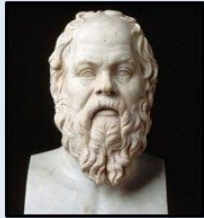


The Greek Philosophers- Week of April 13th (Questions 1-7)

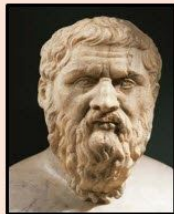
Not all Greeks believed that the gods controlled the workings of everything from natural disasters to everyday affairs. Some thinkers relied on observation and reason to explain why things happened. These individuals were called philosophers, a word which meant lovers of wisdom. Some philosophers explored a wide variety of subjects, including logical thinking, science and math. Others debated the best ways to build a successful society and to maintain a just government. These discussions encouraged people to question traditional rules and ideas. Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, three famous Greek philosophers, have impacted attitudes and decisions for the last 2500 years.

Socrates
(470 B.C.-399 B.C.)



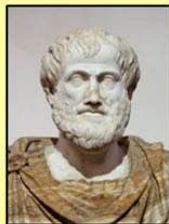
Socrates was one of the best-known Greek philosophers. Most of what we know about him is based on the works of his students because Socrates did not express his thoughts in writing. Instead, he led discussions in the Athenian marketplace by questioning his fellow citizens about their beliefs. Using what has become known as the Socratic method, Socrates challenged people to analyze their beliefs by asking a series of questions. For Socrates, this was a logical way to discover the truth. For more conservative Athenians, however, it was a threat to time-honored traditions. Eventually, Socrates was put on trial and found guilty of corrupting the younger generation. He was condemned to death and chose to drink a cup of hemlock, a deadly poison.

Plato
(428 B.C.-348 B.C.)



The death of Socrates left some of his followers disillusioned and distrustful of democracy. Plato had admired Socrates for his use of logic and left Athens in frustration for ten years following his execution. He returned and established a school that he called the Academy. Students were encouraged to apply rational thought to find unchanging values and principles to guide their lives. Plato believed that this would lead to better government and an improved society. Unlike Socrates, Plato wrote books. His most famous work, *The Republic*, described the ideal way to govern. Plato's leadership model was based on a philosopher-king, who would be assisted by an elite group of wise men and women. His inclusion of women was revolutionary for his time. Plato thought that women should be educated and should receive military training.

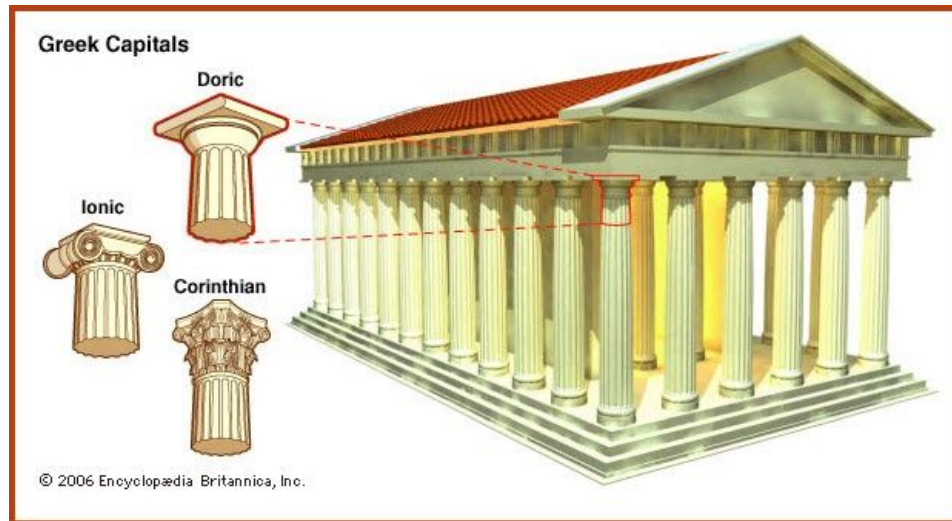
Aristotle
(384 B.C.-322 B.C.)



