

Final Examination - Review and Study Questions

The final exam will be given on Friday afternoon, December 22th, 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

[conflict exam: Monday 18th, 9:00-12 or 1:30-4:30.]

The exam will include four parts, identifications/multiple choice/jeopardy, culture-stratigraphic table, short answers, and essays.

A. Identifications, etc.: (35%) consists of identifications of various places, sites, objects, ideas, theories and concepts. These terms will be drawn from the “Key Terms” handouts (and the “critical handouts”- see below for list) accompanying the lectures and from the additional terms below. For the written identifications, at a minimum, you should identify or define the term and include information as to its age and geographic location, where appropriate. Also indicate its significance in (or to) the study of New and/or Old World prehistory. (Who, what, where, when and why important.)

sedentism	civilization	class stratification
urbanism	fallow cycle	ridged or raised fields
intensive agriculture	extensive agriculture	intercropping

B. Culture-stratigraphic table: (10%) you will incorporate a selection of the terms below in a temporal outline, see the attached work sheet.

Paleoindian period	Archaic period	Classic Maya Period
Guilá Naquitz	Formative Period	Bonampak
Olmecs	La Venta	San Lorenzo
Maya	Tikal	stelae
ridged fields	Popol Vuh	
Mesolithic	Natufians	Abu Hureyra
Neolithic	Çatal Hüyük	Ubaid Culture
Akkadian empire	Uruk period	Ur - 3rd Dynasty
first urbanism - Old World	first urbanism - New World	

C. Short answer questions: (20%) two will be drawn from the list below. (Suggested length is 1 to 2 paragraphs)

1. What were the functions of writing in early Mesopotamian and Mesoamerican civilizations and how did they differ.
2. What are Flannery’s concepts of seasonality and scheduling? What is a procurement system and how does it relate to seasonality and scheduling?
3. What non-climatic internally generated environmental and social factors may have been at play in the decline of Classic Maya?

C. Short answer questions: cont.

4. What is the interrelationship, if any, between trade and religion in the emergence of early complex society in lowland Mesoamerica., use the Maya as an example.
5. How may soil fertility and type of agriculture (intensive and extensive) relate to wealth accumulation in the emergence of early lowland Mesopotamian and Mesoamerican stratified societies.

D. Essay: (35%) Be prepared to present a detailed essay which will be selected from one of the two following questions. (No choice.)

1. Modeling the origins of domestication and food production in Mesoamerica is still in its infancy, largely due to limited research on the issue. Most of our evidence comes from the dry highland zones where the principal crops, maize, beans and squashes seem to have had their wild progenitors. Based on your readings and lectures develop a model that you feel describes the processes in Mesoamerica . [For reflection and direction - in the case of domestication in the Near East a number of factors are believed to have been important, including the region's unique geographic conditions, changes in settlement patterns and concomitant changes in social structure, long term population growth,uneven distribution of local and regional resources, the influences of individual cultural traditions and marked and rapid climatic and environmental changes. How important may these individual factors have been in the Mesoamerican case?]

2. Early complex stratified society developed independently in both the Mesopotamian (Sumer) and the Mesoamerican (Olmec and Mayan) lowland areas. The early civilizations in these two areas display marked similarities in some respects and marked differences in other respects. Obviously many different factors interacted in complex ways to produce the highly distinctive civilizations found in these two areas. Compare and contrast the influence of each the following factors on the development of the Uruk/early Sumerian and Olmec/Mayan civilizations:

- a) environment and resources
- b) subsistence practices (pastoralism, horticulture, agriculture and trade)
- c) settlement patterns
- d) technology

Relevant Vocabulary and Handout sheets

-) 11/7 Populating the New World, Mesoamerica - environmental background, etc.
-) 11/9-14 Agricultural origins: the transition from hunting and gathering to plant domestication and sedentary village life.
Tehuacán Valley cultural sequence
-) 11/14, 16, 21 Mesoamerica: emergence of early lowland civilization
The Olmecs - brief notes
-) 1128 - 30 Mesoamerica: Maya civilization
-) nd Examining societal collapse in early civilizations - (paper topic)
Background notes
Societal Collapse - Additional notes - Maya
Societal Collapse - Additional notes - Near East

Part B - Culture-stratigraphic table:

Name: _____

Time (yrs BP)	"AGE" "Era"	Industry or "culture"	Site	Technology/ artifact type
Present				
1,000 (1000 AD)				
2,000	-	-	-	-
3,000 (1,000 BC)				
4,000				
5,000 (3,000 BC)				
6,000				
7,000				
8,000				
9,000				
10,000				
11,000				
12,000 (10,000 BC)	-	-	-	-
13,000				
14,000				
15,000				
20,000				
25,000				
50,000				