

Key Unit Vocabulary

This report provides a summary of key vocabulary for this unit. For each word, you will find the definition, part of speech, word forms (plurals/tenses), synonyms, and examples of how the word, or forms of the word, are used in a sentence.

belief system

- a set of principles or tenets which together form the basis of a religion, philosophy, or moral code

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	belief systems
Synonyms:	value system
In a sentence:	Buddhism, Confucianism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity were some of the major belief systems in the thirteenth century.

Buddhism

- a spiritual philosophy and religion, founded in the sixth century BCE by Siddhartha Gautama and widespread in Asia, that teaches release from the self and from one's earthly desires

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	Buddhist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Buddhism originated in India and spread to Asia via merchants and believers.

bureaucracy

- an organized group of hired officials, especially governmental

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	bureaucracies, bureaucratic
Synonyms:	office
In a sentence:	Chinese emperors created a large bureaucracy to help the government function efficiently.

caliphate

- state ruled by a caliph, a Muslim ruler who is both the ruler of a state and the leader of an entire ummah (an Arabic word referring to the entire Muslim community)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	caliphates
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The conquests of the early caliphates spread Islam across Afro-Eurasia.

causation

- the act or process of causing (to make happen; creating or influencing)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	cause, causes, causality
Synonyms:	reason, motivation, source
In a sentence:	When looking through articles about the fall of the Han, you want to focus on causation as well as long-term effects.

Christianity

- a monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	Christianism
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Christianity became the dominant faith in European kingdoms after the fall of Rome.

claim testers

- strategies to decide whether a story or concept should or should not be trusted

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	claim tester, claim testing
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The four strategies for testing a claim that we use in World History are intuition, authority, logic, and evidence.

Confucianism

- the ethical teachings of Confucius, which emphasize reverence for ancestors, devotion to family and friends, cultivation and discipline of the mind, and social responsibility

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	Confucianist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The Chinese dynasty implemented Confucianism throughout the country.

consequence

- that which follows; result

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	consequences, consequently
Synonyms:	result, effect, outcome
In a sentence:	A direct consequence of the Black Death was an extreme loss of life.

contextualize

- to put into a context, or provide a context for; context = the set of circumstances or events in which a particular event occurs; situation

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	contextualizes, contextualizing, contextualized, contextualization
Synonyms:	research, consider
In a sentence:	When I contextualize my grandmother's decision and consider the difficult circumstances she was in, I can sympathize with her better.

continuity

- things that are constant over time; something in an uninterrupted state

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	continuities, continual, continuous, continuance
Synonyms:	cohesion
In a sentence:	The film's story line lacks continuity, so I was often confused about what was going on.

dynasty

- a succession, lasting several generations, of rulers from the same family or group

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	dynasties, dynastic, dynastically
Synonyms:	empire, regime
In a sentence:	The 800-year dynasty came to an end when rebel forces attacked the royal palace, killing the last of the imperial family.

evidence

- knowledge on which to base belief; that which constitutes proof of something

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	evident, evidenced, evidential, evidently
Synonyms:	demonstration, proof, testimony, indication
In a sentence:	Scientists have been searching for evidence of life on distant planets.

feudalism

- a system of economic and political organization, as in Europe in the medieval period, in which landholding lords granted lands to vassals in return for service and homage

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	feudalist, feudalistic
Synonyms:	manorialism
In a sentence:	In Japan, feudalism allowed for local rulers and military warlords to gain control and, in some cases, exert more influence than the government.

hajj

- the pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim is expected to make at least once during Dhul al-Hijjah

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	pilgrimage
In a sentence:	One of the Five Pillars of Islam is the hajj, or the journey to Mecca.

hierarchy

- a body of persons or entities graded according to rank or level of authority

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	hierarchies, hierarchical
Synonyms:	ranking, classification
In a sentence:	Rigid social hierarchies existed in some early societies where the wealthy outranked the poor.

innovation

- the act of proposing or implementing a new method, approach, idea, or the like

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	Innovations, innovative, innovator
Synonyms:	Improvement, modernization
In a sentence:	The innovation of brilliant minds is what grants humanity amazing technology such as space flight or the Internet.

Islam

- a monotheistic religion based on the teaching of the prophet Muhammad as set forth in the Qur'an

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	Islamic
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Islam is similar to Christianity and Judaism and thus Muslims refer to Christians and Jews as "people of the book".

Judaism

- a monotheistic religion based on the spiritual and ethical principles in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and the Talmud

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	Judaist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Judaism traces its origins to Abraham and the belief in one god.

matrilineal

- pertaining to tracing one's heritage and ancestry through the mother's family

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	I followed my matrilineal line back four generations, all the way to my great-great grandmother.

narrative

- an account, description, or story, or the oral or written work containing such material

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	narratives, narration, narratively, narrational, narrator
Synonyms:	account, narration, story, tale
In a sentence:	We listened to our grandfather's narrative of his time in the war until late into the night.

perspective

- a visual or mental view, as of a scene or a subject and the interrelationships of its parts or facts

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	perspectives, perspectival
Synonyms:	point of view, viewpoint, mindset
In a sentence:	Kelly's perspective on the new soccer team was biased because she used to play on the old one.

polytheistic

- the belief in more than one god

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	polytheist, polytheistically
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Christianity is not a polytheistic religion because it only accepts the existence of one god.

ritual

- an established and prescribed procedure for a ceremony, especially a religious one

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	rituals, ritualistic
Synonyms:	ceremony, custom, practice
In a sentence:	Drinking sips of rice wine is part of the traditional marriage ritual in Japan.

scale

- the degree, extent, or level of something

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	scales, scalar
Synonyms:	size, extent
In a sentence:	It is hard to imagine the sheer scale of the universe when we only live on a blip of a planet.

serf

- agricultural laborers who cannot leave their land and are heavily taxed by a lord or king

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	serfs, serfdom
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The serfs banded together to revolt against their cruel lord.

sourcing

- the act of understanding who wrote a document, where they wrote it, and why they wrote it, for the purposes of analysis or interpretation

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	source, sources
Synonyms:	contextualization
In a sentence:	Sourcing is crucial when writing a research essay because you want to understand the goals, purpose, and perspectives of your sources, not simply just what they've written.

state

- the population of a specific area unified under a single government

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	states
Synonyms:	nation
In a sentence:	The leaders of many foreign states will attend the meeting.

tribute

- payment given by a subordinate person or power to a dominant one, or an obligation to do so

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	tributary
Synonyms:	tax
In a sentence:	The Korean king paid an annual tribute to the Ming emperor of China.