Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The era of Tang and Song rule in China was known as a(n)
   (A) golden age of Chinese culture and accomplishments.
   (B) period of Buddhist dominance.
   (C) time when Christianity and Islam spread widely in China.
   (D) time of technological and commercial stagnation.
   (E) era where nomadic dynasties ruled most of China.

2. The Tang rulers were able to control potential nomadic threats to China by
   (A) bribery.
   (B) playing one nomadic group against another.
   (C) settling the nomads within the Chinese borders on land to farm.
   (D) intermarriage between the nomadic and Chinese ruling families.
   (E) diverting the nomads and sending them westward, away from China.

3. To administer China, the Tang and Song dynasties relied on
   (A) Turkish administrators.
   (B) the aristocracy.
   (C) merchants.
   (D) scholar-gentry.
   (E) Buddhist monks.

4. Buddhist successes in China during the Tang era
   (A) were opposed by the merchants and farmers.
   (B) provided the state with tax revenues and conscripted labor.
   (C) were counterbalanced by the introduction of Islam into China.

5. The major demographic change in China between 500 and 1000 C.E. was the
   (A) decline of cities as populations moved to the countryside.
   (B) widespread migration of Chinese to foreign lands.
   (C) population decrease in the north due to frequent nomadic raids.
   (D) large population increase in the south around the Yangtze.
   (E) internal migration of the populace from rural to urban areas.

6. Tang military expansion into central Asia
   (A) led to constant warfare between the Chinese and the Muslims.
   (B) promoted renewed commercial contacts between China and west Asia.
   (C) eliminated nomadic invasions.
   (D) obtained land to settle large Chinese population surpluses.
   (E) was easily defeated by the Turks and other pastoral nomads.

7. The technological advance that facilitated Chinese overseas trade was
   (A) the Grand Canal.
   (B) sericulture or the production of silk.
   (C) the manufacture of paper.
   (D) the introduction of gunpowder.
   (E) maritime tools such as the junks.

8. In order to lessen the influence of the aristocrats and bolster the position of the peasants, the Tang and Song monarchs

9. The invention of explosive powder (gunpowder) in China
   (A) was borrowed by the Chinese from the nomads.
   (B) allowed the Song to defeat the northern nomads.

10. The high level of Chinese literacy was due to
    (A) free schooling for all classes of society.
    (B) the introduction of an alphabet during the Song dynasty.
    (C) the invention of movable-type printing and cheap paper.
    (D) the simplicity of the Chinese system of writing.
    (E) priests and Confucian theology, which insisted that Heaven wanted all people to be able to read and to write the Confucian classics.

Free-Response Question

How did the position of women change during the Tang and Song dynasties?

Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. E
5. D
6. B
7. E
8. A
9. D
10. C
1. The only indigenous aspect of Japanese culture during the Heian era was (A) Mahayana Buddhism.  
   (B) the imperial administration.  
   (C) written characters.  
   (D) Shinto.  
   (E) court etiquette and protocol.

2. The group which most directly challenged Chinese influences in Japan and Vietnam during the postclassical era was (A) the merchants.  
   (B) Buddhist monasteries and priests.  
   (C) the emperor.  
   (D) the imperial bureaucracy.  
   (E) aristocrats and local provincial administrators.

3. As the power of the Heian emperors declined, (A) Chinese trained scholar-officials assumed control of the government.  
   (B) civil war broke out between branches of the imperial family.  
   (C) local nobles carved out estates and reduced the peasants to serfdom.  
   (D) China conquered Japan.  
   (E) religious groups and the clergy became the effective government.

4. The influence of Chinese culture in Korea produced all of the following EXCEPT: (A) legal reform.  
   (B) Chinese forms of Buddhism.  
   (C) an increase in goods between China and Korea.  
   (D) martial resistance from the three kingdoms.  
   (E) adoption of the Chinese writing system.

5. The typical pattern for relations between China and its neighbors during the postclassical period was (A) military occupation by the Chinese armies.  
   (B) for these states to acknowledge Chinese superiority and pay tribute but remain independent.  
   (C) incorporation of these states as provinces in the Chinese empire.  
   (D) to form equal alliances as partners against nomadic invaders.  
   (E) to maintain no formal relations or treaties with neighboring states.

6. What passage in Vietnamese history might have been instructive to the French and United States as they attempted to conquer Vietnam? (A) The majority of Vietnamese literature and art depicted Vietnam's history and mocked foreign influences.  
   (B) Vietnam had maintained its distinct Vietnamese identity despite centuries of Chinese rule.  
   (C) Vietnam's war of independence against China lasted 1,300 years in order to achieve freedom.  
   (D) The Vietnamese constantly invaded and defeated their neighbors including China.  
   (E) Vietnam had conquered and ruled its neighbors.

7. After their independence from China, the Vietnamese (A) slavishly copied Chinese culture and ruling styles.  
   (B) degenerated into constantly feuding clans and villages.  
   (C) were conquered by the Khmers and Thais.  
   (D) became a largely commercial society in southeast Asia.  
   (E) conquered the highlands and coasts between the Mekong River and South China Sea.

8. Local Vietnamese officials identified most with the interests of (A) Confucian scholar-officials.  
   (B) Hindu rulers.  
   (C) the imperial court and high administrators.  
   (D) the peasants and local village culture.  
   (E) merchants.

9. Geography, environment, and movement in Vietnam (A) successfully fostered the growth of a uniform Vietnamese culture.  
   (B) have increasingly isolated Vietnam from its neighbors.  
   (C) divided the nation into two cultural divisions—one in the south and along the Mekong River and the other in the north along the Red River.  
   (D) have made Chinese influence in Vietnam inevitable.  
   (E) led to the spread of Christianity and Islam throughout the country.

10. In Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, the class that most welcomed Chinese influence and culture was (A) the local aristocrats.  
    (B) the court bureaucracy (scholar-gentry).  
    (C) peasants.  
    (D) Buddhist monks.  
    (E) the merchants.

Free-Response Question

Compare the role of the three of Japan, Korea, and Vietnam in the process of...