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| **Geography** | **Geography**: The physical location of a civilization including landforms and climatic features.  **Questions to ask:** How does geography help to shape this society? Would this society have a different outcome/structure if it were located somewhere else? How did geography dictate the economic nature of this society? How people are influenced by geography? How people adapted to the geography of their region? |
| **Social** | **Social:** Relates to the manner in which people within a society interact with one another. Social classes, gender roles, age grades, family structure, racial/ethnic/religious issues, etc.  **Questions to ask:** How are the social classes organized? Are there any social or cultural norms? What classes are most revered and disgusted? Is there social mobility? What gender roles are most prevalent? |
| **Political** | **Political**: Relates to the power structure and governmental institutions within a society. Political structures (type of government), role of leaders, law & order, government functions, military, etc.  **Questions to ask:** How is the government organized? How has to role of leadership changed over time? How did the government deal with other governments/civilizations? What functions does the government carry out? |
| **Religious** | **Religious**: Relates to the religious institutions and/or belief structures that are most prevalent in a society. Types of religions, religious groups/cults, holy texts, holidays/traditions, etc.  **Questions to ask:** What role did religion play in shaping this civilization? What religions are most prominent? How do different religious groups interact? |
| **Intellectual** | **Intellectual**: Relates to the ideas/philosophies and artistic achievements that drive a civilization. Education, philosophical developments, new ideas, fields of study (math/science), written works, literature, art/architecture, music, etc.  **Questions to ask:** How did art, literature or philosophy reflect the events of the time period? What are the major intellectual accomplishments? What people were responsible for intellectual advancements? |
| **Technological** | **Technological**: Relates to physical technological developments that impact a civilization. New inventions, tools, weapons, machines, architecture, etc.  **Questions to ask:** How did technology change the civilization in the era? What are the most significant technological developments? Was the impact of technology positive or negative? |
| **Economic** | **Economic**: Relates to all developments and interactions that revolve around the exchange of goods and services. Agricultural production, resources/geography, taxes, income, specialization, trade, etc.  **Questions to ask:** How did the government react to economic distress? Were the government’s economic decisions beneficial or hurtful? What are the basic economic activities in the civilization? |