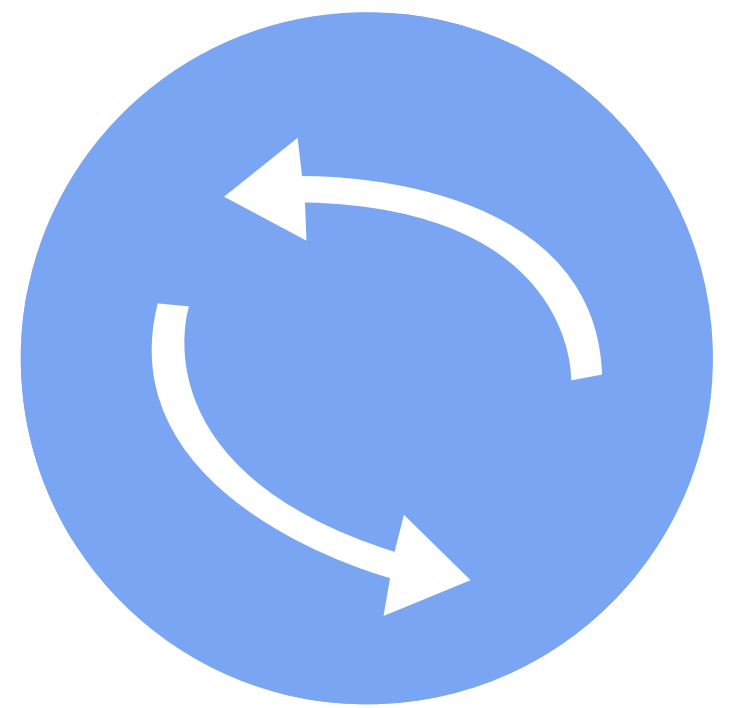


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MHI-101

SOLVED MOST
REPEATED
QUESTIONS



Curated List of 30 Questions
that are seen to be repeated
frequently in the examinations.

By FarLearner.com

MHI-101 Most Repeated Questions

1 . Analyse the beginning of agriculture in different regions of the world.

Found in June 2021 (1) , June 2022 (1)

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The beginning of agriculture represents one of the most transformative developments in human history, often described as the Neolithic Revolution. It marked a decisive shift from a nomadic hunter-gatherer mode of life to settled agricultural communities. This transition did not occur simultaneously across the globe; instead, it emerged independently in several regions, shaped by local environmental conditions, available flora and fauna, and human innovation.

The earliest evidence of agriculture is found in the Fertile Crescent, encompassing regions of modern-day Iraq, Syria, and Palestine, around 10,000 BCE. Here, favorable climatic changes after the last Ice Age enabled the domestication of wheat, barley, and lentils. Permanent settlements such as Jericho and Catalhöyük illustrate how agriculture encouraged sedentary life, population growth, and social organization. Similarly, in China, agriculture developed independently with the cultivation of rice in the Yangtze River basin and millet in the Yellow River valley. These developments demonstrate how early agricultural practices were closely tied to regional ecological conditions.

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In the Indian subcontinent, agriculture began around 7000 BCE at sites like Mehrgarh, where wheat, barley, and cattle domestication were prominent. Over time, these practices contributed to the emergence of the Indus Valley Civilization. In Africa, agriculture developed in the Nile Valley with crops like emmer wheat and barley, while sub-Saharan regions saw the domestication of sorghum, millet, and yams. Notably, pastoralism often preceded settled farming in parts of Africa, reflecting adaptation to diverse landscapes.

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In the Americas, agriculture emerged independently in Mesoamerica and the Andean region. Crops such as maize, beans, squash, and potatoes were domesticated without influence from the Old World. These developments highlight the universality of agricultural innovation, despite geographical isolation. Each region followed its own trajectory, shaped by local needs and resources.

Several factors contributed to the beginnings of agriculture. Climatic stability after the Ice Age created favorable conditions for plant growth. Population pressure may have encouraged communities to seek more reliable food sources. Human experimentation with plant cultivation and animal domestication gradually led to systematic farming practices. Technological innovations, such as improved tools and storage methods, further

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supported this transition.

