

Notes on Quiz #5: Archaic Hellas

1. In *Clouds*, the character “Socrates” enters for the first time
 - a. through a golden door
 - b. lowered in a gondola or basket
 - c. covered in tomato sauce
 - d. as a ghost, because he’s already dead

“Socrates” appears descending from above in a basket, much like gods at the end of a tragedy descending to dispense wisdom and justice (“deus ex machina”), only “Socrates” talks not about the wisdom of the gods but the “natural functions” and physical processes of the temporal heavens. His scruffy appearance presents him as a false god. He also starts out with his head literally in the clouds.

2. At the start of the Archaic period, population growth and limited resources meant “extra mouths to feed.” The Greeks addressed this problem in all of the following ways EXCEPT:
 - a. Creating colonies that expanded their population and economy to new locations
 - b. Expanding their territory through the use of their military
 - c. Periodic massacres of the population
 - d. Growing their trading economy, both imports (to feed the growing population) and exports (to strengthen their trading power)

At the start of the Archaic period, population growth and limited resources meant “extra mouths to feed.” The Greeks addressed this problem in several ways. They expanded their territory through the use of their military. They created colonies that expanded their population and economy to new locations. Their trading economy increased, increasing both imports (to feed the growing population) and exports (to strengthen their trading power).

3. A hoplite army consisted of
 - a. A mass of citizens fighting as equals, arrayed in ranks with their shields overlapping
 - b. Important heroes fighting in single combat
 - c. Hired mercenaries from barbarian lands
 - d. Demons lured from across the River Styx

The hoplite army was a city’s citizen body—everyone who could afford the round shield, spear, and basic armor—defending the city’s property and people by creating a phalanx, or long unified row of soldiers with overlapping shields, several men deep. The hoplite army was extremely effective, uniting the power and force of the entire army by striking the enemy with one massive blow. — It’s a change because past military tactics had emphasized the role of the aristocracy, dwelling on single combat by hero types and so empowering the few over the many. The hoplite army is unified and anonymous; everyone acts together and as one, and any individual heroism actually destroys its effectiveness. It represents a social shift in power from the few to the many.

4. Among the Greeks, a tyrant was
- a. a rich man who was stingy with his money
 - b. the commander of a Greek naval vessel
 - c. a governing body made up of the rich families
 - d. an illegal ruler sponsored by groups disadvantaged by the aristocrats

Among the Greeks, a tyrant was someone who usurped power on behalf of the people during times when they are being repressed by the nobles. Tyrants often enact populist reforms, but the nature of their rule—on behalf of the people, but hostile to the nobles—is inherently divisive and naturally leads to new turmoil between the classes.

5. Homer's works were important to the Greeks because they
- a. were the basis for the Greeks' understanding of the gods and their relationship with mortals
 - b. served as the basis for Greek education
 - c. taught morality by contrasting the greedy and prideful Bronze Age Greeks with the honorable example of the Trojans
 - d. all of the above

Homer's works told the story of the Bronze Age past and the failure of the Mycenaean civilization. It contrasted the venal, prideful, and selfish Mycenaean Greeks (like Agamemnon and Achilles) with the noble, honorable, and civic-minded Trojans (like Hector and Priam). In the Archaic period and forever afterward, Homer's works served as the basis for Greek education. The Greeks (and those seeking to learn their tongue) learned their language and cultural values from the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. — Most of all, Homer's works were the basis for the Greeks' understanding of the gods and their relationship with mortals. From Homer the Greeks learned that the gods' primary role was to respond to the destructive selfishness of mortals—ambition, greed, hubris, and arrogance—with punishment and destruction, not only for the offenders but for their families and even whole communities.

Optional Extra Credit

EC. In *Clouds*, why does the main character, Strepsiades, go to the Thinkery? What's his end goal?

Strepsiades is upset because of the horse-racing debt accumulated by his playboy son, Pheidippides. He decides to send him to the Thinkery, so he can learn how to argue away his debts.