

Notes on Quiz #2: Archaic Greece

1. Hesiod's poetry is notable for its
 - a. lyrics about unrequited love
 - b. anti-aristocratic point of view reflecting the lives of ordinary people
 - c. celebration of the great feats of heroes
 - d. rejection of any form of grammar or syntax

In contrast to Homer's focus on heroes and gods, Hesiod reflects a grassroots view of everyday Greek life and is often critical of the greed of the nobility and wealthy merchant classes.

2. A polis, or Greek city-state, consists of all of the following EXCEPT:
 - a. A city and its adjacent territory making up a single, self-governing political unit
 - b. A council of elders (aristoi) and an assembly of men of fighting age (demos)
 - c. A small number of citizen-goats used for sacrifices
 - d. The governing role of the king/chieftain (basileus) is normally replaced by a council of aristocrats (oligarchy or aristocracy)

The polis was a form of city-state—a city and its adjoining territory forming a single political (and economic) unit. So the emergence of the polis involves formal political unification of an urban market center with its surrounding farmland territory, and centralization of government. Unification involves synoecism, whereby every village, town, and hamlet merge their political (and other) identities into a single unit. Also, rule by basileus (chieftain), characteristic of the dark age, gives way to collective leadership by a small group of magistrates (oligarchy) and an assembly made up of the citizens. — The aristoi—the wealthy, large-estate-holding, educated families—dominate the oligarchies and see it as their right and responsibility to govern. This creates tension with the common people (demos), who increasingly gain various levels of decision-making power.

3. All of the following are true of the revolutionary form of fighting known as hoplite warfare EXCEPT:
 - a. All citizens were included; if you couldn't afford your equipment it would be given to you
 - b. Hoplites were heavily armored footsoldiers
 - c. They were arranged in a tightly packed formation called a phalanx
 - d. The strict equality of the ranks made personal glory and distinctions of wealth and birth less important

A hoplite is a heavily armed footsoldier, named for his large round shield (hoplon). They fight in a large, tightly packed formation called a phalanx. The effectiveness of the hoplite army made other forms of warfare obsolete. Within the hoplite army, made up of all citizens who could afford the equipment, all distinctions of status and birth vanish. As a result, the claim of the aristoi that only they were fit to wield power in the state was weakened.

4. A Greek tyranny is rule by
 - a. a man who seizes control of the state by coup and governs illegally
 - b. a legitimate king who has become abusive
 - c. the nobles in opposition to the people
 - d. a foreigner who takes a city for his own

Greek tyrants arose when the upper classes' oppression of the masses yielded a popular figure who was able to seize power illegally with massive popular support, leading to popular reforms and a divisive rule.

5. A statue of a young man, often used as grave monuments or offerings, is known as

- a. an agora
- b. a gymnasion
- c. a kouros (female version: korē)
- d. a symposion

The grave monument figure was called the kouros.

Optional Extra Credit

EC. Why did the Greeks colonize during this period?

Reasons for colonization include limited agricultural space in individual poleis; a need to expanded resources and markets, and economic/trade competition between poleis.