Exercise 10: Encyclopedias 頻書 & Shi Tong 十通

1. Encyclopedias: Locate the items or quotes listed & write a brief paragraph describing generally the encyclopedia and answering these questions: How is the material organized in general and under the item concerned? What are the major sources cited under this item? What is the general content of the information?

   a) Yu hai 玉海: 1. xuexiao 學校; 2. xuanju 選舉 3. chaogong 朝貢; 4. tianzhi 田制
   b) Gu jin tushu jicheng 古今圖書集成: 1. yingsu 鶯粟; 2. xiyin 堐印; 3. xiao 孝; 4. tie 鐵
   c) Yuanjian leihan 淵鑑類函: 1. yushi dafu 御史大夫; 2. xiang 象; 3. you 油; 4. qiao 橋
   d) Ge zhi jingyuan 格致鏡原: 1. tu 兔; 2. shuizu 水族; 3. qin 琴; 4. hupo 琥珀
   e) Tong su bian 通俗編: 1. ling bu xu xing 令不虛行; 2. guofu min'an 國富民安
   f) Zishi jinghua 子史精華: 1. fan mingzu jie yuan tonghun 凡名族皆願通昏; 2. fan li guodu fei yu dashan zhi xia 凡立國都非於大山下.

2. Shi Tong 十通: Answer the following questions:

   a) In 1645 the salt tax on a national level was reduced by one-third. Why was this done? What was the estimated official sale of salt for that year and what were the projected figures for 1646 and 1659? Why the predicted increase?
   b) What were the duties of the Ministry of Public Works during the Yuan dynasty? How many chief ministers were there at various times?
   c) In 1665 a drought affected the capital. In 1723 the Yellow River flooded parts of He’nan 河南 and Zhili 直隸. What action was taken by central authorities on these two occasions?
   d) What was the total amount of land under cultivation and the amount of land tax collected in 1766 when compared to 1661? Based on the population numbers cited for these dates, what would you estimate to have been the general increase in population during the same period?
   e) Why after Ji Yun’s 紀昀 1792 memorial was the Hu Anguo 胡安國 Commentary to the Spring and Autumn Annals 春秋 removed from the required civil examination curriculum? Which commentaries were still used? How long had the Hu commentary been orthodox?
   f) Choose an encyclopedia important for your own work and research a question in it related to your research proposal. Summarize your findings.
   g) Use the Shi Tong to look up an item or problem of interest to you.