Pass the TExES Social Studies 7-12

Fourth Edition

FOR TEXAS TEACHERS.
A test prep manual for the TExES Social Studies exam #232 for grades 7-12.
Grade 7 Addendum Included

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Domain I: World History

Competencies 1-4

(15% of the test)

Social Studies Standard IV:

History: The social studies teacher applies knowledge of significant historical events and developments, as well as of multiple historical interpretations and ideas, in order to facilitate student understanding of relationships between the past, the present, and the future.
1. Ancient World Civilizations

Key Descriptors:

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Key Words:

- Neolithic Revolution
- River Valley
- Diffusion
- Polytheism
- Monotheism

**Descriptive Highlights**

- Analyzes the influence of geography, diffusion, science, and technology on ancient civilizations.
- Demonstrates knowledge of key figures and events that shaped ancient civilizations.
- Understands major political, economic, and cultural developments in ancient civilizations.

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*NOTE: Refer to the bullet points under each Competency in the ETS/SBEC study guide. Analyze each bullet point, and synthesize it down to a paraphrase that is meaningful to you, using no more than 5 words. List those phrases in order on the lines above. It may help to number the bullet points and the lines above. When complete, record them again on Worksheet 4 in Appendix I.*
Competency 1:
The teacher understands significant historical events and developments in ancient world civilizations, factors influencing the development of ancient world civilizations, and major characteristics and contributions of ancient world civilizations.

A. Geography’s Role in History
Historically, geography has determined the destiny of civilizations. The first civilizations emerged along rivers and other water sources. Water provided the basis for the Neolithic Revolution — farming. Humans who were blessed with good water sources and good soil — all geographic factors — were able to spend less time hunting for food and more time inventing things like plows and ships with sails. This “technology” — anything that makes life easier for humans — would not have been possible in a less blessed geographic area.

B. Greetings Neighbor
Most early civilizations were connected either directly or indirectly through trade. As groups interacted, ideas were exchanged through a process of diffusion. This is just a fancy way of saying one idea from one group is adopted by another group. Major ideas were exchanged, such as:
• Religions
• Languages
• Writing systems and alphabets
• Weapons and tools
• Legal codes and customs

C. Here Comes the King
Monarchs were the norm. Occasionally some aspects of democracy appeared, like in Athens and Rome, but for the most part, these democratic efforts were short lived and were more democratic in theory than in practice.

The King was at the top of the social ladder, normally along with priests. Slaves were at the bottom. Although there were slight differences concerning the treatment and role of women, these were patriarchal societies and men ruled!

D. One God or Two
Most people were polytheistic (belief in many gods). Their gods were normally associated with items found in nature: sun, earth, rain, river, etc. Monotheism (belief in one god) began with the Hebrews. The second major monotheistic religion to emerge was Christianity. Christianity at first was simply an obscure Jewish sect that slowly spread to non-Jews around the Roman Empire. It was finally legalized when Emperor Constantine converted and in 381 it became the official religion of Rome and it began to spread to all parts of the western world.

E. Specific World Civilizations
Mesopotamians — This includes the numerous groups that dominated the areas along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (in modern day Iraq). The most significant groups were the Sumerians and the Babylonians. The Sumerians had numerous achievements, including:
1. Advanced irrigation systems.
2. A system of writing called cuneiform.
3. A number system based upon 60 (think 60 seconds in a minute, etc.).
4. Architectural marvels called Ziggurats (think boxy pyramids).
5. A famous epic called Epic of Gilgamesh that included a story of a flood.

The Babylonians were great warriors and they developed an empire. They are most known for Hammurabi’s Code (between 1792 - 1750 BC) which was the first known written code of law.

Egyptians — The Egyptians settled along the Nile River in about 3100 BC and they depended upon the river for everything. The rich soil

Continued
1. Ancient World Civilizations, cont’d.

allowed the Egyptians to have huge surpluses of food. This allowed for people to devote themselves to other activities, like working with gold, building tombs, and designing pyramids. The most recognizable pyramids are those in Giza. From the pyramids we know that the Egyptians had an excellent command of geometry and engineering. Other evidence left behind by the Egyptians was their form of writing — hieroglyphics. Egypt was later conquered by Alexander the Great, who put the Greek Ptolemy family on the throne. The last Ptolemy ruler was Cleopatra.

