

AP World History Summer Assignment

The purpose of the summer assignment for AP World History (WHAP) is twofold. The first is to prepare you for the type of homework assignment you will see during the school year and to get you accustomed to the textbook. The second is to spread out the first unit of the course so that you are not buried in WHAP homework the first three weeks of the school year.

The expectations for WHAP assignments are much greater than you will have experienced in your previous classes (even if you have already taken AP courses before). Your answers **MAY NOT** be copied directly from the book, instead they must be paraphrased (**USE YOUR OWN WORDS**). Since we will be submitting your assignments to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) to check for plagiarism, you should type your answers and be able to submit them by email or on disk. If you do not have a computer at home, you should **handwrite** your assignment. You will be given extra time to type it at school. Typical answers are between **one-half and one full page single-spaced typed**. You should type (or copy and paste from this form) the question before writing the answer.

You are expected to have a **thesis statement** at the beginning of each of your answers. A typical thesis statement is between one to four consecutive sentences (no split theses please) that provides your argument to all parts of the questions. It should be the first paragraph of your essay. Do not simply restate the question in the thesis. Almost every question asks “how” or “why.” Your thesis statement must therefore address “how” or “why.” All paragraphs after the first one should contain **SFI**, specific factual information, that supports all arguments you make in the thesis.

Your answers should tie in not only specific ideas but also the larger picture. Remember, in AP World History we are looking for themes and generalities, so your answers should reflect this type of thinking.

If you have any questions or are unsure as to whether or not you are on the right track, please stop by to see Mr. Sakole or Mr. Cox. You may also email us at the following email addresses:

Mr. Cox – Phil.Cox@fcps.edu

Mr. Sakole – Thomas.Sakole@fcps.edu

The following assignment is due on September 10 and 11:

Read Bulliet, Chapters 1 and 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Trace the development of agriculture. How was it invented? By whom? How did it change the lifestyles of the people who practiced it? Did it spread, or was it reinvented in different regions of the world? Why did farming become the dominant lifestyle of the people in the world?
2. How did Egypt’s geography and climate influence religion and the outlook of the people? How did climatic events taking place from the fifth to the third millennium BCE affect the growth of Egyptian civilization?
3. Discuss some of the possible reasons for the decline and fall of the Indus civilization. Which theory or theories seem the most plausible to historians and why?
4. Compare and contrast trade in the Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Indus civilizations. How much trade was going on? How was it carried out and with whom? How important was it in each society?
5. Why did China develop independently from western Eurasia? (Short answer: Thesis plus a couple of sentences of SFI)

The following assignment is due on September 14 and 15:

Read Bulliet, Chapters 3 and 4. Answer the following questions:

1. Discuss women's role in Athens. What status did they have? How did their lives compare with those of Spartan women?
2. Compare and contrast (what are the similarities and differences) Greek and Persian civilizations. What cultural traits, religious beliefs and social organizations separated them? Which of these attributes did they share?
3. Discuss the effect of the physical environment on Persia and Greece. What aspects of the geography and climate influenced the development of their societies?
4. Discuss the legacy of Greece and Persia. What effect did they have on their neighbors and on their descendants?

The following assignment is due on September 16 and 17:

Read Bulliet, Chapters 5 and 6. Answer the following questions:

1. Compare and contrast (what are the similarities and differences) the role and status of women in Han China and Rome. How did women's situation there compare to that in China in earlier times and with the situation of Mediterranean women?
2. Compare and contrast the empires of Rome and Han China. How were they structured? What methods did they use to keep order and gain prosperity? How successful were they? What weaknesses eventually led to their downfall?
3. Discuss Indian diversity. What groups make up Indian society? Is this diversity a drawback or an advantage? Explain your answer. How does the diversity of India relate to the great proliferation of gods, sects and local practices in Hinduism?