

Western Civilization
Essay #2

Directions:

1. Select 1 Essay Question.
2. Essays must be at least 2 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-14 pt. font, and must contain at least 2 valid citations.
3. Citations may be from your text, but are not limited to your text. Try to use at least one other source.
4. Please recopy the question at the beginning of your essay and remember to include your name.

A. Explain why Homer was used as the basis for Greek education. What did Greeks learn from Homer? What important Greek ideals does Homer espouse? How are these ideals transmitted through the Iliad and Odyssey?

B. What role did male citizens, women, and slaves play in the life of Athens and in an Athenian household? What attitudes did each group have towards the others? Compare and contrast these roles and attitudes to those of American Society.

C. What were the common characteristics of Greek city states? How did they differ? Give a specific examples of how monarchy, democracy, oligarchy, aristocracy, and tyranny were each practiced in Greek city states? Compare Greek city states with earlier Sumerian city states.

D. The classical age of Greece is best known for its literary, artistic, and intellectual achievements. What basic characteristics of Greek culture are reflected in the writing of history, drama, and literature and in the development of drama, the visual arts, and philosophy? What universal human concerns are reflected?

E. Classical Greek history includes two major military conflicts: the Persian War and the Great Peloponnesian War. Discuss the causes, course, and results of each of these wars. In what ways did they differ? How did these differences reflect changes that had occurred in Greece in the interim? What impact did these two conflicts have on Greek culture and society?

F. What were Alexander's goals, military and otherwise, and how successful was he in achieving them? What was his legacy? What genius did he inherit from his father, and what ideas and innovations were strictly his own? Give examples.

G. Discuss the political organization of the Hellenistic kingdoms. How did the new political systems differ from those of the greek city-states? What impact did Philip and Alexander have on them?

H. Describe currents in art, philosophy, literature, and science during the Hellenistic age. What major achievements occurred in each area? Compare and contrast these achievements with those of Classical Greece. How do you account for these differences?