II. Tang and Song Achievements

- The Tang and Song dynasties were periods of economic, cultural, and technological accomplishments.
1. Chinese civilization had always been based on agriculture. They were expert farmers.

2. In the north, farmers grew wheat, barley, and other grains. The south was ideal for growing rice.

3. During the Song dynasty, improvements were largely due to irrigation techniques.

4. Farmers dug underground wells.

5. A new kind of pump allowed one person to do the work of many.

6. The amount of land under cultivation increased, and farmers learned to grow crops more efficiently.

7. Farms were more productive, and food was plentiful. This led to population growth and increased trade.

A. Advances in agriculture led to increased trade and population growth.
B. Cities and trade grew during the Tang and Song dynasties.

1. China’s capital city, Chang’an, was a bustling trade center.

2. Trade grew along with the cities, making China richer than ever before.

3. The Grand Canal, a series of waterways that linked major cities, carried a huge amount of trade goods.

4. During the Tang dynasty, most foreign trade went over land routes to India, Southwest Asia, Korea, and Japan.

5. During the Song dynasty, sea trade allowed China to open its Pacific ports to other countries.
C. The Tang and Song dynasties produced fine arts and inventions.

1. The artists and writers of the Tang dynasty were some of China’s greatest.
2. Artists wrote poems, painted, sculpted in clay, and made porcelain items.

3. Some of the most important inventions were made during this time as well.
   - Some of these influenced events around the world.
D. Inventions

1. Woodblock printing was invented. Entire pages were carved into a block of wood, covered with ink, and pressed onto paper to create copies.

2. Gunpowder and the compass were very important inventions of the Tang dynasty.
   – Gunpowder was used to make fireworks and signals.
   – The compass allowed sailors and merchants to travel vast distances.

3. The Song dynasty brought about the inventions of movable type and paper money.