

**National Greek Exams - Syllabus – Introductory Greek Exam  
Middle and High School Students Only**

**This syllabus should be used in conjunction with the Introductory Vocabulary List (see website) as these words will NOT be glossed on the exam.**

**I. Alphabet**

Know Attic Greek alphabet, in correct order, upper and lower case; rough breathing

Know names of all letters

Be able to transliterate Greek letters into English equivalents, and vice versa

Be able to transform lower case to upper case, and vice versa

Be able to give preceding and following letters of the alphabet

**II. Geography (2 questions)**

Know location of:

Athens, Sparta, Thebes, Troy, Delphi, Olympia, Corinth, Mycenae,  
Alexandria, Crete, Sicily, Rhodes, Euboea, Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea,  
Black Sea, Adriatic Sea, Nile, Hellespont

**III. Historical Events and People (2 questions)**

Know dates\*\* and historical importance of:

<b>Periods of History</b>	<b>Important historical figures</b>	<b>Significant battles or events</b>
<b>Persian Wars</b> (490-479) Between Greece and Persia	<b>Darius I</b> (the Great), a Persian leader; died in 485	Battle of <b>Marathon</b> (490) Greeks defeat the Persians on the plain of Macedon; Athenians asked Spartans for help, but they declined
	<b>Xerxes</b> , the son of Darius I  <b>Leonidas</b> , a Spartan king who commanded the 300	Battle of <b>Thermopylae</b> (480) 300 Spartans prevent the Persians from invading at a narrow pass
		Battle of <b>Salamis</b> (480) Greek navy defeats Persian navy
<b>Athenian Empire</b> (479-431/404)	Emerges from the <b>Delian League</b> , an alliance of city-states with Athens; the “Golden Age” of Athens; rise of the Athenian navy	
<b>Peloponnesian War</b> (431-404) Between Athens and Sparta	<b>Pericles</b> , a statesman and general, died in 429. Promoted Athens as a cultural center and fostered Athenian democracy  <b>Peloponnesian League</b> , an alliance of city-states led by Sparta	<b>Peace of Nicias</b> (421) Treaty to end the Peloponnesian war but was undermined  Battle of <b>Aegospotami</b> (405) Spartan navy destroys Athenian navy, ends the Peloponnesian War
Rise of Macedon	<b>Philip (II) of Macedon</b> , a warlord who attacked Greek city-states	Battle of <b>Chaeronea</b> (338) Philip defeats Athens and Thebes, resulted in the League of Corinth

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	<b>Alexander the Great</b> , son of Philip of Macedon; died in 323. Extended Greek rule to its furthest extent	Battle of <b>Issus</b> (333) Alexander leads the Hellenic League against the Achaemenid Empire, led by Darius III
		Battle of <b>Gaugamela</b> (331) Alexander and the Hellenic League decisively defeat Darius III
Hellenistic Age	The age after Alexander’s death	

\*\*on the 2017 exam, dates will be used in the questions as clues but **NOT** asked as the answers; the possible answers appear in **bold**. Future exams will test all information here.

<b>Author</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Significance</b>
<b>Plato</b>	Philosophy	Wrote about <b>Socrates’</b> philosophical dialogues. Famous works: <i>The Republic</i> on the ideal state and the <i>Apology</i> , on Socrates’ defense against the charge of corrupting the youth of Athens
<b>Aeschylus</b>	Tragedy	Called “The Father of Tragedy”, produced the <i>Oresteia</i> trilogy about Agamemnon’s son
<b>Sophocles</b>	Tragedy	Never judged lower than 2 <sup>nd</sup> place in dramatic competitions; produced <i>Oedipus the King</i> and <i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> about the tragic king of Thebes
<b>Euripides</b>	Tragedy	Produced <i>Medea</i> , about the witch married to the Argonaut, Jason, and <i>Hippolytus</i> , on the tragic death of Theseus’ son
<b>Herodotus</b>	History	Called “The Father of History”; author of <i>The Histories</i> on the origins of the Persian Wars
<b>Thucydides</b>	History	Author of the <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>

**IV. Mythology (2 questions)**

Know the spheres of influence and symbols of these Greek deities:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Spheres of influence</b>	<b>Symbols</b>
Zeus	king of the gods; lightening, thunder	eagle, lightning bolt
Hera	queen of the gods; marriage	peacock
Poseidon	oceans and water; earthquakes	trident, horse
Hades	Underworld	bident
Demeter	agriculture	Stalk of wheat, cornucopia
Hestia	hearth (home fire)	Hearth and small fire
Ares	war	Spear, vulture
Athena	wisdom, war, domestic crafts/tasks	Owl, helmet, olive branch/tree, aegis
Hephaestus	blacksmithing, metalworking	hammer and anvil
Apollo	sun, prophesy, music, medicine	sun, bow and arrows, lyre
Artemis	moon, hunting, animals	moon, bow and arrows, deer,

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		hunting dog
Hermes	messengers, thieves, inventors	Caduceus (winged staff with serpents), winged sandals
Dionysus	wine, revelry, insanity	grapes, grape vines, ivy, leopards, thyrsus (pinecone topped staff)
Aphrodite	love, beauty	doves, erotes (winged babies)

Know the general plots of the following characters' stories: Arachne, Midas, Theseus and the Minotaur, Perseus and Medusa, Atalanta, Daedalus and Icarus

**IV. Derivatives**

Know meaning and derivatives of the following prepositions and prefixes: ἀμφί, ἀντί, ἀπό, διά, δυσ-, ἐκ, ἐν, ἐπί, εὐ-, μετά, παν-, περί, πρό, πρός, σύν, ὑπέρ, ὑπό

**V. Understanding Greek text**

Know noun / article / adjective endings

1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> declension	all cases	singular and plural
all 3 genders for the definite article		

Know verb endings present for regular and ε contract verbs

indicative	active	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> person	singular and plural
infinitive	active		

Students should be able to understand easy sentences and a short reading, including prepositional phrases and adjectives. Please refer to the Introductory vocabulary list for words that will NOT be glossed.