Asian Studies Japan Study Guide 1

Geography:

1. Know the four main islands of Japan
2. Be able to landforms (know about the coastal plains and the mountains), seas and oceans
3. Be able to identify
   1. The living and conditions of people living in Japan
   2. Describe how the transportation system reflects Japan’s population, especially in the urban areas
4. Be able to identify the monsoon seasons and how it affects the climate of Japan
5. Identify natural disaster that have an impact on Japan
6. Determine what affect the lack of natural resources has on Japan
7. Understand how the gas crisis in 1973 had an effect on Japan
8. Identify main living centers of the Japanese people
9. Be able to identify main food resources available to Japan

People:

1. Identify how and where the earliest inhabitants of Japan came from
2. Understand how Japan has become a homogenous society
3. What cultural systems did the Japanese adopt and where did they come from
4. Understand what the Japanese think of themselves as compared to other groups of people
5. Determine what the relationship between the Japanese has been with the Chinese and Koreans
6. Identify Japan’s major exports

Language:

1. Understand the developments in the spoken and written languages
2. Determine why so many Japanese use the English language
3. Determine what has caused miscommunication with the Japanese people

Early History:

1. Be able to identify the work under Emperor Shomu as it relates to the establishment of religion
2. Identify how we learned so much of Japan’s early history and what made the writings unreliable

Jomon and Yayoi Periods (8000B.C-300A.D.):

1. What was learned about these early periods as to how the people lived
2. Identify achievements
3. Identify the early rulers
4. How did the Yayoi get their name
5. How did we get so much information about Yayoi

Yamato Period A.D. 300-710)

1. Understand how government evolved into a dynasty
2. Identify elements of the Shinto religion
3. Describe how monks and scholars influenced Japanese culture
4. Identify two achievements by Prince Shotoko

Taika Reforms:

1. What were the Taika Reforms and how did they adopt them to Japanese life
2. Identify the most important of these reforms
3. Distinguish between China and Japan’s bureaucracies
4. How was Japan ruled before the reforms

Role of the Emperor:

1. Understand the role the emperor played
2. Understand how it differed from Chinese ways

Terms to know:

Ring of Fire archipelago megalopolis homogenus

urban burakumin typhoon monsoon

kana kami kamikaze uji

samurai daimyo bureaucracy shogun

seppuku bushido vassal feudalism

aristocrat