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## **Film Response**

### ***Question 1***

The film "Maya: The Blood of Kings" (1995) provides an overview of the Maya people's "cultural screen." The people were deeply religious and believed in gods ("Maya: The Blood of Kings (1995)" 16:11-16:17). They believed in rituals, which formed a significant part of the cultural values. Harmony between humans and nature was an essential part of their cultural dispensation ("Maya: The Blood of Kings (1995)" 30:37). Therefore, respect for the environment was paramount as it was sacred.

### ***Question 2***

The Maya people had several technological innovations during their time. For instance, their understanding of mathematics made it possible for them to develop a complex system of astronomy that enabled them to study the sky ("Maya: The Blood of Kings (1995)" 17:53-17:59). Besides astronomy, the people developed a complex writing system known as hieroglyphs. In addition, the calendar system has its roots in this society ("Maya: The Blood of Kings (1995)" 20:05). The innovations demonstrate the creativity of the Maya people and the progressive nature of their culture, which allowed them to advance in several unimaginable ways.

### ***Question 3***

The noblemen occupied the top position in the hierarchy (“Maya: The Blood of Kings (1995)” 27:48). As rulers, the noble governed the subject and facilitated development and technological advancements. The clergy also played a critical role in Mayan society. Their priestly duties encompassed overseeing rituals and predicting solar eclipses (“Maya: The Blood of Kings (1995)” 20:50). Below the priests were the commoners, who included servants, laborers, and farmers. Members of this class had a direct impact on improving the economic well-being of the Maya people. Lastly, enslaved people and serfs occupied the lowest level of the social hierarchy. Such individuals provided affordable labor for the noble people.

#### Work Cited

“Maya: The Blood of Kings (1995).” *YouTube*, uploaded by Ricardo Higuera, 12 March 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-ivIjbC6m8>.