Outline Review For Test on Ancient Egypt

I. Nile River
   A. Geography
      1. Longest river in world.
      2. Nile flows South to North.
      3. **Delta** is at mouth of river (best soil).
      4. Two sources: Blue and White Nile.
      5. Rich fertile soil (silt) located along the banks of river would occur after the annual flooding. Grain such as wheat and barley were important crops.
      6. Cataracts along Nubian portion of Nile.
      7. Red Land (desert) / Black Land (fertile soil)
   B. Communities
      1. People settled in communities around 6000-4000 BC. They farmed, fished and used water wheels called **shadufs**.
   C. Trade (Economic)
      1. Ships sailed up and down Nile to trade goods.
      2. Other trade routes ran across desert to Red Sea or Mesopotamia.
      3. Goods such as gold, silver and pottery along trade routes.

II. Ancient Egyptian Rulers
   A. Pharaohs
      1. Absolute power (total control over everyone and everything).
      2. Considered kings and gods.
      3. **Pharaoh Khufu**: ruled during Old kingdom, strong central government, had the Great Pyramid built for him.
      4. **Pharaoh Senusret I**: ruled during the Middle kingdom, encouraged art and literature, religious architecture (White Chapel).
5. **Pharaoh Hatshepsut**: ruled during New Kingdom, female pharaoh, promoted trade, great temple Dayr al-bahri.

6. **Pharaoh Ramses II**: ruled during the New Kingdom (60 years), superior military leader, created world's first peace treaty, built complex at Abu Simbel.

7. **King Tut’s** tomb found by Howard Carter in 1922. Only tomb found intact.

**B. Egyptian History**

1. **Three Time Periods:**
   a. **Old Kingdom**: stable government, built pyramids.
   b. **Middle Kingdom**: many achievements in literature, art and architecture.
   c. **New Kingdom**: Egypt’s Golden Age, peace, trade, massive monuments.

**III. Religion**

**A. Practices/Mummification**

1. Bodies of important people needed to be preserved and mummified (70 days)
2. Natron was used to dry out bodies, canopic jars for organs.
3. Coffins for mummies.
4. Tombs were built to hold remains of the people and their possessions.

**B. Beliefs**

1. **Polytheism**: gods and goddesses controlled the workings of nature
   a. Osiris (god of dead)
   b. Isis (wife of Osiris; goddess of women and children)
   c. Amon-Re (sun god-chief god)
   d. Horus (falcon god, son of Osiris and Isis)
2. Egyptians believed in a life after death
   a. Souls needed food, clothing and other items to survive in the afterlife.
3. A spirit would exist in the afterlife if the body was made into a mummy.
C. Pyramids

1. Most pyramids built during Old Kingdom.
2. Built as tombs for pharaohs.
3. Largest pyramid was for Pharaoh Khufu (took 20 years).
4. Tomb robbing was a big problem/Very costly and time consuming.

IV. Culture

A. Everyday Life

1. Egypt had 4 social classes (few people at the top, more on the bottom)
   a. Pharaoh
   b. Nobles/Priests/Scribes
   c. Merchants/Artisans
   d. Peasants
2. Slaves were prisoners of war-didn't make up a large class.
3. Most peasants worked for the wealthy people. Lives revolved around the 3 seasons of the year (floodings, planting and harvesting).
   a. During flood season worked on roads and temples.
   b. When flood waters went down, they planted and harvested crops.
4. Women had many rights that men did (could run business, own property, etc.)

V. Achievements

A. Hieroglyphics (system of writing)
B. Papyrus (paper made from reeds found along Nile Delta)
C. Calendar (created the 365 calendar using astronomy)
D. Math (basic math: addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions)
E. Medicine (mummification, performed surgery, set broken bones, created medicines from plants)
F. Architecture (pyramids, temples)

“Egypt is the Gift of the Nile”