

Chapter 2—Iron Age Civilizations, 1200-500 B.C.E.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The earliest people to work with iron were probably the
 - a. Assyrians.
 - b. Hittites.
 - c. Hyksos.
 - d. Egyptians.
 - e. Nubians.

ANS: B REF: p. 36

2. The exception to objects made from cast iron instead of bronze in the Iron Age was usually
 - a. plows.
 - b. weapons.
 - c. jewelry.
 - d. household implements.
 - e. horse collars.

ANS: B REF: p. 36

3. The major emphasis of economies in the Iron Age was on
 - a. agriculture.
 - b. pastoralism.
 - c. self-sufficiency.
 - d. trade and manufacturing.
 - e. conquest and seizure.

ANS: D REF: p. 37

4. Which of the following was NOT a characteristic of the Iron Age?
 - a. a shift of the centers of civilization out of River Valleys.
 - b. a focus on smaller, fortified cities.
 - c. artisanal concentration on luxury goods for the wealthy.
 - d. a transition of the economy onto manufacturing and trade.
 - e. culture represented by the Phoenicians.

ANS: C REF: p. 37

5. The general direction of the spread of civilization during the Iron Age was
 - a. west.
 - b. east.
 - c. north.
 - d. south.
 - e. in all directions.

ANS: A REF: p. 37

6. Cities in the Iron Age were
 - a. located in river valleys.
 - b. formed in large groups for protection from invaders.
 - c. smaller and fortified.
 - d. politically autonomous.

e. struggling to deal with a massive increase in population caused by constant warfare.

ANS: C REF: p. 37

7. Common artisanal goods produced in the Iron Age included
- gold jewelry.
 - pottery and textiles.
 - weaponry from bronze.
 - chariots.
 - glass ingots.

ANS: B REF: p. 37

8. The Phoenicians probably mastered their maritime skills by adopting them from whom?
- the Assyrians
 - the Sea Peoples
 - the Egyptians
 - the Sumerians
 - the Hittites

ANS: B REF: p. 38

9. One of the unique products that the Phoenicians traded was
- coffee from Africa.
 - lobsters from Crete.
 - hemp rope from Persia.
 - cotton from India.
 - purple dye from Tyre.

ANS: E REF: p. 38

10. One of the most significant developments of the Phoenicians was
- lateen sails.
 - democracy.
 - the alphabet.
 - cast iron technology.
 - monotheism.

ANS: C REF: p. 39

11. The first inventors of coins in the Near East were the
- Phoenicians.
 - Akkadians.
 - Assyrians.
 - Lydians.
 - Greeks.

ANS: D REF: p. 40

12. The symbolic demonstration of a covenant between God and his chosen people was
- human sacrifice.
 - circumcision.
 - ritual celebration of fire.
 - keeping a holy day for fasting and prayer.
 - vegetarianism.

ANS: B REF: p. 41

13. The city in Phoenicia that exported papyrus was
- Byblos.

- b. Tyre.
- c. Damascus.
- d. Jaffa.
- e. Carthage.

ANS: A REF: p. 38-39

14. The most common language spoken by people of the eastern Mediterranean after 1200 B.C.E. was
- a. Semitic.
 - b. Aramaic.
 - c. Coptic.
 - d. Urdu.
 - e. Greek.

ANS: B REF: p. 40

15. The Philistines were primarily
- a. soldiers.
 - b. merchants.
 - c. artisans.
 - d. farmers.
 - e. fishermen.

ANS: D REF: p. 40

16. One of the main reasons why the Hebrews' religion was so constant was because
- a. they wrote it down in scripture.
 - b. they had a dedicated cult of oral recitation.
 - c. it became widespread and popular.
 - d. it fully integrated religion and government into a theocracy.
 - e. None of these.

ANS: A REF: p. 41

17. The first five books of the Hebrew scripture are called
- a. Torah.
 - b. Tanakh.
 - c. Avestas.
 - d. Upanashids.
 - e. Dead Sea Scrolls.

