

Chapter 10: Classical Greece Reading Questions

Eyewitness – p. 189

1. What can we learn about Greek culture from the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*?
2. How was ancient Greece different from other classical societies? List as many ways as you can find.

Early Development of Greek Society – p. 190

3. With what other cultures did the early Cretans (Minoans) interact?
4. Why did Minoan society decline?
5. From whom did the Mycenaeans learn their writing and construction techniques?
6. What problems plagued Greek and Anatolian society around the time of the Trojan war?

The World of the Polis – p. 191

7. How did *poleis* change from being fortified sites to bustling urban centers?
8. How did the Spartans gain slaves (helots)?
9. How did the Spartans preserve semi-egalitarian social rank?
10. After Spartans became softer and richer, why did they still feel the need to preserve their war-like ways?
11. Athens preserved order differently than Sparta. How did Athens attempt to relieve the tensions caused by political and social strain?
12. Who had the power to vote in Athens? Who lacked that power?
13. Why was there a conflict between the lower classes and the aristocrats?
14. How did Solon solve the problem described in question 13?

Greece and the Larger World – p. 194

15. Why did the Greeks begin to establish colonies in other parts of the Mediterranean basin?
16. Greek colonization was not controlled by a central government; colonies were also not directed by the original polis. Who, then, controlled the colonies?
17. How did the Greek colonies change life in the Mediterranean basin? (there are three ways)

Conflict with Persia – p. 195

18. What was the cause of the Persian Wars?
19. Skirmishes between Greeks and Persians continued after Xerxes's defeat. Why did they not have another full-scale war?
20. The Greeks formed the _____ to prevent more Persian attacks.
21. Why did the Delian League become a source of tension for the Greeks?
22. Tensions mentioned in the last question overflowed, causing what conflict?
23. Who were the principal poleis in the Peloponnesian War?
24. According to the Athenian historian Thucydides, how did Athens lose its reputation as the moral and intellectual leader of the Greek people?

The Macedonians and the Coming of Empire – p. 196

25. At first, Macedon was a farming and sheepherding state. Why did Macedon change?
26. As Philip of Macedon began expanding into Greece, why were the Greeks unable to mount an effective resistance?
27. Why was Philip unable to fulfill his dream of conquering Greece and Persia?
28. Alexander conquered Egypt, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and Bactria. Why was he unable to conquer the rest of India?
29. Why do we not know how effective a governor Alexander would have been?

The Hellenistic Empires – p. 199

30. How did they divide the kingdom after Alexander's death?
31. What city became the cultural center of the Hellenistic Empires?
32. What were the respective purposes of the Alexandrian Museum and Library?
33. What religion or religions were practiced in Bactria?

The Fruits of Trade: Greek Economy and Society – p. 201

34. Why did Greek society depend on maritime trade?
35. What crops grow well in Greece?
36. Pan-Hellenic festivals helped unite Greece culturally. What kinds of contests did these festivals have?

Family and Society – p. 203

37. Describe the status of women in Greece.
38. There was only one public position open to women. What was it?
39. How did the Greeks acquire their slaves?
40. How did Pasion manage to win his freedom from slavery?

The Cultural Life of Classical Greece – p. 204

41. How did Socrates teach his students?
42. How did Plato solve the problem of understanding things like virtue as abstract principles?
43. According to Plato's *Republic*, what kind of government is best?
44. How did Aristotle differ from Plato?
45. What did medieval scholars call Aristotle?
46. How did medieval Christian and Muslim theologians treat Plato & Aristotle?

Popular Religion – p. 206

47. Name at least two deities worshipped primarily or exclusively by women.
48. What topics did Greek drama explore?

Hellenistic Philosophy and Religion – p. 207

49. What did the Epicureans believe?
50. What did the Skeptics believe?
51. What did the Stoics believe?
52. Other religions became popular in Greece. From what other nations did these religions come?