



Paestum

In ancient times, **Paestum** was the most important Greek town, on the coast of Tyrrhenian Sea, in Magna Graecia (southern Italy).

The ruins of Paestum are famous for their three temples in Doric style. They date back to 600 BC. The town walls and the amphitheatre are quite intact. There are remains of paved roads. The site is open to the public, and there is a modern national museum within it. After its foundation by Greek colonists under the name of **Poseidonia** (Ancient Greek: Ποσειδωνία) it was conquered by the Romans. Under the Romans its name became **Pesto** or Paestum. Today its remains are part of Capaccio in the Province of Salerno, Campania, Italy. Nowadays Paestum is not only an archeological site, but also sandy beaches and wonderful sea. Coming back to the site, we can say that all the three large temples have got massive colonnades (widening as they go down)

These temples were dedicated to Hera, Athena, and Poseidon (Juno, Minerva, and Neptune at the Roman times). Often they have been identified, for example, as Basilica and temple of Ceres (Greek Demeter).

The city is surrounded by still standing defensive walls. The walls are approximately 4750 m long, 5 – 7 m wide and 15 m high. Positioned along the wall are 24 square and round watchtowers.

Questions

- 1) In which year was the temple of Hera built? (2p)
- 2) To which other gods was dedicated the Temple of Hera ? (2p)
- 3) Which is the only evidence for large-scale Greek painting in Paestum? (3p)

