

HIS 103: *World Civilizations I*

Fall 2020 Midterm Exam Study Guide

(Reminder: Midterm will be in-class, 9/29/20)

Directions:

1. On the day of the Midterm, test packets (cover sheet with prompts stapled to blank notebook paper) will be spread out on the stage. Students may grab a packet and begin the test starting at 2:10 PM. Students should have NOTHING out during the exam except the test packet and pens/pencils. PLEASE PUT PHONES AWAY.
2. Students must return the completed test packet no later than 3:30 PM (there will be a 1-point penalty for each minute after this deadline)
3. Each student must respond to the first prompt – ***Transition from River Basin Societies to Territorial States***. This mandatory prompt is worth 40 points.
4. Students must then respond to two out of the four remaining prompts (current list of six (see below) will be reduced to four for the Midterm). Students must label each response using the # assigned to the prompt. Each of these responses is worth 30 points.
5. Your goal is to address the prompts thoroughly and with analytical skill. The expectation is at least one page per response.
6. Available sources: Students should focus on the text, the primary source reader, lecture/discussion power points, and reading and lecture notes to address these prompts. Students may refer to the optional readings on Moodle, but this is not strictly necessary. There is no reason to go beyond these available sources.
7. Allowing for the five-minute head start, students have 80 minutes to complete this Midterm. In general, even a well-prepared student will need most if not all this time to address the prompts thoroughly and analytically. There is no prize for being the first one done.
8. As I emphasized in class, this kind of assessment measures preparedness as well as the ability to think critically. With more than two weeks to prepare, students have an excellent opportunity to develop thorough and analytically strong responses.

*Mandatory Prompt:

1. TRANSITION FROM RIVER BASIN SOCIETIES TO TERRITORIAL STATES: Discuss the theory(ies) set forth in our readings concerning the transition from so-called river basin societies to territorial states noting relevant time periods and key events. Your response should discuss the political, economic, social, and cultural implications or consequences of this transition. (note: try to use case studies relating to at least three different geographic locations in your response).

Four of these six prompts will appear on the Midterm:

2. **WRITING**: Track the origins and early history of writing during the period we have covered thus far (essentially early Bronze Age to the early Iron Age), and provide examples of how and why writing was used in particular ways by various civilizations (note: try to use at least three different civilizations in your response).
3. **SOCIAL HIERARCHIES**: Describe the concept of social hierarchy and then apply this concept to the period we have covered thus far (essentially early Bronze Age to the early Iron Age). Your response should address how and why social hierarchies developed in distinct ways using case studies from the civilizations and regions we have studied to date (note: try to use at least three different civilizations/regions in your response).
4. **RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY**: Describe the different roles religion and spirituality played during the period we have covered thus far (essentially early Bronze Age to the early Iron Age). Your response should address this prompt using case studies from the civilizations or regions we have studied to date (note: try to use at least three different civilizations/regions in your response).
5. **TRADE**: Describe how, why, and in what variations trade networks developed during the period we have covered thus far (essentially early Bronze Age to the early Iron Age). Your response should address this question using case studies from the civilizations or regions we have studied to date (note: try to use at least three different civilizations/regions or three different trade networks in your response).
6. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL-HISTORICAL EVIDENCE**: Discuss the kinds of evidence scholars, especially archaeologists and historians, use to interpret the past, focusing on the period we have covered thus far (essentially early Bronze Age to the early Iron Age). Your response should be as specific as possible in developing categories of historical evidence and specific examples of these categories introduced and/or discussed in our readings. Ultimately, this prompt is asking: How do we know what we think we know about the ancient past?
7. **POLITICAL ORDER**: Discuss the concept of political order generally and as it pertains to the period we have covered thus far (essentially early Bronze Age to the early Iron Age). Discuss how ideas and practices of political order and governance changed over time during this period. Your response should address this prompt using case studies from the civilizations or regions we have studied to date (note: try to use at least three different civilizations/regions in your response).