

# FINAL EXAM REVIEW SHEET

This review sheet is designed to give you a sense of which areas you are confident in and which you need to focus on more as you review, and of the kinds of questions the course asks about ancient civilizations.

## Description of the Exam

The exam will consist of four different kinds of questions:

- **Identification and Impact** (5 or so) — you'll be provided with a term and you'll need to give (a) a description of what it refers to, and (b) its significance or importance. Note: All terms will come from the names and terms on this sheet.
- **Multiple choice** (6 or so)
- **Short answer** (1 or 2) — sort of like the quiz questions, a couple of paragraphs on a topic we've discussed
- **Essay** (1) — a longer discussion giving your interpretation and analysis of a major theme we've covered; you'll be asked to give an opinion and support it with evidence in the form of examples from three societies we've studied

For each written section, you will be able to choose from several possibilities and write about the ones you're most familiar with. For example, if you need to answer 5 identifications, I'll give you a choice of 10 or 12.

## Approach to Preparing

Make a list of the most important milestone events in the periods we've discussed.

- **CAUSES** — Make sure you can identify the most important factors that helped cause these events — including long-term factors ("the environment") and short-term factors ("the spark")
- **LEGACIES** — Make sure you can identify the legacies of the milestone event. How did it change the culture, society, etc.? What impact did it have on future milestones and events?

## Using this review sheet

- For each of the questions below, see whether you have a strong idea how to answer, an okay idea how to answer, or a weak sense of how to answer. Review from the books and your notes at least the "weak" ones.
- Approach the questions below as a means of gauging topic to spend more time with in review, and as a guide to how you'll express and illustrate what's really important—the larger themes of the course.
- Take note of the terms below and review ones you're unfamiliar with.
- Note that there is seldom one and only one answer to the kind of questions on this review sheet.
  - WHY almost always means "For what reasons...?"
  - HOW almost always means "In what ways...?"

## Preparation for the essay

- Try to come up with possible essay questions and map out in advance examples and interpretations that might pertain.
- List the key topics that might relate to important periods of change, such as wars or reforms that changed everything.
- Discussion groups can be helpful in comparing others' interpretations of topics and ideas with your own.
- You should be able to discuss, and use as examples, key moments from *Gilgamesh* and *Clouds* where relevant.

## Concerning dates

- I'm not going to ask you for exact dates but you should know the period in which a people were important or an event occurs, and which events occur before or after which other events.
- You're best off if you know centuries (e.g., the Greeks recover writing in the 8th c. BCE, ending their Dark Age).
- At the very least you should know the age — whether a person, event, or concept is associated with the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, or the Iron Age.

## Topics

### Peoples

For each, you should be able to discuss their distinctive geography, social structure, religion, trade, gender roles, and other aspects of their society that we read about or discussed, as well as relations to each other.

	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>Semitic</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<b>Bronze Age</b>			
– Earliest Civilizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sumerians</li><li>• Minoans</li><li>• Egyptians (Old Kingdom)</li></ul>		
– Empires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Egyptians (New Kingdom)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Akkadians</li><li>• Assyrians (Bronze Age)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mycenaean Greeks</li><li>• Hittites</li></ul>
– Indus Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harappans</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hindus</li></ul>
<b>Iron Age</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Etruscans</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phoenicians</li><li>• Hebrews</li><li>• Aramaeans</li><li>• Chaldeans/Babylonians</li><li>• Neo-Assyrians</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dorian Greeks</li><li>• Sea Peoples/Philistines</li><li>• Persians</li><li>• Medes</li><li>• Latins</li></ul>

### Introduction and Sources

- What does Umberto Eco mean in *Name of the Rose* when he has William of Baskerville say, “Books are not meant to be believed, but to be subjected to inquiry”?

**TERMS:** civilization – empire – primary source – intentional bias – unintentional bias

### Civilizations

- What is “civilization”? What motivates its creation? What changes does it represent? How is it an invention? Why is it a sacrifice?
- What kinds of technological and social developments are part of creating civilization?
- Why is the significance of monumental building, such as ziggurats and pyramids, in the emergence of civilization?
- What did Egyptians believe about the pharaoh? What limited his power?
- How does the arrival of Indo-European peoples affect the societies of the eastern Mediterranean? How is their society and culture distinct from the peoples already living in these regions?
- Since they left no writings, how do we know anything about the Indo-Europeans’ origins?
- Who were the Scythians? What did they represent to the Greeks who wrote about them?
- **TERMS:** Paleolithic age – Neolithic age – Bronze Age – agricultural revolution – ziggurat – citizen – city-state – palace-city – pharaoh – Greek dark age

### Language

- Why is the development of writing crucial to an urban civilization?
- What kinds of writing systems are there? Give examples of each.
- Why is the advent of the Phoenician writing system so revolutionary?
- What’s the significance of the Aramaic language in southwest Asia?

