Chapter 6
EPICS: Umayyad Empire

1. Describe the social organization of the Arabs prior to the introduction of Islam.
2. Compare and contrast the status of women in Islam during the pre-Islamic period and the Abbasid Empire.
3. Why was Islam able to appeal to people of so many different cultures?
4. What was the essential dispute within Islam over the succession to the Prophet?
5. What was the difference between the Abbasid Empire and the Umayyad Empire?

Chapter 7
EPICS: Abbasid Empire

1. Explain the reasons for the political disruption of the Abbasid Empire prior to the rise of the Buyids.
2. Describe the general economy of the later Abbasid Empire. Include a comparative evaluation of urban and rural economies.
3. Discuss the religious trends of the Abbasid era and their impact on the expansion of Islam.
4. In what sense did the Muslim incursions into the Indian subcontinent result in Islamic influences on Hindus? To what extent were Muslims affected by Indian culture?
5. By what means did Islam spread to southeast Asia?

Chapter 8
EPICS: African Empires

1. What were the common elements of African society prior to the incursion of Islam?
2. By what means was conversion of sub-Saharan Africa carried out? What were the primary avenues of Islamic entry into sub-Saharan Africa?
3. Islamic influence was strongest in the Sudanic states and the Swahili coast. Compare and contrast the political forms of these regions. What does this suggest about the nature of Islamic influence in Africa?
4. Compare and contrast the political forms of the African states not affected by Islam (Yoruba, Benin, Kongo, Zimbabwe) with those that were (the Sudanic states and the Swahili coast).
5. Given the geographical location of those African states most affected by Islam, what were the most important points of contact between African and Islamic societies? What does this suggest about the nature of Islamic conversion?
Chapter 9
EPICS: Eastern Europe
1. Compare and contrast the spread of European civilization in eastern and western Europe.
2. What was the political organization of the Byzantine Empire?
3. What were the factors in the decline of the Byzantine Empire?
4. In what ways was the culture of Kievan Russia an extension of the Byzantine Empire?

Chapter 10
EPICS: Western Europe
1. Define manorialism and feudalism. How do they provide the building blocks for medieval political structure and society?
2. What were the characteristics of feudal monarchy as demonstrated in France and England between 1000 and 1300?
3. How did the theological outlook of western Europe change between 1000 and 1400?
4. What were the developments that led to increases in monarchical power at the end of the Middle Ages? How was royal authority limited?

Chapter 11
EPICS: The Americas
1. In what ways did the Aztecs continue the culture of the classical Mesoamerican civilization and the Toltecs?
2. Describe Aztec social organization.
3. Compare and contrast the Inca and Aztec empires in terms of political administration.
4. How did the Indian cultures outside the Andean and Mesoamerican civilization zones contrast in political and social organization with the Aztec and Inca empires?
5. How have historians explained the existence and prevalence of human sacrifice among the Aztecs?
Chapter 12
EPICS: Tang & Song Dynasties

1. Contrast the Era of Division with the Sui-Tang era.
2. Explain the decline of Buddhism in the later Tang and Song dynasties.
3. Compare and contrast the empire under the Tang and the Song dynasties.
4. What were the elements of Tang-Song economic prosperity?
5. In what ways did the Chinese empire during the Tang-Song era depart from previous developments in Chinese civilization?

Chapter 13
EPICS: Japan, Korea, & Vietnam

1. How did the Japanese importation of Chinese culture differ from that of Vietnam and Korea?
2. Discuss the government of Japan between the Gempei wars and the Tokugawa Shogunate.
3. How did the social development of post classical Japan differ from the development of Korea during the period of Chinese influence?
4. Why was China unable to assimilate the Vietnamese despite direct rule for almost a millennium?
5. How did the extension of Chinese culture to its satellite civilizations differ from other global civilizations such as Islam?

Chapter 14
EPICS: Mongols

1. Define the territorial extent of the Mongol empire at its largest. How did this affect inter-cultural exchange?
2. In what way was the political impact of the Mongol conquests of Russia and the Islamic heartland similar?
3. In what ways did the Mongol dynasty of China (the Yuan) attempt to alter the traditional Chinese social structure?
4. What can be said to have been the positive aspects of the Mongol conquests?

Chapter 15
EPICS: Oceania (use chapter & reading: “Of Rats and Men”)

1. Account for the decline of the Middle East in the 1400s.
2. Evaluate the position of China in the international balance of power in 1450.
3. What were the sources of dynamism that fueled the Western advances relative to other civilizations?
4. Describe early Western exploration and colonization patterns.
5. In what sense were the civilizations outside the world network of cultural exchange (the Americas, Africa, and Polynesia) vulnerable to interaction with other civilizations?