

# Download File PDF Western Civilization Paper Topics

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- Western civilization (language, politics, philosophy, art and architecture).
- The ancient Greeks – an Indo-European race.
- Migrated northward from the region of lower Danube River after 2000 BC to Greek peninsula, which was called **Hellas**.
- The settled Greek people called **Hellens**.
- By 8<sup>th</sup> century BC – the emergence of self-governing communities or city states.
- Late, the expansion of Greek colonies – Aegean, coast of Asia Minor, Cyprus, Balkans, Sicily, Southern Italy, south coast of France, northeastern Spain, Egypt and Libya.

- Government**
- The city **polis** – the basic unit of Greek government.
- Acropolis from where royal and public city means a big city.
- By 6<sup>th</sup> century BC – dominant Greek cities: Athens, Sparta, Corinth and Thebes.
- The most famous, **Acropolis of Athens**.
- Each had a control over the surrounding rural areas and smaller towns.
- Athens and Corinth – major maritime and mercantile powers.
- Athens – naval power and practiced political democracy.
- The dominance of Athens after the Persian Wars (late 5<sup>th</sup> century BC).
- By mid-5<sup>th</sup> century BC – the establishment of an Athenian Empire.
- Athenian culture flourished, especially during the Golden Age of Athens under the rule of Pericles – the **Age of Pericles** (460 – 430 BC).
- Following the reforms of laws by Solon, Cleisthenes – the establishment of an assembly of adult male citizens, vote of majority.
- Adopted by many other Greek cities.
- The **Laws of Athens** – spelled out state laws and rights of citizens.
- Athens versus Sparta.
- Sparta – military power; the best army in ancient Greece.
- Military regime under a dual monarchy – checked each other's influence.
- The rise of Sparta after the Peloponnesian War – Athens versus Sparta and its allies.
- Ended the Athenian Empire – Sparta became the new dominant Greek power.
- Late, the dominance of Thebes.
- Followed by the invasion of Greek cities by Macedonian King Philip II and his son, Alexander.
- Driven by the desire to free Greek cities from Persian influence.
- Alexander's empire – Persia, Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- The establishment of Greek – speaking kingdoms in Egypt, Syria and Persia – practiced Hellenistic culture.

- Society**
- Two striking features in ancient Greek society: **Free men and slaves**.
- Only free men could be citizens of a city-state and entitled to full protection of the law.
- In Athens, the free men were divided into four social classes based on wealth.
- Could change classes if made more money.
- In Sparta – given the title of **equal** if they finished their education.
- Slaves had no power or status.
- Had no right to have a family, own property, and did not have legal and political rights.
- Many slaves from non-Greek people.
- Ordinary Spartans were soldiers, trained to become soldiers from their early life.
- Emphasis on military fitness and training.
- Prohibited by law from trade, commerce or crafts.

- Religion**
- Greek mythology.

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