

**In developing your answer , be sure to keep this general definition in  
 discuss means "to make observations about something using facts,  
 reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail"**

**DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION**

**This question is based on the accompanying documents. It is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.**

**Historical Context:**

Around 3500 B.C. in southwestern Asia the first of the River Valley Civilizations began. The ancient River Valley Civilizations of Egypt, China, and Mesopotamia all made key contributions to future societies.

**Task:**

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to:

- **Discuss and describe two contributions from each of the River Valley Civilizations that influenced future civilizations.**

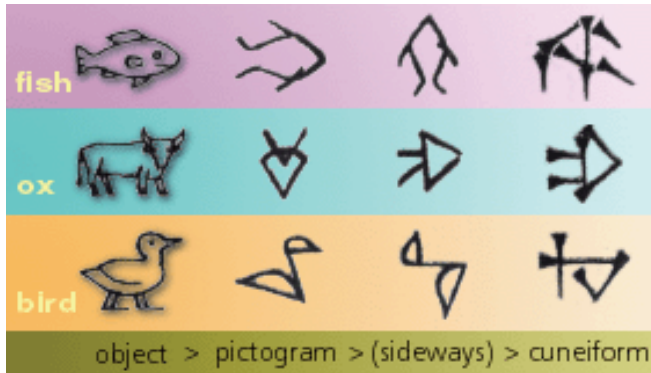
**Box Outline**

Task	Documents

Brainstorm Outside Information Here.

**Document 1.**

Sumerians created cuneiform script over 5000 years ago. It was the world's first written language. Sumerians invented this writing system to keep track of business dealings because they traded with people who lived in lands that were hundreds and even thousands of miles away. Writing was a giant leap forward in the development of civilization. People kept records and new ideas were now able to be passed easily from generation to generation. Cuneiform was written on clay tablets, and then baked hard in a kiln.



1. What was cuneiform and who invented it? [1]

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2. List three ways the Sumerians made use of cuneiform. [3]

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**Document 2.**

In 1754 B.C., Hammurabi conquered and united all the cities of Mesopotamia under his rule. Although he was a brutal warrior, his greatest achievement was his code of laws, which he had engraved on a towering stone monument. Hammurabi’s Code was not the first, but it was the most complete set of laws that has survived. It is important because it created a set of rules that helped to govern a civilization while trying to protect people even if they had little political power. It called for different punishments based on the class of the lawbreaker and the victim of the crime. In the Code, punishments often fit the crime by demanding and “eye for and eye” or a “tooth for a tooth”. The following are three of the 282 laws in the Code of Hammurabi.

- 229.If a builder build a house for some one, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built fall in and kill its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.
- 230.If it kill the son of the owner the son of that builder shall be put to death.
- 231.If it kill a slave of the owner, then he shall pay slave for slave to the owner of the house.



1. What is the most important idea created by Hammurabi’s Code? [1]

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2. How were punishments different between people under Hammurabi’s Code? [1]

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**Document 3.**

Egyptian kings in the Old Kingdom are best known for the huge structures they built, pyramids. These large stone buildings served as houses or tombs for the dead kings. In order to build pyramids the Egyptians needed to learn the specialized skills of mathematics, geometry, engineering, and architecture.



1. Who built the pyramids of Egypt and what were they used for? [1]

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2. What specialized skills were needed to build the pyramids? [1]