**TERMS:** cuneiform – hieroglyphics – Linear A – Linear B – Phoenician alphabet

## ***Epic of Gilgamesh***

- How do the events and characters in *The Epic of Gilgamesh* reflect Sumerian ideas about gods, humans, and civilization? (Be ready to discuss the actions of the major characters in terms of how they represent the ideas of Sumerian culture.)
- Why is the cure for Gilgamesh's tyranny the creation of Enkidu?
- Why does intercourse with the harlot transfer Enkidu from the wild to civilization, and why is his process of civilization significant?
- What do Ishtar's dealings with Gilgamesh tell us about her as a goddess? What factors are involved in Gilgamesh's rejection of her?
- What themes are involved in Enkidu's death and Gilgamesh's search for immortality?
- How does the depiction of the gods in *The Epic of Gilgamesh* compare and contrast with the gods elsewhere — in Egypt, for example? What does the depiction of the gods in Gilgamesh suggest about how Sumerians thought about the world?

**TERMS:** Uruk – Enkidu – Humbaba – Uta-napishti – Shamhat – bull of heaven – door of cedar – House of Dust

## ***Religion and Philosophy***

- How are people's ideas about their relationship with their gods and the natural world related to the emergence of civilization?
- In what ways does the idea of the flood play a central role for both Egyptians and Sumerians? What do these roles have in common between the two cultures? How are they different?
- How does the history of the Hebrews contribute to the Jewish religion, especially the importance of monotheism?
- What's distinctive about the way Minoans related to their gods? What might this suggest about Minoan beliefs?
- How is Greek religion different from the other religions we've studied (e.g., Hebrew or Egyptian)?
- What are some of the elements that Hinduism and Buddhism have in common? How are they different? How do these eastern religions contrast with paganism as practiced in the Mediterranean world?

**TERMS:** ma'at – Zoroastrianism – paganism – dualism – monotheism – god-king – priest-king – peak sanctuary – Hinduism – Buddhism – samsara – karma – nirvana

## ***Trade and Empire***

- Why is long-distance trade necessary to the emergence of civilization?
- What is the purpose of empire?
- What do I mean when I talk about the difference between conquest and dominion?
- How does bronze technology enable and encourage cultures to create large empires?
- What might be some of the reasons why Egypt unifies early on, but early Mesopotamia remains constantly divided and at war?
- What are some of the reasons Egypt changes between the Old and New Kingdoms?
- How do the Minoan and Mycenaean cultures relate to each other?
- What might have brought it about the end of the Bronze Age? What was the result for the Bronze Age civilizations?
- How does an emphasis on iron instead of bronze change things in the Mediterranean world?
- What factors make the vast Persian empire so much more stable than the Neo-Assyrian Empire?
- Why did the Persians invade the Greek world? How was the culture of the Greeks a threat to the Persian empire?

**TERMS:** Indo-Europeans – chariot – period of calamities – Babylonian captivity – satrap – entrepreneurial trade – centralized trade

## **Archaic Greece**

- If all of the cities of Greece have different self-identities, what does the term “Greek” (Hellas) really describe?
- How does Sparta develop differently from Athens? How did their differences affect the Greek community?
- In what ways does polis mean more than just “city-state”? What were the special attributes of a Greek polis?
- What social classes develop in Sparta? What classes were important in Athens?
- What was the role played by Homer and Hesiod in the development of Greek culture?
- Why does colonization become important in the Archaic period? How did the colonies relate to the homeland?

**TERMS:** polis – Hellas – hoplite – phalanx – helot – metic – colony

## **Classical Greece**

- What were some of the downsides to radical democracy as it was practiced in Athens?
- What factors make possible the rise of Athens as an economic, political, and cultural power?
- What ideas were involved in the physis/nomos debate? Why was this discussion so relevant to Athenian society?
- Why were sophists feared by some? How does Socrates relate to the sophists?
- Why was Socrates seen as a threat?
- How did Plato and Aristotle describe the ideal society?

