

## Southwest Asia Study Guide

### Vocabulary

Alawite - a person who follows a form of Islam similar to Shia Islam

aquifer - an underground layer where water collects

autocracy - a government controlled by one person who has not won a free election

brain drain - situation when large numbers of educated people migrate out of a country

capital - money or goods that are used to make products

cleric - religious leader

coup - sudden violent overthrow of a government, often by the military

desalination - removal of salt from seawater

Druze - a person who follows a religion related to Islam

entrepreneurship - willingness to take the risk of starting a business

Fertile Crescent - a region with good conditions for growing crops that stretches from the Mediterranean coast east through Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) to the Persian Gulf

fossil fuel - nonrenewable resource formed over millions of years from the remains of ancient plants and animals.

fundamentalism - belief that holy books should be taken literally, word for word

hereditary monarch - a ruler from a traditional ruling family who is the son, daughter, or younger relative of the last ruler

hijab - concealing, baggy garments worn by many Arab women

Intifada - a Palestinian campaign of violent resistance against Israeli control

Islamism - belief that politics and society should follow Islamic teachings

Israeli settlement - places in the Palestinian Territories where Israelis have settled

jihad - Arabic word meaning struggle

Majlis - Iranian legislature

parliamentary democracy - a democracy in which parliament chooses the government

plate - block of rock and soil that makes up Earth's crust

qanat - tunnel that provided water to Persian villages by bringing water from an aquifer

rain shadow - a dry area that forms behind a highland that captures rainfall and snow

shamal - hot, dry winds that blow across Iran from west to east

strait - narrow body of water that cuts through land, connecting two larger bodies of water

terrorism - use of violence to create fear for political reasons

urbanized - place where most people live in cities

Zoroastrianism - an Iranian religion that dates back to ancient times

## Questions

Which major rivers flow through Iraq? (p. 591)

The Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers flow through Iraq.

Where are the largest oil reserves? (p. 592)

The largest oil reserves are in Saudi Arabia.

Why is oil so important to Arabia and Iraq? (p. 593)

Oil is important to Arabia and Iraq because it is the region's main natural resource. It pays for everything else people need, especially water and food.

Why are populations growing in the region of Arabia and Iraq? (p. 595)

Arabia and Iraq have high birthrates, partly because of local customs and religious traditions practiced in parts of the region encourages large families.

What are some differences among Muslims in the region of Arabia and Iraq? (p. 597)

Some Muslims are Sunnis, and some are Shias.

Are all Islamists fundamentalists? (p. 607)

No, not all Islamists are fundamentalists.

Why are there so many foreign workers in Arabia? (p. 609)

Oil income is available to pay foreign workers who do jobs local citizens do not want.

How is life changing for women in Arabia and Iraq?

Women are gaining access to education and opportunities to work and pursue careers.

How are some Islamic traditions regarding women different from those in modern Western culture?

Unlike modern Western culture, some Islamic traditions separate men and women or expect women to be obedient to men.

Why do leaders in Arabia and Iraq want to diversify their countries' economies?

Economies that diversify will be stronger and offer people many sources of income and jobs.

Which 3 continents meet in or near the region of Israel and its neighbors? (p. 619)

Asia, Africa, and Europe

What river does Israel share with three other countries? (p. 623)

The Jordan River

Which ethnic group lives in every country of the region of Israel and its neighbors? (p. 625)

Arabs

What is the most important resource for Israel and its neighbors. Explain. (p. 625)

The most important resource is water, because it is very scarce.

What is the Knesset? (p. 635)

The Knesset is Israel's parliament.

How has education helped Israel? (p. 636)

Education has produced a highly skilled work force that makes products for trade and also attracts foreign capital.

Which city do both Israelis and Palestinians claim as their capital? (p. 640)

Jerusalem

Why is the region of Israel and its neighbors so important for trade? (p. 641)

The region is important because many trade routes run through it, including those to and from nearby oil-rich nations.

What are the main reasons for conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians? (p. 641)

The main reason is control of lands that both groups view as homeland.

How does the location of oil make Israel and its neighbors important to the rest of the world? (p. 641)

They are the gateway to the oil-producing nations of Southwest Asia.

Why is Istanbul's location so important? (p. 650)

It controls access to and from the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Why does the central plateau in Turkey receive little rainfall? (p. 651)

Turkey's central plateau gets little rain because it is in a rain shadow.

What important resources are plentiful in Iran? (p. 653)

Oil and natural gas are plentiful in Iran.

Which large minority group is found in both Iran and Turkey? (p. 655)

Kurds

Does the Supreme Leader or the president of Iran have more power? (p. 663)

The Supreme Leader has more power than the President.

Why do some countries object to Iran's nuclear energy program? (p. 664)

They fear Iran is really developing a nuclear weapon.

Why do many educated Iranians leave their country? (p. 664)

They leave to escape the lack of freedom and economic opportunity in Iran.

What role does Turkey's military play in its government? (p.667)

Turkey's military has a great deal of power and has staged military coups to push out governments it opposes.

Why do some EU nations object to admitting Turkey?

Some nations dislike Turkey's record on human rights, treatment of Kurds, and role in Cyprus.

How is Cyprus divided? (p. 669)

Cyprus is divided into Turkish, Greek, UN, and British areas.