ANS: A REF: p. 41

18. What made the Hebrew religion unique at the time was the emphasis on
- a. polytheism.
 - b. monotheism.
 - c. henotheism.
 - d. atheism.
 - e. None of these.

ANS: B REF: p. 41

19. *All of the following Mesopotamian cultural elements were retained by the Hebrews except*
- a. an epic about a hero found cast adrift as an infant.
 - b. a legend about a flood.
 - c. laws including the concept of "an eye for an eye."
 - d. a base 60 mathematical system.
 - e. descriptions of ziggurats.

ANS: D REF: p. 45

20. The Hebrew entrance of Canaan
- was led by Joshua.
 - is controversial with respect to the exact date.
 - resulted in Hebrews massacring Canaanite populations to protect their religious practices.
 - is an example of the movement of peoples at the end of the Bronze Age.
 - is all of these.

ANS: E REF: p. 42

21. Perhaps one of the oldest compositions in Hebrew scripture is
- Psalms.
 - the Trials of Job.
 - the Song of Deborah.
 - the Ten Commandments.
 - the chapter on the Exodus by Moses.

ANS: C REF: p. 43

22. While the original covenant of monotheism was made between God and Abraham, the renewed, finalized covenant was symbolized by
- Moses leading the Hebrews out of bondage in Egypt.
 - Joshua entering Canaan.
 - Deborah's victory over Sisera
 - Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.
 - Moses delivering the Ten Commandments.

ANS: E REF: p. 44

23. The first Hebrew Temple, built under King Solomon, was located in which city?
- Rome
 - Shiloh
 - Jerusalem
 - Tyre
 - Byblos

ANS: C REF: p. 46

24. The death of King Solomon led to
- a split into two different Hebrew kingdoms, Judah and Israel.
 - a complete collapse of Hebrew society.
 - overthrow by the Egyptians.
 - a period known as the Dark Ages.
 - destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

ANS: A REF: p. 46

25. The first Iron Age empire was built in which region?
- Israel
 - Phoenicia
 - Assyria
 - Egypt
 - None of these

ANS: C REF: p. 47

26. Early Assyrians settled around which river?
- Tigris
 - Euphrates
 - Nile

- d. Jordan
- e. Rubicon

ANS: A REF: p. 48

27. The most significant characteristic of the Assyrians was their
- a. military skill.
 - b. diverse social organization.
 - c. religious tolerance toward others.
 - d. progressive farming technique.
 - e. literary advancement.

ANS: A REF: p. 48

28. Assyrians maintained control of their empire by
- a. peaceful coexistence.
 - b. terror and brutality.
 - c. government representatives known as satraps.
 - d. ruthless assimilation.
 - e. None of these.

ANS: B REF: p. 49

29. Which of the following was *not* a means of Assyria's superior military forces?
- a. utilizing cavalry instead of chariots
 - b. utilizing swords instead of lances
 - c. incorporating engineers into siege warfare
 - d. applying advanced catapult technology assimilated from the Chaldeans
 - e. undermining fortified cities by "sapping" or digging tunnels under walls

ANS: D REF: p. 48

30. The main reason that so much is known of Iron Age Assyria is that
- a. the Assyrian Empire conquered all known literate territory at the time.
 - b. other civilizations formed a united opposition and detailed their experiences.
 - c. the Assyrians engaged in significant foreign policy and were methodical about compiling treaties.
 - d. Assyrian rulers maintained records of their accomplishments.
 - e. Herodotus wrote about it in his *Histories*.

ANS: D REF: p. 50

31. Which area did Assyria *not* conquer in expanding its empire?
- a. Israel
 - b. Babylonia
 - c. Egypt
 - d. Medes
 - e. Greece

ANS: E REF: p. 48

32. The Assyrian King responsible for the conquest of Jerusalem and Judah was
- a. Tilget-Pilezar.
 - b. Sennacherib.
 - c. Sargon II.
 - d. Nebuchadnezzar.
 - e. Ashurbanipal.

ANS: B REF: p. 48

33. The city of Nineveh, under the reign of Assurbanipal, was notable for
- building extensive ziggurats to glorify the king.
 - being a central repository for the imperial cavalry.
 - housing extensive libraries of cuneiform tablets.
 - having 150 tons of iron bars on hand for weapons manufacture.
 - the most elaborate religious temples to their harvest god, Zardoz.

