

## World History

### Athens vs. Sparta Venn Diagram

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

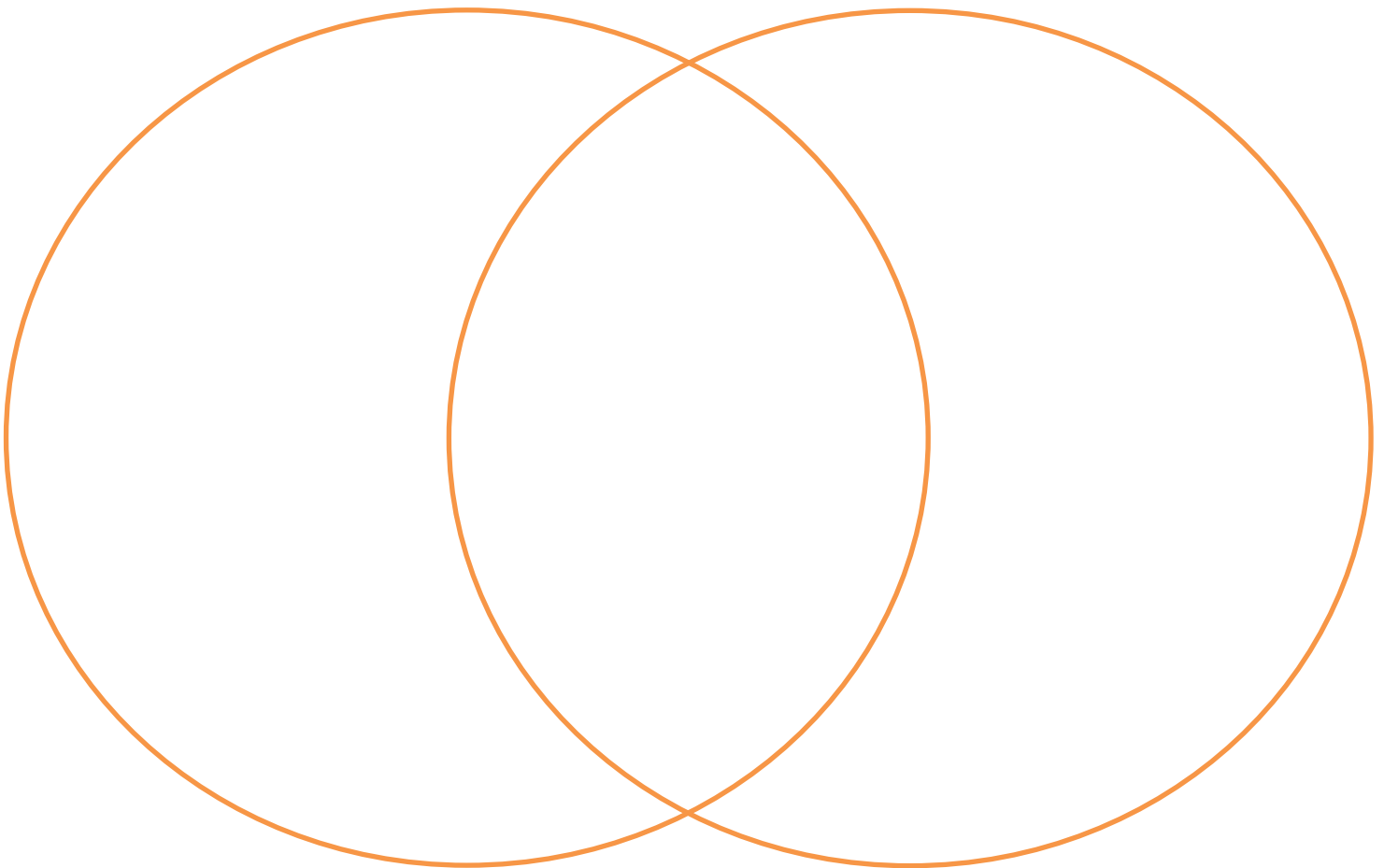
Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_/5

Directions: Compare the descriptions of Athenian and Spartan Political and Social Structures and construct a venn diagram illustrating the similarities and differences between the two societies. Explain 3 (Total of 6) Difference between the two societies in the appropriate sections of the venn diagram. In the middle section explain 3 similarities between the two societies.

