

# Grand Revision Package 2011

## HISTORY

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Secondary 1 Raffles Institution

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# Chapter 1 Question Answering Techniques

## 1. Source-based Questions

### - Inference Questions

1. Read the question carefully, pay attention to what they are asking
2. Read the source(s) carefully, and pick out traits/characteristics/values that answer the question
3. Structure

甲、 Inference - write out your inference that answers the question, usually an adjective

乙、 Evidence - quote directly from the source(s)

丙、 Explanation - explain why/how the evidence supports the inference and how the inference answers the question

丁、 Conclusion - a sentence that goes “therefore, I can infer that...”, simply copying the first line.(optional)

### 4. Things to Note

甲、 Inference should be precise and accurate, no vague inferences such as good, nice or bad

乙、 Inference should not be paraphrasing the evidence, it should be something that cannot be found in the source(s)

丙、 Evidence should not be paraphrased, just quote, as paraphrasing might result in a change in its meaning

丁、 Only quote what is important and is relevant to your inference, do not quote the whole source

戊、 Explanation should be clear and straightforward

己、 At least 2 inferences for each question, 4 marks for 1<sup>st</sup> inference and 5 marks for 2, both must be clearly explained

### 5. Levels for marking

甲、 Level 1: Correct inference only (1-2m)

乙、 Level 2: 1 inference with explanation (3-4m)

丙、 Level 3: 2 inferences with explanation (5m)

## - Comparison Questions

### 1. Comparing sources

甲、 Provenance

- i. Source type - primary or secondary source, written text or oral source
- ii. Author - person who experienced the incident, person who heard it from others, can relate to primary and secondary source
- iii. Language - translation, native language of the location of the incident

乙、 Content

- i. Classification of information, the two sources might be talking about something under a category, but two different things happened(for example, both sources are about a country fighting another country, but one won and another lost)

丙、 Tone

- i. Can be seen with the use of punctuation marks, quotation marks and capital letters
- ii. Either positive or negative
- iii. Positive tone
  1. Happy, glad, cheerful, proud, encouraging, optimistic
- iv. Negative tone
  1. Sad, angry, disappointed, prejudiced, pessimistic, regretful
- v. Neutral tone
  1. Balanced, informative/objective(stating the facts)

丁、 Purpose

- i. Credibility of the author, and how he writes the source
- ii. Audience of the source: why is the audience chosen?
- iii. Intended outcome: what does the author want to show, and what does he want from the audience?
- iv. No purpose: stating the facts, informative text

### 2. Structure

- 甲、 Stand - only needed when question asks you to compare both similarities and differences, stating your stand, if you think the two sources are very similar/different etc
- 乙、 State - state the similarities of provenance, content, tone and purpose and also differences
- 丙、 Evidence - quote evidence from the source to support your statement
- 丁、 Elaboration - elaborate on why/how the evidence support your statements
- 戊、 Link - always link back to say “therefore, the two sources are similar in this way...”
- 己、 Conclusion - conclusion is similar to the stand

### 3. Things to Note

- 甲、 Is the question asking you to compare similarities, differences or both?
- 乙、 If the source has no tone(aka neutral tone), do not state that they are similar because they have a neutral tone/no tone
- 丙、 If the source has no purpose(aka informative text), do not compare purposes
- 丁、 To save time, go for content straight away, skip provenance as it gives little marks, but good to have if you have time/there is only content to compare
- 戊、 When comparing content, there must be both a difference and a similarity **unless the question asks for only one of them**
- 己、 There is usually a purpose when there is tone, and vice versa

### 4. Levels for Marking

- 甲、 Level 1: Source type, provenance (1m)
- 乙、 Level 2: Difference in provenance only (2m)

丙、 Level 3: Difference in tone and purpose (3m)

丁、 Level 4: Content only (4-5m)

戊、 Level 5: Content, tone and purpose (6m) [note that tone and purpose might be absent so more comparisons for content should be provided, comparing provenance in this case is recommended]

5. To play safe, it is best to compare all lest one comparison is wrong

## - Utility Questions

### 1. Content & Structure

甲、 Introduction - write your stand on how useful you think the source is, this does not need to be in a separate paragraph

乙、 How is the content useful? - point out the relevance and the amount of information the source gives to you regarding the question

丙、 Accuracy? - test the accuracy of the information provided by tallying with either other sources (cross-referancing) provided in the paper or your contextual knowledge

丁、 Limitations - point out the limitations/gaps not covered in the source by cross referencing, and explain how the gaps change the meaning and state the truth. (for example, a source tells you how Cixi helps the country by not using funds on her birthday, not pointing out that she embezzled the fund to build her palace, and this gaps make us think she is a good empress when in fact, she is not). If there are no gaps in the source, there should be a purpose of the source, such as a letter or report, and the language will tell you the purpose of the author, point the purpose out and state that it limited the source as it might omit certain information to convince the audience to do something, that is the author's intended outcome.

戊、 Conclusion - "Hence, ..."

### 2. Things to Note

甲、 Do not say "I think this source is useful to a certain extent"

乙、 When there are both gaps and purpose, write the purpose as your limitation section. If you have time, write both!

- 丙、 Quote the source you are describing, and also quote the source that you are cross-referencing to
- 丁、 Give examples on how some information are missed out, hence the gaps, using words like “according to my contextual knowledge, source A is limited because...”

## 2. Essay Questions

1. Identify the topic, whether it's rise, golden age or fall of civilisations
2. Answer the question
3. Structure

甲、 Stand - identify the topic and define the issue- what is a civilisation? Golden age? Answer the question briefly by stating if you agree or disagree with the question. State your scope by briefly telling the reader what you will be covering

乙、 Supporting paragraphs - thesis statement, stating what you are writing about in this paragraph, provide at least 2 examples from 2 different civilisations, and link it back to your definition to support your stand

丙、 Conclusion: rank the factors(equally important, more important), tie up loose ends and re-state your stand and round up the whole essay like this: “from the XXX and XXX civilisations, we can see that XXX is more important than XXX as .....”

### 4. Thing to Note

甲、 Answer the question - follow this guide

乙、 Do not confuse between factors propelling to golden age and features of a golden age

丙、 At least 3 evidence to support your stand, best to be from different civilisations to prove that it exists everywhere

丁、 Always summarise your essay with evidence in the essay

### 5. PEEL Structure

甲、 P - point, what you are talking about, state it in the first sentence, short and sweet

- 乙、 E - examples, give at least 2 examples to support your point
- 丙、 E - elaboration, elaborate on how the point you have made exist in the examples and explain how and why it answers the question
- 丁、 L - link, link back to the question to state that this point answers the question

## Chapter 2 Historiography

- Historiography is the study of history and the methodology of the history discipline
- What is history?
  - Historians and their craft - spirit of inquiry
  - Historiography
    - ◆ How is it measured?
      - Measurements of time
    - ◆ How is it written?
      - Using evidence
        - Came from
          - ◆ Sources
          - ◆ Archaeology
          - ◆ Facts/opinion
  - There is no correct definition of history
  - History is an interesting documentation of processes, events and major achievements of influential people - 1B 2009
  - The study of the past, different eras, independence of countries, world wars, discovery of artifacts/places, exploration, transport, landmarks, and the discovery of technology -1P 2009
  - History is all a point of view and is subjective -1P 2009
  - History is the study of past human events from different perspectives -1P 2011
- Measurements
  - Periods
    - ◆ Blocks of time into which history is divided
  - Dynasty
    - ◆ A line of rulers who belong to the same family or the years during which a region is continuously ruled by members of



