*Civilization is a meaning where strict parameters describe advanced societies.* ***By historical definition, a civilization is a complex culture which contains five characteristics.****Sumer of Mesopotamia, as one of the first recognized civilizations, provides a thorough analysis of the term.*

Advanced Cities For historical purposes, a city is not merely an urban location with a large population.  What separated villages from cities was city dwellers’ dependence on trade.  Sumerian cities, several of which had populations of more than 10,000, were trade centers for merchants and farmers.

Specialized Workers Specialization occurs when people develop specific skills for different jobs.  In advanced cities like Sumer, workers were government officials, farmers, artisans, and traders.

Record Keeping / Writing Complex cultures require written records to keep track of business transactions and cultural observances.  In Sumer, cuneiform tablets recorded business transactions, religious and cultural customs, and historical events.

Advanced Technology As larger groups of people live together, they invent new techniques and tools to make life easier.  Sumerian metalworkers developed the process of making bronze useful for spearheads and tools.

Complex Institutions When larger groups of people live together, institutions develop to keep order.  Sumerians developed an economy and governmental and religious institutions which sometimes overlapped.  Priests had dual political and religious power.

Social Classes When larger groups of people live together, class systems often develop. These are typically based on economic or political standing, religious standing, or jobs.

Social