Essential Questions CH. 13

1. How was the Islamic world influenced by its contact with the older Greek, Persian, and Indian societies? How did Islam influence these societies?
2. Compare Islam to Judaism and Christianity. What are the biggest differences between these religions? What factors do they have in common?
3. Compare and contrast Islam to other religions discussed in the class, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Zoroastrianism. Do these religions have anything in common?
4. Examine the rise and fall of the Umayyad dynasty. What caused its rapid rise to power? What internal problems caused its fall?
5. How did the Abbasids come to power, and how did their rule differ from the Umayyads?
6. Examine the split between the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam. What brought about this schism? How has it shaped Islamic history?
7. Discuss the Five Pillars of Islam. What are some of the other basic tenets of Islam? Examine the importance of the Quran.
8. After Muhammad died, what were the challenges faced by *dar al-Islam,* and how were they resolved within the first century?
9. How did the growth of the realm of Islam contribute to agricultural, industrial, and urban development?
10. Read the passage from the Quran (see Textbook: Sources from the Past: The Quran on Allah and His Expectations of Humankind). How is the Islamic view of Allah similar to the Jewish or Christian view of God? Compare it to other religions studied in the course.