APWH: Chapter 5 Reading Guide Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Classical Period: Directions, Diversities,

and Declines by 500 C.E.

1. What are the two basic themes of the 3 great classical civilizations?

*Expansion and Integration*

1. In your own words, explain why so many philosophers and key religious figures arose in the classical era.
2. What strategies did the Roman Empire employ to unite their expanding territories?

*Beyond the Classical Civilizations*

1. How and why was Southeast Asia influenced by India?
2. What civilization emerged in Central America in the classical era? What civilization would dominate this region by the end of the classical era?
3. In what fundamental ways did nomadic peoples influence developments among and within civilizations in this era?

*Decline in China and India*

1. What factors contributed to the decline among all 3 major classical civilizations?
2. What main overall factors (*not* specific events) led to Han China’s decline?
3. What type of government replaced the Gupta Empire?

*Decline and Fall in Rome*

1. What symptoms indicated that the Roman Empire was in decline?
2. How did Emperor Constantine try to save the empire? To what extent were these measures effective?
3. What nomadic people defeated the western Roman Empire?
4. Why was the collapse of the Roman Empire “a more serious affair” than the decline of classical China and India?
5. What happened to the eastern half of the Roman Empire? Why?
6. Describe the state of the western half of the Roman Empire after it fell.

*The New Religious Map*

1. What is *syncretism*?
2. Why didn’t Confucian leaders approve of Buddhism’s rising influence in China?
3. Where did Buddhism become a prominent religion?
4. What are the main beliefs of Christianity? Why did the message of Christianity find so many converts, including among the poor and women?
5. What is meant by a “world religion?”
6. What would happen to the influence of the centers of classical civilizations in the next eras?