

# The first examination of English



# Sparta

Sparta was a city-state located in the southeastern Peloponnese region of ancient Greece. Sparta grew to rival the size of the city-states Athens and Thebes by subjugating **its** neighboring region of Messenia. Though Sparta absorbed this population, it did not integrate the conquered people into society. Spartan society was separated into social classes, and conquered people were not given political rights or citizenship. Even lower than the conquered population was a group called the helots. Helots were responsible for agricultural duties and other day-to-day tasks that supported the Spartans. Spartan citizens required this support because **they** focused solely on athletic and military training, and politics. Two kings from two different families ruled Sparta. This ensured that when one king ventured out on a military campaign the other could continue to rule the city. A council of elders advised the kings in addition to serving as judges and hosting public assemblies.

Military activity was essential to Sparta. At the age of seven, boys left home to begin training at a military academy called an agoge. At the academy, the boys lived communally with others in their age group. This was meant to prepare them for life in the army. Soldiers were trained as hoplites, or heavily armed foot soldiers. The Spartan army was known for its skill in on-land combat. Sparta fought both foreign and neighboring adversaries. However, in 480 B.C.E., Sparta allied with Athens, to prevent the Persian king Xerxes from invading Greece. Not long after, however, **the two cities** began fighting each other in the two Peloponnesian Wars and the Corinthian War.

Adapted from: National Geography.com

## A-Reading & interpreting:

### Ex1/The text above is talking about:

- a-The daily life in Persia.
- b-One of the most important cities in Ancient Greece.
- d-Democracy & philosophy in Athens.

### Ex2/Are these statements (True) or (False)/write (T) or (F) next to the letter corresponding to the statement:

- a-Sparta had a classless society.
- b-Helots were treated as servers for their Spartan master.
- c-Sparta used to be ruled by two kings.
- d-Sparta & Athens began fighting each other before Persian invasion.

### Ex3/Answer these questions according to the text:

- a-Why did Spartan citizens require the support of helots?
- b-Why was Sparta ruled by two kings?
- c-What made Spartan army famous for its skill in on-land combat?

**Ex4/What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text:**

a-Its(\$1).                      b-They(\$1).                      c-The two cities(\$2).

**Ex5/In Which paragraph is it mentioned that...:** Spartans led a severe military life???

**B-Text exploration:**

**Ex1/Find in the text words or phrases that are opposite in meaning to:**

a-Released(\$1).                      b-Duties(\$1).                      c-Native(\$2).

**Ex2/Complete the chart below:**

Verb	Noun	Adjective
.....	.....	conquered
To advise	.....	.....
.....	Addition	.....

**Ex3/Combine the pairs of sentences using the connectors provided/make the necessary changes:**

(If - Because - After - Provided that)

a-Young Spartan boys were forced to begin a military training/They had to become hoplites.

b-Sparta & Athens(prevent) the Persian invasion/They (begin) fighting each other.

**Ex4/Classify these words according to the pronunciation of the final /ed/:**

located - advised - pushed - called

/t/	/d/	/id/
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**Ex5/Fill in each gap with only one word from the list below:**

(victory - exported - beautiful -wealthy - goods -resentment)

The Spartans became.....1.....through trading in luxury.....2..... of gold,silver and other materials.Besides,they produced.....3.....things as their wealth increased.Ivory carvings were desired across Greek lands,bronze-work and pottery were.....4.....to Italy.

**C-Written expression: Choose one of the following topics**

**Topic one:** Using the following notes,write a composition of 120 to 150 words to describe the daily life of the people in ancient Greece.

-Houses:built,clay bricks,stones,more than one room,a courtyard

-Food:varied,fruits,vegetables,fish,rarely meat only in religious feasts

-Clothes:home-made ,decorated to represent their city-state

-Entertainment:dance,music.....

**Topic two:** Write a composition of 120 to 150 words on the following topic:

Compared with our ancestors' life style,ours has changed in many ways.State the main similarities & differences between the two life styles.

**Good luck for all**