

2021-22 Academic Pentathlon Social Science Resource Guide Outline

Section I: Physical Properties of Water8%

- A. Introduction
- B. Chemical and Atmospheric Properties of Water
- C. Biochemical Properties of Water

Section II: The Environmental History of Water56%

- A. Water and Pastoralist Cultures
- B. The Great Transition: Water and the Neolithic Revolution
- C. The Wittfogel Thesis
- D. The “Great Goddess” Hypothesis
- E. The Role of Water in European Antiquity
- F. “The Second Great Transition”: Urbanization and the Industrial Revolution

Section III: Present-Day Water Issues19%

- A. Introduction
- B. A Miniature History of Waterborne Diseases
- C. The Sanitary Revolution
- D. Water in the Industrializing World: The United States
- E. Water in the Rural Global South
- F. Water in the Urban Global South – The Example of Bolivia
- G. Water and Agriculture
- H. Oceanic Water

Section IV: Water and the Future of Human Civilization17%

- A. Introduction
- B. Response to Scarcity, Example 1: Conservation and Reuse in Israel
- C. Response to Scarcity, Example 2: Desalinization in California
- D. Response to Scarcity, Example 3: Unusual Approaches
- E. Climate Change, International Relations, and Water