Mesoamerica’s civilizations were a little different in that they emerged along lakes and sea coasts rather than rivers. The oldest civilizations included the Chavins of Peru and the Olmecs of southern Mexico. The Olmecs are best known for the huge stone heads that have survived. The most dominant group was the Mayans of Central America. They dominated from about 250 - 900 AD. They had an accurate calendar, an advanced writing system, pyramids dedicated to gods, vast cities and trading posts, and the concept of 0. Like most other societies, religion was the center of life.

Sub-Saharan Africa - Since they did not have a written language, our knowledge of the people of this time period is limited. The most significant people of this period were the Bantus who spread their language throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Indus River Valley refers to the civilizations that developed in what is now modern day India and Pakistan. The most significant cities from this era are Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. They had a form of indoor plumbing, brick buildings, and advanced irrigation.

They were invaded by an Indo-European group in 1500 BC. This group, the Aryans, was lighter skinned than the natives of India, but not as light as Hitler assumed they were when he took their name to describe the “master race”. The Aryans brought with them a collection of writings called the Vedas which clearly defined specific classes or castes. The castes were based on skin color and everyone was born into his or her caste. The lowest group was called the Untouchables. The only way to move from one caste to another was through reincarnation. These beliefs formed part of the polytheistic religion of Hinduism.

Another development from India was Buddhism. Buddhism, which stresses the end of suffering and desires through meditation, was founded by a Hindu named Siddhartha Gautama, later called Buddha or enlightened one. Buddhism remains one of the world’s major religions; however, it is not very popular in India. Hinduism remains the major religion of India.

China — The first Chinese civilizations developed along the Huang He River. The earliest Chinese had a form of writing that can still be found on oracle bones which were burned to communicate with the Chinese ancestors.

The Chinese concept of government was based upon the Mandate of Heaven. This was the belief that the ruler had the blessing of Heaven. When Heaven no longer wanted a particular ruler to rule, then he would be overthrown. Whenever a new ruler emerged, the Dynastic Cycle began. The Cycle was always the same with the Emperor gaining power only to become weak and be overthrown. Then the Cycle would begin again.

Certain philosophies formed the foundation of Chinese behavior. These include Confucianism (founded by the teacher Confucius) which stressed proper behavior and respect, Taoism/Daoism which centered on finding peace with nature, and Legalism which stressed government control, harsh punishment, and censorship. Since none of these philosophies stressed a belief in gods, none is considered a religion.

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The most significant empire of this period was the Han Empire (206 BC - 220 AD). The Han Empire was to Asia what the Roman Empire was to Europe. The wealth of the Han Empire was amassed through trade along the Silk Roads. These roads connected the riches of China (primarily silk) and Asia to the Middle East. Most of Asia, including Japan, was greatly influenced by the culture of China.

Mediterranean World — For most people, the Mediterranean World is the most familiar of this time period. It is the most influential political and cultural force of the modern western world. The lesser-known groups of this region were:

- Phoenicians settled in what is now Lebanon (north of Israel) and they were sea-traders whose alphabet formed the foundation of our modern alphabet (hence, phonics).
- Minoans were early Greeks. Their architecture would be adopted by later Greeks and we still use their columns as the foundation of our western architecture.
- Mycenaeans were another group of early Greeks who traded with Egypt, Phoenicia, and Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). From the Phoenicians, they borrowed their alphabet which set up the process for that alphabet to eventually make it to our modern one.

F. The Glory that was Greece

The Greeks lived on numerous islands and in various mountains of what is now Greece. From 500 — 479 BC the various Greek city states joined forces to defeat the Persians (modern day Iran). The Persians were led by Cyrus and Darius the Great.

