

READ and FILL IN THE BLANK WITH 1 WORD or 1 NUMBER.

Question

With his gentle philosophical principle of balance and moderation, Aristotle is believed to have had nothing to do with Alexander's ruthlessness. Do you agree or disagree? Support your opinion with reasons.

ESSAY

In his short life of (1) _____ years, Alexander is famous for doing so (2) _____, causing death on his way to (3) _____ the 10,000-mile stretch of Europe and Asia. When trying to explain for his (4) _____, savage behavior, many people think about the lessons that Aristotle gave him in the (5) _____ most important years of his life. After analyzing Aristotle's philosophy of balance and moderation, most of them believe that Aristotle is believed to have had nothing to do with Alexander's ruthlessness. However, I don't agree with that. I do believe Aristotle played an important role in leading Alexander to behave like that.

Admittedly, Aristotelian philosophy itself was totally contradictory to Alexander's behavior. While Alexander was excessive and savage, Aristotle always tried to (6) _____ his lessons with the ethics of moderation. Aristotelian philosophy steadfastly held that excess in behavior and character results in failures to develop virtue and (7) _____, while exercising self-control and (8) _____ leads to virtue and (9) _____. If one looks into the philosophy separately, one could never see any connection Aristotle may have had with Alexander's ruthlessness.

However, it is Aristotle's acceptance of (10) _____ and his ethnocentric discrimination which had great influence on Alexander. Even though Aristotelian philosophy itself was gentle, it was limited to only Greek male men. Aristotle blatantly favored these (11) _____ and discriminated slaves, and foreigners, and so he taught Alexander to treat them as if they were (12) _____ or plants, and his student did so.

Moreover, Alexander's ruthlessness was because he was taught by Aristotle to love the (13) _____ virtue in Homer's Iliad. In the lessons that Aristotle gave Alexander, besides the ethics of moderation, the teacher engraved the love for heroic virtue into his student, which later was applied in Alexander's (14) _____ and heroic conquest.

In conclusion, gentle as his philosophy was, it was Alexander whose influence was partially the reasons for Alexander's ruthlessness. It is indisputable that a teacher has to have some influence on his or her students, however he or she is.