- the same family
- B.C.
  - ◆ Short for “Before Christ”, refer to the years before the birth of Jesus Christ
- A.D.
  - ◆ Short for “Anno Domini”, refers to the birth after the birth of Jesus Christ
- BCE/CE
  - ◆ Short for “Before Common Era” and “Common Era”, refers to before and after the birth of Jesus Christ respectively, but less religious and more commonly used today
- Century
  - Original meaning is a unit of Roman army consisting 100 man
  - Now meaning a period of 100 years
  - 1<sup>st</sup> century - 0-99 C.E./A.D.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> century - 100-199 C.E./A.D.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> century - 200-299 C.E./A.D.
  - 20<sup>th</sup> century - 1900-1999 C.E./A.D.
  - 21<sup>st</sup> century - 2000-2099 C.E./A.D.
- Year - a period of 365 days
- Decade - a period of 10 years
- Century - a period of 100 years or 10 decades
- Millenium - a period of 10 centuries, or 100 decades, or 1000 years
- Why study history?
  - To learn about the past
  - To understand the present better
  - To understand change and how our societies came to be
  - To understand how people think and feel and react
  - To question what we have read or hear, which develops our critical thinking skills
- Sources
  - Primary Sources
    - ◆ First hand account
    - ◆ Comes from the time the event occurred
    - ◆ Sources of evidence comprises historical remains and original writings
  - Secondary Sources
    - ◆ More remote from the particular event being studied
    - ◆ Comes into being later on
- How is history written?
  - Sources - artifacts, oral, written and pictorial sources
  - Evidence

- Facts
- Opinions
- We must keep an open mind and strive to discover the truth - historians are not always right
- Problems faced - cause inaccuracy
  - Biasness in sources, untrue
  - No written records or records are lost in translation, including extinct languages
  - Different way of interpretation of sources by historians
  - Do not have sufficient evidence to support an account because they are not available
  - Wealthy and powerful people only allow good things to be written about them
  - Views of the poor - less important people are not included
  - Accounts are only told for pleasure/leisure
  - Differentiating facts from opinions
  - Religious myths
- Overcoming problems - turning to archaeologists for help
- Facts - something that we know to be true, can be checked and showed to be true or false, right or wrong, something supported by many views and many evidence, something that can be proven
- Opinions - points of view and not based on certainty, cannot be verified, not shown to be false, right or wrong, they are often disputed as people disagree with opinions of others
- How can we make sure that a source can be trusted?
  - Credibility - who is the author? Is he trustworthy? What is the author's background? Did the person have any reason/motive to lie?
  - Consistency - is the opinion consistent? Or are different opinions expressed?
  - Corroboration - do the facts in stated tally with those of other sources?
- Historians write history based on the study of historical evidence and information
- Historical evidence itself is problematic (facts vs. opinions), the writing of history therefore poses many problems for historians
- Historians can overcome these by validating historical evidence first (use of 3Cs)
- Historians find evidence from archaeological sources, primary and secondary sources, before reconstructing history as what and how it happened
- Upon doing this, they will be able to understand the past and thereby

understand how we came to be here, now in the present

## Chapter 3 Formation and Rise of Civilisations

- A civilisation is a community of people who live together in harmony, using common tools, sharing what they get, working together, depend on each other for certain goods in life, and developing their piece of land, expanding it when possible, and raising their quality of life.
- A civilisation rises from a process of development and advancement
- The Stone Age (Prehistoric Period)
  - Palaeolithic (pre-Stone Age)
  - Mesolithic (pre-Stone Age)
  - Neolithic
- It is said that the civilisations starts with the Stone Age, around 7000 B.C.
- Neolithic Age is the age of polished stone
- Onset of agriculture(crop cultivation), give up nomadic life
  - Villages/settlements emerged
  - Pre-requisite for civilisations
  - Nomadic man
    - ◆ Early man who wandered around
    - ◆ Hunted for food and water, live where they can get it as he could not grow his own food
    - ◆ Ate nuts, berries and raw meat
    - ◆ Later discovered fire
    - ◆ Did not stay in one place for too long, and led a nomadic way of life
  - Early man settles down
    - ◆ Realised that they could grow their own food
    - ◆ Staple food then were barley, wheat and beans
    - ◆ Corn and potatoes were small then
    - ◆ They need not move from place to place
    - ◆ Settled in small groups and began farming
    - ◆ Developed better tools and weapons of polished stone, and later,

- bronze and iron
    - ◆ The first villages emerged
  - Impacts of farming
    - Give up nomadic lifestyle
      - ◆ Formed settlements
    - Less reliant on hunting
      - ◆ Have for free time
        - Diversification
        - Specialisation
          - Improvement in methods
            - ◆ Surplus, then trade

## **Farming is essential for the birth of civilisations**

Development from villages to cities

- As villages develop, the people became more comfortable
- The people had time to concentrate on other things
- Food and water were freely and readily available
- They were able to take up other jobs such as painting and selling things, they also make clay bricks for building and cloth for fabric
- Where to settle?
  - Need what is essential for a civilisation and what man needs to survive:
    - ◆ Fertile soil
    - ◆ Good climate
    - ◆ Plentiful sunshine and rainfall
    - ◆ Close to a water source
- How do rivers help the development of a civilisation?
  - Provides fresh water for drinking and irrigation
  - Important source of food - fish and animals that come to drink water
  - Soil is fertile and easy to plough, hence providing people with crops
  - Provides a mean of transportation
  - Ideas can be exchanged easily
  - Goods can be traded to other villages/cities/civilisations
- Cradles of civilisation in the early days
  - Nile, Egypt (the Egyptian Civilisation)
  - Tigris, Iran & Iraq (the Babylon and Mesopotamia Civilisations)
  - Indus, India (the Indus Valley Civilisation)
  - Yantze, China (the Shang Civilisation which later developed into the Kingdom of China)
  - Ancient Civilisations
    - ◆ Mesoamerica - 5000 B.C.
    - ◆ Peru - 4000 B.C.
    - ◆ Central Africa - 3000 B.C.

## ◆ Vietnam - 8000 B.C.

### Features of a civilisation

- Agriculture
  - Allow man to give up nomadic lifestyle
  - Steady source of food
  - Allow them to feed livestock and themselves
- Cities
  - People gather together to settle down
  - Provide a chance for a more cohesive society, encourage teamwork
  - Provide opportunities for work
  - Provide protection
  - Interact with others made easier
- Rulers
  - Person or a group of people who lead the civilisation, make decisions, install law and order, and protect the civilisation
  - In charge of the welfare of the citizens
    - ◆ Ensure that food are of equal distribution to everyone
    - ◆ Enforcing rules to the civilisation
    - ◆ Security and defence
  - Types of rulers
    - ◆ Monarchy - throne passed on to descendants, rule by force
    - ◆ Theocracy - group of priest led by a head priest, rule by propaganda of god
    - ◆ Democracy - leader chosen by citizens, rule by law, started in Greece, not very fair as only 1/6 of citizens get to vote then
- Variety of Occupations
  - Exchange of extra goods - Barter trade, Barter means the exchange of goods or services and not for money
  - Specialisation in producing goods lead to different occupations
  - Farmers, artists, craftsman and merchants
  - Subsequently led to development of trade and social stratification
  - Priests were at the higher level of the social hierarchy as they know how to read and write, which are used for rituals and rites, usually for fertility of the land, to pray for good harvest, for fertility of the people
  - Most people were farmers, but they then developed other occupations
    - ◆ Defenders / soldiers
    - ◆ Carpenters
    - ◆ Woodcutters
    - ◆ Artists
    - ◆ Blacksmiths
    - ◆ Craftsman
    - ◆ Fisherman

