

# **Reference Materials for HSE Global Scholarship Competition — 2022**

## **Asian Studies**

### **I. Contents. Section and Topic Overview**

#### **SECTION 1. HISTORY OF ASIAN COUNTRIES AND REGIONS**

##### **Topic 1.1. The East as a Historical, Cultural, and Geographical Environment**

Development of the concept of the "East" in European culture. Changes in the boundaries of the East during the Middle Ages and Modern Age. The problem of the historical chronology of the East. Regions of Asia — West (Southwest) Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. The Arab Maghreb. Asian political geography. Ethnic and religious composition of the Asian regions population.

##### **Topic 1.2. Civilizations of the Ancient East**

Development of Ancient East civilizations. Culture and barbarism in the Ancient World. Aspects of an ancient East state. "Hydraulic civilizations" of the Ancient World. Egypt and Mesopotamia: government form, territory expansion, trade relations with neighboring countries and nations. Development of the Ancient India civilizations.

Ancient China. Periodization and chronology of Ancient China history (Shang-Yin dynasty — Qin dynasty). Society and the state during the Eastern Zhou dynasty (770–256 BC). Centralized state during Qin Shi Huang (259–210 BC). The Han Empire (206 BC – 220 AD).

Ancient Joseon and three early Korean states.

##### **Topic 1.3. Hellenistic East**

The Hellenization of the East. Achaemenid Empire (VI–IV c. BC). Military campaigns of the Alexander III of Macedon (356–323 BC). Creation of Hellenistic states. Seleucid Empire (312–63 BC). Ptolemaic Kingdom in Egypt (332–30 BC). India during the Hellenistic period. Middle East during the Roman Conquest period (II c. BC — VII c. AD).

##### **Topic 1.4. The Middle East in the Middle Ages (VII–XV c.)**

The role of Islam in the consolidation of the Arab peoples in the Middle East. The Arab conquests in Asia. The rule of Rightly Guided Caliphs (632–661). The Umayyad (661–750) and Abbasid (750–1258) Caliphates. Maghreb countries in IX-XI c. Great Silk Road —

geography, role in the cultural and commercial exchange of the East and the West.

Arab world during the Crusades era (XI–XII c.). Causes and main outcomes of the Crusades. The effect of the Crusades on the development of the East and West. Arab origins of the European Renaissance.

### **Topic 1.5. East Asia in the III–XVI centuries**

China during the Tang (618–907) and Song (960–1279) dynasties. Mongol invasions and the rule of the Yuan dynasty (1271–1368). Empire of the Ming dynasty (1368–1644). Manchu conquest of China. Political and cultural processes in China. China's interaction with distant regions and "barbarians".

Japanese centralized state during VII–XII centuries. The shogunate led by Minamoto (1192–1333). Aspects of the rule of Ashikaga shogunate (1336–1573). The period of feudal fragmentation in Japan (1467–1573).

Unified Silla (668–935). Goryeo state (918–1392). Choson dynasty in Early (1394–1519) and Middle (1519–1623) periods. The Buddhist-Confucian conflict. The Japanese invasion of Korea (1592–1569).

### **Topic 1.6. The East in Modern Times**

Ottoman Empire. Conflicts of European colonial empires in Asia.

Arab world in the second third of the XIX century. The state and society of Qing China in the XVII–XIX centuries. Tokugawa shogunate (1604–1868). The first stage of the formation of the Japanese national culture (XVI–XIX centuries). The end of the Modern Times period in the history of East Asia.

The role of Asian countries in the European economy. Portugal infiltrating India. Trade with China and Japan.

The collapse of the colonial empire of Iberian states — Portuguese India and Macau. The Dutch East India Company entering Asia in XVI c. Britain, France, and the Netherlands competing in the East during the XVII–XVIII c. European states fighting for hegemony in Asia.

Russian Empire's agenda regarding the East. Exploration of Siberia and the Far East. Embassies in China (XVII–XIX c.) and Japan (XVIII–XIX c.) — goals and results. Sino-Russian boundary problem. The first Russian-Chinese treaties.

### **Topic 1.7. The modernization agenda of the Eastern countries at the beginning of the XX century**

Decline of the Manchu dynasty in China. Xinhai Revolution 1911–1912.

Creation of the Republic of China. Chinese and Japanese agenda for modernization and self-reinforcement. Meiji Restoration and the abolition of samurai class in Japan (1868–1872).

