**1 - Pre-History**

 Paleolithic Age

* Human Movements/Migrations
* Characteristics of Paleolithic Life/Culture
* Cave Paintings

 Neolithic Age

* Origins of Agriculture
* Changes brought about as a result of agriculture
* Common elements of complex sedentary societies

**2 - Southwest Asia and the Indo-European Migrations**

 Mesopotamia

 Geography

* Lack of Natural Barriers
* River Valley

 Political Structures

* Regional City-States 🡪 Empires (Sumerians, Assyrians, Babylonians)
* Religious beliefs/practices
* Important Leaders

 - Sargon of Akkad – Administration/Taxation

 - Hammurabi – The Code: Purposes, Implications and Effectiveness

 Writing System

 Reasons for collapse

 Hebrews, Israelites and Jews

* Migration
* Origins of monotheism

 Phoenicians

* Trade Networks
* Alphabet

 Indo-European Migrations

 Language Development

 Role of Horses

 Expansion and Effects

* Areas Influenced
* Hittites

**3 - African Societies and the Bantu Migrations**

 Geography

* Climate Change
* Diversity
* Nile River – Upper/Lower

 Egypt

* Political Organization
	+ King Menes
	+ Role of Pharaohs
* Relations between Egypt and Nubia (Kush)
* Hyksos Invasion
* Writing System – Hieroglyphics, Education
* Religion
	+ Key Deities/Monotheism (Aten)
	+ Mummification/Afterlife
	+ Cult of Osiris

Bantu Migrations

* Location/Language Base
* Population Pressure
* Paths of Migration
	+ Role of Iron
* Features of Bantu Society
* Spread of Agriculture

**4 - South Asia**

 Harappan Society

 Geography

* Importance of Indus River, Monsoon Systems

 Political Organization

* Standardization
* Harappa/Mohenjo-Daro

 Trade

* Indus Valley Seals
* Good Produced

 Decline

 Indo-European Migration/Aryan India

 Aryans

* Pastoralists 🡪 Increased role of agriculture
* Migrations
* Political Organization
	+ Influence on later Indian political structures

 Vedic Age

* Aryans vs. Dravidians
* Foundations of Hinduism

 Caste System

* Origins
* Creation of social distinctions
* Role in Indian society/government

 Religion

* Aryan religious beliefs-Harappan religious beliefs
* Evolution of Hinduism
* Impact of religion on society

**5 - East Asia**

 Geography

* Geographic Isolation
* Yellow River Valley

 Political Structure

* Dynastic Cycle (Xia, Shang, Zhou)
* Mandate of Heaven
* Role of Aristocrats/Ruling Elites in Government

 Economy

* Reliance on agriculture
* Large estate development

 Interactions with Nomads

* Conflicts and Diffusion

 Society

* Role of Merchants
* Reciprocal Relationships
* Importance of Family

 Religion

* Veneration of Ancestors/Oracle Bones

**6 – Americas and Oceania**

 Mesoamerica

 Geography

* No River Valley
* Isolation
* Lack of Domesticated Animals

 Olmec

* “Mother Culture”
* Early Trade Networks

 Maya

* Major Cities: Chichen Itza, Tikal
* Ball Game, Bloodletting
* Regional States – Not a unified empire

 South America

 Geography

* Andes Mountains
* Coastal, No River Valleys
* Lack of Domesticated Animals

 Chavin Cult + Mochica State

* No Writing – Artistic Legacy

 Compare to Mesoamerica

 Oceania

 Geography

* Isolation
* Challenges of Agriculture/Lack of Domesticated Animals

 Austronesian Peoples

* Largely Nomadic-Limited Agriculture

 Migrations

* Peopling of Pacific Islands

 Political Organizations

* Development of Chiefly States/Conflicts and Interaction

**Big Picture Questions**

1. Examine the profound changes brought about by the discovery of agriculture. How did this seemingly simple discovery change the course of human history?

2. Compare and contrast the Indo-European and Bantu migrations. How did they influence the areas they visited? What were their main contributions?

3. Discuss the nature of Indian society. What were the advantages and disadvantages of the caste system? How did the caste system reflect Indian society?

4. What would have caused the societies of the Americas and Oceania to be so different from other societies in Asia and Africa? What areas did they have in common?