At the end of your Global I and Global II courses, you will take the Global History and Geography II Regents Exam. That test includes one essay, called an Enduring Issues Essay.

For the Enduring Issues Essay, you will receive five documents and be asked to write an essay arguing for the historical significance of an enduring issue raised by the documents.

This enduring issues check-in provides you with opportunities to review what you have learned and practice the skills you’ll need to master the enduring issues essay and to discuss enduring issues in history with your classmates.

**Steps for Choosing an Enduring Issue for the Enduring Issues Essay:**

1. Read each document, annotate it, and identify the main idea and possible enduring issues for each document.
2. Compare each document and the ideas in them to identify similarities and differences.
3. Identify possible enduring issues that are present in more than one document.
4. Sort documents into categories based on possible enduring issues.
5. Choose an enduring issue that relates to at least three documents and that you can show has endured over time.
6. Reread documents related to the enduring issue.
7. Refine the enduring issue and define it.

**Enduring Issues Essay Prompt:**

The prompt will be the same every time.

An enduring issue is an issue that exists across time. It is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

In your essay

- Identify and define an enduring issue raised by this set of documents.
- Using your knowledge of Social Studies and evidence from the documents, argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across time.

Be sure to

- Identify the issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of three documents.
- Define the issue using evidence from at least three documents
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
  - How the issue has affected people or been affected by people
  - How the issue has continued to be an issue or changed over time
- Include outside information from your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents.

An ENDURING ISSUE is a challenge or problem that a society has faced and debated or discussed across time. An enduring issue is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

For the documents below, read each document, and then identify the main ideas, possible enduring issues, and possible related outside information you could use. You need to fill out the main ideas boxes completely. For the enduring issues, come up with AT LEAST ONE for each document, but if you can think of two or three, even better! For outside information, you need to come up with examples for AT LEAST THREE of the documents, but all five would be best!
The following is an excerpt discussing the early systems of irrigation in ancient civilizations.

The first successful efforts to control the flow of water were made in Mesopotamia and Egypt, where the remains of the prehistoric irrigation works still exist. In ancient Egypt, the construction of canals was a major endeavor of the pharaohs and their servants, beginning in Scorpio’s time. One of the first duties of provincial governors was the digging and repair of canals, which were used to flood large tracts of land while the Nile was flowing high. The land was checkerboarded with small basins, defined by a system of dikes. Problems regarding the uncertainty of the flow of the Nile were recognized. During very high flows, the dikes were washed away and villages flooded, drowning thousands. During low flows, the land did not receive water, and no crops could grow. In many places where fields were too high to receive water from the canals, water was drawn from the canals or the Nile directly by a swape, also known as a shaduf. These consisted of a bucket on the end of a cord that hung from the long end of a pivoted boom, counterweighted at the short end. The building of canals continued in Egypt throughout the centuries...

Source: Larry W. Mays, “Irrigation Systems, Ancient,” Water Encyclopedia online (adapted)
The following is an excerpt discussing the development of writing. When ancient Mesopotamians started settling down onto farms surrounding the first cities, life became a bit more complicated. Agriculture required expertise and detailed recordkeeping, two elements that led directly to the invention of writing, historians say. The first examples of writing were pictograms used by temple officials to keep track of the inflows and outflows of the city's grain and animal stores which, in the bigger Sumerian urban centers such as Ur, were big enough to make counting by memory unreliable. Officials began using standardized symbols — rather than, say, an actual picture of a goat — to represent commodities (trade goods), scratched into soft clay tablets with a pointed reed that had been cut into a wedge shape. Archaeologists call this first writing "cuneiform," from the Latin "cuneus," meaning wedge. The system developed quickly to incorporate signs that represented sounds, and soon all of Mesopotamia was taking notes, making to-do lists and (presumably) writing love letters. Egyptian writing — the famous hieroglyphics — developed independently not long thereafter, under similar circumstances, historians think. A few thousand years later, as variations on the two systems spread throughout the region, the entire ancient world had writing schemes that vastly improved the efficiency of economies, the accountability of governments and, maybe most importantly to us, our understanding of the past...

Source: "How Writing Changed the World", Heather Whipps, LiveScience.com

| What are the MAIN IDEAS in the document(s)? | What ENDURING ISSUE(S) can you connect to this document? | What do you already about this topic, or related topics, that can be used as OUTSIDE INFORMATION? |
The following is an excerpt discussing how the Neo-Assyrian Empire was able to rise to power.

The Assyrian war machine was the most efficient military force in the ancient world up until the fall of the empire in 612 BCE. The secret to its success was a professionally trained standing army, iron weapons, advanced engineering skills, effective tactics, and, most importantly, a complete ruthlessness which came to characterize the Assyrians to their neighbors and subjects and still attaches itself to the reputation of Assyria in the modern day. A phrase oft-repeated by Assyrian kings in their inscriptions regarding military conquests is "I destroyed, devastated, and burned with fire" those cities, towns, and regions which resisted Assyrian rule.

**Source:** "Assyrian Warfare", Joshua J Mark, Ancient History Encyclopedia

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The following is a primary source excerpt from a Neo-Assyrian Emperor describing his conquests.

I felled (cut down) 50 of their fighting men with the sword, burnt 200 captives from them, [and] defeated in a battle on the plain 332 troops. ... With their blood I dyed the mountain red like red wool... I carried off captives [and] possessions from them. I cut off the heads of their fighters [and] built [therewith] a tower before (in front of) their city. I burnt their adolescent boys [and] girls... In strife and conflict I besieged [and] conquered the city. I felled 3,000 of their fighting men with the sword.

**Source:** Ashurnasirpal II, ruler of the Neo-Assyrian Empire (ruled 883 to 859 BCE), excerpt from the inscriptions on the walls of his Palace in Nimrud

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The Gutenberg Printing Press, invented in 1440, allowed for books to be mass produced quickly and cheaply. Before this invention, books had to be copied by hand. In Renaissance Europe, the arrival of mechanical movable type printing introduced the era of mass communication, which permanently altered the structure of society. The relatively unrestricted circulation of information and revolutionary ideas transcended borders and threatened the power of political and religious authorities. The following maps show the spread of printing technology throughout Europe.
The following is an excerpt analyzing the impact of machine gun technology.

The main reason [World War I] was so deadly was the combination of new technology and outdated tactics. While we may think about tanks, airplanes and poison gas, all of which made their debut in the First World War, the two most devastating technologies were American: machine guns and barbed wire. Attempting to march in lines towards an enemy’s trench, soldiers of both sides were mowed down by machine gun fire. According to one German machine gunner at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, “The [British] officers went in front. I noticed one of them walking calmly, carrying a walking stick. When we started firing we just had to load and reload. They went down in their hundreds. You didn't have to aim, we just fired into them.” At the Somme, the British lost 60,000 men in the first day of fighting. [There had been an] old colonialist verse [referencing how the maxim machine gun had given European imperialists an advantage over those they conquered in other parts of the world. It went,] 'Whatever happens / we have got / the maxim gun / and they have not.' Yeah, well, now everybody had machine guns.

Source: "World War I", John Green, Crash Course World History, adapted

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