

Chapter 3: Classical Civilizations: India

Short Answer Questions

Answer the following short answer questions based on the reading in the space provided.

1. Why is Ajanta and Ellora important to the history of India and religious studies?
2. How did the Aryan Migration and the new Indian Civilization from 1500 to 500 B.C.E. change the Indian subcontinent? (climate, religion, culture) What political and social constructs arose during this period?
3. What are the roots to the Indian caste system and when did it develop? How did the caste system change over the years and why did it change? What are the names of the five classes?
4. What are the roots to Hinduism? What "twist" was added that separated it from Indo-European polytheistic faiths? What are some of the key teachings of the religion?
5. Explain the change-over-time of the Mauryan Dynasty. What were key elements of the dynasty?
6. Compare and contrast Hinduism and Buddhism. Who was Siddhartha Gautama and what were his major teachings and tenets?

7. What scientific and mathematical advances came out of India? Why were they able to make so many advances?

8. What are the themes of the family in India? How were woman represented in the Vedic and Epic Age?

9. How involved were the Indians in trade? Who did they trade with and what were the traded items? What was the base of their economy?

10. What were some of the similarities and differences of China and India?