ANS: C REF: p. 51

34. Which is the most likely reason for the collapse of the Assyrian Empire?
- Resentment of conquered peoples who formed rebellions.
 - The high cost of maintaining a vast standing army.
 - Decreased agricultural production by drafting farmers into military service.
 - Difficulty in effectively managing a far-flung empire.
 - All of these.

ANS: E REF: p. 51

35. The strongest of the Assyrian successor states was the
- New Babylonians/Chaldeans.
 - Medians.
 - Egyptians.
 - Armenians.
 - Lydians.

ANS: A REF: p. 52

36. The newly commercialized Egypt was characterized by which of the following developments in the Nile Delta?
- trading wheat and papyrus in exchange for silver
 - exporting their extensive knowledge of human physiology to other successor states
 - enslaving the Hyksos invaders
 - making weapons from iron instead of bronze
 - embracing monotheism

ANS: A REF: p. 51

37. The destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem was accomplished by
- Halofernes.
 - Cyrus the Great.
 - Nebuchadnezzar.
 - Ashurbanipal.
 - Hammurabi.

ANS: C REF: p. 52

38. What was one of the Nebuchadnezzar's accomplishments in fortifying Babylon?
- He built the Ishtar gate.
 - He created a system of irrigation ensuring continuous fresh water to the city
 - He built ziggurats for central planning.
 - He established a quota of maximum numbers of people who could enter the city at any time.
 - He erected twelve walls around the city, each headed with a symbol of the zodiac.

ANS: A REF: p. 52

39. Cyrus the Great did much to advance the Persian Empire through
- massive destruction of all opposition.
 - utilizing representative government under a strict authoritarian state.
 - liberating all people previously enslaved under the Chaldeans to destroy his enemies.
 - relatively peaceful assimilation.

e. establishing a uniform set of weights and measures to help the economy grow.

ANS: D REF: p. 53

40. One reason for Cyrus' success in conquering Mesopotamia was that he
- restored Marduk as the Babylonian national god.
 - ended slavery
 - publicly executed Nebuchadnezzar
 - rebuilt Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem
 - ended the siege of Babylon

ANS: A REF: p. 53

41. How did Cyrus' reign come to an end?
- He died of old age.
 - He passed the throne to his son, Cambyses.
 - He was killed conquering Athens.
 - He died in battle with Queen Tomyris.
 - He fell on his sword while getting off his horse.

ANS: D REF: p. 54

42. To run his empire, Darius implemented
- a 1,600-mile Royal Road.
 - a standardized Aramaic language.
 - a uniform comprehensive law code.
 - a common cuneiform alphabet with forty-two symbols.
 - All of these.

ANS: E REF: p. 55

43. The majority of the Persian army were made from
- Eunuchs who guarded the palace.
 - the Immortals who were the king's personal body guard.
 - captured prisoners of war who were forced to convert to Zoroastrianism.
 - remnants of the overthrown Assyrian military.
 - recruits specialized from diverse geographic regions in the empire.

ANS: E REF: p. 55

44. The most prosperous people in the Persian Empire were
- landowners who were rewarded by the king for military service.
 - artisans who contributed to the local economy.
 - warriors who were recruited for the Immortals.
 - scholars who translated literature.
 - priests in Zoroastrian Temples.

ANS: A REF: p. 56

45. Who were "The Seven"?
- The primary religious deities in Zoroastrianism.
 - A council of military advisors to the Persian King.
 - The collective of Satraps who ruled as vassals of the King.
 - Seven noble families who would choose the successor king in Persia.
 - Seven Eunuch judges who oversaw Darius's legal system.

ANS: D REF: p. 55

46. The Persian state religion promoted by Zoroaster relied on written texts called the
- Torah.
 - Zend Avesta.
 - Kethuvim.

- d. Prophecies.
- e. Sacred Scrolls of Aton.

