

Name: _____ Date: _____

Due Date: _____

Essay – Compare/Contrast Mesopotamia and Egypt

Directions: You have to write or type a five-paragraph essay comparing/contrasting the Egyptian and Mesopotamian/Sumerian civilizations. You will use this guide to help you write the essay. These two sheets need to be stapled to the back of your essay.

Introductory Paragraph

1. Why did people tend to settle in river valleys in the ancient world? (p. 13 of Notes)

- a. drinking water for humans and animals
- b. water for crops and plants
- c. source of food for fishing and hunting
- d. transportation and trade

Be sure to include topics you will discuss in your body paragraphs.

2. Thesis: The Mesopotamian and Egyptian societies are (more similar than they are different –OR- more different than they are similar).

Body Paragraphs

Topics	Mesopotamia/Sumer	Egypt
Environmental Patterns	Tigris and Euphrates Unpredictable floods Open plain – no natural barriers Irrigation ditches Built city walls Traded with people of mountains and deserts Limited natural resources	Nile – predictable flooding Flows north Has cataracts – waterfalls Rich soil from the flooding Vast deserts are natural barriers Egyptians had to stay close to the river Sandstorms
Political Patterns (describe the government/ important rulers)	Temple priests had all the power (early) Commanders soon gained permanent control of the armies Rulers began Dynasties Sargon of Akkad – 1 st empire in the world Hammurabi - law code Sumerians built a number of cities by 3000BC	Pharaohs – god-kings, reps of the gods Ramses II – building/architecture Theocracy – gov ruled by religion Menes united Egypt in 3100 BC Pyramids
Writing		

<p>Religious Patterns (type of religion/ important gods)</p>	<p>Polytheism – many gods Described gods as having human characteristics Believed dead souls went to Land of No Return Enlil – god of clouds and air Epic of Gilgamesh – story of god king looking for Immortality</p>	<p>Ra – sun god Horus Polytheistic Mummification Osiris – god of dead – weighs heart of the dead – if lighter than a feather, go to happy place; if heavier, go to Devourer of Souls Theocracy Pharaohs – god-kings, reps of the gods Pyramids Buried with all material items you’ll “need”</p>
<p>Social Patterns (writing style, innovations, hierarchy)</p>	<p>Cuneiform – wedged shaped writing Created: wheel, sail, plow, number system based on 60 classes: 1. Kings and queens, 2. Wealthy merchants, 3. Farmers, 4. Slaves First to use Bronze</p>	<p>Hieroglyphics - Rosetta Stone to translate Used geometry, developed calendar Medical: fix bones, take heart rate, surgery Hierarchy: 1. Kings, queens and royal family, 2. Wealthy landowners, 3. Merchants and artisans, 4. Peasants, farmers, unskilled laborers Women held many of the same rights as men</p>

Concluding Paragraph

No new information should be presented here. This should summarize your arguments and restate your thesis.

Summary: _____

Rubric for Assessment of Essay—Writing Skills

Skill	"Look For"	Yes	No	Points
SS1: <i>Constructing and Evaluating Arguments</i> CS22: <i>Following Conventions of Writing</i>	1. Does the essay contain 3 content paragraphs (5 total) with evidence and explanation that support the thesis? (2 points)			
CS20: <i>Organizing and managing information to solve multi-step problems</i>	2. Does the essay show evidence of being graphically organized or outlined before writing began? (2 points)			
CS21: <i>Being precise and clear in writing</i>	3. Does the essay employ correct grammar? (1 point)			
CS10: <i>Understand difficult vocabulary</i>	4. Does the essay use appropriate vocabulary in the correct context? (1 point)			
CS21: <i>Being precise and clear in writing</i>	5. Does the essay make its arguments or points with an economy of words? Did you get to the point? (1 point)			
CS22: <i>Following conventions of writing</i>	6. Does the essay have a clear topic sentence or thesis? (Introductory Paragraph) (2 points)			
CS24: <i>Structure cohesive essay with topic sentences, evidence and conclusion</i>	7. Does the essay have a clear conclusion that relates to the content and thesis statement? (2 points)			

Total Points _____
(Maximum: 11 points)

Rubric for Assessment of Essay—Mr. Newman's Additional Writing Skills

1. Do NOT use one or two sentences as a paragraph. Paragraphs must be at least four sentences.
2. Each paragraph must stick to the subject introduced by the first sentence in that paragraph.
3. Do NOT misspell words. Misspelling words is a sign of carelessness. Du nat bee cairless! Use spell check, a dictionary, or a literate friend to check your spelling.
4. Do not use the first or second person – I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, your, yours, etc.
5. Support your ideas with concrete examples from reliable sources (in this case, the notes).
6. Should we ask rhetorical questions in our paper? NO! Avoid rhetorical questions.
7. Write about works of art or buildings in the present tense. The Great Pyramid of Giza will still be standing in Egypt long after your great great great grandchildren have forgotten your name.
8. Use comfortable words you understand. Only English teachers and college professors are impressed with big words.
9. Use a font that is easy to read – Calibri, Times New Roman, Arial, etc.
10. Double space your paper.

Skill	"Look For"	Yes	No	Points
CS22: <i>Following conventions of writing</i>	1. Quality of essay (5 points)			
CS22: <i>Following Conventions of Writing</i>	2. Did you follow Mr. Newman's Picky Writing Rules as listed above (10 points)			

Total Points _____
(Maximum: 15 points)

River Valley Civilizations:

Compare and contrast an ancient Mesopotamian society and ancient Egyptian civilization.

Why might these two societies differ or why might they have similarities?

Concentrate on the years 3500 to 500 BCE. Be sure to divide your descriptions and comparisons into three of the following categories: Environmental patterns, Religious patterns, Political patterns, Social patterns

Content Rubric

Skill	"Look For"	Yes	No	Points
SS5: <i>Analyzing and evaluating trends in human movement</i>	Does the essay explain why people tended to settle in river valleys in the ancient world? (2 points)			
SS6: <i>Identify and describe major geographic features important to the study of World History</i>	Does the essay describe the specific geographic features of Mesopotamia and Egypt that affected the way people lived in these places? (2 points)			
WH1: <i>Identify and analyze global patterns over time and connect local and global patterns</i>	Does the essay list and describe features of two societies that are similar or different? (2 points)			
WH1: <i>Identify and analyze global patterns over time and connect local and global patterns</i>	Does the essay explain how certain features of each society can be related to global or universal issues? (2 points)			
WH2: <i>Comparing Societies</i>	Does the essay explain how certain specific features of each society might be similar? (2 points)			
WH3: <i>Recognizing universal commonalities without erasing cultural uniqueness</i>	Does the essay give examples of the ways in which two societies can have similar structures, but distinctive or specific features? (2 points)			

Total Points _____
(Maximum: 12 points)

Total Point Tallies	Points Earned	Points Possible
Subtotal for Writing skills		11
Subtotal for Newman's Additional Writing skills		15
Subtotal for Content (multiplied by two)		24
Penalties - Is it on time? 5 points for every day it is late (up to 15 points off) Are these two sheets stapled to the back of your essay? (2 points off) Is your name and period number on the front, top-left corner of your essay? (3 points off)		0
Final Total		50

Letter Grade _____