

VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

TEST ITEM SET

WORLD HISTORY I

2008 History and Social Science Standards of Learning

Released Spring 2014

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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?

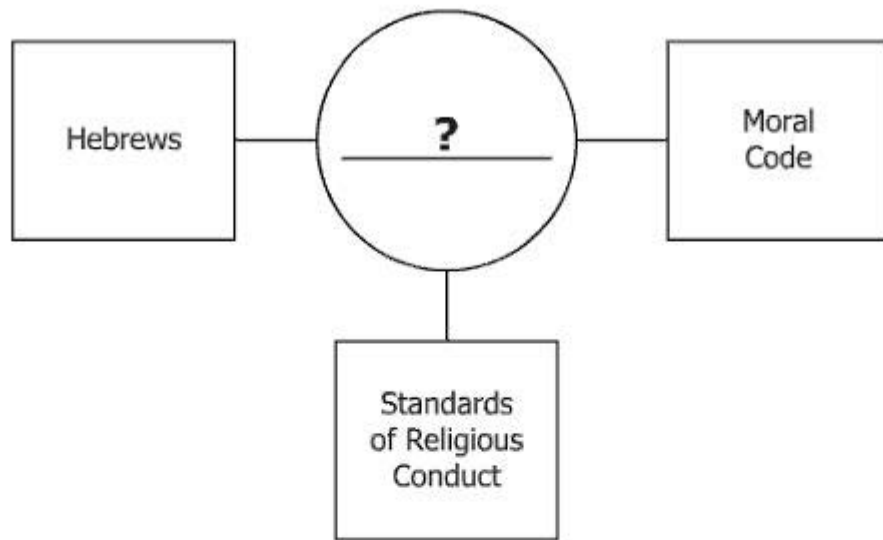
- ☐ **A** Invention of written language
- ☐ **B** Development of agriculture
- ☐ **C** Specialization of labor
- ☐ **D** Use of pottery

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?

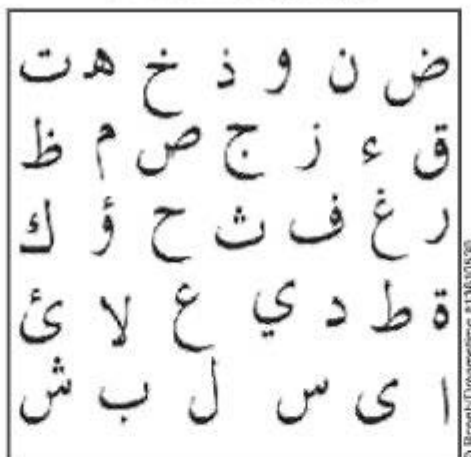
- ☐ **A** Slavery became important to Rome's agricultural production.
- ☐ **B** Soldiers deserted to join enemy armies attacking Rome.
- ☐ **C** Trade routes fell into disuse throughout the Republic.
- ☐ **D** The Republic adopted a monotheistic religion.

- 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?

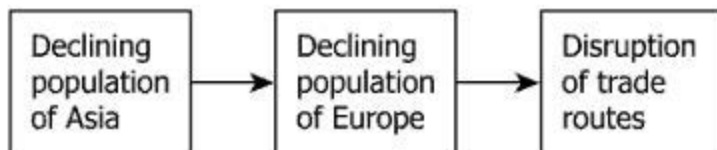
- ☐ **A** The gods interfere in human lives.
- ☐ **B** People will experience an afterlife.
- ☐ **C** Reincarnation depends on karma.
- ☐ **D** People must respect nature spirits.

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

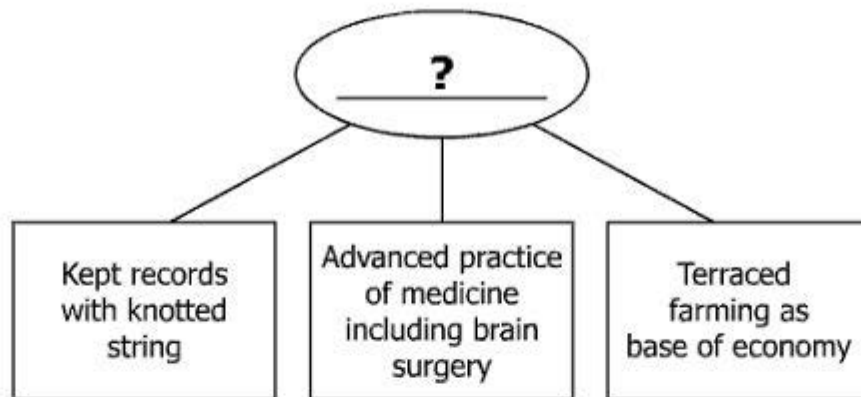


This sequence of events was caused by the —

- ☐ **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

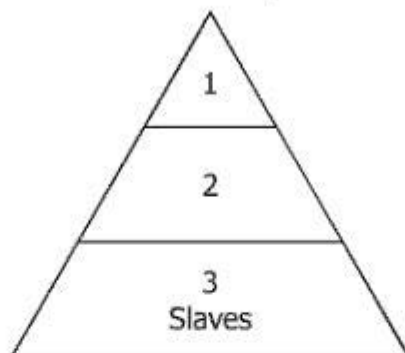
According to this quotation, Christopher Columbus relied on technology that originated in —

- ☐ **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

World History I
Released Test Item Set Spring 2014
Answer Key

Sequence Number	Correct Answer	Reporting Category	Reporting Category Description
1	B	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
2	C	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
3	D	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
4	D	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
5	A	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
6	A	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
7	C	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
8	C	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
9	B	001	Human Origins and Early Civilizations
10	C	002	Classical Civilizations
11	A	002	Classical Civilizations
12	D	002	Classical Civilizations
13	B	002	Classical Civilizations
14	B	002	Classical Civilizations
15	B	002	Classical Civilizations
16	A	002	Classical Civilizations
17	D	002	Classical Civilizations
18	B	003	Postclassical Civilizations
19	C	003	Postclassical Civilizations
20	B	003	Postclassical Civilizations
21	A	003	Postclassical Civilizations
22	B	003	Postclassical Civilizations
23	C	003	Postclassical Civilizations
24	C	003	Postclassical Civilizations
25	D	003	Postclassical Civilizations
26	D	004	Regional Interactions
27	A	004	Regional Interactions
28	D	004	Regional Interactions
29	D	004	Regional Interactions
30	C	004	Regional Interactions
31	A	004	Regional Interactions
32	A	004	Regional Interactions

Sequence Number	Correct Answer	Reporting Category	Reporting Category Description
33	D	004	Regional Interactions
34	C	004	Regional Interactions
35	B	004	Regional Interactions
36	D	004	Regional Interactions
37	C	005	Geography
38	C	005	Geography
39	B	005	Geography
40	C	005	Geography
41	D	005	Geography
42	D	005	Geography
43	A	005	Geography
44	A	005	Geography
45	A	006	Civics and Economics
46	A	006	Civics and Economics
47	B	006	Civics and Economics
48	A	006	Civics and Economics
49	C	006	Civics and Economics

