

The Athenian Society

Structure: Social Classes

- **Athenian Citizens:** inherited status, Athenian parents, authority, political rights, equal rights.
- **Metics (Μέτριοι):** migrant workers, no political rights, merchants/artisans, pay taxes plus special tax: metikio
- **Slaves:** born to slave parents /bought in slave markets/captured at war, labourers in agriculture/mines/quarries/workshops/civil service/ domestic slaves-servants.

Women

No political rights, couldn't vote, no citizenship, no public office, no land/property, no inheritance, couldn't attend public assemblies, couldn't go out alone.

Stay at home, manage the household, raise children, supervise the slaves, do wool-work, weaving and cooking, very limited freedom outside the home. They could attend weddings, funerals, some religious festivals, and could visit female neighbors for brief periods of time.

Gynekonitis (Γυναικωνίτης): a special area of the house only for the women to gather, no men permitted.

Priestess (ἱέρεια): the only official position they could take. They took part in religious ceremonies to honour the Gods.

Education

Girls: taught at home by their mothers

- how to sing
- play musical instruments
- make family clothes
- motherhood

- housekeeping
- at 15 a marriage was arranged for them

Rich Athenian girls were taught by a private tutor how to sing and play a musical instrument.

Boys:

- until 6: taught at home by mother or an educated male slave
- 6-14: private school, always a male teacher.

Three main courses:

- ✚ Grammata: reading, writing , arithmetic, the word of famous poets (Homer)
- ✚ Music : singing, lyre/flute
- ✚ Physical Education: wrestling, jumping, running, throwing the discus and the javelin

Also taught: geography, history, art, astronomy, philosophy, ethics (good-bad/moral values).

- 18-20 : military training for the army or navy

Those who wanted to pursue a political career were also taught the art of rhetoric/speech making, how to express yourself correctly and effectively in public, the ability to persuade citizens.

Educational Aims

- Both physical and intellectual development (sound mind in a healthy body)
- Fine taste /aesthetic sense
- Decency
- Sociability
- Bright political thought
- To produce citizens trained in the arts of both peace and war

GLOSSARY

Structure	δομή
social classes	κοινωνικές τάξεις
citizen	πολίτης
citizenship	η ιδιότητα του πολίτη
inherited status	κληρονομική (κοινωνική) θέση
rights	δικαιώματα
equal	ίσος
migrant worker	οικονομικός μετανάστης
tax	φόρος
slave	δούλος
labourer	εργάτης
agriculture	γεωργία
mine	ορυχείο
quarry	λατομείο
civil service	δημόσιες υπηρεσίες
domestic	οικιακός
servant	υπηρέτης
vote	ψηφίζω
public office	δημόσιο αξίωμα
property	περιουσία
inheritance	κληρονομιά
attend	παρακολουθώ
public assembly	δημόσια συγκέντρωση
supervise	επιβλέπω
weaving	ύφανση
permit	επιτρέπω
official position	αξίωμα

honour	τιμώ
private tutor	ιδιωτικός δάσκαλος
educated	μορφωμένος
education	εκπαίδευση
male ≠ female	αρσενικό ≠ θηλυκό
javelin	ακόντιο
wrestling	πάλη (άθλημα)
military training	στρατιωτική εκπαίδευση
ethics	ηθική
pursue a political career	επιδιώκω πολιτική καριέρα
effectively	αποτελεσματικά
persuade	πείθω
intellectual	πνευματικός, διανοητικός
development	ανάπτυξη
fine taste	λεπτό γούστο
decency	αξιοπρέπεια
bright political thought	οξυδερκής πολιτική σκέψη