the downfall of these two regions was the entrance of Islam to India, which caused further disunity.

3. Analyze the impact of nomadic peoples on civilizations in the classical period (providing specific details and examples as support).

Nomadic peoples often facilitated both trade and contact between different civilizations. For example the nomadic people along the Silk Road provided animals for merchants to use in transporting goods. In the 8th century CE central Asian Muslim nomads fought with Chinese armies; they later discovered the ways of papermaking through the Chinese prisoners and spread this knowledge westward. Nomads also spread new military technologies. Examples include reliance on cavalry, hit and run tactics, saddles, bits, and bow and arrow designs all developed by nomads and adopted by civilization. Defense against the nomads inspired the Great Wall of China, gunpowder, and cannons. Nomadic people also facilitate the spread of food crops and disease. Most notably when the Mongols brought the black plague from central Asia to China and to the west. Nomads directly invaded many major centers of civilization, and this helped to bring about the end of the classical era. A nomadic people called the Huns invaded Italy and Rome, and overthrew the Guptas in India. A similar group of nomads also defeated Han China.

4. How did the collapse of classical civilizations spur the furthering and development of the following major world religions – Christianity, Buddhism, Islam?

The later part of the classical period was in part characterized by the expansion and development of Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. Indian contacts with Southeast Asia and mainland Asia allowed for Buddhist religion and art to spread to China and Indonesia. Mediterranean trade with Africa allowed for Christianity to spread to areas such as Ethiopia. Buddhism initially spread along trade routes in central Asia, and Persia. Nomadic people in the Middle East often times converted to Islam and spread the religion where they went. At the end of the classical period Christianity became the only powerful force of Western Europe. In the end of the classical period the rising death rate caused many people from Spain to China to question their current religion and seek out a new one that may save them. Christianity became widespread throughout the Mediterranean and Buddhism surged through Eastern Asia. In 600 CE Islamic religion came about and was a powerful force for several more centuries. All three of these religions grew due to promising a better fate in the after life and offering answers to political instability and poverty. Monks contributed to the expansion of Buddhism by extending its reach north into China. Christianity emphasized the beauty of a simple life and equality of everyone spiritually. This message was well received by the people of Europe at the time. Official support in declining Rome helped Christianity spread, and it advanced even more so after the fall of Rome and there was little imperial power to stop the spread of Christianity. Christianity was also favorable in that it adapted to accommodate previously popular polytheistic religions.