- ◆ Then, people began to specialise - merchants
- Social stratification refers to a way society is divided
- Why are there social classing?
  - ◆ Skill dependent - everybody were farmers, so everybody knew farming techniques, but only a few people know how to cut wood, so woodcutting becomes a specialised skill, therefore a higher class
  - ◆ Knowledge - pharmlists studied longer for knowledge, therefore they know more than the farmers, hence a higher class
  - ◆ Hereditary - if one's parents are blacksmiths, one is most likely to become a blacksmith when one grows up
  - ◆ Low skill gives low class - soldiers only need to learn to fight and kill, merchants learn how to sell, but they don't produce, they take products from the farmers and sell to others, hence they require less skill and therefore at a lower class
- Why is social hierarchy necessary?
- So that one will know his/her roles
- One can know transfer knowledge/skills to descendants/family
- Becomes more efficient
- Able to learn from one another
- Writing
  - All civilisations found some way to record their thoughts and actions
  - To communicate with each other
  - To pass down knowledge, skills, stories and myths
  - Different ways of writing
    - ◆ Pictograms - words are pictures that show its meaning
      - Sumertan Pictograms
      - Egyptian Hieroglyphs
      - Elamite Pictograms
      - Chinese Characters
      - Indus Valley Glyphes
      - Early Cuneiform
    - ◆ Alphabets - combining letters to form meaning
      - Greek Alphabets
      - English Alphabets
      - Russian Alphabets
  - Other uses of writing
    - ◆ Trade - records, numbers, receipts, tags
    - ◆ Government - records, taxes, law and order
  - Due to their ability of reading and writing, scribes become powerful
- Science and the Arts
  - In a time of peace and stability, what can we do to improve our lives?
  - New things can be invented to improve the quality of life

- Science enables inventions and discoveries
- Arts enable beautified possessions
- Complex Beliefs
  - In a time of peace of stability, people have a lot of time to think
  - People began to think of life and death and celestial phenomenon
  - Does God exist? Are there multiple Gods?
  - Where to I go when I die? Is there heaven and hell?
  - To answer these questions, people developed the idea of religion, which reasons on different thoughts people ask
  - Creation of religion and philosophies result in rituals and customs so as to “please” the Gods so as to be “rewarded” when one dies
  - Members of a particular civilisation usually have similar religious beliefs and practices, this can also be referred to as culture (for example, the Indian culture believes that 3 Gods exist)
  - Examples
    1. Hinduism
      - 甲、 Founder not known
      - 乙、 First religion to appear in India, about 3000 years ago
      - 丙、 Developed slowly over the centuries through the mixing of beliefs of the Aryans and Indus people
      - 丁、 Worship many gods
        - i. Brahma the Creator
        - ii. Vishnu the Preserver
        - iii. Shiva the Destroyer
      - 戊、 Believed in non-violence, teaches that all life is sacred and that human beings and animals should not be slaughtered
      - 己、 Believed in reincarnation(soul is reborn into a new body after death)
        - i. When a person does good deeds, he is born to a person of a higher caste, when this cycle is carried out several times, he will join Brahma
        - ii. If a person does bad deeds, he is born into a lower caste
      - 庚、 Impacts
        - i. Ancient India accepted the caste that they were born into
        - ii. Tried their best to be a good person so that they can be

- reincarnated into a higher caste
- iii. Spread of Hinduism, about 83% Indians were Hindus
- iv. Still exist today, although caste system is of less importance today

## 2. Buddhism

- 甲、 Began 2000 years ago and developed from the teachings of a prince by the name of Gautama Siddharta, a prince who witnessed offerings and wanted to establish everlasting happiness, he discovered that craving, hatred and ignorance resulted in suffering and as such, they should be removed to end all sufferings
- 乙、 Achieved enlightenment
- 丙、 Buddhism does not mention anything about gods (did not claim to have some form of special powers)
- 丁、 Gautama Siddharta rose to the status of God after his death by his devote followers
- 戊、 Impacts
  - i. Hindus from lower castes convert to Buddhism since they believed that all men are equal
  - ii. A person called Ashoka won a war and was horrified by the deaths as he vowed never to use warfare again, he converted to Buddhism and did good deeds
- 己、 History
  - i. Gautama Siddharta, or Buddha, taught in northeastern India some time around 600-400 B.C.
  - ii. Helps sentient beings and ignorance of dependent origination, thus escaping what is seen as a cycle of suffering and rebirth
  - iii. Low estimate of 350-500 million Buddhists today
  - iv. Mauryan, Emperor Ashoka supported Buddhism and Buddhism spreaded very fast, prior to which it was spreading very slowly
  - v. It spreaded to Afghanistan, Central Asia and Sri Lanka during the Mauryan Empire
  - vi. Around 300 B.C., Buddhism spreaded to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Burma and later Indonesia
  - vii. It then spreaded to China around 100-200 A.D., through the Silk Road transmission



- Social hierarchy
  - Indian civilisation
    - ◆ First class: Brahmins (priest)
      - They are the priests who are able to read and write
      - They are well-educated and hence seen as someone of high status
    - ◆ Second class: Ksatriyas (warriors)
      - They help to conquer land and protect the country
      - This is seen as something honorable, but because they are not as well-educated as the Brahmins, they rank 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - ◆ Third class: Vaishya (farmers/craftsman)
      - Farmers were ranked highly due to their ability to produce food and food are required for survival
      - Others like craftsman are also able to produce tools to improve the quality of life, hence ranked just below the farmers
    - ◆ Fourth class: Shudras (labourers)
      - Consist of Indus and Aryans who married and had children
      - They were considered low class as they do not speak Sanskrit
      - They are not allowed to marry people of higher castes
    - ◆ Bottom class: Pariah (untouchables/slaves)
      - Untouchables do jobs like cleaning dead bodies, dealing with animals and jobs that were seen as disgusting or unworthy by the Indus people
  - Chinese Civilisation
    - ◆ First class: Emperor
      - The emperor(皇帝) is in charge of leading the country and making the most important decisions
      - No one is more powerful than the Emperor
    - ◆ Second class: Prime Minister
      - The prime minister(丞相) makes important decisions regarding the country and leads the panel of ministers
      - He discusses important matters such as warring with the Emperor
      - He is sometimes allowed to act without getting permission from the Emperor
    - ◆ Third class: Ministers
      - The ministers(臣) are in charge of different aspects of the country and come together in conferences to discuss important matters with the prime minister

- ◆ Fourth class: Mandarins (scholars)
  - The scholars are seen as well-educated people and are hence ranked highly after the royalties
  - In certain dynasties, scholars are chosen by examinations, making sure that they truly possess the talent of writing poems, writing essays etc
- ◆ Fifth class: farmers/peasants
  - Farmers are ranked rather highly due to their ability to produce food, essential for the survival of man
  - However, they rank below the scholars because they are not as well-educated
- ◆ Sixth class: craftsman
  - Craftsman are able to produce things of value and some are even able to improve the quality of life
  - They are hence ranked just below the farmers
- ◆ Bottom class: merchants
  - Merchants may be wealthy, but they are regarded and “money-suckers” because they sell things produced by the farmers and the craftsman and keep the money to themselves
  - They are hence ranked at the bottom and their wealth are considered cheating as they do not produce but take from others, sell it and keep the profit

