**CHAPTER 7 – The Empires of Persia**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Examine the rise of the Achaemenid Empire. Discuss the implications of unification under the Achaemenids. How did the Persians rule such a huge, multicultural state? What role did Darius play? How did unification influence southwest Asia?
2. Why did the Achaemenid Empire decline?
3. Examine the development of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid empires. In what ways were they a continuation of the Achaemenid tradition? In what ways were they different?
4. Compare Zoroastrianism to any of the other religious concepts you’ve seen so far. How was Zarathustra’s philosophy different and in what ways was it influential?

**CHAPTER 8 – The Unification of China**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Compare and contrast the three basic Chinese philosophies – Confucianism, Daoism and Legalism. Include all fundamental principles, beliefs, values and practices.
2. How did the Qin Dynasty contribute to the unification of China?
3. How did the Han Dynasty contribute to the unification of China?
4. What was the role of the family in classical China?
5. Explain the role of the Xiongnu in the history of China during the Han.

**CHAPTER 9 – State, Society, and the Quest for Salvation in India**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. What were the major accomplishments of the emperor Ashoka?
2. How did the Gupta administrative practices differ from the Maurya?
3. What role did India play in the Silk Road trade network?
4. What are the fundamental beliefs of Jainism? What has been its long-term impact? Why did it never become as popular as other major world religions?
5. Compare and contrast the principles, beliefs and practices of Hinduism and Buddhism.
6. Explain the appeal (popularity) of Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Mahayana Buddhism in this area of the world.

**CHAPTER 10 – Mediterranean society: The Greek Phase**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Compare and contrast the Minoan and the Mycenaean societies.
2. What is a polis? How did having the polis as the central political institution of classical Greece shape the history of Greece during this period?
3. Compare and contrast Sparta and Athens.
4. How did the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars influence the development of the Greek city-states?
5. What was the legacy of the empire of Alexander the Great?
6. How did Greek religion and drama influence each other?

**CHAPTER 11 – Mediterranean society: The Roman Phase**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Examine the reign of Augustus Caesar. What steps did he take to restore order and implement the Pax Romana? What were the long-term effects of his influence?
2. Compare and contrast the Roman and Chinese empires. What made these states so powerful and influential for such a long period of time?
3. How did trade shape the Roman world? Discuss the implications of the Mediterranean as mare nostrum. How did trade work to bring the Roman world together?
4. What were the main achievements and limitations of the Roman Republic and Roman Empire? What were the key turning points in Roman history?
5. Jesus said, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say unto you that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.” To what legal tradition was Jesus referring? Why would this simple philosophy make so many people angry? What were the foundations of his thought?
6. Discuss the reign of Julius Caesar. How did he transform the Roman state? How great was his influence on the later Roman Empire?

**CHAPTER 12 – Cross-Cultural exchanges on the Silk Roads**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. How did the trade networks of the Hellenistic era help set the stage for the silk roads?
2. What goods from what regions were traded along the silk roads?
3. Why is the rise of Manichaeism such a good example of the relationship between long-distance trade and the spread of religion?
4. How did China's culture change after the decline of the Han dynasty?
5. What were some of the main causes of the decay and fall of the Western Roman Empire?
6. How did Europe's culture change during the late Roman Empire?