



Set A: Test 5

There are **6 questions** in this test.
Give yourself **10 minutes** to read the text and answer the questions.

Spartan Life

In the 5th century BC, Sparta and Athens were two of the most important cities in Greece, but they were very different. Whilst Athens was a democracy (a system of government where the people have the right to vote on decisions), Sparta was governed by two kings and a council of elders. Spartans were not allowed to travel to other countries in case they were exposed to foreign lifestyles or different systems of government.

Life was harsh for Spartan children, and only healthy babies were allowed to survive that far. Boys learned to fight from an early age and were sent to training camp at the age of seven. Here they were permitted just one tunic and no shoes, regardless of the weather conditions. They were beaten and forced to march for miles, often with nothing to sustain them. In fact, Spartan boys were actively encouraged to steal their food and were only punished if they were caught.

When they were twenty, men entered the Spartan army. There were no luxuries: the rigorous training was focused only on making them fit and ready for warfare. They were encouraged to marry, but weren't allowed to live with their family until they were thirty. Men remained as soldiers until sixty, and sometimes older in times of war.

Women were also trained to be physically fit: the fitter the women, the stronger their children. Women were not only valued as mothers: they were the ones who cared for the farms when their husbands went to war. Spartan women had much more power and freedom than other Greek women.

The word 'Spartan' today means a harsh or plain lifestyle. Their strict discipline, military training and ferociousness in battle earned Spartans a reputation for being the most powerful and courageous people of their time.



1. Who ruled Sparta?

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1 mark

2. Look at the first paragraph of the text.
What does this paragraph suggest about the rulers of Sparta?
Tick **one** box.

They wanted Spartans to be more like people in Athens.

They were happy for Spartans to leave the city.

They were worried that Spartans might want democracy.

They wanted Spartans to be able to vote.

1 mark

3. At what age did men enter the Spartan army?

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1 mark

4. According to the text, what **two** roles did women have in Sparta?

1).....

2).....

1 mark

5. *strict discipline, military training and ferociousness in battle*
What does the word *ferociousness* mean in this phrase?
Circle **one** option.

bravery

focus

brutality

honour

1 mark

6. Do you think life was harder for Spartan boys or Spartan men?
Use the text to give reasons for your answer.

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3 marks

END OF TEST

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