**Historical Trend Descriptors**

While no two civilizations are the same, there are certain trends and commonalities that can be used to describe civilizations. Use these descriptive words (**descriptors**) when you are trying to analyze a civilization.

**Religious**

* Monotheistic/polytheistic
* Orthodox/heterodox
* Syncretic
* Tolerant/intolerant
* Secular

**Economic**

* Trading/self-sufficient
* Export/import-based
* Manufacturing, industrial/agrarian
* Wealthy/poor
* Slave-owning
* Serfdom
* Capitalist/socialist

**Cultural**

* Settled/Nomadic
* Diverse/homogenous
* Vibrant/dull
* Cultural diffusion/Independent innovation
* Conservative/liberal

**Intellectual**

* Advanced/progressing/stagnant
* Borrowers/innovators

**Political**

* Conservative/liberal/radical
* Centralized/Decentralized
* Authoritarian/Democratic/Oligarchic/Monarchic/Feudal/Theocratic
* Stable/Chaotic
* Militaristic
* Unified/disunified
* Self-governed

**Environmental**

* Isolated/At a crossroads/connected
* Resource-rich/resource-poor
* Natural boundaries
* Water transport

**Social**

* Equal/Unequal
* Hierarchical
* Rigid/Fluid (Socially mobile)
* Patriarchal/matriarchal
* Harmonious/adversarial, chaotic