

Athenian Education and the Sophist Movement.

1 Aims

*

Real education reserved for gentlemen - **Kaloskagathos** " an honourable man, physically fit and well mannered "

Quote: Isocrates " ... the wealthier ones had an education in which they learnt to take part in hunting, athletics and the more intellectual pursuits "

2 Didaskalos - teachers and their social standing

- a Paidotribes
- b Kitharistes
- c Grammatistes

*

Respect :

Evidence : Demosthenes the orator when trying to insult his enemy Aeschines said

" Just compare your life with mine. You were brought up in total poverty. You actually helped your father sweat it out in the school room You were booed at - I did the booing, you taught the ABC - I was the pupil "

3 Elements of the education of a Kaloskagathos

a Grammatistes :

*** The real value :

Evidence : Protagoras in Plato "..... they are made to learn by heart the famous poets, whose works contain sound advice and good stories.....so that the child is inspired to imitate them "

Reason :

b Kitharistes

Evidence Plato : Protagoras "the Kitharistes...tries to teach the boys moderation and lead them away from wrong doing...in this way they become more cultured, more controlled and better balanced "

*

*

*

Greeks convinced mere sound of music had a great effect on mood and character of listener. Kitharistes job was to encourage gentle music to create calm and balanced temperaments.

2)

Quote : Plato ' Republic ' " A new style of music is to be guarded against at all times...they bring with them new styles of behaviour and new beliefs "

*

*

*

c Paidotribes

* Central to the classical Athenian idea was the later Roman saying " **mens sana in corpore sano** " - a healthy mind in a healthy body .

4 **Schools**

5 **Working Class / Poor**

Quote : Isocrates " Our forefathers laid it down that each child should be brought up to take on a job suitable to his background. The children of the poorer citizens learnt farming, or buying or selling "

*

1

2

3

3)

6 Traditional Education versus " New Education "

Evidence : Clouds by Aristophanes 423 BC

Comedy based on the revolution. The plot is that of a poor farmer Strepsiades and his attempts to pay off his playboy son's (Pheidippides) debts . Strepsiades hopes to take advantage of the new education that was popular in Athens.

Aristophanes presents a contest between a representative of old education and the new [see sheet]

Aristophanes personal attitude is difficult to ascertain as made fun of both side. Perhaps in general rather conservative as indicated by the names he gives the two schools of thought.

Traditional Education :

New Education :

*

7 What was the new education ?

*

By the middle of the 5th.c. this movement had begun to leave its mark.

*

Athens was particularly affected.

8

Sophistai (wise men) - Sophists and the age of rationalism.

*

*

Evidence : can be seen in the written work of the period - in **Thucydides'** History and in the plays of **Euripides** and **Aristophanes**.

*

Hard to define the Sophists - we refer to them as a group but in fact the various sophists who came to Athens did not have anything in common beyond the fact that they were what we should **call teachers** and * **charged high fees for lectures.**

*

4)

*

Protagoras

Rhetoricians

* Rhetor

*

*

*

Gorgias and Prodicus

*

*

*

Quote : Aristophanes " making the worse cause appear the better "

*

9 Wider education - Essential to any essay (prove you understand the wider picture)

*

*

*

*

*

*

*