This is a Class 1 exam

Lebanon Evangelical School for Boys and Girls

...lighting the fires that burn for eternity...

Loueizeh - Baabda

Lebanon Evangelical School

for Boys and Girls Loueizeh - Baabda

SE01 Exam

09NOV2026

Do NOT write in this box. Your MARK will be placed here.

Subject :	Special HGC
Class :	7A
Teacher :	Samer Bassoulou
Duration :	1 hour

Answer on a separate sheet

You are to answer the questions to this exam on : Lined paper

Your name :		*Time taken to complete exam*
Your Class :		
Exam Room :		
How many sheets, including cover sheet :		

- Do not open this paper until the teacher in charge instructs you to do so.
- The most important thing to remember in taking an exam is NEVER PANIC.
- If you are caught cheating in this exam, you will be awarded zero for ALL exams that are taken on this day.

SE01/20262027/SpHGC/7A

Read the passage below and answer the following questions: (Total: 25 Marks)

The Rise of Ancient Greek Civilization

The geography of ancient Greece deeply shaped how its people lived, traded, and governed themselves. Unlike major river valley empires, Greece was dominated by rugged mountains, deep valleys, and a long, irregular coastline with many natural harbors. Because the mountains made land travel and political unity extremely difficult, the Greeks lived in independent communities called city-states, or *poleis*, the most famous of which were Athens and Sparta.

Long before these classical city-states rose, early Aegean civilizations laid the groundwork. The Minoans built a wealthy, seafaring trading culture centered on the island of Crete, famous for the grand palace at Knossos. Following them, the Mycenaeans built fortified mainland cities and engaged in extensive trade and conquest. However, after the Mycenaean civilization collapsed, Greece entered the Dorian period—a dark age marked by lost writing skills and a sharp decline in trade and living standards.

Eventually, Greece recovered and entered its Classical Age, characterized by fierce rivalries between contrasting city-states. Athens developed a *democracy* where citizens shared political power, valuing philosophy, arts, and trade. Sparta, on the other hand, functioned as a strict *oligarchy* ruled by a small elite, focusing entirely on military discipline and physical training, supported by enslaved agricultural workers known as *helots*. Despite their differences, the Greek city-states briefly united to defeat massive invasions by the Persian Empire during the Persian Wars. However, this unity did not last. Growing fear and rivalry over Athens's expanding naval power eventually triggered the devastating Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta. This long civil war drained Greece's resources, leaving the city-states exhausted and vulnerable to outside conquest, while Greek culture continued to thrive through shared traditions, epic storytelling, polytheistic religion, and sanctuaries where oracles communicated the will of the gods.

Question 1 (4 Marks) Explain how the physical geography of Greece (such as mountains and a broken coastline) influenced the political structure and relationship between ancient Greek communities.

Question 2 (4 Marks) — True or False

Read each statement and write whether it is True or False.

1. The Minoans built a wealthy trading civilization centered on the island of Crete, famous for the grand palace at Knossos.
2. The Mycenaean civilization was entirely peaceful and completely avoided building fortresses or engaging in military conflict.
3. After the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization, the Dorian period began, which was a time of lower trade, lost writing skills, and a decline in living standards.
4. Greece's mountainous geography made it very easy for a single emperor to rule the entire region under one united government.

Question 3 (4 Marks) — Fill-in-the-Blank Vocabulary Match

Choose the right word from the box to complete each sentence:

Words to choose from: ***Oligarchy, Democracy, Helots, Agora***

1. A government ruled by a small group of powerful people, as seen in Sparta, is called an _____
2. Enslaved agricultural workers owned and controlled by the Spartan state were known as _____
3. A government ruled by the citizens who shared political power, which developed in Athens, is called a _____
4. An open-air marketplace in ancient Greek cities where people gathered to trade and discuss public life was called the _____

Question 4 (4 Marks) Describe two major differences between daily life, social values, and education in **Athens** compared to **Sparta.**

Question 5 (4 Marks) — Multiple Choice Concept Check

Choose the best answer for each question:

1. **What was a major outcome of the Persian Wars for the Greek city-states?**
    - A) Persia successfully conquered all of mainland Greece and abolished local city-states.
    - B) Athens and Sparta formed an alliance that defeated the Persian invasions, leading to a period of great confidence and culture in Athens.
    - C) The Greeks permanently abandoned their cities to become nomadic herders.
    - D) Athens and Sparta immediately merged into a single permanent empire.
2. **What caused the Peloponnesian War?**
    - A) A joint invasion by the Persian Empire into northern Greece.
    - B) Sparta's growing fear and jealousy of Athens's rising power, wealth, and naval empire.
    - C) A dispute over who would control the grain trade routes to Egypt.
    - D) An internal rebellion of enslaved people inside the city of Athens.

Question 6 (5 Marks) — Writing (historical analysis)

Explain how the long and destructive Peloponnesian War changed the balance of power in ancient Greece. In your response, analyze why the conflict started between Athens and Sparta, how their contrasting strengths shaped the war, and what the ultimate consequence of this civil war was for the Greek world as a whole.

Worked Solutions and Concept Guide (Key Points)

(Designed in key points so students can study the concepts and write their responses in their own words rather than memorizing them)

- **Question 1:**
    - Rugged mountains and a broken coastline created natural barriers and isolation.
    - Prevented the formation of a single united empire.
    - Led to independent city-states (*poleis*) that frequently competed or fought with one another.
- **Question 2:**
    1. **True** — Minoans thrived on Crete with trade and the palace of Knossos.
    2. **False** — Mycenaeans built massive stone fortresses and were heavily militaristic.
    3. **True** — The Dorian period brought economic decline, loss of writing, and population shifts.
    4. **False** — Mountains and islands made unity difficult, resulting in separate, divided city-states.
- **Question 3:**
    1. **Oligarchy**
    2. **Helots**
    3. **Democracy**
    4. **Agora**
- **Question 4:**
    - **Athens:** Focused on philosophy, arts, democratic participation, and a well-rounded education for citizens.
    - **Sparta:** Focused entirely on military strength, rigid discipline, state-controlled upbringing, and physical training for both men and women to build a strong army.
    -

- **Question 5:**
    1. **B)** Athens and Sparta allied against Persia, leading to Athenian confidence and a golden age.
    2. **B)** Sparta's growing fear of Athens's naval empire and rising power.
- **Question 6:**
    - **Causes:** Athens built a powerful naval empire (*Delian League*), causing fear and resentment in Sparta (*Peloponnesian League*).
    - **Conflict:** Fought between a dominant naval power (Athens) and a dominant land army (Sparta), lasting for decades and draining resources.
    - **Consequences:** Sparta ultimately won with outside (Persian) naval help, but the continuous civil wars left all of Greece exhausted, impoverished, and vulnerable to external conquest.