

# UNIT ONE

## TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATIONS TO 600 B.C.E.

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1. **C** – The Neolithic Revolution was an important Marker Event in world history that brought many changes, but it did not bring about equal status for men and women. In fact, it had the opposite effect. Scholars theorize that the widening of the status gap between men and women was the result of men gaining control of the most vital functions that kept agricultural societies going: cultivation of crops and domestication of animals. In hunter and gatherer societies, men hunted and women gathered, so each had important functions. Once people settled into communities and agricultural surplus became possible, women could and did have more children. Added nutrition meant that more children survived, and more hands were needed to bring in bigger yields of crops, so people were motivated to have more children. Women, then, became more preoccupied with childcare and less able to cultivate crops and domesticate animals.
2. **C** – Women in hunting and gathering societies almost certainly became the experts on edible plants and their habitats because they were the ones doing most of the gathering. This information was vital for the survival of the group, so older women taught their skills to younger women, and both retained relatively equal status to men. This knowledge was essential to early agriculturalists as they experimented with cultivation. However, once cultivation became established, lifestyles for both men and women changed, and the equality gap grew.
3. **D** – The river on the map is the Indus. Many early civilizations developed along rivers as the water, fertile soil and transportation the rivers supplied were critical to the success of the new agricultural communities that were forming. It is important students have basic geographical knowledge of each of the locations of the early civilizations.
4. **C** – Students may not recognize all of the names on this map, but, since the development of cities is a distinguishing feature of civilization, they should be able to recognize Harrapa and Mohenjo-Daro as the names of two of the important cities of the Indus Valley civilization.

5. **A** – The key difference between an empire and city-states as a means of political organization is the degree of centralization of governmental authority. If the government has the ability to order uniformity of coinage, weights and measures and axle widths across a large area it is most likely a centralized system—city-states may set their own standards and there would not necessarily be uniformity. Answers (b), (c) and (d) are about cultural or technological elements of an area, and do not indicate political organization. In fact, Sumeria, Mesoamerica, and Greece were politically decentralized, although each civilization shared common cultural attributes.
6. **B** – Early Mesopotamia and Egypt had many things in common. They both originated in river valleys, and they both had sophisticated irrigation systems. They also conducted long distance trade and built great cities. However, their government structures were quite different. Mesopotamia developed a number of city-states, with each city governing the countryside around it. However, the city-states were often in conflict with one another, and each had to defend itself from frequent invaders from outside the area. Egypt, on the other hand, developed a strong, centralized government headed by a pharaoh who was believed to be a god. Even though each region of Egypt had its own governor, the governors were part of a large bureaucracy that owed allegiance to the pharaoh.
7. **A** – If a government is legitimate, it means that the people accept its rule. All leaders want to have some form of legitimacy because it makes it so much easier to rule. The emperor of Zhou China was believed to be the “son of heaven,” or the ruler designated by the “heavens” as the true and rightful leader and so people would accept and follow his rule. The mandate could be lost if a ruler was not a principled guardian of his people, proving that the “heavens” were always watching and guiding China.
8. **B** – This is the correct answer because it is wrong. This might be a good time to remind students that, when taking a multiple choice test, if the test taker seems to find that he or she is saying “but that is right” and “that is right” about several choices, then it is a good idea to go back and see if it is an except question. Many students have trouble with except questions because they miss the fact that the question is asking for something that is wrong—or that doesn’t belong with the rest of the choices. The other options are correct since writing was a critical development for civilization, providing a way to manage the complexity that accompanies civilization—ruling over large groups, keeping track of records, communicating, and passing on knowledge. Empowered peasant villages are not a characteristic of civilization, cities are.

9. **C** – Of all the civilizations covered in this unit, China is the most secular. Gods and spirits were a part of Chinese life, especially for individuals, but they didn't have the same influence as they did in the more organized polytheistic religions that developed in Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley and Mesoamerica. In the latter areas, priests were very influential as those who understood and/or could communicate with the gods and their commands. In fact they were most often at, or near the top, of the class structure in all the civilizations listed, with the exception of the Chinese civilization that developed in the Yellow River Valley.
10. **B** – The key idea of a theocracy is rule by religious authority so evidence of theocracy would have to show a tight connection between religion and government. Choice (b) is the only one that does this since it refers to the ruler's claim to legitimacy based on divine permission. All of the other choices do have something to do with religious practices, but they are missing that key element of government authority which is based on, or subject to, religious authority.
11. **D** – First, students need to remember that the Olmec developed in the Americas, the Sumerians in the Middle East. One of the interesting things about the development of civilization in the Americas is that so much was accomplished without the use of the wheel for transportation (there is some evidence of the wheel in toys and art, but it does not seem to be used for much else). Most civilizations made mathematical advances so that they could become more complex (to improve agricultural production, create larger building projects etc). The Sumerians and the Olmec both had some form of writing. Neither the Sumerian nor the Olmec were politically centralized.
12. **A** – Pastoral peoples, by definition, follow herds of domesticated animals, so they are often on the move. It is hard to carry things with you if you move frequently. They are different from hunter-gatherers, however, because they have domesticated the animals they are following, making (b) an incorrect answer. Pastoral nomads were key agents of trade and cultural diffusion as the middlemen who know the lands well, so they have played a vital role in trading networks. And, although they may not exhibit the same level of social stratification as in "civilized" societies, there is a distinction between social groups.

13. **C** – The era around 1200 B.C.E. saw the decline or collapse of most civilizations in Western Asia, Egypt, the eastern Mediterranean, and the Indus Valley. The Hittites lost control of Anatolia, or modern-day Turkey, and a series of invasions so weakened Egypt that the government lost control of its Nubian lands to the south. The Mycenaeans, or early Greeks, also lost control of mainland Greece, as well as islands in the Aegean Sea. The only area that did not see significant decline was China, where the Shang Dynasty continued to rule.
14. **A** – The best explanation for the fall of major civilizations in Western Asia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley is that they were all dependent on one another for their continued prosperity and power. Extensive trade networks built up among them, so that if outsiders attacked one area, it almost automatically affected the other areas. For example, if metals from the Hittites were no longer available, then weapons for Egyptians could not be made or sold for profit. The trade links were so intricate that they set off a domino effect that weakened them all. China, however, was not so involved in trade. With respect to the other options, China was as advanced as any other major civilization of the time and priests were not an important influence in the more secular Chinese civilization.