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The adoption of agriculture had profound consequences. It led to food surplus, which enabled population expansion and the division of labor. This, in turn, facilitated the rise of social hierarchies, trade networks, and early forms of governance. However, it also introduced challenges such as environmental degradation, disease, and social inequality.

All things considered, the beginning of agriculture was not a single, uniform event but a complex, region-specific process driven by human adaptability and environmental opportunities. Its emergence laid the foundation for civilization, fundamentally reshaping human society and setting the stage for subsequent historical developments.

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2 . Discuss the characteristic features of bronze age societies. How did these empires decline?

Found in Dec 2023 (2) , Feb 2021 (2)

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The Bronze Age, broadly spanning from around 3000 BCE to 1200 BCE, represents a crucial phase in the development of early civilizations. It is defined by the widespread use of bronze—an alloy of copper and tin—which significantly improved tools, weapons, and craft production. During this period, major civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and early Chinese states emerged, displaying advanced social, political, and economic structures.

One of the most striking features of Bronze Age societies was the growth of urban centers. Cities like Ur, Mohenjodaro, and Thebes became hubs of administration, trade, and culture. These cities were often planned, with organized streets, drainage systems, and specialized zones for habitation and industry. Urbanization reflected not only population growth but also the increasing complexity of social and economic life.

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Another defining characteristic was the emergence of centralized political authority. Most Bronze Age societies were ruled by kings or monarchs who exercised control

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over territories and resources. These rulers often derived legitimacy from religion, presenting themselves as divine or semi-divine figures. The close relationship between religion and governance was evident in the construction of temples, pyramids, and other monumental structures that symbolized both political power and religious devotion.

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Economic specialization and long-distance trade also marked this era. The production of bronze required access to both copper and tin, resources not always available locally. As a result, extensive trade networks developed, linking distant regions. Merchants exchanged metals, textiles, pottery, and luxury goods, fostering economic interdependence. Craft specialization became more pronounced, with artisans, metalworkers, and traders forming distinct occupational groups.

Social stratification was another key feature. Bronze Age societies were hierarchically organized, with clear divisions between elites, priests, merchants, artisans, and laborers. Slavery or bonded labor was common, particularly in large construction projects and agricultural activities. Writing systems such as cuneiform in Mesopotamia and hieroglyphics in Egypt emerged during this period,

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facilitating administration, record-keeping, and cultural expression.

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Despite their sophistication, Bronze Age empires experienced a significant decline around 1200 BCE, often referred to as the “Bronze Age Collapse.” This decline was not caused by a single factor but rather a combination of interconnected causes. Environmental changes, including prolonged droughts and climate shifts, severely affected agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and social unrest.

Invasions and migrations also played a critical role. Groups such as the “Sea Peoples” attacked and destabilized established kingdoms in the eastern Mediterranean. These invasions disrupted political structures and trade networks, weakening already vulnerable states. Internal conflicts, rebellions, and administrative failures further contributed to the breakdown of centralized authority.

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Another crucial factor was the collapse of long-distance trade. Since bronze production depended on the availability of tin, the disruption of trade routes led to a shortage of essential materials. This economic dislocation undermined production systems and contributed to technological transition,

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as societies gradually shifted toward the use of iron.

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From this perspective, Bronze Age societies were highly advanced yet deeply interconnected systems, making them vulnerable to cascading failures. Their decline illustrates how environmental stress, external invasions, and economic disruptions can collectively lead to the سقوط of even the most sophisticated civilizations.

3 . Give a comparative account of slavery and role of slaves in ancient Greek and Roman societies.

Found in Dec 2023 (3) , Feb 2021 (3)

Slavery was a fundamental institution in both ancient Greek and Roman societies, forming the backbone of their economic, social, and even cultural systems. While both civilizations depended heavily on slave labor, there were notable differences in scale, organization, and social implications, reflecting their distinct historical contexts and economic structures.

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In ancient Greece, especially in city-states like Athens, slavery was widespread but relatively less systematized compared to Rome. Slaves were typically acquired

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through war, piracy, or trade, and they performed a variety of roles including domestic service, agriculture, mining, and craftsmanship. A significant number worked in the silver mines of Laurion under harsh conditions. However, many household slaves lived comparatively better lives and could develop close personal relationships with their masters. In some cases, Greek slaves could earn wages and even purchase their freedom, indicating a limited scope for social mobility.

