WHAP Essential Questions CH. 7

1. In the *Gathas*, Zarathustra wrote, “In the beginning, there were two Primal Spirits, Twins spontaneously active.” Who were these “Twins”? Could it be argued that Zoroastrianism was not monotheistic at all? If Zoroastrianism is not monotheistic, might Christianity not be monotheistic?
2. Discuss the basic tenets of Zoroastrianism. What role did Zarathustra play in the rise of this religion? How influential was Zoroastrianism on later religions?
3. Compare the ruling techniques of the Persians, especially those of Cyrus and Darius, to other societies you have studied so far. Mention at least two others.
4. Examine the role of trade and agriculture in explaining the success of the Persian empires. Why was the Royal Road so important?
5. The Achaemenid empire began to decline under Xerxes. Was his approach any different than that of his predecessors, such as Cyrus or Darius?
6. The victory of Alexander of Macedon at Gaugamela, in 331 B.C.E., helped to bring about an end to the Achaemenid empire. In what ways did the empire live on?