## Chapter 4 Golden Age of Civilisations

- The golden age is a period of great progress in terms of scientific, technological advances and cultural achievements
- The golden age is when a civilisation achieves an improvement to the quality of life of the people
- Scientific advances
  - EXAMPLE: MEDICAL ADVANCES IN INDIA
    - ◆ Susruta is a Gupta doctor who wrote medical texts about surgery during the Gupta dynasty and he advocated the sterilisation of wounds
    - ◆ Susruta is the author of Susrutamhita, the work known after his name and he is recognised as the father of Indian surgery
  - EXAMPLE: ART IN POMPEII, ITALY
    - ◆ Art - mosaic, sculptures, import of culture from Greece, landscape painting, nature, myths/legends, bronze
    - ◆ Architecture - pillars, homes, courtyards, woodwork
    - ◆ Technology - oven, winery
    - ◆ Trade - city/port, shophouses, signages, advertisements
    - ◆ Religion - elaborate burial grounds
    - ◆ Life - amphitheatre, gymnasiums, public baths, drainage systems/water supply, slavery
- Technological advances
  - EXAMPLE: TANG DYNASTY
    - ◆ The Tangs invented block printing to make printing easier
    - ◆ This also makes these printed books fast, cheap, and hence available to the public
  - EXAMPLE: GUPTA DYNASTY
    - ◆ The invention of the steel bow and the long bow played a key role in its military success
    - ◆ They use bamboo and advanced metal like bronze and brass to make metal tools and weapons
- Cultural achievements
  - EXAMPLE: CHINESE CULTURE
    - ◆ The Chinese had made achievements in culture, especially through calligraphy, literature and the arts
    - ◆ Chinese poems in the Tang become famous and are still read today
  - EXAMPLE: GUPTA DYNASTY
    - ◆ The Gupta Dynasty saw great flourishing in Buddhism art, sculpture and literature

- ◆ They developed music, opera, drama and poetry
- Common features found in a strong civilisation in its golden age
  - Peace
  - Stability
  - Strong military
  - Good governance
  - Plentiful food
  - Good wages
  - Fair and just laws
  - Good jobs
  - Capable leaders
- Factors that propel a civilisation to its Golden Age
  1. Good Governance
    - ◆ It is required as capable leaders and his partners make a good government will be able to check balances/incorruptibility to ensure that he remains a good ruler
    - ◆ When this is achieved, the ruler would be able to make fair rules and policies beneficial to the people and the country
    - ◆ The ruler would then earn the support and respect from the people
    - ◆ The people would cooperate with the government and the civilisation would be in peace and harmony
    - ◆ Centralised Rule
      - The ruler controls the whole country by himself or with a group of ministers in the capital city
      - This is difficult as the ruler cannot control the outer provinces and th borders that well
      - The ruler relies on a large bureauracy to ensure that his orders are followed
      - Advantages
        - Being the only decision maker allows more efficient decision making
        - Increase power of ruler
      - Disadvantages
        - Loyalty of officials become a key to his success
        - It is difficult for him to know what is going on in the kingdom
        - Heavy work load as everything is for him to do
    - ◆ Decentralised Rule
    - ◆ Refers to the ruler sharing his power with local officials who could make decisions about the running the provinces without consulting the ruler

- ◆ In return, the local officials repit back to the tuler, sending him taxes and provide men to fight
- ◆ Advantages
- ◆ No need to depend on a large group of officials, only those in the bureaucracy
- ◆ Sharing responsibility with other officials maximizes efficiency
- ◆ Work load not as heavy
- ◆ Disadvantages
- ◆ His provincial governors may be powerful enough to revolt against him
- ◆ The people of various provinces may be more loyal to the governors than the ruler
- ◆ Even more difficult to know what is going on
  - Feudal System
    - Lords are assigned to the various provinces and are allowed to remain in power as long as they are loyal to the king
    - Lords normally choose their relatives or very trusted subjects as feudal kings
    - EXAMPLE: Zhou Dynasty
  - Meritocracy
    - The officials assigned to the various provinces are chosen based on thir abilities which are tested in the Imperial Examinations
    - Anyone with ability are eligible for the Examination, even peasants
    - EXAMPLE: Tang Dynasty
  - Vassal System
    - The rulers of conquered land are allowed to keep their power and return for their tribute and heavy taxes paid to the ruler
    - EXAMPLE: Gupta Dynasty
- How to ensure loyalty?
  - Hostage system
    - ◆ The ruler keeps the family, usually the heir in the government
    - ◆ Threatens to kill his family/heir if one attempts to rebel
  - Tributary relationship
    - ◆ Vassal states give the overlord money, gifts and taxes(tributes) in exchange for independence in ruling as they are allowed to make their own policies in their own

kingdom

- ◆ Vassal states, by recognising another civilisation as overlord, also gets security as the overlord would protect it if an invasion occurs
- ◆ The overlord also gets alliance from the vassal states to fight enemies together

■ Political stability

- ◆ Refers to the positive relationship the people have towards the government due to its beneficial policies
- ◆ It depends on a country's political system and administration
- ◆ Autocracy - refers to a government by a ruler who makes all the decisions himself
- ◆ Democracy - refers to a government where leaders are chosen by the people through a voting process
- ◆ Political system in the Tang Dynasty
  - It is a decentralised system based on meritocracy
  - The bureaucracy or officials were chosen based on the results in the Imperial Examinations
  - The rank of the officials depends on the level of exam they passed
  - Exam candidates were tested on philosophy, poetry and the complicated Chinese writing system
  - While this allowed for competent officials to enter the bureaucracy, people from poor families still could not afford to sit for the exams as there was no free schooling

2. Good Economy

甲、 Trade with other civilisations

乙、 Profit can be used to develop the civilisations more

丙、 Profit can be used to study technology and inventions

丁、 Resources

3. Military

甲、 Strong defence allows country to counter enemies with ease

乙、 Territory expansion - ability to conquer other lands and bring it under one's rule

丙、 Diplomatic ties strengthen bonds between civilisations and

alliances will help one's country when invasion happens

丁、 Dominance - a higher status and reputation in the world

#### 4. Social

甲、 Good education for all citizens

乙、 Social mobility

丙、 Bonding and interaction between citizens brings unity in the country

#### 5. Science & Technology

甲、 Inventions improves the quality of life of the people

乙、 Scientific discoveries helps to solve certain questions in the mind of the people

丙、 High technology lessens the work load on people

#### 6. Lack of Natural Disasters

甲、 Shows that the Emperor has not lost the Mandate of Heaven

乙、 Can continue to rule without famine and starvation in their lands

#### 7. Strong Army

甲、 Ward off attacks - related to good government

乙、 Untroubled by any external threats and are able to concentrate on development

丙、 Time of peace and stability

丁、 Extensive conquers and glorious victories

戊、 Rule in wealth and prestige

#### 8. Political administration

甲、 A ruler cannot rule a kingdom on his own and needs people to help him with the day to day management of the

country

乙、 Centralised and decentralised government (see above)

丙、 Solutions to drawbacks

- i. Spy networks to ensure that all the people are loyal to him (like the Gestapo or Kempeitai)

## Chapter 5 Fall of Civilisations

Factors that lead to the fall of a civilisation

1. Poor foreign relations

甲、 This may be a result from foreign aggression when a countries treat others as subjects

乙、 They refuse trading with other civilisations or have very demanding trading conditions

2. Defeat in wars with other countries

甲、 Outdated millitary equipment

乙、 Weak tactics and under-trained soldiers

3. Corruption

甲、 Officials abuse their powers by collecting a demanding amount



of taxes from the citizens

乙、 They arrest innocent people and ask for ransom to release

丙、 They keep taxes from the citizens to themselves and not giving it to the government

丁、 Money used to develop the civilisation is used by the officials for their own good

戊、 This leads to the lack of various developments and hence many equipments are outdated and cannot have control over the westerners

