

2 The Ancient World

Test Item File

MULTIPLE-CHOICE

1. The term megalith is properly applied to what work of the ancient world?
 - a. tomb of Nefertari
 - b. Stonehenge
 - c. pyramids at Giza
 - d. Woman from WillendorfAnswer: b
Page ref: 32
2. In which of these would one expect to encounter a depiction of the exploits of Gilgamesh?
 - a. painted inside an Egyptian tomb
 - b. carved on a megalithic structure
 - c. decorating a Shang dynasty bronze bell
 - d. described in a Mesopotamian epicAnswer: d
Page ref: 35
3. What term or topic would be most relevant to a discussion of monumental architecture in the ancient world?
 - a. the caves of Lascaux
 - b. Vedic hymns
 - c. hieroglyph
 - d. zigguratAnswer: d
Page ref: 35
4. In which of these civilizations or sites would one expect to find a mythic tiger carved of precious jade?
 - a. Shang
 - b. Babylon
 - c. Lascaux
 - d. AmarnaAnswer: a
Page ref: 41

5. Which statement best describes the bull's head lyre found in an ancient Sumerian site?
- constructed of gold and lapis lazuli
 - buried in a royal tomb with its owner
 - inscribed with royal laws and decrees
 - shaped of fired clay and painted in red
- Answer: a
Page ref: 33
6. At which of these sites did archaeologists find ancient and remarkable prehistoric cave paintings?
- Ur-Nammu and Persepolis
 - Stonehenge and Göbekli Tepe
 - Lascaux and Chauvet
 - Karnak and Luxor
- Answer: c
Page ref: 25
7. The carved figures of Mycerinus and His Queen, which probably stood along a long causeway, were created by what ancient civilization?
- Olmec
 - Old Babylonian
 - Indus Valley
 - Egyptian
- Answer: d
Page ref: 37
8. Hammurabi's Code would be most relevant to a discussion of what topic in the development of ancient civilization?
- the transmission of secret knowledge or "mysteries"
 - the sculptural representation of the human form
 - the development of ancient legal systems
 - the worship of an ancient Mother Goddess
- Answer: c
Page ref: 35
9. What ancient Near Eastern ruler revived the power of the city of Babylon and rebuilt it in grand fashion with an imposing gate and a multi-layered ziggurat?
- Nebuchadnezzar
 - Cyrus
 - Ramses II
 - Hammurabi
- Answer: a
Page ref: 35
10. What would one expect to find on a ritual wine vessel (a *fang-yi*) of the Shang dynasty, China?
- cuneiform writing
 - a taotie decoration
 - an epic myth of Marduk
 - the face of Agamemnon
- Answer: b
Page ref: 41

11. The prayers and hymns of the Vedas were the creation of what ancient civilization?
- Indian
 - Andean
 - Egyptian
 - Persian
- Answer: a
Page ref: 40
12. The great cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were discovered in what ancient region or empire?
- along the banks of the Nile
 - the Persian empire
 - on the island of Crete
 - in the Indus Valley
- Answer: d
Page ref: 39
13. Where would the figures of Isis and Osiris most likely be found?
- guarding the body of a Zhou ruler
 - inscribed on a column in Old Babylon
 - painted on the tomb of the Egyptian queen Nefertari
 - at the foot of a Sumerian ziggurat
- Answer: c
Page ref: 38
14. Which of these structures is associated with the singular rule of Akhenaten, the unorthodox Egyptian pharaoh?
- Stonehenge
 - caves of Lascaux
 - ziggurat of Ur-Nammu
 - temple of Amarna
- Answer: d
Page ref: 38-39
15. Which of these structures functioned as an elaborate tomb for god-like rulers?
- pyramid at Giza
 - Stonehenge
 - ziggurat of Ur-Nammu
 - Great Bath of Mohenjo-Daro
- Answer: a
Page ref: 37
16. What ancient sacred text contains an account of the mythic battle between Marduk and Tiamat, gods of the ancient Sumerians and Babylonians?
- Vedas
 - Enuma elish
 - Hymn to Aten
 - Epic of Gilgamesh
- Answer: b
Page ref: 34

17. The Sumerians were the first people of the ancient world to accomplish which of the following?
- a. achieve naturalism in life-size sculpture
 - b. conquer the Greek city-states
 - c. develop forms of writing
 - d. construct bronze weapons

Answer: c

Page ref: 32

18. What characterized ancient Egyptian mythology?
- a. a focus on dominant earth- and mother-goddesses
 - b. an elaborate interest in life after death
 - c. the belief in a single, all-powerful father god
 - d. gods with human traits of weakness and vanity

Answer: b

Page ref: 37

19. Ancient Indian civilization of South Asia was most noted for which of these works?
- a. the Epic of Gilgamesh
 - b. Hammurabi's Code
 - c. the Vedas and Upanishads
 - d. stepped ziggurats

Answer: c

Page ref: 40

20. Which statement describes the principal artistic achievement of the Mesoamerican Olmec civilization?
- a. lavishly decorated royal tombs
 - b. large columned temples for ritual sacrifice
 - c. naturalistic sculptures of the human figure in motion
 - d. colossal helmeted heads carved in stone

Answer: d

Page ref: 42

21. What term or topic would be most relevant to a discussion of the earliest American civilizations?
- a. the cave paintings of Lascaux
 - b. the Vedas and Upanishads
 - c. the court of Akhenaten
 - d. the cultivation of maize and cotton

Answer: d

Page ref: 42

22. What geographic feature provided the center of early human cultures in the South American continent?
- a. the Andes range of mountains
 - b. the Mesopotamian plain
 - c. the great river valley of the Amazon
 - d. limestone caves and caverns

Answer: a

Page ref: 42

23. The first great cities of the ancient world arose in what region?
- Mesopotamia
 - Yellow River valley
 - Nile River valley
 - central Europe
- Answer: a
Page ref: 32
24. What statement best describes the Persian kingdom established by the rulers Cyrus II and Darius, who built a capital at Persepolis?
- memorialized its rulers with gigantic stone heads
 - undertook the construction of monumental pyramids
 - created the last and greatest empire of the ancient Near East
 - fostered a rich religious heritage of sacred texts
- Answer: c
Page ref: 35
25. What topic or term would be most useful in discussing the epic tale of Gilgamesh, whose heroic life culminates in a search for immortality?
- cuneiform
 - polytheism
 - megalith
 - sacred kingship
- Answer: d
Page ref: 35
26. What statement best describes the significance of the ancient site of Göbekli Tepe, in modern-day Turkey?
- one of the oldest megalithic shrine yet discovered
 - the capital of a powerful Assyrian king
 - the location of brilliantly painted caves
 - a complex of gigantic pyramidal altars
- Answer: a
Page ref: 32
27. What term would be most useful in explaining the period of rapid cultural progress when humans learned to make stone tools, sew clothes, and paint the walls of rock caves?
- epic
 - Upper Paleolithic
 - archetype
 - cuneiform
- Answer: b
Page ref: 26

SHORT-ANSWER

- Characterize the likely purpose or function of stone-age art.
- Identify two common religious themes and artistic features in ancient Near Eastern civilizations.
- Define *myth* in its function as “sacred history” in the ancient world.
- Explain the religious purpose or meaning of two works of Egyptian art.
- Identify three major artistic or philosophical achievements of early Asian civilizations.
- Identify the principal centers of ancient American civilization.