

TOEFL Junior : Reading Comprehension Test 5

Read the passage . 60 - 100 minutes

Triumph of the Athenians

The victory of the small Greek democracy of Athens over the mighty Persian Empire in 490 B.C. is one of the most famous events in history. Darius, king of the Persian Empire, was furious because Athens had interceded for the other Greek city-states in revolt against Persian domination. In anger the king sent an enormous army to defeat Athens. He thought it would take drastic steps to pacify the rebellious part of the empire.

Persia was ruled by one man. In Athens, however, all citizens helped to rule. Ennobled by this participation, Athenians were prepared to die for their city-state. Perhaps this was the secret of the remarkable victory at Marathon, which freed them from Persian rule. On their way to Marathon, the Persians tried to fool some Greek city-states by claiming to have come in peace. The frightened citizens of Delos refused to believe this. Not wanting to abet the conquest of Greece, they fled from their city and did not return until the Persians had left. They were wise, for the Persians next conquered the city of Eritrea and captured its people.

Tiny Athens stood alone against Persia. The Athenian people went to their sanctuaries. There they prayed for deliverance. They asked their gods to expedite their victory. The Athenians refurbished their weapons and moved to the plain of Marathon, where their little band would meet the Persians. At the last moment, soldiers from Plataea reinforced the Athenian troops. The Athenian army attacked, and Greek citizens fought bravely. The power of the mighty Persians was offset by the love that the Athenians had for their city. Athenians defeated the Persians in both archery and hand combat. Greek soldiers seized Persian ships and burned them, and the Persians fled in terror. Herodotus, a famous historian, reports that 6,400 Persians died, compared to only 192 Athenians.

INSTRUCTION:

Read the questions carefully and refer to the text above then choose the best answer:

1. Athens had _____ the other Greek city-states against the Persians.

- A. refused help to
- B. intervened on behalf of
- C. wanted to fight
- D. given orders for all to fight
- E. defeated

2. Darius took drastic steps to _____ the rebellious Athenians.

- A. weaken
- B. destroy
- C. calm
- D. irritate
- E. Answer not available

3. Their participation _____ to the Athenians.

- A. gave comfort
- B. gave honor
- C. gave strength
- D. gave fear
- E. gave hope

4. The people of Delos did not want to _____ the conquest of Greece.

- A. end
- B. encourage
- C. think about
- D. daydream about
- E. Answer not available

5. The Athenians were _____ by some soldiers who arrived from Plataea.

- A. welcomed
- B. strengthened
- C. held
- D. captured
- E. Answer not available

Answers and Explanations

1. B: "Interceded for" means intervened on behalf of, not refused help to (A), wanted to fight (C), given orders for all to fight (D), or defeated (E).
 2. C: "Pacify" means to calm or make peaceful. It does not mean to make weaker (A), to destroy (B), or to irritate (D), i.e. annoy or provoke.
 3. B: "Ennobled" means gave honor to or made noble. It does not mean gave comfort (A) or solace, gave strength (C), i.e. fortified or reinforced, gave fear (D) or frightened, or gave hope (E) or encouraged.
 4. B: To "abet" means to enable, support, or encourage, usually in crime or doing something wrong. It does not mean to end (A), think about (C), or daydream about (D) something.
29. B: "Reinforced" means strengthened, not welcomed (A), held (C), or captured (D).