The emergence of civilization occurred in many agricultural societies. It often built on additional changes in technology including the introduction of metal tools.

Most civilizations had common features including cities, writing, formal institutions (especially government and religion), stratified classes, and trade. Catal Hoyuk is an excellent example of an important town in an early Neolithic civilization.

Early civilizations included those in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus River Valley, and northern China.

The Heritage of the River Valley Civilizations

River valley civilizations left a number of durable innovations, but most declined after about 1,200 B.C.E. This decline was often due to nomadic migrations across Eurasia by pastoral nomadic chariot peoples from the central Asian steppes.

A number of small population centers emerged in the Middle East. These civilizations introduced further innovations including the religion of Judaism, the alphabet, iron tools, and extensive trade connections across the Mediterranean basin.

The First Civilizations

The river valley civilizations created a basic set of tools, intellectual concepts such as writing and mathematics, and political forms that persisted across three continents.

The rise of civilizations reduced local autonomy, as kings and priests tried to spread trade contacts and cultural forms and warred to gain new territory.

Despite wars and trade, civilizations had little contact with each other and thus developed separate cultural patterns.

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The transformation that was most responsible for moving humans toward civilization was the
   (A) use of fire.
   (B) smelting of metals such as copper.
   (C) growth of towns and cities.
   (D) rise of agriculture.
   (E) rise of specialized classes.

2. Metalworking was important to agricultural and herding societies for each of the following reasons EXCEPT:
   (A) Farmers could use more efficient metal hoes to work the ground.
   (B) Metal weapons were superior to those made of stone or wood.
   (C) Toolmakers could focus on their craft full time and trade with farmers for food.
   (D) Woodworkers and other manufacturing artisans could improve their craft.
   (E) Large metal boats could be constructed, improving trade.

3. The start of sedentary agriculture
   (A) occurred simultaneously in various places and spread around the world.
   (B) began only in the savannas of West Africa.
   (C) started in the Middle East first but developed independently in other areas.
   (D) arose in the river valleys of the Huang-he and Yangtze.
   (E) began after the abandonment of hunting and gathering.

4. Cuneiform and other types of writing are important in part because they
   (A) help organize elaborate political structures.
   (B) lead directly to social stratification.
   (C) can compel leaders to follow written guidelines of behavior.
   (D) hinder economic development in certain circumstances.
   (E) limit bureaucratic inefficiencies.

5. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Sumerian civilization?
   (A) a simplified alphabet of 22 letters
   (B) ziggurats
   (C) cuneiform
   (D) city-states
   (E) a numeric system based on 10, 60, and 360

6. Unlike Sumer and the Indus Valley or Harappan civilization, Egypt
   (A) did not have an effective method of irrigation.
   (B) lacked a coherent system of writing.
   (C) began using metal tools much later.
   (D) retained a unified state throughout most of its history.
   (E) worshipped many gods.

7. Unlike Sumer and Egypt, the Indus Valley or Harappan civilization
   (A) became a geographic center for a unified, continuous culture lasting millennia.
   (B) is particularly difficult to study because its writing has not been deciphered.
   (C) was secure from nomadic incursions and invasions.
   (D) never developed a military social class.
   (E) developed a monotheistic religion.

8. Compared to river valley cultures in Egypt and Mesopotamia, Chinese civilization
   (A) probably developed after civilizations in the Nile Valley and Mesopotamia.
   (B) predates the rise of civilization in both Egypt and Mesopotamia.
   (C) developed simultaneously with Egypt and Mesopotamia.
   (D) did not rely on heavy irrigation as year-round water was plentiful.
   (E) has no verifiable historic origins and left no written records.

9. In early China, unity and cultural identity were provided by
   (A) divine monarchs.
   (B) shared religious ceremonies.
   (C) a uniform language.
   (D) Buddhism.
   (E) a common system of writing.

10. Stone tools, hunting and gathering, and an increasing number of Homo sapiens sapiens are features of the
    (A) Neolithic Age.
    (B) Late Paleolithic Age.
    (C) Bronze Age.
    (D) Early Copper Age.
    (E) River valley civilizations.

Free-Response Question

To what extent was the Neolithic revolution responsible for the development of early civilizations?
Economy and Society

- China's classical economy focused on agriculture. All Chinese philosophies extolled the virtues of the peasants and their world.
- Sharp class division existed between 1) the landowning aristocracy and educated bureaucrats—Mandarins, 2) the laboring masses, peasants, and urban artisans, and 3) the "mean" people, or those without meaningful skills.
- The state also fostered extensive internal trade, even while maintaining some ambivalence about merchants and commercial values.
- Technological advances were plentiful, including ox-drawn plows, water-powered mills, and paper.
- Socially China was hierarchical, deferential, and patriarchal, and tight family structure was valued.

How Chinese Civilization Fits Together

- China's politics and culture meshed readily, especially around the emergence of a Confucian bureaucracy.
- Economic innovation did not disrupt the emphasis on order and stability, and family structures were closely linked to political and cultural goals.
- Classical Chinese civilization evolved with very little outside contact. Though internal disagreement existed, most Chinese saw the world as a large island of civilization (China) surrounded by barbarians with nothing to offer save periodic invasions.