Aristotle learned from Plato just as Plato had learned from Socrates, but he formed his own opinions about how people should be governed. After studying the various forms of government in detail, Aristotle reasoned that they all had positive and negative qualities. Therefore, Aristotle concluded that one strong, wise leader with good character was the best option. He thought that citizens should also make it a rule to live lives based on good character and should avoid extreme displays of emotions. This idea emphasized the Greek love of balance. Like Plato, Aristotle established a school and wrote about numerous topics. His works covered biology, politics, literature and many other areas. His writings survived and served as the basis for university courses 1500 years later.

Greek Art and Architecture - Week of April 20th (Question 8-11)

The rebuilding of Athens following the Persian Wars ushered in the Golden Age and provided the city with an opportunity to design beautiful buildings on the Acropolis. Architects wanted their projects to reflect the Greek emphasis on balance and order. Columns or pillars were used to support the roofs of temples and public buildings. There were three distinct styles of columns used in Greek architecture: Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. Each one was named for the design at the top of the column and not for the column itself. You can see these three styles pictured in the graphic below.



The marble Parthenon has become the most famous example of Greek architecture. It was built to honor Athena, the patron goddess of Athens and was shaped as a simple rectangle. Above its Doric columns, a carved band of painted figures showed significant events in Athenian history. This type of decoration, which did not always apply paint to its pictures, was called a frieze. Inside the Parthenon, the sculptor Phidias constructed a giant wooden statue of Athena. Reaching a height of thirty-nine feet, it was covered in gold and ivory.

Phidias and other sculptors of the Golden Age in Athens worked to create marble and bronze figures that were strong, perfect and graceful. They fashioned faces that were calm and serene to stress the Greek ideal of balance. Artists also tried to capture their subjects at moments between action and rest. This position was named action in repose. The photograph below shows a copy of the Discus Thrower, originally crafted by the Greek sculptor Myron. He tried to picture the moment just before the athlete moved to throw the discus. Note the relaxed expression of the face. Almost all sculpture was made for the city-state and demonstrated pride in Athenian accomplishments. It was not usually used to decorate private homes.



1. The word philosopher is based on the Greek words for which of the following?

- A) Deep thinker
- B) Math and Science
- C) Lover of wisdom
- D) Logical thought

2. The Socratic method is based on which of the following?

- A) Time-honored traditions
- B) Written essays
- C) Ignoring logic
- D) Asking questions

3. Which of the following was not true concerning Plato's view of leadership?

- A) Women should be excluded from positions of leadership.
- B) Rule by a philosopher-king was the best form of government.
- C) An elite group of the wisest citizens should assist the leader.
- D) His book *The Republic* described his theory of leadership

4. What did Plato believe was the key to better government and an improved society?

(Write on another sheet of paper)

5. Aristotle formed his opinion about government through which of the following?

- A) By strictly following the ideas of Plato
- B) By studying various forms of government in detail
- C) By looking at only the positive aspects of government
- D) By relying on his emotions

6. Aristotle believed that a person must have good character to be a good leader. What do you think that good character is, and is it still an important quality for modern leaders to possess? Explain your answer in your own words. Your response must be written in complete sentences and include at least fifty words

7. Socrates was condemned to death for corrupting the younger generation. Do you believe that this was a good decision? Defend your answer in your own words. Your response must be written in complete sentences and include at least twenty-five words.

8. The Greek sculpture of Athens' Golden Age emphasized all but which of the following?

- A) The idea of balance
- B) Action in repose
- C) Graceful and perfect figures
- D) Faces expressing strong emotions

9. The ancient were avid collectors of art and purchased pieces to decorate their homes.

- A) True
- B) False

10. Construct a drawing in which you have a building with columns in the front. For your columns, be sure to use either a doric, ionic, or corinthian capital. Be creative!

11. Aristotle believed that a person must have good character to be a good leader. What do you think that good character is, and is it still an important quality for modern leaders to possess? Explain your answer in your own words. Your response must be written in complete sentences and include at least fifty words. (You can write this answer on another sheet of paper).