ANS: B REF: p. 57

47. Zoroastrianism was based in a dualistic world that promised
- a. an afterlife for everyone who could cross the River Styx.
 - b. separation of the dead into the good and bad, with the good rewarded.
 - c. rebirth into a new life cycle based on karma.
 - d. punishment for nonbelievers in eternal dust and torment.
 - e. paradise for those of noble birth.

ANS: B REF: p. 57

48. Who are the only people the Persian kings did not defeat and conquer?
- a. Chaldeans
 - b. Medians
 - c. Lydians
 - d. Scythians
 - e. All of these

ANS: D REF: p. 57

49. Why were the Persians better tolerated than the Assyrians?
- a. They allowed religious freedom.
 - b. They did not have any taxes.
 - c. They did not require people to serve in the military.
 - d. They ruled by treaty rather than mandate.
 - e. None of these.

ANS: A REF: p. 55

50. Which of the following is a significant weakness of the Persian Empire?
- a. Its lack of a uniform culture in a diverse population.
 - b. The autonomy granted to the satraps.
 - c. The demobilization of the enormous military of the Assyrians.
 - d. The lack of scientific development in the empire.
 - e. An unstable economy because of lack of artisanal development.

ANS: B REF: p. 55

ESSAY

51. Analyze why iron was so significant to this new age by examining how and where it was used.

ANS:

Iron use was significantly different from the earlier use of bronze because it was cheaper to make and more readily available. It was also stronger and more durable than bronze. It could be used for weaponry, chariots, plows, and farming implements and therefore had broad-reaching benefits to military, agricultural, technological, and cultural applications. It inspired long-range trade and made farming easier in more arid and/or hard-soil areas. Thus, iron indirectly helped in the expansion of empires.

52. In addition to the religious aspects, what was unusual about the formation of civilization among the Hebrews?

ANS:

In addition to adhering to one of the earliest known forms of monotheism, the significant characteristic of Hebrew society was that the Israelites managed to build a civilization without most of the characteristic elements of other civilizations. These characteristic elements included a sedentary population, cities, writing, organized infrastructure with law and government, social ordering, and divisions of labor. After the disruption of early Abrahamic civilization due to the capture, enslavement, and then reestablishment of Israelite civilization after the Exodus led by Moses, there was a brief period of city building and traditional civilization, but it was disrupted again by Assyrian capture and the subsequent Babylonian captivity. What makes the Hebrew peoples unique is the idea of a cultural identification with a place as bound by the terms of the Covenant.

53. What differences do you see between Bronze and Iron Age civilizations? Compare and contrast these civilizations.

ANS:

Students should recognize that Bronze Age civilizations emerged in river valleys and were more geographically dependent and fixed in locale. There were fewer empires and less production of trade goods. While empires could be found in the Bronze Age (such as the Sargonian), they were much more limited in expanse than those in the Iron Age. The use of iron promoted more trade and expansion into less desirable, but now usable areas that could be sustained without being in close proximity to river valleys. Emphasis on trade meant that people were more mobile and less limited to local resources. Specialization of production helped to delineate economic development.

54. Compare and contrast the differences and similarities between Mesopotamian and early Hebrew civilizations.

ANS:

Students should be able to list a number of similarities, starting with the carrying of Mesopotamian traditions by Abraham, as the patriarch of the Hebrew religion, following the formation of a monotheistic covenant. The similarities of Hammurabi's laws with many found in Hebrew Scripture can be explained with the example of "an eye for an eye." Conversely, while women had a number of civil and legal rights within Mesopotamian society, they had few within the patriarchal Hebrew society. Traditional stories about the flood exist in the Noah epic of Hebrew tradition, as well as the Gilgamesh epic in Mesopotamia. Descriptions of Mesopotamian ziggurats are in accord with the biblical descriptions of the Tower of Babel, itself a reference to Babylon.

55. Discuss the creation of a Hebrew civilization in the absence of traditional civilizing features and permanent settlements.

