

Y4+5+6

I have supplied some extracts from Alexander The Great's life below. Read them and then answer the question – remember I expect far more detail from y4 to y5 to y6 although challenge yourselves-

Did Alexander The Great simply want to conquer the world and be a dictator (someone who was not to be challenged or questioned about his decisions in any way) or did he want to create a new blended multicultural world and become the leader of that new world?

#### A. THE DEATH AND DEFEAT OF THE PERSIAN KING:DARIUS

Alexander left Persepolis to hunt Darius and chased him for hundreds of miles. Finally, in July 330 B.C., Alexander found him. Darius lay dead in his coach. His own officers had murdered him. His satrap, Bessus, who declared himself the successor of Darius, had hatched the plot with fellow soldiers. Alexander made sure Darius was given a royal funeral. Now, Alexander was free to pronounce himself the king of Persia. He took to wearing Persian clothes to bring the Greeks and Persians closer.

## B. A BACTRIAN ALLIANCE

In 324 B.C., Alexander married Statira, the beautiful daughter of Darius III and his wife. She had been engaged to Mazeus, who died in 328 B.C. Alexander had captured Statira after the Battle of Issus. In a series of wedding ceremonies, he and eighty of his senior officials married Persian noblewomen, as an attempt to unite Greeks and Persians. He held a victory celebration after his marriage where each of the nine thousand guests was given a gold wine goblet. Alexander also married several other Persian princesses.

## C. INTO INDIA

The officials he had sent ahead further into India as scouts came back and advised him not to continue east. So, Alexander decided to slow down. He realised the world was larger than he had believed it to be, that India would prove to be a difficult campaign. His troops had heard of the fierce armies of the Magadha kingdom ahead. They were too tired and scared to continue and they refused to follow him east. Alexander had no option but to turn south, travelling mostly down the Indus river on rafts. At every village they halted, Alexander discussed different subjects with Indian philosophers. The people were so impressed with his wisdom that he was remembered in India for centuries as a wise and courageous emperor. At Malli village, however, a fierce battle took place. An arrow pierced his lungs and he was wounded badly. His men rescued him.

## D. FINAL NOTE

Wherever Alexander went, he took the art and architecture of the Greeks with him. The Bactrian kingdom in Afghanistan and the lands around Punjab in modern Pakistan and India were under Grecian artistic influence for over two centuries, from the time of Alexander's conquest to the end of the Greco-Bactrian kingdom at about 125 B.C.