

Classical Theatre Questions

A. Answer the following questions on lined paper. Complete sentences are expected.

1. What role did “primitive ritual” play in the development of drama?
2. What is the main purpose of ritual and how was it used by ancient societies?
3. List 4 common elements of a ritual.
4. What was the most important ritual of ancient Egyptian life?
- 5.
5. What is a dithyramb?
6. How did Thespis (560 B.C.) “invent” Theatre and take it beyond ritual?
7. What were the earliest plays based upon?
8. What were the following people known for?

Aeschylus

Euripedes

Sophocles

- _____ added the concept of a third actor to the play
- _____ earliest playwright, introduced idea of antagonist
- _____ developed plays with more realism and dialogue

9. What is a tragedy according to Aristotle?
10. What is a comedy?