

November 1994

# Greek History to Alexander the Great

## 5394/3548

*Time: Three hours*

**In addition, candidates are allowed ten minutes, before the examination begins, to read the paper.**

**Answer Question 1 and any other THREE questions.**

**Each question carries an equal number of marks.**

1. Comment on any TWO of the following passages:

a) When (the date is 390 B.C.) they were at a distance of three or four miles from Sicyon, the Spartan officer turned back towards Lechaeum, taking with him the hoplites, of whom there were about six hundred. He told the commander of the cavalry to follow with his regiment after they had escorted the Amyclaeans (that is, the men of Amyclae - a Spartan village - who were on their way home to celebrate a festival) as far as they asked him to go. They were quite aware that there were great numbers both of peltasts (light-armed troops) and hoplites in Corinth, but because of their previous successes they discounted any danger of any attack from that quarter. However, the generals in Corinth - Callias, the son of Hipponicus, who was in command of the Athenian hoplites, and Iphicrates, who commanded the peltasts - saw that the Spartans were neither in great force nor protected by peltasts or cavalry, and came to the conclusion that it would be safe to attack them with their own peltasts.

Xenophon, A History of My Times 4.5.12-13

or

b) King Artaxerxes thinks it right that the cities in Asia Minor shall be his, and also the islands of Clazomenae and Cyprus, and that he should leave autonomous all the other Greek cities, both great and small, except Lemnos and Imbros and Scyros, which are to belong to the Athenians as of old. Whosoever do not accept this peace, on them I shall make war in concert with those who wish this peace, by foot and by sea with ships and money.

Xenophon, A History of My Times 5. I. 31

or

c) When Phoebidas committed the outrage of seizing the Cadmeia, the citadel of Thebes, in time of peace, the Greeks were universally indignant, the Spartans were annoyed, and Agesilaus' opponents in particular angrily asked Phoebidas on whose authority he had done this.

Plutarch, Agesilaus 23

or

d) The result of this battle (Mantineia) was just the opposite of what every-one expected it would be. Nearly the whole of Greece had been engaged on one side or the other, and everyone imagined that, if a battle was fought, the winner would become the dominant power and the losers would be their subjects. But God so ordered things that both parties put up trophies, as for victory, and neither side tried to prevent the other from doing so; both sides gave back the dead under a truce, as though they had won, and both sides received their dead under a truce, as though they had lost. Both sides claimed the victory, but it cannot be said that with regard to the accession of new territory, or cities, or power either side was any better off after the battle than before it. In fact, there was even more uncertainty and confusion in Greece after the battle than there had been previously. Let this, then, be the end of my narrative. Someone else, perhaps, will deal with what happened later.

Xenophon, A History of My Times 7.5.26

or

e) When Perdikkas was defeated in a great battle by the Illyrians and fell in the action, his brother Philippos, who had escaped from detention as a hostage, succeeded to the throne. But his kingdom was in a sorry state: more than 4,000 Macedonians had fallen in the battle, and the remainder, panic-stricken, had become terrified of the Illyrian forces and had lost heart for continuing the war. Also at about this same time the Paionians, who are neighbours of the Macedonians, began, in contempt of them, to ravage Macedonian territory; the Illyrians began to assemble large forces and make preparations for an invasion of Macedonia; and a certain Pausanias, who was related to the Macedonian royal house, began to make plans with the help of the king of the Thracians to stake his claim to the Macedonian throne. Likewise the Athenians also, who were hostile to Philippos, were seeking to restore Argaios to the throne, and they had already sent off a general, Mantias, with 3,000 hoplites and a considerable naval force. So because of the disastrous battle and the magnitude of the dangers pressing in upon them the Macedonians were utterly at a loss.

Diodorus, XVI.2.4

or

f) When Alexander had crossed the desert and arrived at the shrine, the high priest of Ammon welcomed him on the god's behalf as a father greeting his son. Alexander's first question was to ask whether any of his father's murderers has escaped punishment. At this time the high priest commanded him to speak more guardedly, since his father was not a mortal. Alexander therefore changed the form of his question and asked whether the murderers of Philip has all been punished, and he added another inquiry concerning his own empire, and asked whether he was destined to rule over all mankind. This, the god replied, would be granted to him, and he also assured him that Philip's death had been completely avenged, whereupon Alexander dedicated some magnificent offerings to the god and presented large sums of money to his priests.

Plutarch, Alexander, 27

2. Use the episode of the 'thirty tyrants' in Athens (and any other evidence available) to illustrate and explain Spartan control over Greek cities after the end of the Peloponnesian War in 404 B.C.

3. How did the acquisition of empire in 404 cause new and/or heighten existing tensions in Spartan social and political life?

4. Why was the second Athenian confederation ultimately unsuccessful in the fourth century B.C.?

5. How is the rise of Thebes between 404 and 362 B.C. (the Battle of Mantinea) to be explained?

6. Consider some examples of change in the traditional society, economy and intellectual life of fourth century Athens (e.g. changes in warfare, in the nature of politics in the means of acquiring wealth, attitudes to religion, etc.). Explain the possible causes and consequences.

7. What advantages did Philip have viz a viz the city states of Greece?

8. Discuss the dealings of the Athenians with Philip of Macedon. Would you describe them as consistent, shrewd and honourable?

9. Why, in your view, did Alexander invade Persia in 334 B.C.?

10. The general consensus is that Alexander was one of history's greatest generals. What were the qualities that made him so successful as a general? (Illustrate your answer with examples from the events of his life).