

Classical Seminar

Questions and Concepts

2.1.I Existing Religious Traditions

How did religions provide a bond among people and an ethical code to live by?

Concepts

- *Ethical codes*
- *Diasporic communities*
- *Caste system*

Examples

- Judaism
- Hebrew scriptures
- Assyrian deportation
- Multiple manifestations of Brahma

2.1.II New Beliefs and Traditions

Why did new belief systems and cultural traditions emerge and spread?

Concepts

- *Merchants*
- *Missionaries*
- *Educational institutions*
- *Diffusion*

Examples

- Buddhism
- Confucianism
- Daoism
- Christianity

2.1.III Effects on Gender Roles

How did monastic life in Christianity and Buddhism and filial piety in Confucianism affect gender roles in Classical societies?

Concepts

- *Gender roles*
- *Monasticism*
- *Filial piety*

Examples

Christianity
Buddhism
Confucianism

2.1.IV Continuing Parallel to Codified

What other religious and cultural traditions continued alongside the codified traditions?

Concepts

- *Ancestor veneration*

Examples

Shang ritual
Western Zhou
Confucian filial piety

2.1.V Artistic Expressions

How did religions provide a bond among people and an ethical code to live by?

Concepts

- *Literature*
- *Architecture*
- *Philosophy*

Examples

Greek plays
Greek and Roman architecture
Hellenistic sculpture

Comparative Practice

For each ...

1. List one similarity and one difference.
2. Provide three two examples for each item (6 total).

What are the similarities and differences between the practices and teachings of Buddha and Jesus?

How are Confucianism and Daoism similar and different?

2.2.I Key States and Empires

Where were the key states and empires in the Classical Period?

- Southwest Asia: **Persian Empires**
- East Asia: Qin and Han Empire
- South Asia: Maurya and Gupta Empires
- Mediterranean region: Phoenicia and its colonies, Greek city-states and colonies, and Hellenistic and Roman Empires
- Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan, Maya city-states
- Andean South America: Moche

2.2.II Imperial Organization (Political)

How did states develop new ways of governing the people and the land?

- Centralized governments
 - Legal systems
 - Bureaucracies
 - Diplomacy
 - Supply lines
 - Roads, walls, fortifications
 - Local military
 - Currency
- Examples**
Persia
Greece
Rome
Han

2.2.III Economic and Social

How did social and economic dimensions develop in the Classical Period?

- Role of Cities
 - Social hierarchies
 - Labor management (production of food)
 - Rewards to elites
 - Patriarchy
- Examples**
Persepolis
Athens
Rome
Chang'an
Corvee
Slavery

2.2.IV Transformation of Empires

How did empires decline, collapse, and transform into successor empires or states?

- *Environmental damage*
- *Concentration of wealth*
- *Frontier conflicts*

Examples

Han, Rome, Gupta
Deforestation
Han and Xiongnu
Gupta and Huns
Romans and northern neighbors

Comparative Practice

For each ...

1. List one similarity and one difference.
2. Provide three two examples for each item (6 total).

How were the decline of the Roman Empire and the Han Dynasty similar and different?

2.3.I Land and Water Routes

How did land and water routes become the basis of transregional trade, communication, and exchange networks?

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>exchange networks</i>● <i>location</i>● <i>climate</i> | Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Eurasian Silk Roads</i>● <i>Trans-Saharan caravan routes</i>● <i>Indian Ocean sea lanes</i>● <i>Mediterranean sea lanes</i> |
|---|---|

2.3.II New Technology

What technologies facilitated longer distances for pack animals?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>new technologies</i>● <i>domesticated pack animals</i>● <i>maritime technologies</i>● <i>knowledge of weather patterns</i> | Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">YokesSaddlesStirrupsHorses, oxen, llamas, camelsLateen sailDhow ship |
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2.3.III Alongside Trade Goods, ...

What else besides trade goods developed along far-flung networks of communication and exchange?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>farming and irrigation techniques, spread of crops</i>● <i>spread of disease</i>● <i>diffusion and transformation of belief systems</i> | Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">Qanat systemEffects of disease on Rome and ChinaTransformation of Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism |
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FAIRNESS AND DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL



CONTEXTS

What are the consequences
of our common humanity?