ANS:

Students should be able to analyze the fundamental characteristics of early civilizations, such as cities, civil government, laws, technology, organized military, economic growth, and so on, and discuss the absences of these characteristics in early Hebrew civilization. Early Hebrew civilization was pastoral and not sedentary, had no direct or stable leadership or permanent forms of government, and had no laws until after the Exodus with the delivery of the Ten Commandments by Moses. There was no written literature until approximately one thousand years after Abraham, meaning that there were no direct records from the Hebrew civilization. There were no permanent cities, economic emphasis was on self-sufficiency, and trade was not regulated. The Hebrews were taken into captivity in Egypt, according to biblical tradition, and thus they vacated the land they had previously been inhabiting. Thus, for approximately one thousand years, the Hebrew peoples did not meet the criteria for a civilization and yet retained a cultural identification based on the covenant with God and his promises.

56. How does the creation of coinage by the Lydian civilization represent a universal change to civilizations?

ANS:

The creation of a coin system based on precious metals is fundamental to creating a systematic economy and promoting trade among regions. The change from using lumps of precious and semiprecious metals to coins, that is, lumps of uniform weight in gold and silver, represented a step forward in facilitating trade. While coins might be called different things in different regions, a uniform agreement among traders in civilizations of the Near East and the Mediterranean meant that goods and services would be valued at a common standard.

57. Compare the development of law among the Hebrew population with that of other Near Eastern civilizations.

ANS:

The two most comparable pieces of law one could evaluate by primary source would be the Ten Commandments and Hammurabi's Law Code, which contain similarities and differences. Both contain laws of retaliation and the specific similarity of "an eye for an eye" regarding personal injury is not accidental, theorized as a transfer of Akkadian culture to the pastoral tribes moving to the Levant. Women in both areas were treated with an inferior status relative to a patriarchal system, however, some rights were outlined in both cases. An interesting difference that could be cited by students is that of the Afterlife: While clearly defined in Sumerian and Egyptian religions, it is divided in Hebrew theology (Psalms versus Isaiah).

58. Compare the techniques of the Assyrians and the Persians in building and maintaining an empire.

ANS:

Students should be able to characterize the Assyrian Empire as evolving first and ultimately giving rise to the Persian Empire through its downfall. The Assyrian Empire was created from military necessity as a defense against the incursions of foreign peoples. Eventually, by gaining control over trade access to the Tigris River, the Assyrians were able to begin levying taxes and take advantage of the Iron Age in ways that no one else had done yet. They combined iron weaponry and cavalry with one of the largest standing armies in the Near East. In assimilation of the various territories under their domain, the Assyrians used terror and intimidation to suppress any potential rebellion, although rebellions continued to occur. Enslaved peoples were deported and reassigned to completely new and foreign territories, and they were kept in line through constant threats, torture, and graphic depictions of torture art. Eventually, resentment grew strong enough that subjugated populations rebelled, arising to form a united opposition in 612. Four component states emerged from the remnants of the Assyrian Empire, with the Chaldeans initially taking the lead in forming a basis of power. Soon, however, the Persians overcame the Medes under the leadership of Cyrus the Great, who continued to expand his empire across Medes, Persia, Chaldea, and Lydia. Cambyses brought Egypt into the empire, and Darius the Great reigned over a very large and heterogeneous empire. However, both Cyrus and Darius ruled with a lighter hand, allowing some degree of autonomy to various provinces, allowing religious tolerance, and emphasizing growth of both culture and trade for a more positive assimilation and maintenance of the empire.

59. Analyze the three primary forms of religion found in the Iron Age, and explain their influence on their respective civilizations in terms of law, government, and culture.

ANS: Students should be able to designate polytheism, monotheism, and dualism as the primary forms of religion in this time period, and assign them to their respective geographic/cultural locales. Most early civilizations were polytheistic, and students should be able to distinguish that most early kings were not divine, but divinely endorsed. This distinction affected the social organization by providing a tight interconnection between the government and religious authorities, which the students should discuss. Laws deriving from a religious perspective tended to be more morally based, while laws derived from civil government tended to be more ethically or socially based. Students could point to any number of early civilizations that were polytheistic, including Assyrian, Phoenician, and Philistine. For monotheism, students should be able to explore the Abrahamic tradition, including the covenant between El (later YHWH) and his chosen people and their development of a cultural identification on the basis of religion rather than a geographic establishment with traditional infrastructural elements. The absence of a formal government for the first thousand years and the absence of a written law code until sometime in the first millennium (or any writing at all) separated the Hebrew people from traditional polytheistic communities. For dualism, students should be able to point to the official religion of the Persian Empire, Zoroastrianism, which argued for a polarity between good and evil, with specific gods for each. Because this religion was initially transmitted by a prophet and won the endorsement of the king, it was different from the other two forms, in which law and government preexisted the development of the religion.

