

AP World History

Sample Multiple Choice Questions - Exercise Three (Chapter Two)

Use the following pictures to answer questions 1 and 2



Olmec Statue, c. 1200 BCE



Easter Island Statues, c. 1300 CE

- ___ 1. A historian examining the statues from the Olmec and the Easter Island civilizations above would have the most evidence to support which of the following conclusions?
- A) both civilizations benefited from long distance trade with the other
 - B) both civilizations chose to honor key people, ancestors or gods
 - C) both civilizations disappeared due to deforestation
 - D) both civilizations were primarily matrilineal societies
- ___ 2. Which conclusion about the period 8000 BCE to 600 BCE is most directly supported by the images above?
- A) systems of record keeping arose independently in all early civilizations
 - B) social hierarchies became less strict as states expanded
 - C) new religious beliefs altered the political development of early civilizations
 - D) elaborate artistic expression suggests a surplus of agricultural labor
- ___ 3. Which statement identifies the clearest difference between the two civilizations represented in the images above?
- A) the Olmec created a written language and developed a monotheistic religion, while the people of Easter Island had no written language and believed in ancestor veneration
 - B) the language, beliefs, art, and athletics of the Olmec influenced later civilizations in Mesoamerica, while the people of Easter Island had limited influence on other civilizations due to their isolation
 - C) the people who settled Easter Island were primarily agricultural, while the Olmec were not
 - D) Easter Island made use of labor for public work projects, while the Olmec did not

Use the passage below to answer questions 4 and 5

"The earliest written documents are Sumerian wage list and tax receipts, in which the symbol for beer, a clay vessel with diagonal linear markings drawn inside it, is one of the most common words, along with the symbols for grain, textiles, and livestock. That is because writing was originally invented to record the collection and distribution of grain, beer, bread, and other goods. It arose as a natural extension of the Neolithic custom of using tokens to account for contributions to a communal storehouse. Indeed, Sumerian society was a logical continuation of Neolithic social structures but on a far larger scale, the culmination of thousands of years of increasing economic and cultural complexity. Just as the chieftain of a Neolithic village collected surplus food, the priests of the Sumerian cities collected surplus barley, wheat, sheep, and textiles. Officially, these goods were offerings to the gods, but in practice they were compulsory taxes that were consumed by the temple bureaucracy or traded for other goods and services. The priests could, for example, pay for the maintenance of irrigation systems and the construction of public buildings by handing out rations of bread and beer."

-- Tom Standage, *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. 2006

_____ 4. Which conclusion is best supported by the passage above?

- A) religious authorities wielded great control over the Sumerian economy
- B) people first developed writing to record important religious ideas
- C) compulsory taxation allowed Sumerians to conquer neighboring areas
- D) Sumerians established trade routes, which spread their goods to other civilizations

_____ 5. Compared to the development of the Sumerian civilization as described in the passage above, the Chavin civilization (located in modern-day Peru):

- A) was more self-sufficient so it carried on little trade
- B) had a much weaker political system
- C) required much less irrigation in order to carry on farming
- D) had much less interest in organized religion