

STUDY TOPICS FOR 1st EXAM

On exams, topics will be stated more narrowly with limits such as location, time frame, causes/effects.

1. Explain how the development of (writing / urban life / complex institutions [religion, political organization, etc.], agriculture, water supply—rivers, seas, etc.) influenced the (political, economic, religious, social, cultural) development of the earliest civilizations in (any location we studied).
2. Explain how (any civilization / region we studied) was similar to **and** different from other early civilizations in (any location we studied). *This may be limited to particular time frames, such as Hellenic Greece to Vedic India.*

EXAMPLES OF A “LIMITED” TOPIC:

Discuss how the scientific and cultural/artistic achievements / legacies of Athens and Egypt were similar and how they were different. In your conclusion, tell which achievement—of either society—you think is most important and explain why you consider it important. *NOTE: cultural/artistic legacy includes literature, architecture, arts, philosophy, etc.*

Explain how the civilizations of India, 2500—200 B.C.E., and Egypt, 3000—800 B.C.E., were alike and how they were different. *NOTE: you may include archaeological activities/discoveries as part of this topic.*

3. Assume that you are a (**age-specific man or woman**) living in (a time and place we studied) writing an account of everyday life. Write from the point of view of a person in a particular religious / social group. Tell what is happening (*consider the politics, economics, religion & science, social & cultural experiences*), why it is happening, how it is affecting your society and you personally, and what you think about it. **You must consider the age of the writer and what time period the writer has lived, such as 60-years old in Athens.**
4. Some historians believe that the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta was inevitable. Tell what held the two city states together AND what divided them (consider heritage and culture, ideology, social and political organization, etc.). Explain why war might have been inevitable or how it could have been averted.
5. Explain why / how (early civilizations we studied) developed social classes and patriarchal societies **and** discuss how these developments affected the civilizations (economic, religious, social, political, etc.) Were there exceptions? Where? / Who? / Why?
6. Explain how philosophers and religious reformers influenced the early civilizations we studied.
7. Some ancient civilizations achieved a unified, centralized political system. Explain how societies (geographic areas will be specified) were able to do so—recognizing that this process developed over a long period of time. OR, apply the same analysis to societies that *did not develop a unified, centralized political system*.
8. Explain how archaeological activities / discoveries in the 19th Century (or another time period) contributed to our understanding and knowledge of the earliest civilizations in Asia, Africa, and Europe.
9. Explain how art, religion, science & mathematics, literature contributed to development of (specific civilizations we have studied). Discuss how these features reflected their parent civilization and how the features helped shape the societies. Alternatively, compare and contrast these features among 2 or more civilizations, such as India and Egypt.
10. Explain how Indo-European languages influenced, shaped, enhanced the development of early civilizations in Asia and Europe.
11. Explain how political leaders used religion (militarism, economic policies, territorial expansionism) to consolidate their rule and enhance their power.