APWH Chapter 7 Reading Guide Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Abbasid Decline, Spread of Islamic Civilization to Southeast Asia

1. What is a *dhow*, and what advantages did it provide over other merchant vessels?
2. Besides Islam, what other elements of Muslim empires were diffused by merchants and missionaries?

*The Islamic Heartlands in the Middle and Late Abbasid Eras*

1. What general patterns and developments contributed to the decline of the Abbasid dynasty?
2. What new developments in the Abbasid dynasty contributed toward women’s declining rights and roles? Using another source, define concubine.
3. Why was there an increase in demand for slaves in the Abbasid dynasty? How were the slaves procured?
4. How were slaves treated compared to upper class women?
5. In what fundamental ways were Europeans impacted more than the Muslim world by the Crusades?

*An Age of Learning and Artistic Refinements*

1. Which occupation particularly benefitted from urban prosperity? Which product continues to be unrivaled?
2. What scientific and mathematical developments did the Islamic civilization achieve?
3. How is Sufism different from orthodox Islam?
4. Which nomadic group sacked Baghdad in the 13th century, contributing further to the Abbasid’s demise?

*The Coming of Islam to South Asia*

1. What key characteristics of Indian society clashed with Islam? Why did many Indian towns surrender to Arabs during the Umayyad dynasty?
2. Explain the name “Arabic numerals” and how, through cultural diffusion, they came to be adopted in western civilization.
3. Where did a new, distinctly Muslim empire establish their capital in northwest India in the 11th century?
4. Which group was mostly responsible for growing conversions of Indians to Islam? Which groups of Indians were most likely to convert?
5. According to the “Thinking Historically” box, what characteristics define a religion as a “world religion?” Why is Judaism considered a world religion?
6. According to the “Historical Thinking” box, why must world religions be somewhat broad and flexible? Why did women in Islamic southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa retain relatively high positions compared to women in the Middle East?

*The Spread of Islam to Southeast Asia*

1. What trading regions did island southeast Asia link? What products did southeast Asia contribute to the trading network? Why did this region see a large conversion to Islam?
2. In general, did most conversions to Islam occur peacefully or forcefully? Which areas of a civilization generally converted first? Why?