Ancient Civilizations Study Guide

**5 Major World Religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism)**

Be familiar with the 5 major world religions.

* + Monotheistic or polytheistic?
  + What is the religion’s holy text?
  + Basic belief systems (**5 pillars of Islam**, Four Noble Truths, etc.)

1. Submission to Allah

2. Pilgrimage to Mecca

3. Giving charity (alms) to the poor

4. Praying 5 times daily

5. Fasting during Ramadan

* + Which religions stress the importance of ethical behavior? (Islam, Judaism, Christianity)

**Paleolithic/Neolithic**

* Beginning of systematic agriculture > Surpluses of food > Growth of permanent settlements > Establishment of social hierarchies.
* Domestication of plants and animals (agricultural revolution) occurred during the Neolithic Era.

**River Valley Civilizations**

* Regular flooding of rivers provided fertile soil for farming and allowed early civilizations to grow.
* The Mandate of Heaven (China) occurred during which process?
* Egypt had a centralized form of government.
* Be able to identify the Caste System, (role of Untouchables/Outcastes), and what determined the caste to which a person belonged (hereditary)
* What were the important characteristics of Hammurabi’s Code?

1. Eye for an eye
2. Division of social classes
3. Role of government in society

* What impact did the Silk Road have on Ancient China?

1. Allowed China to export luxury goods
2. Cultural diffusion

* How did Greece’s location near the sea lead to the growth of ancient Greece?

1. Access to transportation, trade routes, etc.

**Greece/Rome**

* Expectations for Greeks who could participate in government include: vote in all elections, serve in offices if elected, serve on juries, and serve in the military during war.
* The government in Ancient Greece was a direct democracy. It reinforced the belief that individuals have political duties and only citizens could hold political positions. Major influence on U.S.
* The government of Ancient Rome (which was a ?) influenced the United States and was a centralized form of government.
* The Roman Law of the Twelve Tables led to the creation of a written constitution and had a major impact on modern Western government.
* The large road trade network connected many parts of the Roman Empire and increased trade. The use of established trade routes declined, however, from the fall of the western Roman Empire.
* What impact did Ancient Rome have on other civilizations? (aqueduct technology, law, architecture, art)
* Who were the major Greek philosophers and what were their beliefs? (Plato Socrates, Aristotle)