Japan's entry into the global community. Wars with China (1894–1895) and the Russian Empire (1904–1905). Colonization of Korea (1905–1910). Relations of Arab/Muslim countries with European colonial powers.

### **Topic 1.8. Asia in the first half of the XX century**

Asian countries in the First World War. Influence of events of 1914–1918 on the liberation movement in the countries of the East. The beginning of the colonial system dissolution and de-westernization of Asia. League of Nations mandate system.

Participation of Asian countries in World War II. Creation of CCP (1921) and confrontation with the Kuomintang. Confrontation of China (1937–1945) and Korea (1910–1945) with Japan. Sino-Soviet relations. The end of the Civil War and PRC creation (1949).

Partition of the Ottoman Empire and the restoration of independent states in the Middle East after the First World War. Creation of the first international organizations in the Middle East (Muslim Brotherhood, Arab League).

### **Topic 1.9. The East after World War II**

USSR and the United States agenda regarding Asia. Various development problems of Asian states.

Neocolonialism phenomenon. Iran after World War II and the creation of the Islamic Republic (1979). Creation of the Israel state (1948). Middle Eastern conflict. Civil War in Lebanon (1958–1990). PRC economy reformation. New course and Great Leap Forward agenda (1958–1960). Agenda of reformation and openness (1974–1990).

American occupation of Japan. Japanese economic miracle. The economy of the Land of the Rising Sun in 1970–1990. Creation of the DPRK and the Republic of Korea. The problem of unification of the peninsula. South Korea economic growth. The East in the system of global economic relations.

## **SECTION 2. ASIAN CULTURE AND RELIGION**

### **Topic 2.1. Spiritual Development of the Ancient East**

The genesis of religious beliefs — totemism, animism, fetishism. The importance of religious and philosophical teachings in the political and social life of the East.

Mythology of the Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. Indian mythological and

religious concepts. The worship of Heaven and ancestors in China. Religious aspects of the bronze complex in China. Aspects of Ancient Chinese mythology.

### **Topic 2.2. Islam**

The spread of Islam in the Middle East and North Africa. Main concepts and dogmas of Islam. Allah. Koran and Sunnah. The ideological foundations of Islam. Five pillars of faith. Muslim attitude to other religious doctrines. Ummah — *Muslim community*. Ideal personality in Islam. *Sharia law*. Muslim clergy. Mosque. The differences between Islam denominations — *Sunnis* and *Shias*. The mystical teaching of *Sufism*. The contribution of the Arab/Muslim world to science, philosophy, and literature.

### **Topic 2.3. Buddhism in the East**

The emergence of Buddhism in India. Buddha Shakyamuni in history and religious tradition. The spread of Buddhism in Asia.

Main concepts and dogmas of Buddhist religious doctrine — Four Noble Truths, Noble Eightfold Path to salvation, Three Treasures of Buddhism. Concepts of *Samsara*, *Karma*, *Bodhi* and *Nirvana* in Buddhism. Sacred texts of Buddhism. Buddhist community. Hinayana and Theravada. *Arhat* and *bodhisattva concepts*. The spread of Buddhism in East Asia. Specifics of Buddhism in China. Buddhism in Japan. The main provisions and distinguishing aspects of *Chan (Zen) Buddhism*. Influence of Buddhism on aesthetics, secular art, culture, and life of Asian societies.

### **Topic 2.4. Religious and Philosophical Teachings of China**

Taoism. The concept of Lao Tzu's Tao path and De virtue. Main Taoism concepts, terms, and views. The doctrine of immortality, Taoist "alchemy".

Aspects of Confucianism as religious and philosophical teaching. The personality of Confucius. "Lun Yu" ("Conversations and judgments") treatise. The main concepts and provisions of the Confucian doctrine — the "noble husband" (Junzi) ideal personality, philanthropy/humaneness (Ren), rites (Li), morality (Yi), filial piety (Xiao). Countries with Confucian society.

### **Topic 2.5. Culture of the Ancient East**

Hieroglyphic writing system of ancient Egypt. Ancient Egypt architecture. The emergence of writing in Mesopotamia. The Epic of Gilgamesh. Architecture and sculpture of Sumer, Akkad, and Ancient Babylon.

### **Topic 2.6. Arab Culture**

Arab culture. Science and philosophy of the Arab world. Fine art and architecture of the Middle East, Maghreb, and Al-Andalus. Arabic language and its role in the historical and cultural process. Arab literature of VII–XIII centuries — primary genres, works, authors.