**TERMS:** barbarian – Aeschylus – Sophocles – Euripides – Aristophanes – Herodotus – trireme – hegemony – physis/nomos

## **Clouds**

- What are the major conflicts in *Clouds*? How do these conflicts in the play relate to Athenian society?
- What messages was Aristophanes trying to communicate? What techniques does he use?
- What does Strepsiades stand for?
- Why was the Socrates in the play different from the real Socrates?

**TERMS:** Strepsiades – sophists – Unjust Argument – the Thinkery

## **Wars Between the Greeks**

- What were the causes of the Peloponnesian War?
- What case would you make for blaming Athens for the war? What about blaming Sparta? Corinth?
- What factors do you think make the war last so much longer than ordinary Greek wars?
- What makes the two forces evenly matched at first? What allows Sparta to eventually win this war?
- What was the war’s legacy in terms of the power of the city-states?
- What role does Persia play during and after the Peloponnesian War?
- How does the Peloponnesian War bring about the problems of the following century?

**TERMS:** Pericles – Delian League – Sicilian Expedition – Alcibiades

## **Philip and Alexander**

- How was Macedon different from that of the Greek city-states? How did the Macedonians see themselves in relation to the Greeks?
- What factors help Philip II to become strong enough to absorb Greece and prepare to attack the Persian Empire?
- What were the achievements and failures of Alexander and his successors in their handling of the east?
- What was Alexander’s legacy?

**TERMS:** Macedon – Philip II – Alexander – sarissa – Aristotle – Hellenistic era – Ptolemaic Empire – Seleucid Empire

## **Early Rome**

- What were some geographic factors in making Rome important in central Italy?
- How were government and society ordered in the three major Roman eras (Regal, Republic, Principate)?
- For what reasons did the Romans reject their kings? What effect did this have on the Roman idea of the state?
- What were some of the Roman ideals regarding women?

**TERMS:** Apennine Mountains – Magna Graecia – imperium – Lucretia – vestal virgin

## **The Roman Republic**

- What principles characterize the government of the Roman Republic?
- What were the different assemblies of the Republic and how were they different?
- What was the significance of the Twelve Tables?
- Why were the patricians dominant in the early Republic? How did the plebeians gain a greater voice?
- Why were the conquest of Veii (396 BCE) and the sack of Rome (390) so significant?
- Why did the Romans abandon hoplite warfare? How was their new manipular legion more effective?

**TERMS:** consul – patrician – plebeian – imperium – collegiality – tribune of the plebs – veto – triumph – dictator – Pyrrhic victory

## **Rome and Carthage**

- What issues — long-term and immediate — brought Rome into conflict with Carthage?
- What was the nature, and outcome, of each of the three Punic Wars?
- What was the significance of the siege and sack of Syracuse?

**TERMS:** Hannibal – Fabius the Delayer – Scipio Africanus – “Carthago delenda est” – Siege of Syracuse

## **Republic and Empire**

- What do you think are the main factors that made Rome able to become the master of Italy?
- How does Rome govern the territories it conquers or acquires?
- What kinds of social, cultural, and economic effects does the acquisition of empire have on the Romans?
- How does Rome deal with the Western Mediterranean differently from the Eastern Mediterranean?

**TERMS:** municipia – province – proconsul – publican – client kingdom

## **Fall of the Republic**

- Why did Rome have so much trouble adjusting politically and militarily to its empire?
- Why does the legislation of the Gracchus brothers cause so much turmoil?
- What factors were involved in the collapse of the Roman Republic?
- What role does Egypt play in the end of the Republic and why?
- How was the triumvirate of Pompey, Crassus, Caesar different from the triumvirate of Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus?

**TERMS:** Gracchi – Marius – Sulla – Cicero – Caesar – proscriptions – Mithridates – Social War

## **The Principate**

- What challenges does Augustus face after his defeat of Antony and Cleopatra?
- What accomplishments relate to Augustus being called a refounder of Rome?
- What role does Roman citizenship play in the empire?
- What difficulties were involved in succession under the Principate? How was this problem resolved? What were the advantages of this form of succession?
- What role did female members of the imperial family play in society and succession?
- How does the rise of Christianity affect the empire? Why was Christianity a threat to Rome’s dominion?

**TERMS:** second settlement – Augustus – princeps – year of four emperors – Vespasian – Romanization