Chapter 2—Mesopotamia

ESSAY

1. Explain the effect of climatic change and the environment on the early civilizations.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of the end of the last Ice Age, Natufian's adoption of agriculture, and the role of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

REF: p. 17-20

2. Elaborate on life in Mesopotamia.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of occupations, gender issues, religion, writing and technological improvements.

REF: p. 19-26

3. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the early Sumerian civilization.

ANS:

Answers would include the development of writing, literature, mathematics, a calendar as well as incessant warfare and could include environmental issues.

REF: p. 19-26

4. Describe Sumerian cultural achievements, including religion, writing, literature, and mathematics.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of ziggurats, cuneiform, The Epic of Gilgamesh, calendars and numbers.

REF: p. 20-24

5. Explain the significant social issues in Sumer.

ANS:

Answers would include a discussion of social hierarchy, gender roles and expectations, and the influence of Hammurabi's Law Code.

REF: p. 20 | p. 21 | p. 24-26

6. Describe the Sumerian decline in the larger context of Mesopotamia.

ANS:

Answers should include a discussion of past issues of warfare with Sumer along with a chronology of rival groups with information on each one and their significance to Mesopotamian history.

REF: p. 27

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1. Which of the following is true of early civilizations?
 - a. They rarely had trade networks.
 - b. Agriculture is the only component needed for a civilization.
 - c. Civilizations had a combination of elements including government and social structure.
 - d. They did not include any rural areas but were based solely in large cities.
 - e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: C REF: p. 17

- 2. The hunter gatherers of the Near and Middle East who switched to agriculture at the end of the last Ice Age were the
 - a. Sumerians
 - b. Amorites
 - c. Natufians
 - d. Assyrians
 - e. Hittites

ANS: C RE	F: p. 17-18
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- 3. The Levantine Corridor
 - a. had high water tables.
 - b. included modern day Israel and Syria.
 - c. was home to one of the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia.
 - d. All of the options are correct.
 - e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: D REF: p. 18

- 4. The earliest towns and cities were found in
 - a. Southwest Asia.
 - b. East Africa.
 - c. Northern Europe.
 - d. North America.
 - e. South America.

ANS: A REF: p. 18

- 5. The first urban civilization was the
 - a. Sumerians.
 - b. Hittites.
 - c. Natufians.
 - d. Egyptians.
 - e. Amorites.

ANS: A REF: p. 18

- 6. Which of these statements is the least applicable to the Sumerians?
 - a. They were the builders of the first large cities.
 - b. They brought Mesopotamia under united rulers as early as 3000 B.C.E.
 - c. They developed a sophisticated writing system.
 - d. Basic geometry is said to stem from them.
 - e. They probably pioneered the use of the wheel for transportation.

ANS: B REF: p. 18-19

- 7. In the time of Sumer, Mesopotamia
 - a. saw few technological advancements.
 - b. was racked by strife and warfare.
 - c. was incredibly peaceful.
 - d. had no clear political leaders.
 - e. had few problems with water.

ANS: B REF: p. 20

- 8. The main significance of the Akkadian Empire was that
 - a. Sumerian culture was spread throughout the Middle East.
 - b. Cuneiform was developed.
 - c. it outlasted other ancient empires.
 - d. it first manufactured bronze.

e. the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers were finally tamed.

ANS: A REF: p. 20

- 9. Most of Sumerian commerce was based on
 - a. metals.
 - b. religion.
 - c. ceramics.
 - d. foodstuffs.
 - e. silk.

ANS: D REF: p. 20

10. All of the following were occupations in Sumerian society EXCEPT

- a. clerk.
- b. masonry.
- c. shopkeeper.
- d. jewelry making.
- e. mining.

ANS: E REF: p. 20

- 11. One of the most important tasks for Sumerian women and children was
 - a. following the orders of male family members.
 - b. tilling the crops.
 - c. maintaining a supply of fresh water.
 - d. gathering nuts and berries.
 - e. keeping the homes clean and dry.

ANS: C REF: p. 20

12. Cuneiform was

- a. a pictorial script from which all writing derives.
- b. a written language corresponding to oral language.
- c. an alphabet.
- d. a script written in wedge-shaped characters.
- e. the written language of the Egyptians.

ANS: D REF: p. 23-24

13. The purpose of the ziggurat was primarily

- a. religious.
- b. economic.
- c. political.
- d. ceremonial.
- e. artistic.

ANS: A REF: p. 21

- 14. Which of the following would *best* describe early Mesopotamia?
 - a. More people lived in the towns than in the rural areas.
 - b. Most urban jobs could be obtained with little or no educational background.
 - c. While many people were directly or indirectly involved in food production, one of the most important tasks was to obtain a fresh supply of water on a daily basis.
 - d. Slaves were found in al parts of the Sumerian lands.
 - e. Although livestock was plentiful and vegetables could be easily grown, Mesopotamians had to import their grains.