Classical Greece refers to the height of Greek culture in Athens.

Greek accomplishments included:

- The philosophy of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
- Architecture, like the columns of the the Parthenon.
- The birth of drama. Some of these plays were from Homer’s Iliad and the Odyssey. These narrative poems were about the Trojan War which was ancient history to these Greeks.
- Idealized sculpture where men had bulging muscles.
- Systematic study of science, geometry, and medicine.
- Democracy. In Athens all male citizens — a very small group of landowners who could prove that both their grandfathers were citizens of Athens — met and voted directly on issues.

Alexander the Great was a brilliant military leader who happened to be a student of Aristotle. Alexander was actually from Macedonia just north of Greece, but he adopted the Greek culture as his own. One of his first actions was to reconquered all of Greece (his father had originally conquered it). He would go on to conquer the entire Mediterranean world, northern Africa, and Asia Minor before dying in 323 BC at the tender age of 32. His major contribution was spreading Greek culture — Hellenism. Most of his world would later be conquered by the Romans.

G. The Grandeur that was Rome

The first Italians were called Etruscans, but the most important were the Romans. Originally, the Romans were ruled by monarchs, but in 509 BC they overthrew the king and set up a Republic. In ancient Athens, due to small numbers, all citizens could show up at government meetings and vote (direct democracy), but in Rome, there were too many citizens. The Romans did something different and allowed all citizens to vote for representatives to the Senate. The Senate, representing the people, made the decisions.

Society was made of patricians (wealthy) and plebeians (common people). Slaves were very numerous and were economically vital to Rome. The Romans began to expand and conquer their

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neighbors. One of the most successful conquerors was Julius Caesar. Caesar had conquered Gaul (modern day France) and parts of modern day Britain, and in 49 BC he returned to Rome and declared himself emperor. Some people, including his own godson Brutus, believed that they had to do something to save the Republic. These conspirators killed Caesar. Ironically their efforts to save the Republic were futile because his adopted son Octavian Caesar (later given the title of Augustus) seized power and started a dynasty of hereditary rulers. At first, Augustus ruled jointly with Marc Antony, but when Marc Antony married Julius Caesar’s former mistress, the Cleopatra, and conspired to overthrow Augustus, Augustus went to war with and defeated Marc Antony. Both Marc Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide in a scene that is reminiscent of Romeo and Juliet.

After the defeat of Antony, Rome began a 207 year period of peace — Pax Romana. Rome would be ruled by “Caesars” until the final collapse of Rome. The name “Caesar” is the foundation of the Russian title “Czar” and the German title, “Kaiser”.

The major contributions of the Romans included spreading Greek culture, the Latin language, Roman architecture including the arch and dome, Roman law, baths, libraries, and the Roman alphabet (actually borrowed from Greece and Phoenicians).

After a series of weak rulers and a series of attacks from the Huns and Germanic tribes, Rome started to crumble. Rome divided into two parts with an “Eastern” part centered in Constantinople (modern day Istanbul, Turkey) and the Western part centered in Rome. After the last Roman Emperor was overthrown in 476 AD, the Eastern part (Byzantine) continued to thrive until 1453 when Constantinople was conquered by Muslim conquerors.
2. World History from 476 to 1350

Key Descriptors:

Key Words:
Feudalism
Manorialism
Norman Conquest of 1066
Crusades
Guilds
Roman Catholic Church
Eastern Orthodox Church
Five Pillars of Islam
Silk Roads

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2. World History from 476 to 1350

Competency 2:
The teacher understands significant historical events, developments, and traditional points of reference in world history from 476 to 1350.

