

A112A Key Terms (MTA)

Chapter 1: Athens, Places and People

1. **Acropolis (أكروبوليس):** The word acropolis is from the Greek words ἄκρον (akron, "highest point, extremity") and πόλις (polis, "city"). Ex. The Acropolis of Athens is an ancient citadel located on a rocky outcrop above the city of Athens and contains the remains of several ancient buildings of great architectural and historical significance, the most famous being the Parthenon.
2. **Archon:** archon sometimes translated as 'magistrate', a civic official with a one year term and specific duties, particularly regarding law making. Ex. ('magistrates') who had jurisdiction over various legal and religious matters.
3. **Archon Basileus:** Archon Basileus of the ten archons ('magistrates') elected every year by the Athenians to deal with administrative matters in the city, the Archon Basileus had particular jurisdiction over religious matters and the adjudication of homicide. (Athenian Religious Leaders). Ex. the Stoa Basileios, the seat of the Archon Basileus, or King Archon, one of the archons who had specific jurisdiction over religious matters. In this building, a number of the city's religious laws were inscribed on stone.
4. **Athenian Agora (أغورا):** Athenian *agora* (often translated as 'marketplace') as a public space with numerous functions and purposes in Athenian life. It is a public space and as somewhere where Athenian public life was enacted. The *agora* was a central space in the city inhabited prominently by Athenian citizens, though *metics* and enslaved people it was certainly a site for commerce, but also for politics, law, religion, socialising and much more.
5. **Athenian Citizen (أثيني):** Athenian Citizens were free men over the age of 18 born to two Athenian parents. Athenian citizen men are the most visible people in our sources, and in particular they tend to be the authors and subjects of a majority of literary texts from Classical Athens. They also had a distinctive experience in Athens due to the rights and responsibilities that came with Athenian citizenship: They were the only ones who could own land in Attica (the area comprising the city itself and the farmland surrounding it). They were the only ones who could take part in the democracy. They were the only ones who could sit on juries in the law courts. They also had tax and military obligations towards the city.

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6. **City Dionysia:** Most large civic celebrations were also religious festivals – for example, the annual City Dionysia, a theatrical festival that was sacred to the god Dionysus.
7. **City-state:** city-state or polis. A particular culture might also express its ideology and values through the way it constructs its concept of place: for example, how its public and private spaces are organised. In the Renaissance, the Italian peninsula was composed of independent city-states – either courts or republics – that took their names from the main city they were governed from.
8. **(مهم) Classical Period:** which was when Athens was generally considered to have been at its cultural height. This ranges from about 479 BCE – when the Greeks finally defeated the Persians after years of war – to the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE.
9. **(مهم) Classical Studies:** Classical Studies is the conventional name for the academic study of the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome. It reaches back as far as the eighth century BCE (and sometimes earlier), when Greek civilisation first began to organise itself into city-states and its population significantly increased – all the way through to the slow decline and eventual collapse of the Roman empire in the fifth century CE, and beyond. It's important to note that there are no firm start or end points for the historical period typically covered by Classical Studies.
10. **(مهم) Democracy:** (pl. democracies) a form of government where the whole eligible population is represented. From the Greek words demos ('people') and kratos ('power').
11. **(مهم) Direct Democracy:** Athens's political system was a direct democracy, meaning that the majority of important decisions in the running of the city were voted on by the citizens themselves in the Assembly. Direct democracy was not feasible for the many everyday tasks that had to be undertaken to administer the city effectively.

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12. **(مهم) Metic:** (foreign residents working and living in Athens) had many of the same freedoms as citizens, though without certain rights. Ex. they could not vote in the Assembly, serve on juries in the law courts, or own property in Attica (the land encompassing Athens). However, they were free people who held a variety of jobs and could become very well known: the philosopher Aristotle.
13. **(مهم) Oikos:** (pl. oikoi) an Athenian home, or collectively the members of the household. The ancient Greek word *oikos* has two meanings: it can indicate the house itself, but also the people who live there and who comprise what is usually called the household. Both of these definitions are useful to consider when examining private life in Athens. The word is the root of the modern word 'economy'; in fact, for the Greeks, *oikonomia* meant the way a household was managed.
14. **(مهم) Panathenaia Festival:** is a key religious event that culminated on the Acropolis with a large animal sacrifice and was famously depicted on the friezes of the *Parthenon*. The procession would have been an impressive display of Athenian prosperity and piety. The Panathenaic Way also served as the site for chariot and foot races that took place during the festival, such as those depicted on Panathenaic amphorae, which were decorated vases awarded as prizes in these contests.
15. **Panhellenic:** Panhellenic a modern term used to describe a sanctuary that was open to all Greeks and not limited to those of the controlling polis. The locations of the great Panhellenic festivals and games at Olympia, Delphi, Nemea and Isthmia are usually considered Panhellenic. This modern term is also sometimes used in a more general sense to mean relating to 'all Greeks'.
16. **Phratry:** Phratry (pl. phratries) a social group within an Athenian tribe, of which every citizen had to be a member and to which a newly born male child would be introduced to confirm his legitimacy as a citizen.
17. **(مهم) Polis:** (pl. poleis) an ancient Greek city-state: i.e. a city that operated as an independent political entity. Ex. the Greek words ἄκρον (*akron*, "highest point, extremity") and πόλις (*polis*, "city").