ANS: C REF: p. 20

- 15. Which of the following best explains Sumerian religion?
 - a. The influence of multiple religions through trade.
 - b. The destructive nature of warfare and a need to explain death.
 - c. The overwhelming peace and ability among the people to contemplate religion.
 - d. The lack of control the people had over the environment, especially when the environment was so important for food production.
 - e. All of the options are correct.

ANS: D REF: p. 21

- 16. Mesopotamians viewed time as
 - a. static.
 - b. in flux.
 - c. tangible.
 - d. elusive.
 - e. cyclic.

ANS: E REF: p. 23

- 17. Which of the following would be most descriptive of Sumerian religion?
 - a. Their many gods were all male.
 - b. All gods were free of human characteristics.
 - c. Sumerian gods existed within a human imposed hierarchy.
 - d. Sumerian gods existed without intervening at all in human lives.
 - e. Sumerian religion has been described as paternalistic.

ANS: C REF: p. 20-21

- 18. Considered the most important and lasting of the Sumerian accomplishments is/are
 - a. ziggurats.
 - b. a law code.
 - c. the development of writing.
 - d. mathematics.
 - e. a calendar.

ANS: C REF: p. 23

- 19. It could be most accurately stated of Hammurabi's Code that
 - a. it was the first code of law ever drafted.
 - b. it did not deal extensively with family and social matters.
 - c. punishment depended upon the violator's rank in society.
 - d. it attempted to outlaw slavery.
 - e. it dealt exclusively with business matters.

ANS: C REF: p. 24-25

- 20. Women under Hammurabi
 - a. could divorce.
 - b. could enter into a contract.
 - c. could gain custody of her children.
 - d. could own property.
 - e. All of the options are correct.

ANS: E REF: p. 24-25

- 21. The government in Mesopotamia can best be described as
 - a. a democracy.
 - b. a theocracy and monarchy.
 - c. complete anarchy.
 - d. an oligarchy.
 - e. a republic.

ANS: B REF: p. 24

- 22. Most slaves in Mesopotamia seem to have been
 - a. criminals.
 - b. debtors.
 - c. women.
 - d. children.
 - e. Africans.

ANS: B REF: p. 26

- 23. The most numerous class in Sumerian society were
 - a. nobility.
 - b. freemen.
 - c. slaves.
 - d. priests.
 - e. Both C and D.

ANS: B REF: p. 24

- 24. For Sumerians, the true reason for marriage was
 - a. family.
 - b. sex.
 - c. economic prosperity.
 - d. social mobility.
 - e. religious mandate.

ANS: A REF: p. 26

- 25. In terms of sex
 - a. it was for procreation only.

- b. it was merely a necessary sin.
- c. there was a double standard regarding sex and adultery for men and women.
- d. Sumerians never discussed the issue.
- e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: C RE	F: p. 26
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26. The ultimate victor in Mesopotamia after the Sumerians were the

- a. Amorites.
- b. Hittites.
- c. New Babylonians.
- d. Assyrians.
- e. Persians.

ANS: E REF: p. 27

- 27. Semitic in ancient history refers to
 - a. the Holocaust.
 - b. a language family.
 - c. a religion.
 - d. a region in Southwest Asia.
 - e. None of the options are correct.

ANS: B REF: p. 26

- 28. The Hittites were the first to
 - a. develop writing.
 - b. write down their religious beliefs.
 - c. use gold as currency.
 - d. smelt iron.
 - e. sail across the Persian Gulf.

ANS: D REF: p. 27

- 29. Sumer was never able to achieve
 - a. a solid social structure.
 - b. a thriving economy.
 - c. a rigid government with a clear law code.
 - d. a unified political system over all of Mesopotamia.
 - e. It achieved all of the options.

ANS: D REF: p. 27

- 30. All of the following help to explain the decline of Mesopotamia until the 9th century EXCEPT a. environmental degradation.
 - b. population growth that outpaced agricultural production.
 - c. the lack of any clear leadership in Babylon.
 - d. a climate that included extreme heat and sandstorms.
 - e. Both A and B.

ANS: C REF: p. 27

COMPLETION

1. ______ were the usual basis of early agriculture.

	ANS:	Grains		
		REF:	p. 17	
2.		orld's first fa	arming civilization settled in a section of the Near East called the	
		Levantine C		
		REF:	p. 18	
3.	Mesop	ootamia was	located between the and r	ivers.
		, Euphrates ates, Tigris		
		REF:	p. 18	
4.			unified Mesopotamia and founded the Akkadian Empire.	
	ANS:	Sargon the	Great	
		REF:	p. 20	
5.		-	guage, as set down in written, wedge-shaped character form, is known as	
		cuneiform	·	
		REF:	p. 23	
6.			were the stepped pyramids in Sumer.	
		ziggurat		
			p. 21	
7.	The be	est known an	Id a biblical example of a ziggurat might be the	
	ANS:	Tower of B	abel	
		REF:	p. 21	
8.			is the first epic in world literature.	
	ANS: The Epic of Gilgamesh			
		REF:	p. 22	
9.			was the worst of all offenses between a husband and wife in Sumer.	
		Adultery		

REF: p. 26

10. The first people to smelt iron were the _____.

ANS: Hittites

REF: p. 27