己、 EXAMPLE: QING DYNASTY

庚、 Farmers complained about landlords, but corrupted magistrate were bribed by the landlords, and punish the peasants instead

#### 4. Weak leadership

甲、 Emperor weak and useless, does not make decisions and just enjoying the day without doing any work

乙、 Emperors may become figurehead rulers even if they are capable, and the person ruling behind the curtains controls the country

丙、 EXAMPLE: QING DYNASTY

丁、 Empress Dowager Cixi dominated her nephew, the Emperor, she stopped his plans for social reform and even put him under house arrest

戊、 She embezzled funds used for reforms to build her own palace

#### Reaction of the People

1. Uprising / Rebellions / Civil Wars
2. Skirmishes / sharing of unhappiness
3. Revolution

#### Reaction of the Government

1. Reforms

#### Responses to External Threats

1. Stronger military and government

2. Fortifications (e.g. Great Wall of China)
3. Improvements and innovations like free port status, freedom of trade
4. Alliances, establish foreign ties
5. Political marriages

## Reforms

### 1. Qing Dynasty

#### 甲、 100 Day Reform

- i. Focus on westernization
- ii. Change from absolute monarchy to democracy/constitution monarchy
- iii. Cultural, political and educational reform from 11 June 1898 to 21 September 1898
- iv. Introduced mathematics and science
- v. Many officials, with the support of Empress Dowager Cixi, resisted the change of modernization
- vi. This is because they were afraid that they could not learn the western culture and practices, hence their position and power will be affected
- vii. Empress Dowager Cixi eventually put Emperor Guangxu, who was the Emperor of China at that time, into house arrest, ending the reform, which only lasted for 103 days, hence the name

#### 乙、 Self-strengthening Movement

- i. Modernization focusing on military strengthening
- ii. Training the army and navy the western way
- iii. The movement is caused by the defeat in Opium Wars in 1838 and 1860
- iv. Leader of the reform Li Hong Zhang was unable to carry out the reform due to the deep-rooted tradition of their Chinese mentality
- v. Officials also thought that the reform would affect their status
- vi. The reform eventually failed as the funds were embezzled by Empress Dowager Cixi to build her Summer Palace

#### 丙、 Boxer Rebellion

- i. Attempt by Dowager Cixi to regain control over the westerners
- ii. Cixi threatened foreigners to seek refuge in Legation Quarter
- iii. There was a huge massacre of Protestants, Catholics and

- Christian missionaries
- iv. Killed many westerners and threatened to kill more if they do not leave China
- v. Westerners overpower the Chinese and the Boxers were executed in public
- vi. The Qing lost people, prestige, territories and money
- 2. Fall of the Various Chinese Dynasties

甲、 Xia Dynasty 夏朝

- i. Tyrannical rule of the monarch
- ii. 15<sup>th</sup> and last ruler Xia Kang Jie (桀) was superstitious and was notorious for his cruelty
- iii. Discontentment and outspread rebellion bt Cheng Tang (湯) and as a result, the Xia Dynasty was overthrown and Tang was the first ruler of the Shang Dynasty

乙、 Qin Dynasty 秦朝

- i. Tyrannical rule or monarch
- ii. Two months after the death of Qin Shihuang 秦始皇 in Shaqin, there wre widespread revolts by the people
- iii. Leader of the rebellion by Xiang Yu 項羽was an outstanding military commander without political expertise
- iv. Due to his arrogance, he lost to Liu Bang劉邦who established the Han Dynasty

丙、 Han Dynasty 漢朝

- i. Court intrigues
- ii. Fell into state of corruption
- iii. Split into Three Kingdoms 三國, one of the king was Liu Bang's descendant

丁、 Sui Dynasty 隋朝

- i. Tyrannical rule of monarchy (again)
- ii. Ruthless accomplishments
- iii. Policies such as the crushing burden of taxes and compulsory labour were unpopular

- iv. Completion of the Grand Canal and reconstruction of the Great Wall lead to more taxes
- v. Political struggle
- vi. Li Yuan 李淵(formal governor in the military) rose in rebellions as the Sui installed a puppet child Emperor
- vii. Established Tang in 618
- viii. Li Yuan ruled to 626 before being disposed by his son Li Shiming 李世民(唐太宗)

#### 戊、 Song Dynasty 宋朝

- i. Weak military
- ii. Faced threat from the Mongols
- iii. Ended in 1279 due the defeat by Kublai Khan 忽必烈

#### 己、 Ming Dynasty 明朝

- i. Emperor lived in retirement and power fell into the hands of the influential
- ii. Corrupt government with Wu Sangui opened the pass for the Manchus to have access to the Liaodong Peninsular
- iii. Short of revenue(unable to respond effectively to needs)
- iv. Serious droughts in north Shaanxi in 1627-1628
- v. Soldiers formed teams to ravage the empire
- vi. Rebellion by Li Zichen 李自成
- vii. Emperor Yongle maintained the foreign policies of his father but his successors see little importance in this
- viii. This lead to the deterioration of the army

#### 庚、 Yuan Dynasty 元朝

- i. Succession of struggle and famine
- ii. Kublai Khan's successors were sinicised and lost all influence of other Mongol lands in Asia
- iii. Reigns for the later Yuan Emperors were short
- iv. They were uninterested in administration

#### 辛、 Tang Dynasty 唐朝

- i. Rebellion by provincial governors
- ii. Height of power up to An Shi Rebellion(16 December 755-17 February 763)

- iii. The rebellion destroyed the prosperity of the empire
- iv. Regional military governors(Jiedushi節度使) rose to power and wanted to challenge the central government

## Chapter 6 Cases Studies

### Case Study 1 Qing Dynasty

- Last dynasty of China from 1644-1912, with a brief restoration in 1917
- Established as the Empire of the Great Qing大清國
- Qing Emperors
  - Nuhaci - Tianming - reigned 1616-1628 Manchuria Empire
  - Hong Taiji - Tiancong / Chongde - r. 1627-1643 Manchuria Empire
  - Fulin - Shunzhi - r. 1643-1661 Empire of Great Qing
  - Xuanye - Kangxi - r. 1661-1722 Empire of Great Qing
  - Yinzen - Yongzheng - r. 1722-1735 Empire of Great Qing

- Hongli - Qianlong - r. 1735-1796 Empire of Great Qing
- Yongyan - Jiaqing - r. 1796-1820 Empire of Great Qing
- Minning - Daoguang - r. 1820-1850 Empire of Great Qing
- Yizhu - Xianfeng - r. 1850-1861 Empire of Great Qing
- Zaichun - Tongzhi - r. 1861-1875 Empire of Great Qing
- Zaitian - Guangxu - r. 1875-1908 Empire of Great Qing
- Puyi - Xuantong - r. 1908-1911 Empire of Great Qing
- The Manchu state was founded by Nurhaci, the chieftain of a minor Jurchen tribe in Jianzhou in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century
- In 1616 Nurhaci unified Jianzhou Jurchen tribes and proclaimed himself as Khan and established the Jin Dynasty, later known as the Later Jin Dynasty
- In 1618, Nurhaci renounced the sovereignty of Ming overlordship in order to reunify the Jurchen tribes allied with the Ming
- Nurhaci captured few Ming cities and relocated the capital of Manchuria first from Hetu Ala to Liaoyang in 1621, then to Shenyang, renamed Shenjin in 1625
- Nurhaci met his first major military defeat in January 1626 when he was defeated by Yuan Chonghuan when capturing Ningyuan
- Nurhaci was succeeded by his 8<sup>th</sup> son Huang Taiji, who suffered another defeat from Yuan Chonghuan in 1627. This is caused by the aquirement of Portuguese cannons by the Ming government, Yuan Chonghuan was also an expert in warring
- Huang Taiji planned a scheme where the Ming Emperor Chongzhen killed Yuan Chonghuan, after which warring was a breeze
- He then proceeded to strenthen his millitary and overtook territories like Songshan and Jingzhou
- He died suddenly in September 1643 and was succeeded by Fulin, later Emperor Shunzhi
- Li Zhichen was a Han rebellion and easily took Beijing in April 1644. Emperor Chongzhen commmitted suicide and Li Zhichen established the Shun Dynasty
- Li Zhichen then went on to conquer Wu Sangui, who saw great disadvantage to himself and allied with the Manchus. Together they overthrown the Shun Dynasty on 27 May 1644, before conquering Beijing on 6 June. The Shun Dynasty only lasted for 2 months.
- However, it took another 17 years of the Qing to completely conquer all Ming loyalists, including the Yanzhou Massacre 1645. Several Ming loyalists support their Ming Emperors, there were 3 of them, out of whom only 1 survived, Prince Gui, who tried to take refuge in Burma, was finally captured and executed in 1662
- The Hans continued their rebellions, resulting in more than 500,000

