Name:

Chinese Civilization

References:

Newman & DeGeer, *Odyssey Through The Ages*, 1992

**Questions**

1. Discuss the importance of rivers in the development of Chinese civilization and how this has led some scholars theorize about how ‘oriental’ civilizations are predestined to despotism.

2. The Chinese reckoned time differently from many western civilizations. How did their concept of time reflect a philosophical difference in the view of the rise and fall of dynasties and progress over time?

**oracle bones**

3. The society of the Shang dynasty had clear class divisions Describe the various classes.

4. What factors contributed to the decline of the Zhou dynasty?

5. What were the essential ideas which Confucius stressed in attempting to bring order from a disordered world?

6. Not all people accepted the teachings of Confucius. Two of the most famous dissenters were Mo Zi and Lao Zi. How did their ideas differ from Confucius?

**Legalism**

**Taiji**

7. Briefly describe the methods used by Shi Huangdi to unify China and bring it under his control. Considering the methods used, would Shi Huangdi be described as a heroic figure or villain?

**Great Wall of China**

8. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Chinese government by reflecting on the make-up and role of both the inner court and outer court. Compared to other monarchial systems, what were the merits of the Chinese system?

9. What factors contributed to the decline of the Han dynasty and what happened to China in the years following its demise?

10. Describe the homes and clothing of the people of Hangzhou.

11. Various periods of Chinese history are remembered for the incredible achievements in science, art and literature. In this way, how are the Zhou, Tang and Song dynasties remembered.

**Neo-Confucius**

12. Which features of the Mongolian army allowed them to enjoy the success they achieved? What impact on China and the world did the Mongolian invasion have?