

CHAPTER  
**4**  
SECTION 5

**Note Taking Study Guide**  
**ALEXANDER AND THE HELLENISTIC AGE**

**Focus Question:** How did Alexander the Great expand his empire and spread Greek culture throughout the realm?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the outline below to record the main ideas and supporting details about the empire of Alexander the Great.*

**I. The Empire of Alexander the Great**

**A. Philip II conquers Greece**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Alexander takes Persia**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**D.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**II.** \_\_\_\_\_

**A.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

*(Outline continues on the next page.)*

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**4**  
SECTION 5

# Note Taking Study Guide

## ALEXANDER AND THE HELLENISTIC AGE

*(Continued from page 45)*

**B.** \_\_\_\_\_  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** \_\_\_\_\_  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**III.** \_\_\_\_\_

**A.** \_\_\_\_\_  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** \_\_\_\_\_  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Section Summary**

**ALEXANDER AND THE HELLENISTIC AGE**

Soon after Macedonian king **Philip II** gained the throne in 359 B.C., he built a powerful army and eventually brought all of Greece under his control. Philip's next goal was to conquer the Persian empire. However, he was assassinated before he could. **Assassination** is the murder of a public figure, usually for political reasons.

After Philip's death, his son, who came to be known as **Alexander the Great**, acquired the throne and began organizing forces to conquer Persia. Alexander was victorious. Once much of the Persian empire fell under his control, he advanced into India.

Unexpectedly in 323 B.C., Alexander died at the age of 33 in Persia from a fever. Although his empire collapsed soon after, he is credited with spreading Greek culture from Egypt to the borders of India. Local people **assimilated**, or absorbed, Greek ideas. In turn, Greek settlers adopted local customs. Gradually, a new Hellenistic culture emerged that blended Greek, Persian, Egyptian, and Indian influences.

At the very heart of the Hellenistic world stood the magnificent city of **Alexandria**, founded in Egypt by Alexander. Its great library was among the greatest scientific and cultural centers of the age. Like Alexandria, cities of the Hellenistic world employed many architects and artists. Temples, palaces, and other public buildings were larger and grander than the buildings of classical Greece. The elaborate new style reflected the desire of Hellenistic rulers to glorify themselves as godlike.

During the Hellenistic age, scholars built on earlier Greek, Babylonian, and Egyptian knowledge. In mathematics, **Pythagoras** derived a formula to calculate the relationship between the sides of a right triangle. The astronomer Aristarchus developed the theory of a **heliocentric**, or sun-centered, solar system. Another scientist, **Archimedes**, applied the principles of physics to make practical inventions. In the field of medicine, the Greek physician **Hippocrates** studied the causes of illnesses and looked for cures.

Greek works in the arts and sciences set a standard for later Europeans. Greek ideas about law, freedom, justice, and government continue to influence political thinking today.

**Review Questions**

1. How was Alexandria typical of a Hellenistic city?

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2. On what was Hellenistic scholarship based?

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**READING CHECK**

What kept Philip II from trying to conquer Persia?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *elaborate* mean in the underlined sentence? Look for context clues in the underlined sentence. Use the context clues in the surrounding words and phrases to figure out the meaning of *elaborate*.

**READING SKILL**

**Identify Supporting Details**  
How did Alexander the Great's conquests help create a new Hellenistic culture?

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