Ancient Chinese and Indian civilizations developed along major rivers: China along the Huang He and India along the Indus River. Chinese civilizations date back to c. 7000 B.C., while the Indus Valley civilizations began around 2500 B.C. China and India had advanced cities and both peoples were polytheistic.

Along the Huang He River, the Shang Dynasty made bronze tools and weapons and used chariots for fighting. The Zhou Dynasty used iron, expanded trade, and established the use of coins in trade. The last two hundred years of the Zhou are called the Warring States Period.

The Qin Dynasty had a centralized government, forced citizens to turn in their weapons, and made every man serve as a soldier. Punishments for crime included being cut in half, cutting off noses and feet, and being buried alive. The Qin Dynasty is given credit for building much of the Great Wall of China.

The Han Dynasty represented a golden age as the Chinese Empire expanded and became wealthy. Much of this wealth came from trading silk with the Middle East and Europe. Officials were tested in law, math, and Confucianism to earn their positions. Performing and visual arts flourished. The Chinese invented the magnetic compass, the wheelbarrow, a ship with a stern rudder, and a seismograph.

Two Chinese philosophers sought ways to find peace. Confucius (551-479 B.C) believed the ideal life was achieved through self control and proper conduct. He taught others to have respect toward parents, grandparents, and all elders. He revered tradition more than change.

Taoism was most likely founded by Lao Tzu in 550 B.C. He urged others to live simply and in harmony with nature. Lao Tzu believed the best government would guide rather than rule.

On the subcontinent of India, Aryans migrated from the northwest and eventually conquered most of the native Indians. Aryans were warriors and herders who used iron weapons. They developed the written language Sanskrit.

Later, most of India was united under the Mauryan Empire. Their leader, Ashoka, became a Buddhist and tried to have tolerant, peaceful, and well-run government.

Under the Gupta Dynasty, India had a “Golden Age of Prosperity.” Mathematicians developed the decimal system, algorithms, the first use of algebra, and the use of 0 through 9. Doctors performed surgery and set broken bones.
1. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
   a. _____ The Zhou ruled during the Warring States Period.
      Which sentence best supports the answer?
   b. _____ Most ancient Asians were monotheists.
      Which sentence best supports the answer?
   c. _____ Hinduism and Buddhism began in India.
      Which sentence best supports the answer?
   d. _____ Math was important in the Gupta Dynasty.
      Which sentence best supports the answer?

2. Confucius and Lao Tzu would have agreed:
   a. governments should have total power over all people.
   b. peace was important.
   c. answers to mankind’s problems are found in nature.
   d. reading is the key to education.

3. Buddha believed:
   a. hard work led to peace.
   b. it was important to own many things.
   c. suffering is good.
   d. if you longed for wealth, you could not reach Nirvana.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

4. Number the events in chronological order.
   a. _____ Gupta Dynasty ruled.
   b. _____ Qin Dynasty ruled.
   c. _____ India was united.
   d. _____ Lao Tzu founded Taoism.

5. Circle what is true about the Qin Dynasty.
   a. They had a unified government.
   b. Punishments for crimes were cruel.
   c. They constructed much of the Great Wall.
   d. all of the above

Which sentences best support the answer?

Ancient Indian society was divided into four castes. Once born into a caste, you could not leave it. You were not allowed to marry or even eat with someone from another caste.

Hinduism and Buddhism originated in India. Hindus believe in many gods, but the supreme god is Brahman. Hindus believe in reincarnation: A person’s spirit is reborn after death. If you live a good life, you are reborn into a higher caste. If you live a bad life, you are reborn into a lower caste or into an animal-like insect.

Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 B.C.), now known as “Buddha,” which means the enlightened one. He taught that all suffering came from possession and desire, and if you gave these up, your soul would reach Nirvana, or perfect peace.

Hinduism has about 800 million followers, and Buddhism has approximately 360 million followers today.
6. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
   a. _____ Ancient Indian society had a class system.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
   b. _____ Hindus are monotheists.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
   c. _____ Aryans were soldiers and shepherds.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
   d. _____ An Indian man could move into a different caste.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

7. Hindus believe:
   a. a perfect life ends the cycle of reincarnation.
   b. there is not an afterlife.
   c. insects should be honored.
   d. there is not one great god.

Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

8. Which dynasty made major advancements in medicine?
   a. Qin Dynasty
   b. Zhou Dynasty
   c. Gupta Dynasty
   d. Shang Dynasty

Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

9. What language did the Aryans use for writing?
   a. Latin
   b. Sanskrit
   c. Hindi
   d. Indian

Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

Written Response Question

10. Name two important contributions the ancient Chinese and Indians made to future civilizations. Explain how each contribution benefited future civilizations.

Ancient Chinese: _____________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Ancient Indians: _____________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
Ancient Far East Civilizations Review: Lessons 9-12 Answers

1. a. T, sentence 6
   b. F, sentence 3
   c. T, sentence 33
   d. T, sentence 28
2. b, sentence 15
3. d, sentence 40
4. a. 4
   b. 3
   c. 2
   d. 1
5. d, sentences 7, 8, 9
6. a. T, sentence 30
   b. F, sentence 34
   c. T, sentence 23
   d. F, sentence 31
7. a, sentence 38
8. c, sentence 29
9. b, sentence 24
10. Key points:

Ancient Chinese: expanded trade which led to new products and ideas. Their inventions (magnetic compass, wheelbarrow, rudder, and seismograph) are still used today.

Also acceptable: They gave future civilizations Confucianism and Taoism, which are still practiced today.

Ancient Indians: made great advancements in mathematics, which led future civilizations to make further advancements. India is also the birthplace of Hinduism and Buddhism, which are major religions in the world today.