

## DAMON AND PYTHIAS

**Selection Test B/C****Comprehension**

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.  
(6 points each)

1. Damon and Pythias are known throughout Sicily because of their
  - A. great wealth
  - B. strong friendship
  - C. dislike of the king
  - D. skills in government
2. Which action from the legend shows the cultural value of honesty?
  - A. Pythias stands before the king and openly states his beliefs.
  - B. Pythias tries to escape from the robbers who hold him.
  - C. Damon offers to stay in jail so that Pythias can go home.
  - D. Damon refuses to think that Pythias might fail to return.
3. Why does the king distrust at first the bargain he and Damon make?
  - A. Damon is known for telling lies.
  - B. Pythias tells the king he will return.
  - C. The king thinks Pythias will run away.
  - D. The king has made this kind of deal before.
4. How do you know in this play that Pythias struggles to free himself after robbers tie him to a tree?
  - A. The first robber watches Pythias struggle.
  - B. The scene is acted out in dialogue.
  - C. The narrator describes the event.
  - D. Pythias tells Damon about it.
5. At the end of the play, the king's actions reveal that the culture supports the value of
  - A. courage to speak out
  - B. obedience to family
  - C. honesty to the king
  - D. loyalty to friends

## SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

**Vocabulary**

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word. (6 points each)

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| <p>6. A <u>tyrant</u> is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. a counselor</li><li>B. an officer</li><li>C. a dictator</li><li>D. a leader</li></ul> <p>7. To <u>proclaim</u> means to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. recommend</li><li>B. announce</li><li>C. discover</li><li>D. forbid</li></ul> <p>8. To <u>persuade</u> means to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. encourage</li><li>B. discuss</li><li>C. surrender</li><li>D. convince</li></ul> | <p>9. What does <u>desperately</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. urgently</li><li>B. carelessly</li><li>C. mysteriously</li><li>D. angrily</li></ul> <p>10. What does <u>harsh</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. rough</li><li>B. wise</li><li>C. old</li><li>D. strange</li></ul> |
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**Written Response**

**Short Response** Answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the play. Write a sentence or two on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points each)

11. Why are the people of Sicily afraid to rebel against the king? Use two details from the play in your response.
12. How does the crowd feel on the day of Pythias' punishment? Use two details from the play to support your response.

**Extended Response** Answer one of the following questions based on your knowledge of the play. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

13. Which character, Damon, Pythias, or the king, has the most responsibility for what happens in this legend? Support your choice with details from the legend.
14. **Challenge** Do you find Pythias' action in returning to the prison to be extraordinary, or does he behave the way anyone would in his situation? Refer to details in the story in your response.