There are 4 sections on the Hellenics test, with 40 questions from each section:
1. Hellenic History
2. Greek Literature
3. English words from Greek
4. Greek Vocabulary

**Hellenic History**

3000 BC - beginning of MINOAN civilization on the island of Crete
- major Minoan city: Knossos (site of the so-called 'labyrinth')
  - language of the Minoans: Linear A (not yet deciphered)

3000 BC - 1100 BC: the Bronze Age (bronze used for weapons, tools, money)
- on Crete: it's called the Minoan period; on mainland Greece, Helladic period

1450 BC - the volcanic island Thera explodes, bringing Minoan culture to an end;
- Greeks from the mainland assume control of Crete

**Mycenaeans** - the mainland Greeks, whose most powerful city was Mycenae (thus the name);
- Linear B - the language of the Mycenaeans (earliest form of ancient Greek writing,
  deciphered in the 1950's)

other large Mycenaean cities: Pylos, Tiryns
- Agammemnon - legendary king of Mycenae

1200 BC - destruction of most Mycenaean sites by so-called 'Dorian Invasions' from north

1184 BC - traditional date for the destruction of Troy

1200-1100 BC - Dark Age of Greece (also called the Iron Age)

776 BC - traditional date for the founding of the Olympic Games

750-700 BC - Homer writes *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (earliest literature in Greece/Europe)

700 BC - Hesiod writes *Theogony* and *Works and Days*

560 - 528 BC - in Athens, the tyrant Peisistratus is in power

510 BC - the tyrant Hippias is expelled from Athens (like Tarquinius Superbus in Rome)

508-501 BC - the archon Cleisthenes establishes the Council of 500 (called the Boule)
- in Athens, and also the board of 10 generals called *strategoi* - Cleisthenes
  - is called "The Father of Athenian Democracy"

490 BC - The Battle of Marathon
- the Athenians defeat a much larger Persian army, with few losses
  - an Athenian runner, Pheidippides, runs 26 miles back to Athens, announces the Athenian victory, then collapses and dies (thus our term marathon)

480 BC - The Battle of Thermopylae - Greeks unsuccessfully defend this mountain pass
- against another Persian invasion

480 BC - The Battle of Salamis - a naval victory for the Athenians over the Persians:
- Athens is now the most powerful city-state in the eastern Mediterranean
  - (this is probably the most important battle in Greek history)

**Spartan League** - a defensive military alliance created to defend Greece against future
- Persian invasions - Athens seized the monetary fund of this league in
- 454 BC and used the money to build the Parthenon

**Parthenon** - temple to Athena Parthenos, the patron goddess of Athens, built on the
- Acropolis in Athens

**Mesor** - Athens' port, located about 10 miles from the city and connected to the city
- by two parallel defensive walls, called the Long Walls

**Pericles** - leader of Athenian government from 443-429 BC - responsible for the building
- of the Parthenon - his reign is called the "Golden Age of Athens" - he dies
  - from the plague in 429 BC

431-404 - the Peloponnesian War (between Athens and Sparta) - Athens loses

399 BC - trial and death of philosopher Socrates (he drank hemlock, a poison)

357-362 BC - city of Thebes is the most powerful in Greece

357 - Battle of Leuctra (Thebes wins) 362 BC - battle of Mantinea (Thebes loses)

356-323 BC - lifetime of Alexander the Great of Macedonia (just north of Greece)

326 BC - Alexander becomes king of Macedonia when his father Phillip II is killed

323 BC - Alexander defeats Darius of Persia at the battle of Issus

311 BC - Alexander founds Alexandria in Egypt

31 BC - death of Alexander at Babylon
Greek Literature

Homer - approx. 750-700 BC; wrote Iliad and Odyssey; may have been blind late in life

Hesiod - approx. 700 BC; wrote Theogony and Works and Days

Historians: 1) Herodotus - 'father of historical writing', wrote about wars between Athens and Persia
   2) Thucydides - wrote about Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens
   3) Xenophon - wrote about Peloponnesian War and the Athenian expedition into Persia (called the Anabasis)

Tragedians: 1) Aeschylus - fought in the battles of Marathon and Salamis; wrote the Oresteia trilogy (the only trilogy we have)
   2) Sophocles - sang in the victory chorus after the battle of Salamis; wrote Oedipus Rex, Antigone, Oedipus at Colonus (NOT a true trilogy)
   3) Euripides - born on the day of the battle of Salamis; wrote Bacchae, Medea

Drama - first invented by Thespis, about 535 BC (thus our term 'thespian' for actors)

Poets: 1) Pindar - wrote Odes to honor victors in the Greek athletic festivals; wrote hymns to honor various gods, especially Apollo
   2) Theocritus - wrote Idyls about life in the country

Comedic Writers: 1) Aristophanes - wrote in the style called 'Old Comedy'; works include Birds, Frogs, Clouds; was fond of bitter personal attacks on politicians
   2) Menander - wrote in the style called 'New Comedy', in which few actual living persons are named - most characters are stereotypical comedic characters

