TEST FOUR STUDY GUIDE:
The MONGOL ERA and the MIDDLE EAST

1. Map: Be able to identify the location of these countries of the Modern Middle East: Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, Israel, Pakistan

Know which of these countries are predominantly Christian (Armenia, Georgia, Ethiopia, and a large minority in Lebanon), Jewish (Israel), Shi'ite Muslim (Iran, Azerbaijan, and a large part of Iraq), and Sunni Muslim (all the rest).

2. Peoples, places, dates, facts:
   a. PRE–ISLAMIC: Sumerians, Hebrews and Arabs (related Semitic peoples), Copts (Egyptian Christians), Byzantine Empire (Greek successor of the Roman Empire, capital Constantinople, lasted till 1453), Bedouin (desert Arab nomad); Persia (Indo–European people, never conquered by Romans, only by Alexander the Great in 4th century BC); Plague of Justinian (542 – Bubonic plague decimates the Mediterranean lands); also know the difference between how farming and pastoralism interacted in the Middle East as opposed to East Asia and Europe; Know that the Ethiopians, Georgians and Armenians are the only Christian nations in the general area of the modern Middle East. Know that the Burusho people of Kashmir (northernmost Pakistan) speak a language (Burushaski) unrelated to all others and may represent the original, pre–pastoral inhabitants of Central Asia; Know also that northern India is peopled with groups descended from Indo–Aryan pastoralists speaking Sanskrit and professing the Hindu Religion, while southern India is populated by darker skinned Dravidian peoples, probably the descendants of the original farmers of the Indian Subcontinent, and possibly related to the farming people of the pre–Hindu Indus Valley Civilization

   b. ISLAM: Know basic details of the life of Muhammad (570–632) and also the basic tenets of Islam (especially the five pillars of the faith), Mecca, Hajj (pilgrimage each Muslim should make to Mecca), Ka'aba, Medina, Hijra (flight of M from Mecca to Medina in 622, the year that begins the Islamic calendar, Allah, Qur'an, umma (Muslim community), sura (verse in the Qur'an, there are 114 of them, arranged in order from longest to shortest), Sunna (M's way of living), Sharia (Islamic law), Ramadan (month of fasting), Caliph (successor of M), the four "rightly guided caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali – the last being M's son in
law, who was overthrown by the Umayyads (661–750, who in turn were
overthrown by the Abbasids (750–1258), Damascus (capital of Umayyad
Caliphate, in Syria), Baghdad (founded 751, capital of Abbasid Caliphate),
umma (community of Muslims), jizya (Islamic tax on Christians and Jews),
Sunnī, Shi'īte (know which modern peoples are which branch of Islam),
Assassin Sect; know basic facts about the Crusades (begun 1095 called
by Pope Urban II after the Byzantine Emperor called for help against the
Islamic Seljuk Turks, Crusader states lasted from 1099 to 1303), Al
Qaeda (since 1992, Usama bin Laden, Ayman al Zawahiri).

c. PERSIA/IRAN/Afghanistan – Conquered by Arabs in 642,
predominantly Shi'īte today, Ali and his son Hussein (held to be the
rightful successors of Muhammad), importance of imams (religious
leaders) and Ayatollahs (supreme religious leaders), Saladin (Kurdish foe
of the Crusaders).  Know what England and the US did in Iran in 1941
(pro–Hitler Shah deposed) and 1952 (prime minister removed for wanting
to nationalize the oil industry), Shah of Iran (pro–Western, fled to US in
1979), Islamic revolution of 1979, US embassy hostage crisis, Afghan
War, mujaheddin (Islamic fighters against the Soviets in the Afghan War),
US ouster of the Taliban in 2002, the Iraq Wars of 1992 and 2003 (on
Wednesday, I will explain some historical insights into these conflicts).
Know facts about the people of Afghanistan (Pushtu in the south, Uzbek
and other Turks in the north, and Hazara – Persian speaking, Shi'īte
descendents of Mongols – in the center.

d. TURKS/TURKEY: Seljuk Turks, Battle of Manzikert (1071), ghulam
(slave soldiers in Central Asia), Mamelukes (slave–soldiers in Egypt of
Turkic origin, later the rulers of Egypt), sultan (Turkic sovereign, not a
religious title – it allowed the Turks to rule over other Muslims, including
Arabs, without pretending to be the Caliph), Osman, Ottoman Turks,
ghazi (fundamentalist Islamic warriors, a word made from 'ghaza', the
Turkish for 'jihad' or 'holy war'), Battle of Kosovo (Serbs defeated in
1389), Ottoman Empire, Sultan Bayezid (captured by Tamerlane at the
Battle of Ankara in 1402), Istambul (how the Turks renamed
Contantinople after conquering it in 1453), Turks defeat Mamelukes
(1517) and take Egypt; they also eventually take over much of Arabia and
Iraq; janissary (Christian children taken from their homes between ages 8
and 15 and trained as Islamic soldiers in the Turkish army), the Balkans
(= Southwestern Europe: Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania), Vlad "the Impaler"
(Romanian "Dracula"), Sea Battle of Lepanto (1571, Europeans finally
defeat the Turks), failed Turkish Siege of Vienna (1683), Treaty of
Karlowitz (1699, Turkey begins to lose its European territories), Catherine
the Great of Russia defeats Turkey so badly (1770s–80s) that Turkey comes to be known as the "Sick Man of Europe; Turkey loses WWI in 1918 and the Ottoman Empire is dismembered, Ataturk (Father of modern secular Turkey)

e. MONGOLS: 4 sons of Chinggis Khan (Jochi, Chagatai, Ogedei, Tolui and most important, Sorqaqtani, Nestorian Christian wife of Tolui). Know that the alcoholic Ogedei was the next Great Khan and his death saved Europe; Important grandsons: Batu (Jochi line), ruler of the Golden Horde, which became Islamic under Batu's successor and ruled over Christian Russia for the next two (!!) centuries. Know the 4 sons of Tolui and Sorqaqtani: Mongke (the last Great Khan, died in China in 1259, of dysentery), Hulagu, conqueror of Baghdad and founder of the Ilkhanate in Iran/Iraq), Ariq-boke, deposed and poisoned by his brother Qubilai, who conquers China and begins the Yuan Dynasty. Know that the Mongols lost the battle of Ayn Jalut to the Mamelukes in 1260 and never conquered the rest of the Middle East. Know that the Crusaders stayed out of the battle and were later run out of the Middle East by the Mamelukes. Know that the Ilkhans in Iran became Muslims within a generation after the destruction of Baghdad and were absorbed into the Persian and Turkic population.