# Classical Seminar

Questions and Concepts

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## 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

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## 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

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**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?

- *exchange networks*
- *location*
- *climate*

**Examples**
- *Eurasian Silk Roads*
- *Trans-Saharan caravan routes*
- *Indian Ocean sea lanes*
- *Mediterranean sea lanes*

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**2.3.II New Technology**

*What technologies facilitated longer distances
for pack animals?*

- *new technologies*
- *domesticated pack animals*
- *maritime technologies*
- *knowledge of weather patterns*

**Examples**
Yokes
Saddles
Stirrups
Horses, oxen, llamas, camels
Lateen sail
Dhow 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?*

- *farming and irrigation techniques, spread of crops*
- *spread of disease*
- *diffusion and transformation of belief systems*

**Examples**
Qanat system
Effects of disease on Rome and China
Transformation of Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism

FAIRNESS AND DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL

CONTEXTS

What are the consequences
of our common humanity?

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