Philosophers: 1) Socrates (469-399 BC) - the 'father of ethics', taught Plato
   2) Plato (428-348 BC) - his school was the Academy in Athens - he wrote Symposium, Apology, Republic - he taught Aristotle
   3) Aristotle (384-322 BC) - his school was the Lyceum - he taught the young Alexander the Great

Epicureanism - school of philosophy that believed atoms composed all matter, and that pleasure was the greatest good

Stoicism - school of philosophy that believed logic, reason, and virtue were the greatest good

Other Writers: 1) Euclid - wrote about geometry
   2) Aristarchus, Hipparchus, Ptolemy - wrote about astronomy
   3) Hippocrates - wrote about medicine (thus the Hippocratic Oath)

English Words from Greek

see separate handout

Greek Vocabulary

same handout as above

Greek alphabet (capitals and lower case) (with English equivalents)

alpha A α "a" xi ξ "x"
beta B β "b" omicron ο "o"
gamma Γ γ "g" pi π "p"
delta Δ δ "d" rho ρ "r"
epsilon Ε ε "e" sigma Σ σ/ς "s"
zeta Ζ ζ "z" tau τ "t"
eta Η η "e" upsilon Υ υ "u"
theta Θ θ "th" phi φ "ph"
iota Ι ι "i" chi χ "ch"
kappa Κ κ "k" psi ψ "ps"
lambda Λ λ "l" omega ω "o"
Greek Vocabulary / English Words from Greek

