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Ancient Egypt Lesson 9: Daily Life In Ancient Egypt

Please answer all questions in complete sentences (**CSRQ - Complete Sentence Restate Question**). Use information from the text to support your answers.

Section 1: Ancient Egypt's Social Pyramid

How did religion affect the organization of the social pyramid?

Religion strengthened the pharaoh's authority. Pharaohs were regarded as gods, and their word was law. Priests were also a powerful group because they were in charge of religious rituals, and religion touched every part of people's daily lives.

In what ways did Egyptian women enjoy more freedom and rights than most women in the ancient world?

Egyptian women enjoyed greater freedom and more rights than most women in the ancient world. They could own land and run businesses. They could ask for divorces and represent themselves in legal matters. Some women in the middle and upper classes worked as doctors, government officials, or priestesses.

Why do you think that the social pyramid in ancient Egypt was so rigid?

The social pyramid in ancient Egypt was rigid because there was little chance to move up to a higher class. People usually stayed in the same class as their parents. Each group had its own role to play. The Egyptians believed that their class system created a stable, well-ordered society. For example, if peasants stopped farming, then there would be no one else to provide a dependable food supply.

Section 2: Government Officials

How did the status of government officials affect the daily lives of the people in this social class?

Government officials led lives of luxury. Most were nobles who had great wealth, fine homes, and plenty of time to socialize.

Section 3: Priests

How did the status of priests affect the daily lives of the people in this social class?

Priests had to purify themselves because they were the only ones who could enter the sanctuaries. To purify themselves, they had to avoid certain foods, cleanse their bodies, shave off body hair, and wear clothes made of linen cloth.

Section 4: Scribes

How did the status of scribes affect the daily lives of the people in this social class?

Scribes were Egypt's official writers and record keepers, so they were highly respected and well paid. Only men were allowed to be scribes. Becoming a scribe was one of the few ways that men could rise above their parents' social class.

Section 5: Artisans

How did the status of artisans affect the daily lives of the people in this social class?

Though artisans were highly skilled, they were seen by the upper classes as common laborers. Therefore, artisans rarely received recognition for their work. Workers depended entirely on their employers for food.

Section 6: Peasants

How did the status of peasants affect the daily lives of the people in this social class?

Peasants were the lowest and largest social class in ancient Egypt. Although society depended on their work, they were seen as unskilled laborers. They had the fewest comforts. They lived in plain houses of mud bricks and had little furniture. Their diet was simple, and they spent most of their lives working.