of today?**

- ☐ **A** Marcus Aurelius
- ☐ **B** Constantine
- ☐ **C** Augustus Caesar
- ☐ **D** Justinian

**Which belief is associated with Shintoism?**

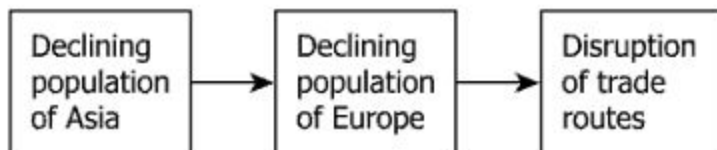
- ☐ **A** The gods interfere in human lives.
- ☐ **B** People will experience an afterlife.
- ☐ **C** Reincarnation depends on karma.
- ☐ **D** People must respect nature spirits.

**Which event helped to spread Islam in Africa?**

- ☐ **A** Establishment of trade with Timbuktu
- ☐ **B** Conquest of Jerusalem
- ☐ **C** Relocation of capital to Baghdad
- ☐ **D** Conquest of Damascus

**The empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai benefited from being near the —**

- ☐ **A** largest European cities
- ☐ **B** Mediterranean Sea
- ☐ **C** Red Sea coast
- ☐ **D** Trans-Saharan trade routes



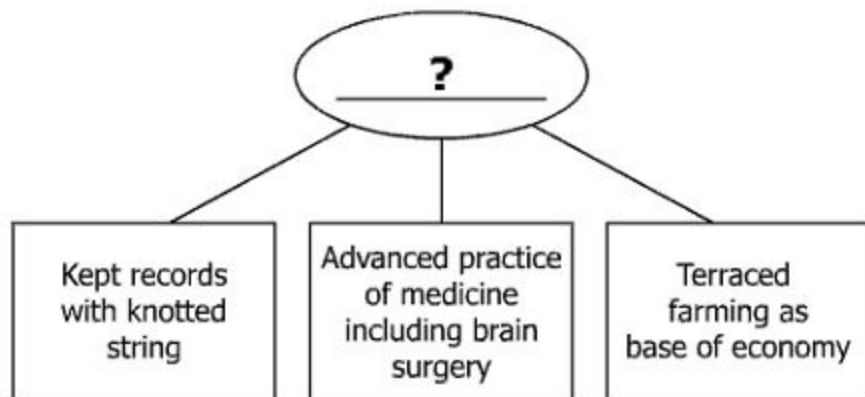
**This sequence of events was caused by the —**

- ☐ **A** beginning of the Crusades
- ☐ **B** fall of the Roman Empire
- ☐ **C** Hundred Years' War
- ☐ **D** Bubonic Plague

**Which city served as the capital of three empires at different times and under different names?**

- ☐ **A** Athens
- ☐ **B** Moscow
- ☐ **C** Constantinople
- ☐ **D** Baghdad





**Which civilization best completes this diagram?**

- ☐ **A** Incan
- ☐ **B** Mayan
- ☐ **C** Egyptian
- ☐ **D** Persian

**The Mayan and Aztec civilizations advanced the development of —**

- ☐ **A** calendars
- ☐ **B** printing
- ☐ **C** ocean navigation
- ☐ **D** manufacturing goods

The Chaldeans [Saladin and his army] fought the battle fiercely for a few days and triumphed. The Christians were failing so by this time that scarcely twenty or thirty men appeared to defend the city walls.