 adelphos (brother): Philadelphia ("the city of brotherly love")
 aden (gland): adenoids, adenectomy, adenitis
 aeido (sing): comedy, melody, tragedy, ode, parody, rhapsody
 aer (lower air): aerial, air, aerodynamics, aeronautics, malaria
 ago (lead): demagogue, pedagogue, synagoge
 aithanomai (to feel): esthetic, anesthesia
 akouo (to hear): acoustics
 akros (highest): acrobat, acropolis, acrophobia
 algos (pain): nostalgia, analgesic, arthralgia, neuralgia
 aner/antheros (man): androgyny, philanderer, android, polyandry
 angelos (messenger): angel, evangelical, evangelist
 anthos (flower): anthology, chrysanthemum
 anthropos (man): philanthropy, anthropomorphic, misanthrope, anthropoid
 apo (away from): apology, apostle, apocatactic, apocatactic
 archo (to lead, rule): anarchy, archaeology, archbishop, architect, archives, hierarchy, monarchy, oligarchy, patriarch, archetype
 aristos (best): aristocrat, aristocracy
 arithmos (number): arithmetic, logarithm
 arthron (joint): arthritis, arthropod
 aster (star): astronomy, asteroid, disaster, astronaut, astrology, asterisk, astral
 athlos (contest): athlete, pentathlon, decathlon
 autos (self): automobile, autobiography, automatic, autograph, autism
 balloon (to throw): hyperbole, metabolism, parabola, ballistics
 bapto (to dip): baptize, baptism
 biblos (book): Bible, bibliography
 bios (life): biography, biology, autobiography, amphibian
 brachys (short): brachydactylic, brachycephalic
 bradyx (slow): bradycardia, bradycardia
 cheir (hand): chiropractor, chiromancy, Hechtonchthros
 choros (green): chlorophyll, chlorite
 chroma (color): chrome, chromosome, chromatic
 chronon (time): chronic, chronicle, chronological, synchronize, chronograph
 daktylos (finger): dactyl, dactylogic
 deca (ten): decade, decathlon
 demos (people): demagogue, democracy, epidemic
 derma (skin): dermitis, dermatology, hypodermic
 dia (through): diameter, diagnosis, diagonal, diagram, dialect, dialogue, diarrhea
 dynamai (to be powerful): dynamic, dynamite, dynasty, thermodynamics
 dys (bad): dyslexia, dystrophy, dysentery
 eikon (image): icon, iconoclast
 endon (inward): endocrine, endoplastic, endogamy, ...
 enteron (intestine): enteritis, gastroenterology, dysentery
 epi (around, upon): epidermis, epidemic, epiglottis, epilepsy, epilogue, episode, epitaph, Episcopalian, epitaph, epigram
 erythros (red): erythrocyte
 ethnos (nation): ethnic
 eu (well, good): evangelist, eulogy, euthanasia, euphemism, euphoria
 exo (outside): exotic, exodus, exoskeleton
 gamma (wedding, marriage): polygamy, bigamy, monogamy
 ge (earth): geometry, geology, geography, geosynchronous, geothermal
 gene (race, kind): genesis, homogeneous, gene, genus, genealogy
 meroe (one): geriatrics, gerontology, gerotol
 glottis (tongue): glossary, polyglot, epiglottis
 glypto (to carve): hieroglyphics
 gonia (corner, angle): diagonal, pentagon, polygon, hexagon, octagon grapho (to write): graph, diagram, kilogram, paragraph, autograph, biography, photograph, geography, monogram, telegraph
 gyne (woman): gynecology, androgyny, misogyny, polygyny
 haem (blood): hemoglobin, hemorrhage, hemophilia, hemostat, leukaemia, hemophilia
 helios (sun): helmet, heliotrope, perihelion, aphelion
 helix (spiral): helix, helicopter
 heteros (other, different): heterossexual, heterodox
 hieros (sacred): hieroglyphics, hierarchy
 hippocrepis (horse): hippocrepis, hippocrepis, Philip
 hydor (water): hydrogen, hydrant, hydraulic, anhydrous, hydrophobia
 hyper (over, above): hyperbole, hypermesia
 hypog (under, beneath): hypochondriac, hypocrite, hypodermic, hypoglycemia, hypothermia
 iatros (doctor): pediatrician, psychiatrist
 ichthy (fish): ichthyology
 isos (equal): isosceles, isothermal, isometric, isotope
 kato (to burn): caustic, hypocaut, holocaust
 kakea (bad): caccography, caphony
 kardia (heart): cardiac, cardiology, cardiaxia
 kate (down, against): cataclysm, catastrophe, catastrophist, category
 kephalos (head): encephalitis, cephalgia
kosmos (order, universe): cosmic, cosmopolitan, cosmetic
krateo (to rule, control): democracy, aristocracy
krypto (to hide): crypt, cryptic, cryptogram
kyklos (ring, circle): bicycle, cyclone, encyclopedia, tricycle
leukos (white): leuk a, leukocyte
lithos (stone): lithograph, monolith, megalith, lithotripter
logos (word): archaeology, mythology, biology, monologue, dialogue, ...
lyo (to loosen): analysis, paralysis
mainomai (to rage): mania
megas (large, great): megaphone, megalith, megalomania
melas (black): melanin, melanomaly
meter (mother): metropolis
metron (measure): meter, centimeter, odometer, diameter, geometry, perimeter, thermometer
mikros (small): microscope, microphone, micron
mimos (actor): mime, mimic, mimeograph, pantomime
misos (hatred): misanthrope, misogamy, misogyny
mnemonai (to remember): mnemonic, amnesia, amnesia
monos (alone): monarch, monogram, monogamy, monolith, monologue, monopoly, monotheism
morpho (shape): amorphous, metamorphosis, anthropomorphic
naua (ship): astronaut, nautical, nausea
nekros (corpse): necromancy, necrophilia, necrophobia
neos (new): neon, neophyte, misoneism
nephros (kidney): nephritis, epinephrine
nomos (law): astronomy, autonomy, economy
odon (tooth): orthodontist, periodontal
oligos (few): oligarchy
onyma (name): anonymous, antonym, synonym, homonym, polynomial, onomatopoeia, patronymic
ops (eye): optic, optician, optometry
orthos (straight, correct): orthodontist, orthodoxy, orthopedics
osteos (bone): ostoporosis, osteoclasia
ous (ear): otology, otic, otolaryngology
pais (child): encyclopaedia, pedagogue, pediatrician
para (beside, beyond): parabola, paradox, paragraph, parallel, paralyze, paraphernalia
pas, pant- (all, every): panorama, pantheon, pantomime
patho (to feel): sympathy, empathy, telepathy, pathological
pente (five): pentagon, pentagram, pentmeter
peri (around, near): perimeter, periscope, periphery
phago (eat): phagocyte, esophagus, oligophagous
phemi (to say): euphemism, blaspheme, prophet
phero (to carry): paraphernalia, periphery, euphoria, metaphor
phios (dear, beloved): philosophy, philanthropy, philharmonic, philanderer, Philip
phobos (fear): acrophobia, agoraphobia, triskaidekaphobia, ...
phone (sound): phone, symphony, xylophone, phonograph, megaphone, microphone
phoe (light): photograph, photosynthesis
phyo (to grow): physics, physiology, neophyte
poleo (to sell): monopoly
polis (city-state): acropolis, cosmopolitan, metropolis, police, politics
polys (many, much): polygamy, polygon, polygraph, polytheism
pous, podos (foot): octopus, tripod, orthopedic, apodal
protos (first): prototype, protagonist, proton, protozoan
pseudes (false): pseudonym
psyche (soul): psychology, psychiactry, psychic
pyr (fire): pyromania, pyrotechnics
rhis (nose): rhinoceros, rhinoplasty
schizo (to split): schism, schizophrenia
skleros (hard): sclera, artherosclerosis
skopeo (to look at): horoscope, periscope, telescope, microscope
stereos (solid, 3-dimensional): stereo, stereotype, steroids
syn (together, with): synthetic, syllable, sympathy, synonym, symptom
tele (far away): telephone, telegraph, television, telepathy, telekinesis
thanas (death): euthanasia, thanatophobia
theos (god): theology, atheist, pantheon
thermos (warm): thermal, thermodynamics, thermometer, thermostat, hypothermia
tithemi (to put, place): theme, thesis, epithe, hypothesis, parenthesis, synthesis
xenos (foreigner): xenophobia, xenon
zoon (animal): zoo, zoology, zodiac