



## Mini Assessment

1 Most of the poleis of ancient Greece were controlled by

- 1 oligarchs            3 philosophers
- 2 oracles              4 foreign kings

2 Athens and Sparta headed rival alliances of Greek city-states which clashed in the

- 1 Poleis Wars
- 2 Persian Wars
- 3 Pantheon Wars
- 4 Peloponnesian Wars

3 The combined work of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle in Greece's classical period created

- 1 widespread support for the Sophist philosophy
- 2 an intellectual basis for Western thought
- 3 the basis for democracy in all the poleis
- 4 new theories on the origin of the universe

## Constructed Response:

"... Until philosophers are kings, ...cities will get no rest from troubles and neither will mankind. Then only will this State of ours see the light of day with a good chance of survival."

— Socrates speaking in Plato's *The Republic*

1 According to the quotation, on what does the survival of the State depend?

2 Why is having education an important quality for a ruler?

**Herodotus** (the father of history) and **Thucydides** focused on sifting fact from the stories and legends of the past.

## SPREAD OF HELLENISTIC CIVILIZATION

By the middle of the 4th century BC, the Greek poleis weakened due to their continual infighting. To their north on the Balkan Peninsula, a new kingdom arose to dominate them – **Macedonia**. In 356 BC, **Philip II**, a skillful leader became king of Macedonia. Methodically using force and diplomacy, Philip won control of Delphi and its allied cities in central Greece. Then, in 338 BC, he conquered Thebes and Athens. Philip had dreams of leading his new Hellenistic kingdom against its traditional enemy, Persia. However, he was murdered in 336 BC.

Philip's son, the brilliant **Alexander the Great** was a student of Aristotle's and only 20 years old when he succeeded to Macedonia's throne. The young warrior carried out Philip's dream of a magnificent new

empire. Historians refer to this as the **Hellenistic Age** (c. 324 to 27 BC). To avoid confusion of two similar terms, *Hellenic* refers to the culture developed during the classical age of the Greek poleis. The *Hellenistic* culture is post-classical; it developed after the Greek poleis faded in power. Hellenistic culture emerged as a blend of the cultures of the vast region conquered by Alexander the Great and extended to the beginning of the Roman Empire under Augustus.

ALEXANDER'S CONQUESTS & HELLENISTIC WORLD c. 323 BC



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Alexander began his conquests by crushing revolts in the Greek cities (336 BC). In the next two years, he threw the powerful Macedonian cavalry and **phalanx**<sup>1</sup> into an onslaught of campaigns that overpowered the Persians in Palestine and Egypt. In the next ten years (334-324 BC), he moved his forces steadily eastward, overpowering strong resistance from local Persian administrators. The result was a grand empire that stretched from Greece to the Indus River Valley.

Alexander ordered the building of libraries and centers of learning such as that of Alexandria, Egypt. There, the knowledge of classical Greece fused with that of the East. Alexander's empire was short lived. In 323 BC, he died in Babylon as he was returning home from the Indus Valley. The Greek traders and artisans that supplied his armies diffused their culture, blending it with the cultures of Egypt, Palestine, and Persia. Intermarriage of his soldiers with inhabitants of conquered territories intermixed the cultures even more.

The result was a new Hellenistic civilization that carried learning and the arts to new heights. Hellenistic scholars looked at nature and studied patterns and laws. They organized bodies of knowledge in science and mathematics. **Pythagoras** and **Euclid** blended knowledge of three continents into the basis of geometry. In science, **Aristarchus** (Earth orbits the Sun) and **Archimedes** (water displacement, principles of simple machines) began to work in fields such as astronomy and physics.

After Alexander's sudden death, his generals broke the empire into Asian, Egyptian, and Macedonian dynasties. The Greek city-states once more fell into struggles for power.

## ROME: CITY OF CONQUEST

According to tradition, members of the **Latin** tribe founded **Rome** in 753 BC. From the 7th to the 1st centuries BC, Rome's citizen warriors (lifetime military service was required as it had been in Sparta) conquered all of the Italian

## PARALLEL GRECO-ROMAN DEITIES

GREEK	ASSOCIATION	ROMAN
Zeus	ruler-father, sovereign, controller	Jupiter
Hera	marriage	Juno
Hermes	athletics, poetry, travelers	Mercury
Aphrodite	love	Venus
Ares	war	Mars
Apollo	medicine, fine art, wisdom	Apollo
Artemis	the hunt, protector of women	Diana
Poseidon	earth and sea mover	Neptune
Dionysus	fertility, dance, song, drama	Bacchus

Peninsula, Sicily, and Carthage. In the process, Rome's government moved from monarchy, to **republic**<sup>2</sup>, to dictatorship. The Etruscan kings of the 7th century BC drained marshes around the Tiber and built the Circus Maximus and the **Forum**<sup>3</sup>, but they were hated by the Latins.

By 200 BC, Rome's new strength was rising in the central Mediterranean. By the 2nd century BC, it was growing into a major power. Before it fell 600 years later, it conquered Greece, much of Alexander's former holdings in the Eastern Mediterranean, and eventually, most of North Africa and Europe.

Rome conquered Macedonia and made it an imperial province in 148 BC. Rome's rulers allowed Greek poleis **autonomy**<sup>4</sup> and preserved and protected the more important ones, such as Athens, as centers of learning. The Romans' admiration of Greek civilization led them to take for their own much of the Greek culture – art, architecture, technology, education, and religion (see chart above).

As imperial army legions moved through the Eastern Mediterranean, Roman leaders replaced monarchs and reorganized kingdoms. Some areas overthrew their traditional rulers in places such as Pergamum and Palestine.

## THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

The Roman Republic evolved over a long period. In 509 BC, the Roman **Senate**, an advisory body to the Etruscan kings, overthrew the monarchy. The **Roman republic** (*res publica* – "the peoples' thing") began as an oligarchy of

1 phalanx (blocks of infantry carrying overlapping shields and long spears)

2 republic (representative democracy)

3 Forum (public square)

4 autonomy (home rule)

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