60. Explain the importance of the Phoenicians in the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East during the Iron Age.

ANS:

Students should be able to identify the Phoenicians as responsible for three major influences in this time period: trade, alphabet, and maritime skills. In general, the Phoenicians were one of the earliest international civilizations, but they did not form a militarily bound empire. Instead, they formed links between diverse civilizations of the Near East and Mediterranean worlds by promoting these three aspects, and the resultant trickle-down effect on the respective civilizations gave them the tools to prosper. Particularly with regard to trade throughout the regions, the Phoenicians came to dominate the economic world, which in turn inspired others trading with them over long distances to adhere to certain standards, such as the coinage established by Lydians to facilitate trade. Also, because of pressures from the Assyrian Empire, the Phoenicians began to explore further to the west, casting an even wider net of interconnection among the Mediterranean civilizations.

61. Compare the role of women in Hebrew tradition, using Deborah, Esther and Judith as examples. What makes these perspectives unusual?

ANS:

In an era in which women were traditionally subordinated under a patriarchal system and given limited rights, even within Hebrew society, these three garnered admiration as examples for defending their faith through direct action. In the case of Deborah and Judith, each led military expeditions against conquerors, with Judith assassinating Nebuchadnezzar's General Holofernes by plying him with drink and cutting off his head. Deborah, one of the earliest texts of the Hebrew scripture, was a prophetess who led resistance against invasions of Canaanites and saw the General Sisera similarly lulled by Jael, a distant relative of Moses, who then drove a tent peg through his head, killing him. Esther, although not in a military position, influenced her husband, a Persian King, into not launching a destruction of Jews in the wake of the Diaspora.

TRUE/FALSE

62. Phoenician warships were primarily powered by sails.

ANS: F REF: p. 39

63. Because the Arameans had a monopoly on overland trade, their language replaced Akkadian as the most common language in the Near East.

ANS: T REF: p. 40

64. Prophets derived leadership status by their ability to converse with God.

ANS: T REF: p. 42

65. Their political unity made the Israelites a formidable opposition to the Philistines.

ANS: F REF: p. 43

66. The strongest support for conservative monotheism was in Judah.

ANS: T REF: p. 47

67. As a tactic of controlling conquered populations, the Assyrians used deportation of mass numbers of people.

ANS: T REF: p. 50

68. Assyrian kings placed a great deal of importance on maintaining records of their conquests.

ANS: T REF: p. 50

69. The strongest of the successor states to the Assyrian Empire was the newly commercial state of Egypt.

ANS: F REF: p. 51

70. Jews in Babylon after the end of the Babylonian Captivity were discriminated against and harassed by Persians.

ANS: F REF: p. 54

71. Persian kings saw themselves as divine.

KEY TERMS

Instructions: Please define the following key terms.

72. Cast iron
73. Phoenicians
74. Levant
75. Carthage
76. Lydians
77. Torah
78. Philistines
79. Deborah
80. Monotheism
81. Patriarch
82. Moses
83. scripture
84. Ten Commandments
85. King Solomon
86. Tiglath-Pilezer III
87. deportation
88. Medes
89. Provinces
90. Scythians
91. Assurbanipal
92. Nebuchadnezzar
93. Babylonian Captivity
94. Messiah
95. New Babylonian Empire
96. Zodiac
97. Cyrus the Great
98. Marduk
99. Magi
100. Persians
101. satrapy
102. Ahura Mazda
103. Zoroaster
104. Darius the Great
105. Diaspora
106. autonomy
107. Relief