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. By encouraging settlers to move into the Yangtze River valley, the Zhou rulers
   (A) provoked centuries of conflict with outside invaders.
   (B) produced population growth but also complicated problems of central rule.
   (C) promoted the early cultivation of wood pulp for paper products.
   (D) promulgated diseases like yellow fever, then kept population growth in check.
   (E) programmed future generations of Chinese to obey the dictates of the highly centralized state.

2. Confucianism and Daoism
   (A) were officially sanctioned doctrines of the Qin and Han emperors.
   (B) are religions, which developed in classical China.
   (C) emphasized the needs of the individual over the welfare of the state.

3. Confucian social relationships
   (A) established a hierarchy and insisted upon reciprocal duties between people.
   (B) taught its practitioners to seek inner harmony with the natural way.
   (C) used rewards for correct behavior and punishments for transgressions.
   (D) were based on universal love and forgiveness.
   (E) stressed the welfare and the interests of the state.

4. The doctrine sponsored by the Qin Dynasty to support its state
   (A) encouraged education, new ideas, and tolerated criticism of the state.

5. Which of the following groups would have most likely supported the Qin Dynasty?
   (A) Confucian scholars
   (B) peasant laborers
   (C) trained bureaucrats from non-aristocratic groups
   (D) traditional aristocrats who lost their lands and positions
   (E) Daoist priests

6. During the Han Dynasty, scholar officials
   (A) lost their governmental offices to aristocrats.
   (B) came increasingly from the merchant and peasant classes.
   (C) utilized Legalism as a ruling doctrine.
   (D) insisted on harsh law codes to maintain control.
   (E) instituted a system of examination to prepare professional civil servants.

7. Although they varied greatly in wealth and social status in China,
   (A) the commoners, especially the peasants, remained the largest group.
   (B) the scholar bureaucrats cooperated to limit the influence of the ruler.
   (C) aristocrats owned all of the land.
   (D) women had many legal rights and protections.
   (E) urban artisans and merchants dominated Chinese society.

Free-Response Question

In what ways did the three philosophical movements of classical China shape its civilization?
2 By the last centuries B.C.E., the Indian civilization developed a written language, built cities, and produced art and literature, and nurtured two of the great world religions. Artistic patterns linked to religion and a significant scientific tradition developed.

Economy and Society

3 Dominated by the caste system, India developed extensive internal commercial and international maritime trade. However, India's economy remained essentially agricultural.

4 Family life combined patriarchy with an emphasis on mutual emotional support.

Indian influence

5 Classical India had an enormous effect on other parts of the world. India emerged as the center of a Eurasian trade system, a source of great wealth and a means of exporting Indian culture abroad.

China and India

6 China and India offer important contrasts in political emphases, social systems, and cultures. They also resembled each other in seeking to build stable structures over large areas and in using culture to justify social inequality.

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The highest Hindu caste members in India after the Epic Age were the
   (A) Shudras (workers).
   (B) Vaisyas (merchants, herders).
   (C) Kshatriyas (warriors, rulers).
   (D) Brahmins (priests, scholars).
   (E) Dasas or the Dravidian peoples.

2. The Indian caste system
   (A) differed little from other systems of inequality in the ancient world.
   (B) closely resembled the Greco-Roman class structure.
   (C) was extremely complex and stratified; a person could almost never change caste.
   (D) had little basis in Hindu religious writings.
   (E) integrated non-Aryans into ruling castes as a way of political control.

3. A central message of the Bhagavad Gita is that
   (A) great kings should warrant breaking caste rules.
   (B) those who worship Krishna can expect to be punished for their sins and denied paradise.
   (C) reincarnation always happens along caste lines.
   (D) meditation is the most effective path toward nirvana.
   (E) one must carry out the duties that come with one's caste.

4. A major difference between Buddhism and Hinduism was that
   (A) Buddhism denied the need for caste, rite, and sacrifice to achieve nirvana.
   (B) Hinduism was monotheistic, and Buddhism was polytheistic.

5. Buddhism spread primarily as a result of
   (A) the caste system.
   (B) the appeal of ritualistic sacrifice and the performing of intricate rites flawlessly.
   (C) its monastic community.
   (D) Gupta rulers.
   (E) warfare with Brahman opponents.

6. Alexander the Great's invasion of India
   (A) led to the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism to the Mediterranean world.
   (B) disrupted the existing trade routes between India and the Mediterranean.
   (C) had little lasting influence on either region.
   (D) led to the rise of the Mauryans.
   (E) isolated India from contacts with other regions.

7. Buddhism lost its appeal and influence in Gupta India in part because
   (A) Hinduism showed its adaptability by emphasizing its mystical side, thus retaining the loyalties of many Indians.
   (B) unpopular Gupta supported Buddhism, which led to Buddhism's decline.
   (C) Islam was introduced and replaced both Hinduism and Buddhism.
   (D) Hindus abandoned the caste system, making Hinduism more attractive.

Free-Response Question

Compare and contrast the classical civilizations of India and China.

CHAPTER 3: CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION INDIA