AP Themes
5 AP Themes

• The AP World History themes focus on major historical issues and developments, helping students connect the historical content they study to broad trends and processes that have emerged over centuries.

S – Social

P – Political

I – Interactions with the environment

C – Culture

E – Economics
SOC
Development and Transformation of Social Structures

This theme is about relations among human beings, how human societies develop ways of grouping their members, and norms that govern interactions between individuals and social groups. Additionally, this theme explores the processes through which social categories, roles, and practices are created, maintained, and transformed.

**EXAMPLE:** The chart to the right shows the social structure of ancient Mesopotamia.
Essential Questions:

● How have distinctions based on kinship, ethnicity, class, gender and race influenced the development and transformation of social hierarchies?

● How, by whom, and in what ways have social categories, roles, and practices been maintained or challenged over time?

● How have political, economic, cultural, and demographic changes affected social structure over time?
SOC
Development and Transformation of Social Structures

- Relations among humans
  - Gender roles and relations
  - Family and kinship
  - Racial and ethnic constructions
  - Social and economic classes

- Different from “Culture”
  - Social is how we deal with each other
  - Culture is how we deal with our world

Social structure of Gupta India - the caste system

Source: Guide to the Essentials of World History, Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)
On your document...

Most people are affected by the societies around them as well as the people who make up that society. Who has influenced you? (Remember, not all influences are good. You should think about good and bad influences.) Who are you around the most? How do they influence you?