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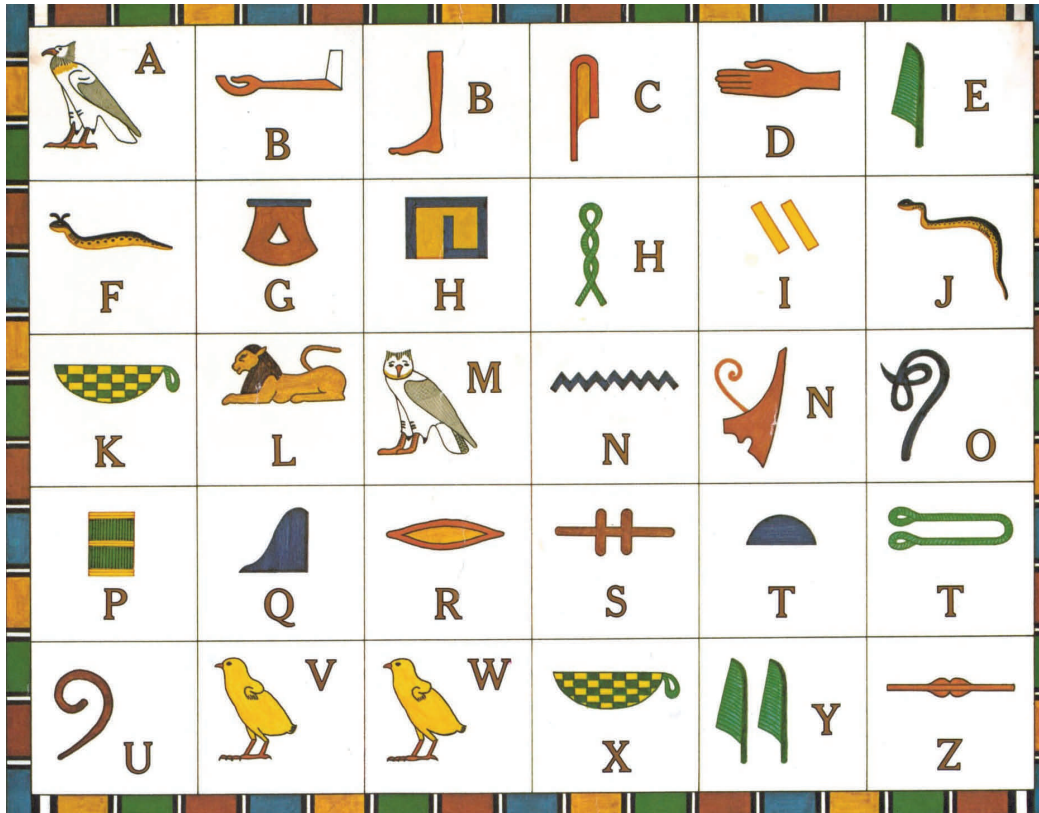
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**Document 4.**

We know about the pharaohs of ancient Egypt because of the written records that were left. These records were kept in hieroglyphics, a system of writing that was based on pictures. Unlike Sumerian cuneiform writing, hieroglyphics represented ideas or objects but could also stand for sounds. They could be carved into clay or stone but could also be written onto papyrus, the first paper which was developed by the Egyptians which made it easier to keep records.



1. What was hieroglyphics and who invented it? [1]

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2. How was hieroglyphics different from cuneiform? [1]

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3. What invention did Egyptians develop which made keeping records in hieroglyphics easier? [1]

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**Document 5.**

In China, Confucius wrote down his philosophy which explained how people should live their lives. Confucianism teaches that each person should accept his or her role in society. Confucianism became the basis for order and respect and was central in governing China. The relationships and teachings of Confucius were studied for “civil service” exams. These exams were taken by Chinese citizens in hopes of scoring well and getting a good paying job in the Chinese government.

Central to Confucius' teaching are relationships and social roles. There are five great relationships:

1. Kindness in the father and obedience in the son
2. Kindness in the older brother and respect by the younger brother
3. Good behavior by the husband and respect by the wife
4. Gentle respect by seniors and admiration and respect for them by young people
5. Generosity by rulers and loyalty to the ruler by their subjects

If these attitudes are practiced there will be harmony among all.

1. What is Confucianism? [1]

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2. Explain two reasons why people studied Confucianism in China ? [2]

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3. What did Confucius teach was the proper relationship between rulers and their subjects? [1]

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**Document 6.**

Many inventions were made during the Han dynasty of China which contributed to its culture and led to trade with other civilizations. China invented porcelain, paper, ink and gunpowder (which was used in fireworks). China traded these goods along a trade route they developed called the *Silk Road* which helped to create wealth and prosperity in China. Trade along the Silk Road led to *cultural diffusion* or the spread of ideas and inventions amongst peoples. Cultural diffusion led to great progress for China and other civilizations as ideas and inventions spread and led to advances in many societies throughout the world.



1. What were three of the most important inventions of early Chinese civilization? [3]

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2. How did China use these inventions to help it develop wealth and prosperity? [1]

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3. How did the Silk Road help to create advances throughout the world? [1]

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## Part B

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least four* documents to support your response. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

### Historical Context:

Around 3500 B.C. in southwestern Asia the first of the River Valley Civilizations began. The ancient River Valley Civilizations of Egypt, China, and Mesopotamia all made key contributions to future societies.

### Task:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to:

- **Discuss and describe two contributions from each of the River Valley Civilizations that influenced future civilizations.**

### Guidelines:

**In your essay, be sure to**

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least four* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a