

**HUM 101: WORLD CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURES**

Weekly Worksheet #8 (on Session 21)

Spring 2022

**Part 1**

1. **Multiple Choice:**
2. The Persian Empire connected the Mediterranean with the heart of which continent?
3. North America; (b) Asia; (c) Europe; (d) South America; (e) None of the above.

**ANS:** (b) Asia

1. The advent of Hellenistic cultures throughout Afro-Eurasia happened due to which of the following individual:
2. Alexander the great; (b) Cyrus the great; (c) Babur; (d) Ashoka; (e) Both a and b

**ANS:** (a) Alexander the great

1. Which of the following items available in Western Xinjiang province were highly-priced by the Han Empire of China?
2. Sheep; (b) Silk; (c) Dye; (d) Silver; (e) Horses

**ANS:** (b) Silk

1. Which area acted as the intermediary port between Mesopotamia and farther reaches of the northwest Indian Ocean?
2. Dilmun; (b) Sumer (c) Masulipatnam; (d) Alexandria (e) Aazimpur

**ANS:** (a) Dilmun

1. **True/False:**
2. Harappan goods that reached the Gulf included pots that probably carried ghee or clarified butter, ritual axe blades along with other items: **TRUE**
3. Malagasy is an Austronesian language with Bantu origins: **TRUE**
4. **Definitions/Identifications (1 or 2 sentences):**
5. *Periplus of the Erythrean Sea*:

**ANS:** Periplus of the Erythrean Sea is a logbook recording sailing itineraries and commercial, political, and ethnological details about the ports visited.

1. Austronesian speaking people:

**ANS:** Austronesian speaking people are a large group of peoples in Taiwan, Maritime Southeast Asia, Micronesia, coastal New Guinea, Island Melanesia, Polynesia, and Madagascar that speak Austronesian languages

1. Kunlun:

**ANS:** The Kunlun or Kunlun Shan is a mountain or mountain range in Chinese mythology, an important symbol representing the axis mundi and divinity.

**Part 2**

1. **Please answer any one of the following questions in your own words.** (Word Limit 150 to 200 words)
2. How far, would you say, Sima Qian, helped to increase the global geographical knowledge of the Han Empire of China?
3. How did Silk become an international currency as well as a luxury product in Han China?
4. Discuss the commercial significance of Funan in the Indian Ocean trade?
5. What is “oceanic nomadism”? How does the author of the book *The Indian Ocean in World History* define “oceanic nomad” communities?
6. According to your analysis, how important were small-scale traders in the expansion of the commercial processes of the Indian Ocean? Explain?

**2. How did Silk become an international currency as well as a luxury product in Han China?**

**ANS:** Silk Road (also known as Silk Route) is a path that connected China to the western world and carried goods and ideas between two great civilizations of Rome and China. It was a trade network connecting Eurasia with North Africa through land and sea routes. It was named after the Chinese silk which is a highly valued product that merchants transported through these trade networks. Silk was then a very hotly desired commodity because of its soft texture and appealing shimmer. The whole process of raising silkworms and creating fabric from their cocoons remained a secret of China throughout the 6th century C.E. After the **Pax Sinica**, the standard of living in China rose, the demand for silk grew even more and silk became a luxury product worldwide. Since it had a very high demand, people used it as a form of exchange for various trade. Thus, silk became an international currency and considered as a luxury product worldwide, especially in Han China region.