APWH Chapter 3 Reading Guide Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Classical Civilization: India

1. Which group laid the foundation for India’s classical civilizations? Were they from within or outside of India? What was a Brahman?

*The Frameworkd for Indian History: Geography and a Formative Period*

1. In what ways were India and China similar, due to both being agricultural societies?
2. How did India’s location affect its interactions with neighboring societies?
3. How did India’s geographic features influence its political structure and overall unity? In what ways did India’s geography affect its diversity?
4. What are monsoons?
5. From where did the Aryans migrate? What is Sanskrit? What are Vedas?
6. What probably triggered the development of the caste system?
7. Who are untouchables? Why didn’t anyone else associate with them?
8. What determined the class to which one belonged? What happened if someone tried to marry someone else from another caste?

*Patterns in Classical India*

1. What was the first classical Indian dynasty? What did the first rulers of this dynasty achieve?
2. What religion did Ashoka, the most famous Mauryan leader, adopt? How did this influence his ruling style?
3. Define dharma and explain it in your own words.
4. For what achievement is the Gupta empire remembered? Who defeated the Gupta empire?

*Political Institutions*

1. How did classical India’s overall political features fundamentally differ from China, Greece and Rome?
2. What did the caste system accomplish for India that more conventional government structures did in other classical societies? From what caste did most rulers arise?
3. In what way did the caste system *promote* tolerance?

*Religion and Culture*

1. How was Hinduism the “cultural cement”(glue) of Indian society?
2. From what religion did Hinduism originate? How did the lack of a single founder influence its development?
3. What ultimately is the Hindu’s goal in life?

1. What are the main reasons Hinduism attract so many adherents?
2. What aspects of Hinduism did Buddha embrace, and what aspects did he reject? Why, according to Buddha, were priests unnecessary?
3. For what mathematical developments is classical India best known?

*Economy and Society*

1. While life was difficult for Indian women, in what ways were they shown respect by their spouses? How did Indian culture reflect a level of respect for women?
2. How did classical India compare to China regarding technological sophistication? For what technological developments was India primarily known?
3. How did India’s level of trade compare with other classical societies? How were merchants viewed?

*Indian Influence and Comparative Features*

1. What were the two most active linkage points in the classical era? How did this affect India’s influence on other regions? What did China borrow from India by the end of the classical era?
2. Compare and contrast China and India in the following areas:

* “glue:”
* social rigidity:
* merchant activity:
* openness to outside influences:
* influential in cross-cultural exchanges

*The Pattern of Trade in the Ancient Eurasian World*

1. During the classical era, what types of products traversed the entire length of this network? What types of goods were traded between neighboring regions? Were most merchants traveling long distances or short “legs” of this trading network?
2. What type of textile became a popular Indian export?