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18. **Prvtanis:** Prytanis (pl. prytaneis) each of the members of the Athenian Boule (or council) serving in a specific prytany. **Prytany:** prytany (pl. prytanies) each of the ten periods into which the Athenian council's term of office was split, when it was overseen by each of the ten tribes in turn. Ex. Each of the first four prytanies lasted 36 days, and the final six lasted 35 days each. The Council met every day except holidays. The Assembly met four times in each prytany; roughly every nine days. The prytaneis set the agenda for and announced each meeting of the Council and the Assembly.
19. **(مهم) Tholos:** Tholos is a type of circular building, usually with a ring of columns outside the walls supporting the roof. The Tholos was where the prytaneis dined together, and where the head prytanis and one third of the prytaneis stayed every night.
20. **Treasury:** (thesauros in Greek) a solidly built storehouse for precious offerings made to the gods.
21. **Tyrant:** tyrant (tyrannos in Greek) the name used for a wealthy and powerful ruler of some Greek city states, derived from its connection with a form of government known as a tyranny. Tyranny was a form of monarchy set up by usurpers, but did not always involve a reign of terror. Tyrants were members of the aristocracy who came to power either through a violent coup with the support of a discontented populace or in order to resolve a crisis, and their rule could be benevolent or malevolent. By the fourth century BCE, tyranny had acquired the negative reputation that is still associated with the word today.

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Chapter 2: Rome, A World in One City

1. **Amphitheatre \ The Colosseum:** (مهم) a large circular or oval-shaped open-air building, with seating arranged around a central space in which spectacles or contests (such as gladiatorial combat) could be staged. Ex. 'the Flavian Amphitheatre'), it was, in antiquity, most likely known as simply 'the Amphitheatre'. It provided (for the first time) a permanent central and monumental location in which Romans could enjoy the spectacular shows of the gladiatorial games. The Colosseum was an important means of political manipulation, just as Nero's palace was.
2. **Obelisk:** obelisk a tapering, four-sided stone pillar (or column) with a pyramidal apex.
3. **Princes:** (مهم) (pl. principes) the Latin title, roughly meaning 'first man', by which Roman emperors often chose to be known. It is a Latin word that we roughly translate as 'emperor' for well over half a century. Augustus, the first emperor, gained this title in 27 BCE, and successfully established the Julio-Claudian dynasty. The last ruler of this dynasty was Nero himself. The *princeps* ruled over a vast (and still expanding) empire and benefited from its huge wealth, in both economic and cultural terms.
4. **Circus Maximus:** a large stadium in the city of Rome, located next to the Palatine Hill and used primarily for chariot racing. Ex. One night in July in the year 64 CE, a fire broke out in Rome, beginning in the neighbourhood of the Circus Maximus. It quickly spread and would burn for over a week.
5. **Domus Aurea \ 'Golden House:** (مهم) The Domus Aurea was a vast landscaped complex built by the Emperor Nero largely on the Oppian Hill in the heart of ancient Rome after the great fire in 64 AD had destroyed a large part of the city. It replaced and extended his Domus Transitoria that he had built as his first palace complex on the site. It was intended, no doubt, to stand as a grandiose and unavoidable statement of Nero's vision of Rome as a mighty imperial power – a city, and empire, whose culture was defined by the emperor himself at its very centre.

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6. **Flavian (مهم):** The new dynasty of Flavian emperors. The Flavian dynasty ruled the Roman Empire, encompassing the reigns of Vespasian and his two sons Titus and Domitian . Vespasian is the first emperor in this new dynasty, he had firm ideas about a different fate for the site. He did not live in Nero's palace, instead of that he used some parts on Nero's palace to build the Colosseum which is a Roman Amphitheatre for the people) or it was called Flavian Amphitheatre. Vespasian wanted to return to the Romans what he thought belongs to the Romans. The Colosseum was meant to be for all Romans.
7. **The Republic (مهم):** Republic, the the period in Roman history between 509 BCE and c.27 BCE when Rome was governed by two consuls, alongside a Senate and various other assemblies and magistrates. Republic is a political entity made up of elected officials (as opposed to a court), e.g. the Republic of Venice.
8. **Villa (مهم):** villa (pl. villas) in the ancient world, this generally denotes a domestic building, often quite extensive. Their functions could range from luxurious pleasure palaces to working farms, and they could be located close to cities as well as deep in the countryside.

Good luck

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