

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_**Student ID:** \_\_\_\_\_**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_**Assessment Details**

<b>Duration:</b> 60 minutes	<b>Total Marks:</b> 100
<b>Topics Covered:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sumerian History and Culture</li><li>• Cuneiform Writing</li><li>• Ziggurats and City-States</li><li>• Code of Ur-Nammu and Governance</li></ul>

**Instructions to Students:**

1. Read all questions carefully before attempting.
2. Show all working out - marks are awarded for method.
3. Use evidence to support your arguments in the short answer and essay questions.
4. Write your answers in the spaces provided.
5. If you need more space, use the additional pages at the end.
6. Time management is crucial - allocate approximately 1 minute per mark.

Section A: Multiple Choice [20 marks]

Question 1

[2 marks]

What was the main contribution of the Sumerians to the development of writing?

A) Alphabet

B) Cuneiform

C) Hieroglyphics

D) Printing Press

Question 2

[2 marks]

Which of the following was a major achievement of the Sumerian civilization?

A) Building of the Great Pyramid

B) Development of the wheel

C) Creation of the Code of Ur-Nammu

D) Construction of the Great Wall of China

Question 3

[2 marks]

What was the primary purpose of the ziggurats in Sumerian cities?

A) Tombs for kings

B) Temples for worship

C) Palaces for rulers

D) Markets for trade

Question 4

[2 marks]

Who was the Sumerian king credited with creating the first code of laws?

A) Hammurabi

B) Ur-Nammu

C) Sargon

D) Gilgamesh

Question 5

[2 marks]

What was the name of the Sumerian city-state that was known for its advanced irrigation system?

A) Ur

B) Uruk

C) Nippur

D) Lagash

**Question 6**

**[10 marks]**

Analyze the significance of the Code of Ur-Nammu in understanding the social and economic structures of Sumerian society.

**Question 7**

**[10 marks]**

Describe the importance of the ziggurats in Sumerian cities and their impact on the daily life of citizens.

**Question 8**

**[10 marks]**

Explain how the Sumerians' use of cuneiform writing contributed to their administrative and economic systems.

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**Question 9**

**[10 marks]**

Discuss the role of the Sumerian temple in the city-state, including its significance in the social, economic, and cultural life of the community.



**Question 10**

**[40 marks]**

Choose one of the following factors that contributed to the decline of the Sumerian civilization: invasion by the Akkadians, drought and famine, or internal conflicts and power struggles. Evaluate the impact of this factor on the civilization's progress and discuss how it affected the daily life of Sumerian citizens.



## Sumerian Governance and Economy

The Sumerians developed a complex system of governance, with city-states being the primary political units. Each city-state was ruled by a king or a council of elders, and they were responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting taxes, and organizing public works. The Sumerians also developed a system of social hierarchy, with the king and nobles at the top, followed by priests, merchants, and artisans, and finally, the slaves and laborers at the bottom.

### Example: The Code of Ur-Nammu

The Code of Ur-Nammu, created by the Sumerian king Ur-Nammu, is one of the earliest surviving law codes. It provides insight into the social and economic structures of Sumerian society, including laws related to marriage, divorce, and property rights.

### Economic Systems

The Sumerians developed a robust economy based on agriculture, trade, and commerce. They used a sexagesimal (base-60) number system for mathematical calculations, which is still seen in the way we measure time and angles today. The Sumerians also developed a system of weights and measures, with the shekel being the standard unit of currency.

## Sumerian Culture and Society

Sumerian culture was rich and diverse, with a strong emphasis on religion, art, and literature. The Sumerians believed in a pantheon of gods and goddesses, each associated with different aspects of nature and human life. They built elaborate temples and ziggurats, which served as centers of worship and community gathering.

### Case Study: The Epic of Gilgamesh

The Epic of Gilgamesh, one of the earliest surviving works of literature, tells the story of a king's quest for immortality and friendship. It provides valuable insights into Sumerian values, such as the importance of friendship, love, and the struggle between humans and gods.

### Social Structure

Sumerian society was divided into distinct social classes, with the king and nobles holding the highest positions of power. The Sumerians also had a system of slavery, with slaves being used for labor and domestic work. Women played a significant role in Sumerian society, with some holding important positions in the temple and palace hierarchies.

## Sumerian Science and Technology

The Sumerians made significant contributions to science and technology, including the development of the wheel, the invention of the plow, and the creation of sophisticated irrigation systems. They also made accurate astronomical observations, mapping the movements of the sun, moon, and planets.

### Example: The Sumerian Calendar

The Sumerians developed a lunisolar calendar, which combined lunar and solar cycles to create a 12-month year. This calendar was used for agricultural planning, religious ceremonies, and astronomical observations.

### Mathematics and Architecture



The Sumerians developed a sophisticated system of mathematics, using geometric shapes and algebraic equations to solve problems. They also developed advanced architectural techniques, building elaborate temples, palaces, and city walls using kiln-fired bricks and sophisticated drainage systems.

## Legacy of the Sumerians

The Sumerians left a lasting legacy in the ancient Near East, influencing the development of subsequent civilizations such as the Akkadians, Babylonians, and Assyrians. Their contributions to law, governance, literature, and science continue to shape modern society, with their innovations in writing, mathematics, and architecture remaining essential components of human knowledge.

### Case Study: The Spread of Cuneiform Writing

The Sumerians' invention of cuneiform writing allowed for the creation of written records, facilitating trade, diplomacy, and cultural exchange across the ancient Near East. The spread of cuneiform writing to other civilizations, such as the Akkadians and Hittites, demonstrates the significant impact of Sumerian innovations on the development of human civilization.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the Sumerians were a highly advanced and influential civilization that made significant contributions to human knowledge and society. Their legacy can be seen in the modern world, from the way we measure time and angles to the sophisticated systems of governance and law that underpin modern societies.

## Assessment and Evaluation

To assess your understanding of the Sumerian civilization, please complete the following exercises and questions. This will help you evaluate your knowledge and identify areas for further study.

### Example: Short Answer Questions

Answer the following short answer questions to demonstrate your understanding of Sumerian history and culture.

1. What were the main contributions of the Sumerians to the development of writing?
2. Describe the significance of the Code of Ur-Nammu in understanding Sumerian society.
3. What were the key features of Sumerian governance and economy?

### Essay Questions

Choose one of the following essay questions and write a well-structured and well-supported essay response.

1. Analyze the impact of the Sumerian civilization on the development of subsequent civilizations in the ancient Near East.
2. Discuss the significance of the Epic of Gilgamesh in understanding Sumerian values and culture.
3. Evaluate the contributions of the Sumerians to the development of science and technology.

## Additional Resources

For further study and exploration, please consult the following resources:

- Books: "The Sumerians" by Samuel Noah Kramer, "A History of the Sumerians" by Marc Van De Mieroop
- Documentaries: "The Sumerians" (BBC), "Ancient Mesopotamia" (History Channel)
- Online Resources: The British Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago

### Example: Museum Exhibits

## Glossary

A glossary of key terms and concepts related to the Sumerian civilization.

- Cuneiform: a system of writing developed by the Sumerians
- Ziggurat: a type of temple complex built by the Sumerians
- Shekel: a unit of currency used by the Sumerians

## Appendices

Additional materials and supporting documents.

### Example: Timeline of Sumerian History

A timeline of major events and dates in Sumerian history.

## Bibliography

A list of sources used in the creation of this document.

- Kramer, S. N. (1963). The Sumerians: Their History, Culture, and Character.
- Van De Mierop, M. (2004). A History of the Sumerians.



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