Overview of Middle Ages
- After the fall of the Roman Empire (476), Europe became chaotic and the Church, under the authority of the Bishop of Rome (Pope), provided basic protections that were lost with the fall of Rome (education, medical care, protection for widows and children, secure food supply, etc.).
- The Church blessed the reign of kings and was the dominant political power of Europe.
- In 1054 the Eastern part of the Church, which was centered in Constantinople, broke away from the authority of Rome. The Eastern Orthodox Church became the major religious factor in Eastern Europe (Russia, Greece, etc.,) and in the Middle East. Although it was not as powerful as the Roman Catholic Church was, it did exert significant political power.
- Many people went on pilgrimages to religious shrines. Massive cathedrals were built to accommodate the huge numbers of pilgrims. These cathedrals were built in either the Romanesque or the later Gothic architectural styles.
- The dominant political system was feudalism which developed to try to protect Europe from the Viking invasions. The king was at the top of feudalism, lords were under the king and the knights were under the lord. Feudalism was governed by the Code of Chivalry.
- The economic system of the European Middle Ages was manorialism. The manor was the land granted by the king to the lords and knights in exchange for military service. Serfs and peasants provided physical labor. Manors were self-sufficient with vast farm land, artisans (like blacksmiths), and normally a small church.
- The populations of cities increased. Many people in the cities were skilled workers. To control the numbers of people involved in each activity (limit the workers so that wages remain high), guilds were formed for each artisan group (blacksmiths, goldsmiths, etc.). Cities also became the centers of banking and manufacturing.

Specific Western People and Events
In 711, Islamic forces took control of much of modern day Spain and they tried to move over the Pyrenees Mountain into modern day France. In 732 at the Battle of Tours, Charles Martel defeated the Islamic invaders and put an end to Islamic expansion in the west; parts of Spain continued to be controlled by the Muslims until 1492.

Charlemagne, grandson of Charles Martel, amassed a kingdom that included parts of modern day France and Germany. In 800, Charlemagne was crowned by the Pope as the Emperor of the Romans (was considered a direct blessing of God). This began the long tradition of the Holy Roman Empire being a collection of Germanic states that had little to do with Rome.

In 1066 William of Normandy (in northern France) invaded the Isle of Britain. At the Battle of Hastings, William “the Conqueror” defeated the English king and took England as his own. William brought feudalism to England. He also instituted a census — the Doomsday Book — to determine whom to tax.

English and French royalty intermarried and were greatly connected. This caused a problem when the King of England was the next in line to inherit the French throne. This led to the 100 Years War (1336 - 1453). The French won when troops were inspired by Joan of Arc to keep fighting.

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In 1095, Pope Urban II asked the kings of Europe to send knights to “liberate” the Holy Land (Jerusalem) from the Muslim Turks. The First Crusade occurred in 1096 and ended with Europeans capturing Jerusalem from the Turks. The Europeans soon lost Jerusalem and other crusades occurred, but Jerusalem remained under the control of the Muslims until the 20th century. Major effects of the Crusades included:

• The wealth of the various Italian city states increased as they served as a midway meeting point for many groups. This wealth would eventually allow the Italians to start investing in art and ancient literature — Italian Renaissance.

• Europeans acquired gunpowder — a Chinese invention — that had been traded to Arabs.

• Religious animosity grew. This was not only between the Muslims and Christians, but also between the Catholics and Orthodox Christians. This was a long-held grievance that led Pope John Paul II to apologize for the behavior of Catholic Knights towards the Orthodox Christians during the Crusades.

• Europeans were exposed to the goods that arrived in the Middle East along the Silk Roads. Europeans would spend the next few hundred years trying to get to East Asia without relying on the Arabs as middlemen. This obviously lead to the Age of Exploration.

In 1215, England’s King John (the “bad” Prince John from the Robin Hood legends) was forced by lords and knights to sign the Magna Carta. This event is considered one of the major events in the evolution of constitutionalism. The Magna Carta basically said:

• The power of the king was not absolute.

• The king had to follow the law.

• Those accused of crimes should have their cases decided by a jury of his peers.

Non-Western World
Europe would eventually recover, but in international trade, technology, and scientific and medical advances they remained far behind the non-western world.

The Byzantine World
Geographically, Byzantium was Asian, but it was very much a child of Rome. Its capital, Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) became extremely wealthy through its control of the Dardanelles Straits. Since they controlled these straits, they could charge a “toll” on all ships that passed through. During this time, the wealth of Constantinople was greater than any western power. The most famous ruler of the Byzantine Empire was Justinian who compiled all his laws into the Justinian Code.