— 1187

**This quotation describes the —**

- ☐ **A** triumph of the Ottoman Turks at Tours
- ☐ **B** collapse of Rome as a result of the barbarian invasions
- ☐ **C** triumph of Pope Urban in retaking the Holy Land
- ☐ **D** collapse of Western control of Jerusalem

**During the Middle Ages, many Greek and Roman classics were preserved because they had been translated into —**

- ☐ **A** Russian
- ☐ **B** Persian
- ☐ **C** Arabic
- ☐ **D** Chinese

### Major Classical Authors

- Cicero
- Homer
- Ovid
- Sophocles
- Virgil

**During the Renaissance, these authors were most often studied by —**

- ☐ **A** bankers
- ☐ **B** humanists
- ☐ **C** feudal lords
- ☐ **D** parish priests

**The movable-type printing press helped the Renaissance by —**

- ☐ **A** supporting the teachings of the Catholic Church
- ☐ **B** increasing the use of new accounting practices
- ☐ **C** motivating the analysis of Egyptian society
- ☐ **D** expanding the distribution of new ideas

**Which statement best explains the migration of early humans?**

- ☐ **A** Rise of civilizations displaced other people.
- ☐ **B** Natural disasters forced people to leave native lands.
- ☐ **C** People searched for new sources of food.
- ☐ **D** Religious conflicts made people leave disputed lands.

**Emperor Constantine chose the location for a new capital partly for its distance from —**

- ☐ **A** trade routes
- ☐ **B** feudal kingdoms
- ☐ **C** Germanic invaders
- ☐ **D** Mongol hordes



**The lack of arable land in Greece contributed to an economic system based on —**

- ☐ **A** manufactured goods
- ☐ **B** shipping and trade
- ☐ **C** agricultural production
- ☐ **D** lumber and minerals

### Italian Peninsula



Which number shows where Roman civilization first developed?

- ☐ A 1
- ☐ B 2
- ☐ C 3
- ☐ D 4

**Which primary factor encouraged Greek city-states to develop different identities?**

- ☐ **A** Language
- ☐ **B** Religion
- ☐ **C** Economy
- ☐ **D** Geography

**Many Incan cities were easily defended because they were built —**

- ☐ **A** in canyons
- ☐ **B** in rainforests
- ☐ **C** on islands
- ☐ **D** on mountaintops

**Which regions were connected by the Silk Roads?**

- ☐ **A** East Asia and the Mediterranean basin
- ☐ **B** Western Europe and East Africa
- ☐ **C** East Africa and Southeast Asia
- ☐ **D** Northern Europe and the Mediterranean basin

**Which phrase best describes the geographic location of the Mayan civilization?**

- ☐ **A** Rainforests in Central America
- ☐ **B** Deserts in Mexico
- ☐ **C** Woodlands of North America
- ☐ **D** Mountains of Brazil

**The early river valley civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia developed governments that were ruled by —**

- ☐ **A** religious authorities
- ☐ **B** elected officials
- ☐ **C** representative assemblies
- ☐ **D** tribal councils

Monday, 17 September. Steered west and sailed, day and night, . . . The pilots took the sun's amplitude [direction], and found that the needles varied to the northwest a whole point of the compass.

— from the journal of Christopher Columbus, 1492

**According to this quotation, Christopher Columbus relied on technology that originated in —**

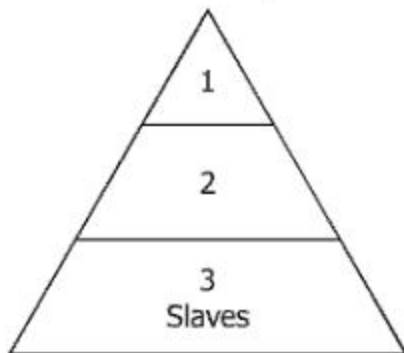
- ☐ **A** China
- ☐ **B** Arabia
- ☐ **C** Italy
- ☐ **D** Spain



**One characteristic of the Pax Romana was widespread —**

- ☐ **A** cultural decline
- ☐ **B** economic prosperity
- ☐ **C** political conflict
- ☐ **D** social equality

**Social Structure in  
the Roman Republic**



**Which choice belongs in this diagram?**

- ☐ **A** Patricians in section 1
- ☐ **B** Plebeians in section 1
- ☐ **C** Consuls in section 2
- ☐ **D** Emperors in section 2

**Ancient Athens was responsible for developing which concept in government?**

- ☐ **A** Civil service
- ☐ **B** Elected legislatures
- ☐ **C** Direct democracy
- ☐ **D** Written laws