

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course

Date

### Art Questions

1. What are the distinguishing characteristics of a civilization?

Art, technology, stable food supply, writing, and religion are among the distinguishing characteristics of every civilization. Government and social structure determine the relations between the citizens. Religion tells everyone what to do in everyday life. It regulates the relationships and provides the rules of coexistence. Religious beliefs are the basis for traditions and customs. Technology provides the opportunities to make the life of people easier and more comfortable. Writing is one of the ways of communication. It is also the way to record historical facts and pass them throughout generations. The arts include weapons, buildings, everyday objects, music, monuments, and drawings.

2. What and where were the first four famous civilizations?

A huge amount of evidence presents the information about great civilizations of the past dated by the third and fourth millennium B.C. Ancient Egypt, Ancient India, The Shang dynasty of China and Mesopotamia were the first four civilizations. Mesopotamia was situated between the Tigris and the Euphrates in 3500 B.C. The Sumerians and the Akkadians, who lived in Mesopotamia, had a code of laws that regulated the relations and was created to protect the weak and the poor. Ancient Egypt started in 3150 B.C. along the Nile. Three different social classes developed in the community. The main value of all the citizens was family life. Ancient India developed in 2650 B.C. in Southern Asia. Indians and Hindus created their own religion

Hinduism. The Shang Dynasty of China began in the 16th century B.C. in Asia. The main value was family and peaceful coexistence with nature. Chinese people followed Chinese Folk as the basis for religion, traditions and customs.

3. What was the primary function of visual art in these civilizations?

Sumerian art and Mesopotamian sculptures are the oldest examples of visual art. Sumerian visual art, that included statues and paintings of gods, reflected the basic role of religion in early civilizations. At the time, the main role of art was to serve as an instrument or a frame for ceremonies and religious rituals. In addition, visual art represented the scenes of everyday life. People even decorated household items with its help. Visual art also served as the way of commemoration of important events in the lives of ancient people. Moreover, or the first civilizations, visual art was a mean of storytelling. However, the stories of ancient people mainly focused on such topics as their traditions and beliefs.