### **Topic 2.7. Culture of Ancient and Medieval China**

Specific aspects of the formation and development of the Chinese culture system. The role of religious and philosophical systems in the formation of Chinese cultural ideology. Hieroglyphic writing and Chinese language. Classical Chinese literature — primary genres, subjects, and works. Chinese fine art and architecture. Ornamental arts.

### **Topic 2.8. Traditional Japanese culture**

Specific aspects of the formation of the Japanese culture and people. Sino-Korean relations. Japanese language and writing system. Shinto. Japanese mythology. The role of the Emperor and imperial power in the cultural development of Japan. Japanese poetry and prose - primary genres, subjects, and works. Aesthetic ideals and concepts of Japanese culture. Traditional Japanese sculpture and architecture. Japanese garden art. Tea ceremony. Japanese engraving and painting. Japanese ornamental arts.

### **Topic 2.9. Korean Culture**

Korean language and writing system (Hangul and Hanja). Participation of the countries of the Korean Peninsula in cultural exchange with China and Japan. Shamanism — the traditional Korean religion. The role of shamanism in the formation of Korean spiritual culture and religious life. Formation of traditional ideals and values of Korean society under the Confucianism influence. Korean fine art and architecture. Korean ceramics. Music and performing arts in the traditional Korean culture. Forms of traditional Korean music — Nonak Samul nori (percussion music), Sanjo (instrumental music), Pansori folk "solo" opera. Court music. Aristocratic chamber music — Changgeuk opera. Court and folk dances. National culture development trends during the Japanese occupation of Korea.

## **II. Recommended sources**

### **Near East**

- Hourani, A. (2010). *A History of the Arab People*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Belknap Press.
- Armstrong, K. (2001). *Islam: A Short History*. Phoenix.
- Rogan, E. (2011). *The Arabs: A History*. Penguin.

### **Japan**

- Baker, R. F., & Conlan, T. D. (2006). *The Kamakura Shogunate*. *Calliope*, 16(5), 6.
- Munsterberg, H. (2012). *Arts of Japan: An Illustrated History*. Rutland: Tuttle Publishing.
- Turnbull, S. R., & Rava, G. (2010). *Toyotomi Hideyoshi*. Oxford: Osprey Publishing.
- Turnbull, S. R., & Rava, G. (2012). *Tokugawa Ieyasu: Leadership, Strategy, Conflict*. Oxford: Osprey Publishing.

- Kerr, A. (2016). Lost Japan. Penguin.
- The Cambridge History of Japan. Vol. 1-6. Cambridge University Press.
- Herbert P. Bix. (2016). Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan. HarpPeren.

## **China**

- The Analects of Confucius. (1997). Translation And Notes by Simon Leys. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Craig, Albert M. (2006). Heritage of Chinese Civilization. Pearson College Div.
- Schell, O., Delury, J. (2013). Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-first Century. Kindle Edition Little, Brown Book Group.
- Lewis, Mark E. (2010). The Early Chinese Empires: Qin and Han. Belknap Press.
- Lewis, Mark E. (2011). China between Empires. Belknap Press.
- Lewis, Mark E. (2012). China's Cosmopolitan Empire: The Tang Dynasty. Belknap Press.
- Kuhn, D. (2009). The Age of Confucian Rule: The Song Transformation of China. Belknap Press.
- Brook, T. (2013). The Troubled Empire: China in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties. Belknap Press.
- Rowe, William T. (2012). China's Last Empire: The Great King. Belknap Press.

## **Korea**

- Kim, J. (2012). A History of Korea: From "Land of the Morning Calm" to States in Conflict. Bloomington, Ind: Indiana University Press.
- Michael J. Seth. (2019). A Concise History of Korea: From Antiquity to the Present (Vol. Third Edition). [N.p.]: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Breen, M. (2004). The Koreans: Who They Are, What They Want, Where Their Future Lies. St. Martin's Griffin.
- Lankov, A. (2007). The Dawn of Modern Korea. EunHaeng NaMu.

## **III. Online sources**

- The Cosmopolitan Medieval Arabic World. Online course. Petra Sijpesteijn, Leiden University. URL: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/medieval-arabia>
- Religions and Society in China. Online course. Alexey A. Maslov, HSE University. URL: [https://www.coursera.org/learn/religions-society-china?=  
=](https://www.coursera.org/learn/religions-society-china?=)