deaths, in 1645, the Qing ordered all Hans to cut their hair “to keep the hair, you lose the head, to keep the head, you lose your hair”. This was so unpopular that its resistance in Jiading continued until at least the late 1640s, resulting in the Mass Massacre of Jiading, after which no living people are left there

- Dorgon, the person who assisted Emperor Shunzhi in ruling when he was still young, died on 31 December 1650, and Shunzhi's rule officially started, however, he was then still only 12, so the country is mainly ruled by his mother, Empress Dowager Xiaozhuang, who is a skilled politician. Shunzhi led a short life, dying in 1661 age 24
- Kangxi succeeded Shunzhi at age 8, and 4 ministers, appointed by Shunzhi before his death, Sonin, Elibun, Suksaha and Oboi helped him. Eventually Oboi posed a threat to the throne and Emperor Kangxi used trickery and imprisoned him in 1669
- Meanwhile, there were 3 feudal princes, they are:
  - 1. Wu Sangui, controls Yunan and Guizhou
  - 2. Shang Kexi, controls Guangdong
  - 3. Geng Jingzong, controls Fujian
- In 1673, Shang Kexi applied to retire and appointed his son as his successor. Kangxi allowed his retirement but disallowed succession. In response, the other 2 feudal princes also applied for retirement, and the results were the same
- Seeing the risk of being stripped of power, Wu Sangui saw no way but to rebel with the other 2. Their rebel was so powerful that they manage to extend their control as far as the Yangtze River. They eventually lost, but not after 8 years of hard war. The rebellion is known today as the Revolt of the Three Feudatories
- Kangxi led series of military campaigns against the Russian Empire. Taiwan was also conquered Zheng Keshang surrendered, who is the grandson of Zheng Chenggong.
- Kangxi's reign was the most successful among the Qing Emperors, and is at its greatest height since the Ming Dynasty. He ruled for 61 years, longest of any Qing Emperor, dying in 1722 age 68
- Kangxi's 4<sup>th</sup> son Yongzheng succeeded him. During the later years of Kangxi's reign, there was political struggle between his sons. Yongzheng was an able Emperor who ruled with an iron hand
- Yongzheng from the States Examination System back to its original standards. He is known to be a fair and trusted Chinese official, one of whom is Nian Gengyao, whom he appointed to lead a campaign in replacement of his brother. It was in Yongzheng's time when China was power over 13 million square kilometres of territory
- Unfortunately, Yongzheng led a short life and died in 1735, he is



- succeeded by Prince Bao, or Hongli, who ruled as Qianlong, then 24
- Revolts were put down, and many campaigns near Xinjiang and Mongolia were made. The control over Tibet was strengthened. Qianlong also led in projects such as building libraries with over 3400 books. However, near the end of Qianlong's reign saw one of the most corrupt officials like Yu Minzhong and Heshen, whom Qianlong trusted deeply
  - Qianlong officially announced to pass the throne to his son in 1796, having ruled for 60 years. Emperor Jiaqing ascended the throne on 9 February 1796
  - Qianlong in later years was a corrupt Emperor and still rule behind the curtains when Jiaqing was on the throne, until his death in 1799 age 87, when Jiaqing's reign officially started
  - Jiaqing immediately executed Heshen. He faced internal disorder during his reign due to Qianlong, including the White Lotus Rebellion (1796-1804) and Miao Rebellion (1795-1806) as well as an empty treasury. Jiaqing attempted to restore China to its formal glory but due to the continuous outflow of money, the economy declined
  - Jiaqing was a relative good emperor who punished the corrupt officials. Two attempts of assassination were prevented in 1804 then in 1814, when anyone involved were exiled, number in the hundreds
  - Jiaqing died in 1820 age 59, and the throne is passed on to his 2<sup>nd</sup> son known as Emperor Daoguang, who tried to stop the import the opium, which had started at 200 chest annually during Yongzheng's reign to over 30,000 chests annually by his reign. Lin Zexu was tasked to edict opium, his efforts led to the First Opium War in 1839, it ended in 1842.
  - China lost the war and the British took Hong Kong. He died in 1850.
  - Emperor Daoguang's fourth and eldest surviving son succeeded him as Xianfeng. His reign was the time of rebellions. The Taiping Rebellion was led by Hong Xiuquan. He had a vision that he was the younger brother of Jesus Christ and is here to overthrow the Qing, along with his associate Yang Xiuqing, who claimed to act as the voice of God. The rebellion started in Guangxi after a small victory in December 1850. Rebels Feng Yunshan and Wei Changhui organized a 10,000 strong rebel army and stationed in the town of Jintian
  - In 1853, Hong Xiuquan became suspicious of Yang Xiuqing's ambitions, and executed him, his family and his loyalists
  - He established the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, and was later joined by his cousin Hong Rengan, who gave him considerable power.
  - Their capital was put at Nanjing. Hong successfully took Hangzhou and Suzhou but lost in the battle of Shanghai. They were repulsed by



the Qing and European troops led by Frederick Townsend Word. Qing forces were reorganized under Zeng Guofan and Li Hongzhang, and gained control for most of the places by 1864. Hong Xiuquan defended Nanjing, and passed the “throne” to his son Hong Tianguifu in February 1864, he died of food poisoning in June 1864

- The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom was quickly destroyed by July 1864
- However, the war had not officially ended. More than 100,000 troops continued to fight, taking more than 5 years to put all down. The last Taiping troop led by Li Fuzhong was wiped out in August 1871.
- The rebellion is considered as the largest civil war in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with more than 20,000,000 deaths
- The Miao Rebellion also started in 1854, and put down only in 1873
- Meanwhile in 1856, the Second Opium War broke out. The British and the French won at the end of 1860, resulting in the opening of 10 more ports
- Xianfeng died in 1861, after influence from Empress Dowager Cixi. He was succeeded by his last surviving son, Emperor Tongzhi. He was greatly influenced by Cixi, in fact most of his reign was in fact ruled by Cixi, for he was only 6 when he ascended the throne
- Tongzhi engaged in military modernization, now known as self-strengthening movement. Unfortunately, the process was costly and slow, making 4200 rifles in 1871-1873, and it eventually ended in 1895. Tongzhi died in 1875 after the Second Phase of SSM.
- Emperor Guangxu succeeded him, still under the influence of Empress Dowager Cixi, actually only ruling 1889-1898.
- Guangxu believed in constitutional monarchy and started the 100-day reform, the goals are:
  - Modernizing traditional exam system
  - Elimination of sinecures (positions that provide little work)
  - Creation of a modern education system, study math and science instead of just texts
  - Change the government from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy with democracy
  - Apply principles of capitalism to strengthen the economy
  - Completely changing the military build-up to strengthen the military
  - Rapidly industrialise all of China through manufacturing, commerce and capitalism
- The reform was mainly because of the defeat of China in the Sino-Japanese War of 1895, primarily over the control of Korea. China was defeated and lost the port of Weihaiwei, Korea, Liaoning Peninsula, Taiwan and Penghu Islands to Japan