The Islamic World
Islam, a monotheistic religion, emerged in the Arabian Peninsula in the 600s. The Koran (can be spelled with a Qu) is the major religious text of the Muslims and includes some stories from the Jewish (Abraham and Noah) and the Christian (Jesus is considered a prophet) traditions. Most of the Koran deals with the revelations of the prophet Mohammed. The foundation of Islam is the Five Pillars of Faith. These include:

• The declaration of faith.

• Prayer five times a day, facing Mecca.

• Fasting during the month of Ramadan (daylight hours only).

• Alms giving (charity).

• Hajj — pilgrimage to Mecca at least one time in each Muslim’s life (if he/she is healthy and can financially afford it).

Mohammed assembled an army and invaded areas that had expelled him for his religious beliefs. This began a long series of conquests throughout the Arabian Peninsula (modern day Saudi Arabia), the Middle East and Asia Minor. After Mohammed died, the tradition of the religious leader being the political ruler continued. Islam remained united

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until a dispute over the rightful successor led to Islam dividing into two major sects: Sunni and Shiite.

The Turks (from Asia Minor) soon conquered the Arabs and became the primary force in the Islamic world. Achievements of the Muslims include mathematical advances such as algebra, the construction of grand palaces, literature such as The Thousand and One Arabian Nights (think Aladdin), and advanced medical progress. While Europeans were bleeding each other with leaches, the Muslims were conducting surgery with anesthesia.

Eastern Asia
China was especially advanced during this time period. These advances included:
3. A great emphasis on education and the arts. Having a good education was considered more important than any other factor.
4. Extensive trade with all of Asia and the Middle East through the Silk Roads.
5. The most populous cities in the world.
6. A system of printing that led to numerous books (they borrowed the idea from Koreans).

The role of women continued to be limited with the practice of foot binding emerging during this time period. Baby girls’ feet were tightly wrapped to keep them small. As adults, these women often couldn’t walk and were housebound.

Japan developed a feudal system that greatly resembled the European system (although they developed it independently). The Japanese feudal system consisted of:
- The Emperor who was really a figure head.
- The Shogun who had the most power.
- Samurai who were the soldiers.
- Code of Bushido which described the rules of behavior.

Beginning in 1206, the Mongol leader Genghis Khan began to amass the largest land empire in history. The Great Wall of China, which had been constructed to keep the Mongols out, proved no match for Genghis Khan. The Mongol Empire included China, Korea, Russia, Poland, Persia, and India. Under the Mongolian rule, there was a period of peace and prosperity (Pax Mongolia) that lasted until 1350. The Mongols ensured safety of the trade routes that allowed the Asian world to continue to interact with the rest of the world.

It was during the Mongolian rule of China that two Italian brothers visited China. Over twenty years later these brothers returned to Italy and one of them, Marco Polo, wrote about their travels. Europeans marveled about the faraway land where the people practiced bizarre rituals, such as daily bathing.

West Africa
During this time period, various regions of Africa began to prosper. Two noteworthy kingdoms that emerged were Ghana and Mali. Both of these empires adopted Islam and became extremely wealthy through trade. Trade was conducted along the Saharan Trade Routes where the trade of gold, ivory, salt, and slaves made African nations very wealthy. The King of Mali was named Mansa Musa and in the 1200s he was the wealthiest monarch in the entire world. In 1235 Mansa Musa took off on a pilgrimage to Mecca. He took thousands of people with him and made a point of stopping to visit notables along the way. He showered his hosts with gold and jewels and was obviously very popular.

Americas
During this time there were two groups whose power far outweighed the other peoples of the Americas. The first was the Aztecs who lived in central Mexico. The Aztecs created an empire through conquering their neighbors. They required tribute from those they conquered and frequently took hundreds of prisoners of war to use in their elaborate human sacrifices. The Aztecs had a vast trading net-