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Greek society, however, firmly excluded slaves from political life. Democracy in Athens was built on the labor of slaves, yet they had no rights or recognition as citizens. Philosophers like Aristotle justified slavery as a natural institution, arguing that some people were inherently suited to serve others. Despite this ideological acceptance, the Greek system was not entirely rigid, and the integration of slaves into society often softened the institution's harshness.

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In contrast, Roman slavery was more extensive, highly organized, and central to the functioning of the empire. The expansion of the Roman Empire brought a massive influx of slaves, who were used for labor in agriculture and mining. Large estates known as latifundia relied heavily on slave labor for

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4 . Give a brief account of the spread of Christianity in Europe. What was the attitude of the Roman State towards it?

Found in Dec 2022 (4) , Feb 2021 (4)

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Christianity originated in the 1st century CE in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire and gradually spread across Europe, becoming one of the most influential religions in world history. Its expansion was shaped by missionary efforts, social appeal, and eventually, state support, but its early relationship with the Roman State was marked by suspicion and persecution.

The initial spread of Christianity was largely due to the efforts of apostles such as Saint Paul, who traveled extensively across the Roman Empire, establishing Christian communities in cities like Antioch, Corinth, and Rome. The religion attracted the poor, slaves, and marginalized groups because it emphasized equality, brotherly love, and compassion. Its monotheistic belief system and ethical teachings

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distinguished it from the polytheistic traditions of Rome. Despite its appeal, Christianity faced strong opposition from the Roman State in its early phases. Romans viewed the refusal of Christians to worship the emperor and traditional gods as a threat to political unity and social order. As a result, Christians were often persecuted, especially under emperors like Nero, Decius, and Diocletian. They were accused of disloyalty, atheism, and even subversive activities, leading to executions and public punishments.

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However, the attitude of the Roman State began to change in the 4th century CE. A turning point came with Emperor Constantine, who issued the Edict of Milan in 313 CE, granting religious tolerance to Christians. Constantine's support not only legitimized Christianity but also provided it with imperial patronage. Churches were built, and Christianity began to integrate with state structures.

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The transformation was completed under Emperor Theodosius I, who declared Christianity the official state religion in 380 CE. This led to the promotion of Christianity in Europe through organized Church institutions, missionary activities, and the support of rulers.

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5. Write short notes on: Domestication of animals.

Found in Dec 2023 (5 i) , Dec 2022 (5 c) , June 2024 (5 d) ,
Feb 2021 (1)

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Domestication of animals was a crucial development of the Neolithic period, marking a major transition from hunting and gathering to a more stable and productive food economy. It refers to the process by which humans tamed, bred, and managed wild animals for their benefit, leading to permanent changes in both animal behavior and human lifestyles.

The earliest domesticated animal was the dog, likely used for hunting and protection. This was followed by sheep,

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6 . Write short notes on: Aztec Civilization.

Found in Dec 2023 (5 iii) , Dec 2024 (4) , June 2021 (10 iv) , June 2022 (5 b)

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The Aztec Civilization was one of the most advanced pre-Columbian societies in Mesoamerica, flourishing between the 14th and early 16th centuries CE in present-day Mexico. Its capital, Tenochtitlan, located on an island in Lake Texcoco, was a remarkable urban center known for its planned layout, canals, and impressive architecture, including temples and pyramids.

The Aztecs developed a strong political system based on a powerful monarchy supported by nobles, priests, and military leaders. Society was highly stratified, with clear divisions between elites, commoners, serfs, and slaves.

The economy was primarily based on agriculture, especially in the form of floating gardens (chinampas), which allowed intensive cultivation of crops like maize, beans, and squash.

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Religion played a central role in Aztec life, characterized by polytheism and human sacrifices. The sun god Huitzilopochtli was particularly important, believed to maintain cosmic order. The Aztecs also made advancements in astronomy, calendar systems, and art.

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7 . Write short notes on: Nomadic empires.

