Part 3: Reading and Analysis

You must read chapter 1-4 in the textbook and answer the following question(s) to the best of your ability. Most of your answers should include several sentences:

Chapter 1—From the Origins of Agriculture to the First River-Valley Civilizations

1) Explain the difference between Stone Age (Paleolithic) and New Stone Age (Neolithic) life. How did the "new technology" affect human development?

2) Describe the conditions leading to the transition from food gathering to food cultivation. Also, briefly describe the differences and similarities in agriculture around the world.

3) Why did Neolithic peoples form permanent settled communities? What were the advantages and disadvantages of those communities?

4) What are the most important elements necessary for the creation of "civilization" as we know it? Explain how civilization becomes more complex as it obtains these elements, as well as how this kind of civilization differs from earlier social organizations.

5) Describe the process by which the main framework of civilization was created in Mesopotamia.

6) Social divisions are a persistent feature in civilization. Define the term social divisions as it is used in the text. Describe the social divisions within Mesopotamian society, and indicate the reasons for those divisions.

7) Why do we study the early civilizations in isolation from one another?

8) Explain how the first Egyptian civilization was shaped by its natural environment.

9) What is the importance of technology in shaping a civilization's environment?

Chapter 2—New Civilizations in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, 2200-250 B.C.E.

1) What was the importance of the Mandate of Heaven in the transition from the Shang to the Zhou period?

2) The Warring States Period was a time of political and social change in China. How do Daoism and Confucianism reflect these changes?

3) Discuss the importance of the Chinese concept of "harmony" in both religious and political terms. How does this concept manifest itself in political and religious structures? Does this concept remain stable?

4) What was the importance of trade to the native civilizations that emerged along the Nile south of Egypt?

5) Briefly discuss the impact of geography on the development of the Americas. Use specific examples from Mesoamerican and Andean civilizations.

6) In contrast to the civilizations discussed in previous chapters, what do the civilizations in China, Nubia, and America have in common? How were they shaped by long-distance trade?
Chapter 3—The Mediterranean and Middle East, 2000-500 B.C.E.

1) Why have historians called the Assyrian Empire of the first millennium B.C.E. the first true empire?

2) How were the Assyrians able to conquer and control such a large and diverse empire?

3) Trace the migrations of the people ultimately known as Israelites, noting the causes and consequences of those migrations.

4) What factors led to Egypt losing its isolationist perspective in the Near East?

5) Describe the nature and extent of Phoenician expansion in the Mediterranean.

6) What is meant by the description of Carthage as a commercial "empire"?

7) Compare the rise of civilizations in the Aegean Sea area with the rise of earlier world civilizations.

8) What were the reasons for the nearly simultaneous collapse of several civilizations in the Middle East and Mediterranean during the Late Bronze Age?

Chapter 4—Greece and Iran, 1000-30 B.C.E.

1) Compare the creation of the Persian Empire and the Alexandrian. What factors accelerated the rise of these empires and facilitated their decline? Discuss whether the rapid rise of these empires contributed to their similarly rapid fall.

2) Describe Persian religious beliefs during the height of the Persian Empire.

3) How did geography and the environment affect Greek development?

4) Compare and contrast the poleis of Athens and Sparta. How did two such different city-states emerge from the same general geographic region? Why did they end up going to war with one another?

5) Discuss the development of Greek democracy. Was Greek democracy "democratic"?

6) Explain Greek intellectual currents using the life of Socrates as an example.

7) Explain what is meant by the Hellenistic Age.