

14: The Resurgence of Empire in East Asia Reading Questions

Eyewitness – p. 281

1. Why did Xuanzang go to India? How did he subsequently change Buddhism in China?

The Restoration of Centralized Imperial Rule in China – p. 282

2. What was the purpose of the Grand Canal?
3. How did the Grand Canal help lead to the end of the Sui dynasty?

The Tang Dynasty – p. 283

4. Where did the Tang establish their imperial capital?
5. The early Tang dynasty was immensely successful. Bentley and Ziegler give three reasons for this. What are they?
6. What did the equal-field system do?
7. The Tang named their empire the Middle Kingdom (Zhongguo 中国). How did the surrounding territories prove their inferiority to the Tang?

The Song Dynasty – p. 286

8. The Song distrusted military leaders. What did they emphasize instead of conflict?
9. What two things led to the fall of the Song?

Economic Development of Tang and Song China – p. 288

10. How did advances in agricultural techniques and the introduction of new crops affect Chinese cities?
11. China had only one female emperor – ever. What steps did Wu Zhao take to legitimize her rule? List as many as you can find.

Technological and Industrial Development – p. 290

12. Which of these was NOT a technology or good produced by the ancient Chinese in this period? porcelain, gunpowder, movable type printing, lateen sails, magnetic compasses

Emergence of a Market Economy – p. 292

13. What problems did China have with paper money? List at least two.
14. PD294 – What was the punishment for lying about contracting a debt?

Cultural Change in Tang and Song China – p. 294

15. Buddhism attracted Chinese interest partly because of its high standards of _____, its _____ sophistication, and its promise of _____.
16. Buddhism also spread because its monasteries became important elements in local culture and trade. What did the monasteries do that made them so important?
17. What did Buddhist missionaries do to tailor their message to Chinese audiences?
18. Chan (Zen in Japan) Buddhists placed little emphasis on written texts. What did they prefer instead?

Neo-Confucianism – p. 297

19. Confucianism and Buddhism mixed in the Song dynasty, creating a new philosophy called “neo-Confucianism.” What parts of Buddhism did the neo-Confucians embrace?

Chinese Influence in East Asia – p. 298

20. After the brief war between the Tang (China) and the Silla (Korea), what was the relationship between those two nations?
21. Briefly describe China’s relationship with Vietnam.

Early Japan – p. 299

22. From whom did Japan learn about the advantages of a centralized imperial government?
23. How were Confucian and Buddhist traditions handled differently in Japan?

Medieval Japan – p. 301

24. We can divide Japan’s history into several periods: the time when Japan was heavily influenced by China, the _____ period in between (that included the Kamakura and Muromachi dynasties), and the modern period that began with the Tokugawa shogunate.
25. In Japan’s medieval period, the decentralized government had little use for Chinese-style bureaucracy or for elaborate court protocols. What did they prefer instead?
26. The samurai focused almost exclusively on military training and discipline. How did they feed themselves and their families?