Found in Dec 2023 (5 iv) , June 2021 (5 iv) , Feb 2021 (10 c)

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Nomadic empires were large political entities established by pastoral, mobile communities that relied primarily on herding rather than settled agriculture. These empires emerged mainly in the steppe regions of Central Asia, where harsh environmental conditions made sedentary farming difficult.

Nomadic societies were organized around clans and tribes,

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8 . Discuss various theories of decline of Feudalism in Europe.

Found in Dec 2023 (6) , June 2022 (6)

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Feudalism, which dominated medieval Europe between the 9th and 13th centuries, was a socio-economic and political system based on land ownership, hierarchical obligations, and agrarian production. Its decline was gradual and multifaceted, and historians have proposed various theories to explain this transformation, emphasizing economic, social, political, and ideological factors.

One major theory highlights the role of economic changes. The revival of trade and growth of towns from the 12th century onwards weakened the self-sufficient manorial economy. The expansion of markets encouraged monetization and the emergence of money rents. This reduced the dependence of lords on serf labor and allowed them to lease land to a more dynamic merchant class further challenged feudal structures by promoting a more dynamic economic order.

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Another factor was the demographic crisis of the 14th century. The massive decline in population led to a

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shortage of labor, enabling peasants to demand better wages and conditions. This weakened the control of feudal lords over serfs and contributed significantly to the erosion of the manorial system. Peasant revolts, such as the English Peasants' Revolt of 1381, further illustrate growing resistance against feudal oppression.

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Political centralization also played a crucial role in the decline of feudalism. The rise of strong monarchies in countries like France and England reduced the power of feudal lords. Kings began to establish centralized administrative systems and standing armies, diminishing the military importance of feudal knights. This shift from feudal fragmentation to centralized authority marked a significant transformation in governance.

Technological and military changes also contributed to feudalism's decline. The development of new weapons such as gunpowder and longbows reduced the dominance of heavy knights. Similarly, the use of tools of feudal power, became less effective against artillery. These developments altered the nature of warfare and reduced the military value of knights.

Some historians also point to social and legal changes. The growth of Roman law, the influence of the

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Church, and the emergence of new ideas about rights and governance gradually undermined the traditional feudal order. The increasing importance of contracts and legal frameworks replaced personal bonds of loyalty.

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All things considered, the decline of feudalism was not due to a single cause but resulted from a combination of economic transformation, demographic shifts, political centralization, and technological innovation. These interconnected processes paved the way for the emergence of modern European states and capitalist economies.

9 . Analyze the factors responsible for changes in demography in medieval Europe.

Found in Dec 2023 (7) , June 2021 (9)

The demographic patterns of medieval Europe underwent significant changes between the 10th and 15th centuries, marked by periods of population growth, stagnation, and decline. These changes were influenced by a complex interplay of economic, environmental, social, and health-related factors.

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In the early medieval period, Europe experienced population growth due to agricultural expansion and

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technological improvements. Innovations such as the heavy plough, three-field system, and better crop rotation increased agricultural productivity. As food supply improved, mortality rates declined, leading to population expansion. The clearing of forests and expansion of arable land also supported growing populations.

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However, this growth was not sustained indefinitely. One of the most significant factors affecting medieval demography was the outbreak of the Black Death in the mid-14th century. This devastating pandemic, caused by the plague, resulted in the death of nearly one-third of Europe's population. The sudden and massive loss of life had profound social and economic consequences, including labor shortages and shifts in settlement patterns.

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10 . Analyze the Portuguese trade in the Indian ocean and what led to its decline.

Found in Dec 2022 (7) , June 2021 (7)

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The Portuguese entry into the Indian Ocean in the late 15th century marked a turning point in global trade. Following Vasco da Gama's voyage to India in 1498, Portugal established a maritime empire aimed at controlling the lucrative spice trade. This expansion introduced a new model of trade based on naval power and strategic dominance rather than traditional commercial networks.

The Portuguese established a network of fortified trading posts known as feitorias along key coastal locations, including Goa, Malacca, and Hormuz. These bases enabled them to control major sea routes and impose a system of permits for trade. By using superior naval technology and armed forces, they monopolized the spice trade, particularly in commodities like pepper, cloves, and cinnamon.

Unlike traditional merchants, the Portuguese used their naval force to dominate trade. They disrupted existing networks and

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