M 104: History of Ancient Mesopotamia and Syria, midterm prep

Bring only a good pen, all paper will be provided; write slowly and legibly! Manage your time, only 70 minutes—do not make the mistake of leaving anything blank. Generally, the key words in yellow in the class PowerPoint can direct you on what to know from the lectures.

Map (10 pts) Know the syllabus map; know the major bodies of water and mountains, and ancient and some modern place names; if you do not know where something is, at least try

Chronology (30 pts) 3500-2000 BC; think of “distinctive” developments for each major period
Late Uruk ca. 3500-3000 BC
Early Dynastic ca. 2900-2350
ED I-II ca. 2900-2700
ED IIIa ca. 2600-2500
ED IIIb ca. 2500-2350
(ED also called “pre-Sargonic”)
Ebla ED IIIb/OAkk ca. 2350-2300
Old Akkadian ca. 2340-2200
(also called “Sargonic”)
Ur III ca. 2100-2000

Short IDs (30 pts) Identify 5 of 6 names/terms offered (date, place, significance), of major archaeological artifacts (including writing artifacts), architecture, chronology, places and persons; review for this: lecture notes & PowerPoint (all potential names/terms are yellow-highlighted in the class ppt slides)

Essays (30 pts) 1) You can be sure you will be asked about the invention and use of cuneiform: review class notes and Postgate pp. 51-70
2) Then there will be questions about the political and social organization of early states in 3rd millennium Mesopotamia; review Diakonoff’s 1969 “Despotic State” and Gelb’s “Alleged Temple and State Economies” articles, know their terminology for rulers and ruled particularly in ED IIIb and Ur III; reread pertinent sections of Postgate 88-154
3) Something about agriculture and production; review Postgate 157-190 & lectures

Bonus (3 pts) There will be a bonus question dealing with the Woods film shown in class

Write clearly, keep everything concise