- Guangxu trusted loyal reform-supporting officials like Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao
- The reform was crushed by conservative officials led by Cixi and put Guangxu under house arrest until his death in 1908
- Taiwan, while under the rule of the Japanese, declared independence on 23 May 1895, shortly before the Japanese's arrival of capture, as the Republic of Formosa on 29 May. The Japanese officially capture Formosa on 21 October 1895
- Guangxu died on 14 November 1908 at the age of 37, one day before Cixi's death, who died at 72
- Emperor Xuantong succeeded him as the last emperor of the Qing Dynasty and the Empire of China, at the age of 2
- More commonly known as Puyi, Emperor Xuantong did not do anything in fact, as his reign ended when he was 6
- The early 20<sup>th</sup> century had so many disorders that Cixi finally called out for reforms, the Late Qing Reform. The abolition of the Imperial Examinations happened in 1905, but the reforms stopped when both Guangxu and Cixi died in 1908, all was too late
- The Wuchang Uprising succeeded on 10 October 1911, leading to the creation of the central government the Republic of China, in Nanjing, headed by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen
- In desperation, the Qing took back Yuan Shikai, who ordered the exile of Prince Zaifeng, Puyi's father. Yuan Shikai dominated the government, and negotiated with Dr. Sun Yat-sen upon the permission of Empress Dowager Longyu to achieve a republic, for constitutional monarchy and democracy, known as the Xinhai Revolution
- Empress Dowager Longyu ordered the abdication of Puyi in 1912
- Yuan Shikai declared President of the Republic of China
- Emperor Xuantong was restored from 1 to 12 July 1917, after which he act as Emperor of Manchukuo, which was founded by Japan, from 1932 until the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1945. Puyi died in 1967
- This ended the 2000-year imperial monarchy reign of China

## Case Study 2 Gupta Dynasty

- Existed from approximately from 320 A.D. To 550 A.D.
- Founded by Maharaja Sri-Gupta, the Gupta Dynasty is known as the Golden Age of India, with remarkable and extensive inventions and discoveries in
  - Science
  - Engineering
  - Logic

- Astronomy
- Technology
- Art
- Literature
- Mathematics
- Philosophy
- The most notable rulers were Chandragupta I, Samudragupta and Chandragupta II
- Strong trade ties also made the region an important cultural centre that will influence other kingdoms like Burma, Sri Lanka, Malay Archipelago and Indochina
- Fa Xian was the first Chinese pilgrim to visit India during Chandragupta II's rule. He visited it in 405 A.D. and found it a prosperous period
- Before the Gupta Dynasty, Shrigupta ruled from c. 240-280 A.D.
- His son Ghatotkacha ruled c. 280-319 A.D. His son Chandragupta I set about to expand his power, conquering much of Magadha, Prayaga and Saketa. He established a realm stretching from the Ganges River to Prayaga (now Allahabad) by 321 A.D. He reigned 319-335 A.D., the first king of the Gupta Dynasty
- Samudragupta succeeded his father, ruling 335-380 A.D. He conquered Ashchhatra and Padmarati early, then attacked the Malwas, Yaudheyas, Arjunayanas, Maduras and Abhiras, all of which he had successfully conquered. At his death in 380, he had over 20 kingdoms under his rule. Samudragupta was both a talented military leader and a great patron of art and literature, a poet and musician and a Hindu
- Ramagupta was said to be the successor of Samudragupta, but was proved unworthy. He was dethroned and took over by his younger brother Chandragupta II. Chandragupta II ruled 380-413 A.D. He extended the kingdom westwards, defeating the Saka Western Kshatrapas of Malwa, Gujarat and Saurashtra in a campaign that lasted until 409. He defeated his main opponent Rudrasimha III in 395, and extended his control from coast to coast, establishing a second capital Ujjain, the high point of the empire.
- Chandragupta II's reign was remembered with a very influential style of Hindu art, literature, culture and science. Panels at the Dashavatara Temple in Deogarh serve to illustrate Gupta art
- The Guptas were supportive of Buddhism and Jain culture as well
- Chandragupta conquered 21 kingdoms outside and inside India, he defeated the Persians, Hunas, Kambojas, then proceeded to put the Himalayas under control
- Kumaragupta I succeeded Chandragupta II and ruled 413-455.

Towards the end, a tribe in Normada valley, the Pushyawitras, rose in power to threaten the empire

- Kumargupta I was an able ruler who retained intact the vast empire. Towards the end, the pushyamitras threatened the Guptas, but he was successful in defeating them and the White Huns
- Skandagupta ruled 455-467, succeeding his father. He defeated the Pushyamitras, then the White Huns, but the Gupta resources were drained. He was succeeded by his half-brother Purugupta, who was generally considered as the last king of the Gupta Dynasty
- Weaker rulers follow the death of Skandagupta in 467, including Purugupta(467-473), Kumaragupta II(473-476), Budhagupta(476-495), Narasimhagupta, Kumaragupta III, Vishnugupta, Vainyagupta and Bhanagupta. In the 480s the Hephthalite King Orah broke the defenses and much of the northwest was overtaken by the Hunas by 500. The Empire disintegrated under the attacks of Toramana and his successor Mihirakula.
- The Hunas conquered Malwa, Gujarat and Thanesar. Narasimhagupta allied with independent kingdoms and drove the Hunas out of most of northern India by the 530s
- Besides the attack of the Hunas, other factors that caused the decline includes competition from the Vakatakas and the rise of Yashadharman in Malwa
- The Gupta Dynasty ended around 550, the death of Vishnugupta
- Gupta Dynasty Developments
  - Medical
  - Ability to conduct operations
  - Defense
  - Accumulated wealth from military conquests
  - Captured gold to mint coins
  - Tribute from vassal states used to establish trade links and expand westwards
  - Mathematics
    - Aryabhatta estimated "pi" to 4 decimal places
    - Algebra developed (zero and infinity were discovered)
    - Symbols 1-9 were created
  - Astronomy
    - Theory - Earth is round not flat
    - Discovered gravity way before Newton
    - Discovered different planets and made horoscopes based on the positions of the planets
  - Paulisa Siddharta invented a rough rule to calculate the lunar and sun eclipses

- Aryabhatta proposed that the length of 1 year is 365.358 days, only 3 hours off from the correct length

### Case Study 3 Indus Valley Civilisation

- Existed 2800-1800 B.C.
- Consisted of bog cities such as Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, port cities like Lothal, and many others
- Located t Pakistan and Northwwestern India
- Over the next 500 years, many food-producing communities sprang up in the valley
- Fixed hierarchy of social classes and specialisation
- Not discovered until the 1920s due to its underground location
- Used Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language, which people still speak and use today
- Cities
  - Mohenjo-daro
    - ◆ Regarded as the capital of Indus Valley due to size of city and more luxurious
    - ◆ Established earlier
  - Lothal
    - ◆ Trading port
    - ◆ Cargo loaded with IVC product leaves the port for trading with Mesopotamia
- Shows signs of communication with other civilisations'
- Origins
  - Begun as early as 2500 B.C. Discovered how to control and re-direct water from the Indus River by building dams
  - Discovered religion and were able to limit damage by the overflowing of the Indus river
  - Damages include water-logged crops, which died
- Writing
  - Archaeologists discovered thousands of stores seals with markings
  - Some form of personal identification to show ownership
  - Unable to decipher writing (lost in translation)
  - this is required as communication is necessary among the people and the Indus people relied on pictograms and symbols
  - The Indus scholars did not write a lot about their history
- Mornarchy leadership (vassal system)
  - Kings were regarded as divin or god-like
  - Kings constantly fought between each other as there were no

