

# Was China under the Tang Dynasty really 'the greatest civilisation on earth'?

## Multiple choice questions: /5

1: Cave painting at Mogao showed many figures and individuals connected with what religion?

- A) Christianity.
- B) Hinduism.
- C) Buddhism.

2: Why did the monk Xuanzang go to India?

- A) To find out more about Buddhism from the place it came from.
- B) To set up trade links with merchants along the Silk Roads.
- C) To escape from famine and hardship in Tang China.

3: Which of the following is true of life in the city of Chang'an?

- A) There were two markets - North and South - and in both of these foreign traders were forbidden.
- B) Life was strictly controlled, with a curfew preventing people from being outside after dusk.
- C) The majority of people living in Chang'an were Christian.

4: Which event did Du Fu write about in his poem 'Chunwang'?

- A) Wu Zetian's rule as empress.
- B) The An Lushan Rebellion.
- C) The rule of the first emperor of the Tang Dynasty.

5: How did Empress Wu become ruler of China?

- A) She had helped her husband, the emperor, to rule when he was alive; after his death she declared herself the outright ruler.
- B) She led a coup at the Xuanwu Gates in Chang'an.
- C) She gathered support in the northern part of China, and destroyed many villages on her way to claim power.

## Put the key events in chronological order: /5

An Lushan died, but the period of unrest continued.

The Tang Dynasty was first established.

The Tang Dynasty fell, after a series of plots.

Wu Zetian became empress of China.

The An Lushan Rebellion broke out.

## Match up the key terms with their definitions: /5

Dynasty

The ruler of an empire (a group of states/countries).

Emperor

Religion that became increasingly popular in Tang China.

Buddhism

Network of routes connecting China with the world.

Silk Roads

Traditional religion or set of beliefs that focused on the importance of nature.

Taoism

A line of rulers from the same family.

## Answer these questions in brief sentences: /5

1: Describe some of the things Xuanzang learnt or found out on his trip to India:

2: How did China benefit from trade on the Silk Roads? (Think about the economy, ideas and fashions):

3: Describe two of the buildings or locations in the city of Chang'an:

4: What were the consequences of the An Lushan Rebellion?

5: Explain why some would say that Empress Wu deserves to be considered ruthless:

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## Put the key events in chronological order: /5

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| An Lushan died, but the period of unrest continued. | 4 (757) |
| The Tang Dynasty was first established.             | 1 (618) |
| The Tang Dynasty fell, after a series of plots.     | 5 (907) |
| Wu Zetian became empress of China.                  | 2 (665) |
| The An Lushan Rebellion broke out.                  | 3 (755) |

## Match up the key terms with their definitions: /5

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Dynasty    | The ruler of an empire (a group of states/countries).                            |
| Emperor    | Religion that became increasingly popular in Tang China.                         |
| Buddhism   | Network of routes connecting China with the world.                               |
| Silk Roads | Traditional religion or set of beliefs that focused on the importance of nature. |
| Taoism     | A line of rulers from the same family.   |

## Answer these questions in brief sentences: /5

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1: Describe some of the things Xuanzang learnt or found out on his trip to India:                     | <i>He discovered various Indian customs (like the type of education Indian children received). He saw how deeply religious people across India were, with lots of monasteries having been built; he also found that people believed in the existence of dragons.</i>                   |
| 2: How did China benefit from trade on the Silk Roads? (Think about the economy, ideas and fashions): | <i>New goods and products were brought into China (like amber from the Baltic Sea, and ivory from Africa): these could be sold for huge profits. New ideas were brought in to China relating to religion, science and medicine. New trends also developed in clothing.</i>             |
| 3: Describe two of the buildings or locations in the city of Chang'an:                                | <i>The East Market was where goods from inside China were sold; the West Market sold more 'exotic' goods. The Giant Wild Goose Pagoda was a Buddhist temple. The Xuanwu Gates was where an attempted coup took place. The Daming Palace was the Tang emperor's official residence.</i> |
| 4: What were the consequences of the An Lushan Rebellion?   | <i>The population had decreased considerably; there was unrest and instability across the empire; a period of recovery was needed, which the emperors did largely manage to bring about.</i>   |
| 5: Explain why some would say that Empress Wu deserves to be considered ruthless:                     | <i>She is thought by some people to have killed her own daughter, so that she could blame the emperor's first wife and take her place. She ordered many people to be executed in punishment for 'crimes'.</i>  |