

Core Civilizations: Analytical Comparative Arguments, aka Going Beyond Similarities and Differences

Directions: Using the information and facts from your Core Civilization comparative chart as evidence, create an analytical comparative argument by matching the sentence starter with the most accurate statement from the list of options provided.

Topic of Comparison	Analytical Comparative Arguments	
Geography / Environment	While core civilizations developed in a variety of geographical and environmental settings around the world, most were located near rivers where agriculture flourished. The natural environment further...	... <u>influenced the characteristics, resources, and ultimate success of each early civilization.</u>
Cities / Urban Area	Humans increasingly populated and developed urban cities that <u>would become centers of political administration, cultural exchange, trade, and manufacturing</u>
Political Organization	The first states emerged within core civilizations in Mesopotamia and the Nile River Valley to mobilize surplus labor and resources for growing populations and territories. Many early states had rulers who...	... <u>claimed divine connections to power and often relied on the support of military, religious, or aristocratic elites.</u>
Military / Weapons	In civilizations that lacked geographic barriers to act as natural defenses, states often...	... <u>encouraged the development of new tools, weapons, and modes of transportation, transforming warfare in many agrarian civilizations.</u>

<p>Monuments / Architecture</p>	<p>The development of monumental architecture and urban planning in early civilizations...</p>	<p><u>... demonstrated innovative thought, technological progress, and an importance on political and religious rituals.</u></p>
<p>Record Keeping</p>	<p>Systems of writing that arose independently in nearly all early civilizations...</p>	<p><u>... allowed for codification of laws, better methods of record keeping, and gave birth to literature, all of which fostered the spread of shared cultural practices among larger population.</u></p>
<p>Legal Codes</p>	<p>States developed legal codes that...</p>	<p><u>... reflected existing hierarchies and facilitated the rule of governments over people.</u></p>
<p>Religion</p>	<p>While primarily polytheistic and often demonstrating strong connections to the environment, new religious beliefs that developed in early civilizations...</p>	<p><u>... created cultural unity, developed shared rituals, and continued to have strong influences in later periods.</u></p>
<p>Trade / Commerce</p>	<p>As states grew and competed for land and resources, the more favorably situated...</p>	<p><u>... had greater access to resources, produced more surplus food, and engaged in interregional commercial and cultural exchanges.</u></p>
<p>Social Hierarchy</p>	<p>As states expanded and cities multiplied, social hierarchies, including patriarchy, ...</p>	<p><u>... intensified around divisions of gender, wealth, labor, and family causing increasing inequality and conflict.</u></p>

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Cities / Urban Areas	Humans increasingly populated and developed urban cities that ...	
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Monuments / Architecture	The development of monumental architecture and urban planning in early civilizations...	
Record Keeping	Systems of writing that arose independently in nearly all early civilizations...	
Legal Codes	States developed legal codes that...	
Religion	While primarily polytheistic and often demonstrating strong connections to the environment, new religious beliefs that developed in early civilizations...	
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- A. ... demonstrated innovative thought, technological progress, and an importance on political and religious rituals.
- B. ... created cultural unity, developed shared rituals, and continued to have strong influences in later periods.
- C. ... intensified around divisions of gender, wealth, labor, and family causing increasing inequality and conflict.
- D. ... encouraged the development of new tools, weapons, and modes of transportation, transforming warfare in many agrarian civilizations.
- E. ... allowed for codification of laws, better methods of record keeping, and gave birth to literature, all of which fostered the spread of shared cultural practices among larger population.
- F. ... would become centers of political administration, cultural exchange, trade, and manufacturing
- G. ... reflected existing hierarchies and facilitated the rule of governments over people.
- H. ... influenced the characteristics, resources, and ultimate success of each early civilization.
- I. ... had greater access to resources, produced more surplus food, and engaged in interregional commercial and cultural exchanges.
- J. ... claimed divine connections to power and often relied on the support of military, religious, or aristocratic elites.