- clear borders
- Power is strong at the capital and becomes weaker as distance increase from the capital
- Capital
  - ◆ King's palace
  - ◆ Surrounded by nobles and officials and was the headquarters for the ministers
- Inner provinces
  - ◆ Controlled by governor
  - ◆ He reports to the king and maintain law and order
- Outer provinces
  - ◆ Governors may have to share power with local kings
  - ◆ Overlord made tours to show himself to the people
- Border zones
  - ◆ King's power overlaps with neighbourhood king
  - ◆ Citizens could choose which king they wanted to show loyalty to
- Religion
  - Discovery of temple ruins tell us that the people worshipped Mother Goddess, a symbol of nature
  - Animism(sacrifice of animals)
  - Worshipped animals with power, such as birds, tigers and elephants
- Barter trade
  - No use of money
  - Exchange of goods and services of negotiations by both parties without the exchange of any money
  - Wide range of jewellery and other objects were produced by the Indus craftsmen and the seaports which were well-equipped with docks were used to load the goods onto the boats
  - Trader engaged in barter trade between Indus and Mesopotamian and Egypt through Lothal
- Social system and labour specialisation
  - Created such that people could specialise in the different jobs and each level consisted of people with a similar occupation
  - Originally, the caste system in India was not as rigid
    - ◆ No rules regarding behaviour of class
    - ◆ Can marry people of higher classes
    - ◆ Can move from one class to another
  - However, as time went by, the caste system became more rigid and when one was born into a particular caste, he/she would most probably remain in that caste for the rest of his life.

- Ranks - Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya, Shudras and Untouchables (see social hierarchy above)
- How would there be a constant “supply” of Brahmins if people are only allowed to marry the people of the same caste?
  - ◆ Adopt orphans
  - ◆ Sons of nobles (Kshatriyas)
- First son in family usually gets most land from ancestors
- Cities
  - Lived in well constructed cities
  - Laid out in grid-like pattern, one main road horizontally and one vertically with streets branching out
  - Perimeter of city: 5 km excluding citadel and lower residential area
  - Settle between fertile Deccan Plain and Himalaya mountains
  - Roads - more trade between cities
  - Streets of Monhejo-daro had a wide avenue of about 9m wide running through the city, while narrower streets crossed the main avenue at regular intervals
  - The city spread over an area of 2.5km<sup>2</sup> set out in a rectangular block
- Houses
  - Flat roofs made of dried plants
  - Made up of single storey or two storeys
  - The back of the house faced the main streets and had no doors or windows
  - One enters the house through a narrow back lane which opened out into a courtyard
  - Built partially underground to keep cool during the day (constructed with clay)
  - Some have wells and toilets
  - City wells provide water and sewage system carries water away from the toilets
  - These drains even had inspection holes at intervals
  - The poorer people lived in houses with two rooms
  - Bathing platform fitted with symmetrical lined with flat bricks
  - These mud houses had roofs made of thatch
  - Mudbricks is one of the most striking features of the IVC
  - Large comfortable houses and shops made of mudbricks lined the streets nearby
  - Smaller catchment area at one side of the platform (prevents overflow)
  - Holes as toilets (obviously detected due to the presence of)



- ammonia)
  - They discovered mathematics and knew how to measure in order to get the same size of stones to build houses and structures
  - They also knew trigonometrics which helped them to make straight streets
- Citadel
  - Built on higher ground due to better defense position
  - People not to discuss about the economy and trade
  - Priest speaks from here as well
- Great Bath
  - 2m deep, 7m wide, 12m long
  - Surrounded by pillars
  - Water ascend through well in one of the rooms (pumps were able to transport water to a higher location)
- Piping system
  - One pipe to provide fresh water from the Indus River
  - Another pipe carries the sewage away
  - Small channels from houses running into middle channels which an into big channels and finally into a main pipe that transport water out of the city
- Clothing
  - First people to wear cotton clothes
  - Men wore a cotton shirt and loin cloth around their waist
  - Women wore a loosely made cotton shirt and sandals
  - Adorned themselves with jewellery
- Defense
  - Indian peninsular has a good defense position (mountains in the north)
  - Unable to enter unless enemy uses Khyber Pass
  - Route of escape east towards Ganges Delta
- Art and Craft
  - Practised the division of labour
  - 20% of the people who were farmers were artisans
  - Discovered pottery, copper vase, bronze figurines etc
- Agriculture
  - They grew barley, wheat and cotton
  - These can be traded at Lothal, the port
- Decline
  - 1500 B.C., begin of the decline and Mohenjo-Daro was abandoned in 1200 B.C., Harappa soon after
  - Theories of the decline
    - ◆ Aryan invasion



- Aryans may not have invaded Indus Valley but might have indirectly sped up its decline
- They had horses for transport and war
- Kept sheeps/goats for food
- Entered India in small bands during the decline of the IVC
- Settled on the Ganges Plain and lived with some of the IV people who moved there
- No sign of decay of the bodies
- ◆ Natural disasters
  - Could have been floods which destroyed irrigation system
  - Mosquitoes (outbreak of malaria)
  - Tectonic shift resulting in the creation of a dam and the flooding of the lower IV plains
  - Decrease in rain in the area, causing drought
- ◆ Radiation
  - Skeletons were radioactive (on par with the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings)

## Case Study 4 Pre-Shang and Shang Dynasty

- The Xia Dynasty was considered mythical until excavation at Erlitou (Henan) in 1959
- Written records were found but no evidence to verify it existed in that period
- Bronze (copper+tin) was used for weapons
- Fuxi
  - First of 3 Emperors of the Xia Dynasty
  - Reported to be the inventor of writing, fishing and trapping
  - Domesticated animals and invented family
- Shennong
  - The divine farmer taught the Chinese the practices of agriculture
  - Supposed friend and fellow scholar of Huang Di
- Youchao
  - Inventor of houses and buildings (or so as they say)
  - One of the 3 August Ones
- Yellow Emperor / Huang Di
  - Sovereign and cultural hero
  - Founded the Chinese civilisation
  - Great Emperor who improved the quality of life
- Emperor Yao
  - Kind Emperor

- Did not pass throne to son, but instead asked ministers to find an able man to become the Emperor
- The ministers recommended Shun
- After years of investigation and testing, Yao retired and announced to pass the throne to Shun
- Emperor Shun
  - Able Emperor
  - On the death of Emperor Yao, he gave the throne to the son of Yao
  - The citizens however, objected to the idea
  - Son of Yao eventually gave the throne back to Shun
  - Also did not pass the throne to his son
  - Instead, he passed it to Yu, who was an able leader who led the campaign in re-directing the waters to the sea after years of constant flooding that flooded farms
  - Yu's father, Gun, was assigned to do the job earlier but failed. Shun executed him and gave the job to his son, who did the job brilliantly
- Emperor Yu
  - Renamed the kingdom the Xia Dynasty
  - Digging channels along with thousands of volunteers to stop the flooding
- Shang Dynasty