**I. Japan Geography**

A. An archipelago of islands off the coast of China.
B. Only about 15% of land is arable.
C. Korea serves as a "land bridge" to China. Distance to Korea is 125 miles.
D. Seas allowed Japan to be isolated.
E. Not much known of early history.
F. What geographic features help/hinder society?

**II. Japanese Religion**

A. Shinto means "way of the kami" (kami = spirits).
B. Creation myth - brother and sister create Heaven and Earth.
C. Shinto is completely compatible with Buddhism -- many Japanese are both.
D. Buddhism introduced from China as part of Prince Shotoku's study missions.

**III. Cultural Borrowing from China**

A. Prince Shotoku sent missions to China to learn about art, religion, architecture, philosophy, etc.
B. Japan was eager to learn from China...first adopted, then adapted.
C. Writing system borrowed from China
D. Fashion and royal court life - HEIAN COURT -- luxury and idleness.
F. But Buddhist priests in Japan became more political than those in other place.

**IV. Emergence of the Shogunate as Central Authority Eroded**

A. Royal court unable or unwilling to take steps to prevent disintegration of central power.
B. Emergence of a military dictator -- the SHOGUN -- to rule in the name of the emperor.
C. System began in the 1100s and lasted until the mid-1800s.
D. Emperor was nothing more than a figurehead.
E. Social order: EMPEROR/SHOGUN/NOBLES (DAIMYO)/SAMURAI (soldiers who worked for the nobleman/ farmers/craftsmen/merchants.
F. Samurai lived by the honor code of "Bushido" -- death before dishonor.
V. Korea

A. Poor and mountainous country
B. Originally three kingdoms, then consolidated
C. Paid "tribute" (protection money" to China
D. Known for its fine porcelain

VI. Southeast Asia

A. Mainland portion south of China and east of India.
B. Over 25,000 islands in archipelagos.
C. Mainland societies tended to be agricultural (rice)
D. Island societies were very much involved in trade (monsoon winds)
E. From India: spices, tools, HINDUISM
F. From China: SILK, BUDDHISM, CONFUCIAN EXAM SYSTEM
G. In some places, a blend of both Chinese and Indian influence.