**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?