I. A. Greece is a mountainous peninsula surrounded by the sea, with several nearby islands.

I. B. The mountains isolated Greeks and led to the development of independent city-states. The surrounding sea dictated that Greeks would become seafarers.

II. A. Mycenaean civilization was made up of powerful monarchies, each of which ruled a city-state from a fortified palace on a hill.

II. B. Wars between the city-states, as well as a series of destructive earthquakes, weakened Mycenae, which fell to Greek-speaking invaders.

III. A. Historians call the period after the collapse of Mycenaean civilization, from approximately 1100 B.C. to 750 B.C., the Dark Age.

III. B. Many Greeks left the mainland and settled in Ionia, a region in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey. Aeolian Greeks conquered Lesbos and the Dorians established themselves in southwestern Greece, especially in Peloponnese and the southern Aegean islands.

III. C. The Dark Age saw a revival of trade, the use of iron in weaponry and in farming, and the adoption of the Phoenician alphabet. The works of Homer also appeared.

III. D. The Iliad and The Odyssey were the first great epic poems of early Greece. The Greeks looked on The Iliad and The Odyssey as true history and as the works of one poet, Homer, who brought to light the Greek ideal.

III. E. Arete is a kind of excellence that establishes one's heroism and honor and must be won through a struggle or contest.

Summary and Reflection

A complete answer should include: Greek city-states developed in isolation; mountains served as geographic barriers, and the sea separated islands from the mainland and each other; each city-state developed its own culture, and this set the stage for both warfare and cultural and economic exchange; the Mycenaean city-states developed a loose alliance, which was weakened by warfare and natural disasters and collapsed, leaving Greece in a Dark Age; during the Dark Age, however, many Greeks set sail to new lands, and other groups established themselves in Greece; trade and economic activity began to revive, and Greeks developed new weapons and farming tools; Greeks imported the Phoenician alphabet, which allowed for widespread literacy; tales of Greek adventures became codified in the works of Homer, which provided Greeks with a heroic narrative of their past.