Athens

Sparta



## Athens

Ancient Greece was an ardent civilization that belongs to ancient Greek history. The ancient Greek was also a part of nations where people were divided on the basis of socialism – means the classes. Some classes were superior to other while some inferior. Superior classes enjoyed some special rights and benefits over the inferior ones. These social classes have been described below in a pattern starting with the highest class and ending with the lowest one in Ancient



### Athenian Social Hierarchy

- The Upper Class
- Metics
- Freedmen
- The Slaves

**The Upper Class:** The topmost class in the Ancient Greek Hierarchy was the Upper Class. The people of this class possessed the uppermost power and position in the society. One has to be born in Athens to be a part of the Upper Class as the rights for this class could only be inherited on the hereditary basis. The upper class symbolized a good civil character, good artistic taste, and highly socialized individuals.

The people from this class handled all the government work, philosophy as well as the literature department, and also the war. Athens people always got slaves so as to perform their materialistic works so as to save their precious time which they had to use for administrative purposes. The Upper Class can also be symbolized as the Leisure Class. They kept their time for the important activities related with the administration of the kingdom.

**Metics – The Middle Class:** This was the next class in Ancient Greece Social Hierarchy. These people were not the natives of Athens, but came to Athens to settle down. They came to Athens for earning their livelihood. Such people were apt for the Middle Class. They were free men, they were not slaves but they possessed very little rights as compared to the Upper Class. They were majorly involved in the trading and manufacturing related jobs.

**Freedmen – The Lower Class:** Freedmen were the next class in the Ancient Greek Social Hierarchy and it incorporates those people who were once slaves but somehow were freed by their owner by any mode. This was the lower class people category but did not belong to Athens, i.e. these were neither Athens nor were granted citizenship in their life what so ever money they earned. These were the people who possessed least amount of privileges, but still got few, as compared to slaves who had zero privileges.

**The Slaves:** This is the lowest most class, actually a level because Greeks never considered it as a class. These people were either rescued from war, some criminals or even bought upon people. These people possessed zero rights or authority. They did not even possess right of their own life. Very little number of Greeks were slaves otherwise the majority of slaves were non-Greeks. They had to pay a ransom amount to buy their freedom and get themselves free.

"Ancient Athenian Hierarchy." Hierarchy Structure. N.p., 2013. Web. 05 Oct. 2014.

## Sparta

In ancient Greece Sparta was an independent city and was a great rival of one most popular Greek city Athens. The city of Sparta was located in the Peloponnesus peninsula that lied on the south west side of Athens. Spartans were quiet famous for their warriors. Sparta for most of the time was ruled by the oligarchy form of government in which a small group of people rule the entire kingdom.

The Spartan government followed the principle that every citizen of the state has to live for the state and their life completely belongs to the state. They also followed one more principle that only physically fit infants have the right to survive. Spartans followed quite unusual system as the division of people in classes was completely dependent on their physical strength and no-one by birth belonged to a certain class. Following is the brief description of ancient Spartan hierarchy.

### Spartan Social Hierarchy

- Kings and the Council of Elders
- Aristocrats
- Perioeci Class
- Helots

Kings and the Council of Elders - The topmost class of the Spartans comprised of two kings who combined ruled the city. Along with the two kings there were 28 other members which constituted the council of elders to help the kings manage their responsibilities. These 28 members elected by the people were responsible for conducting court for criminal justice and advising the kings in various issues related with the state. They practised oligarchy to rule the people in which the power structure was shared by a small group of people which generally belonged to aristocratic class.

Aristocrats - The highest class among the citizens after king was of aristocratic Spartans. After learning all the tact and techniques of warfare the Spartan boys were required to appear for a graduation test at the age of 20. The ones who clear the test were considered as citizens of the state and were given the title of aristocrats. These were responsible for military operations and possessed lands which were farmed by the lower class people known as slaves.

Perioeci Class - The Perioeci was the middle level class in the ancient Spartan hierarchy. These were the Spartans who were responsible for farming and crafting. This class comprised of craftsmen, artisans and farmers. The major percentage of people in this class was the decedent of the people who got conquered by the Spartans. Apart from fulfilling their responsibility this class was required to pay taxes and were also given chance to serve for the armed forces of the state. But this class did not have any political rights.

Helots - The bottommost class in this hierarchy was of helots. This was the class of slaves who were decedents of the people who spoke against the Spartan tradition and refused to subjugate to the laws created by the rulers. Since helots were the rebellious people, the Spartans in attempt to control them murdered those helots who were found encouraging people against Spartan rule. This was done by Spartans by forming secret societies to work against helots.

"Ancient Spartan Hierarchy." Hierarchy Structure. N.p., 2013. Web. 05 Oct. 2014.