

Notes on Quiz #8: The Rise of Macedon

1. All of the following are true about the “Greekness” of the Macedonians EXCEPT:

- a. There was extensive Greek influence in Macedon, affecting education, architecture, and religion
- b. Macedonian nobles held firmly onto many “barbarian” traditions, including drinking to excess, hunting for sport, and polygamy
- c. Like the Greeks, the Macedonians had done away with kings and embraced the Greek idea that men are free
- d. The Greeks were always hostile to Persia, but the Macedonians had once been Persian allies

This question arises in part because Alexander saw himself as the champion not only of the Greek peoples but of Greek culture, which he embraced and admired. One way of looking at “being Greek” involves embracing Greek culture. As their interaction with the Greeks progressed the Macedonian nobility increasingly embraced and adopted elements of Greek culture, including art, architecture, education, and religion as well as facility with the Greek language alongside their own. Given that the Greeks themselves shared a common culture but pursued it in different ways, the Macedonians could be seen as being one of many different forms of Hellas. The Macedonians also pursued the Greek vendetta against the Persians despite their own history of alliance with them. — However, many elements of Macedonian society were decidedly and inherently un-Greek, starting with the feudal monarchy characteristic of the Thracian “barbarian” kingdoms but alien to Greece. The Macedonian nobility’s pastimes—drinking undiluted wine to excess, polygamy, and hunting—were also not characteristic of the Greeks, and their burial methods (a defining characteristic of any society) were different as well.

2. When Philip II first came to power, Macedon

- a. was on the verge of collapse after invasions and war with its Greek and non-Greek neighbors
- b. was completely untouched by Greek culture
- c. had started experimenting with an early form of communism
- d. sent all its daughters to marry him en masse

The decades before Philip’s accession involved many invasions in wars that broke down and divided the Macedonians, creating both a lot of work for Philip and an opportunity to build his own power through unity and taking the offensive in war.

3. Philip’s new Macedonian phalanx was different from a traditional hoplite phalanx in that it had

- a. horses
- b. longer spears
- c. better shoes
- d. trumpets

Hoplites in Macedonian phalanxes were equipped with a long spear known as a sarissa.

4. All of the following were true of the Amphictyonic Council of Delphi (also called the Delphic Amphictyony) EXCEPT:
- a. It supervised the Pythian Games
 - b. It invited Philip to wage a sacred war, which led ultimately to the Battle of Chaeronea and the defeat of the Greeks
 - c. It was named after some guy named Amphictyos
 - d. Philip gained a voting majority through his control of Thessaly and the break-up of Phocis

The Amphictyonic (from a word meaning “league of neighbors”) Council of Delphi was a governing body for the region around Delphi, charged with supporting the great temples of Apollo and Demeter in that area. Each major polis in the area had a seat on the council. It had religious authority, hosted games, and provided a venue for the local poleis to interact and resolve issues. Philip’s gaining control of seats on the council was a key advancement in his efforts to dominate affairs in Hellas.

5. Philip was stabbed to death by
- a. an Athenian turncoat
 - b. a treacherous bodyguard
 - c. a Macedonian lord
 - d. a Persian spy

Philip was stabbed by Pausanias, a member of his bodyguard. Though personal reasons were ascribed to him, there have been arguments that the act was part of various possible conspiracies.

Optional Extra Credit

EC. What do you think were Philip’s most important acts or reforms, and why?

A number of points could be discussed here, of which the most noticeable include (a) Philip’s unification of Macedon at a moment of extreme crisis; (b) his pacification and dominion of the Baltics and Thrace, greatly elevating Macedon’s standing wealth in resources; (c) his revolutionary reforms of the military in terms of tactics, equipment, and specialized support as well as the effort to induce bonding with the king and leadership through the naming of companions and pages; (d) the means by which he brought about the domination of Greece through successive diplomatic maneuvers and surgical use of war as the opportunity dictated, playing the Greeks’ enmities of each other to his own advantage; (e) the preparation for marshaling sentiment and resources in both Macedon and Greece for war with Persia that Alexander assumed on his succession.