**THE FIRST LAWS: THE LEGAL HERITAGE OF GREECE AND ROME**

**1. Read and translate the text:**

The ancient Greeks were among the first to develop a concept of law that separated everyday law from religious beliefs, Before the Greeks most civilizations attributed their laws to their gods or goddesses. Instead, the Greeks believed that laws were made by the people for the people.

In the seventh century B.C., Draco\* drew up Greece's first written code of laws. Under Draco's code death was the punishment for most offenses. Thus, the term draconian usually applies to extremely harsh measures.

Several decades passed before Solon— poet, military hero, and ultimately Athens' lawgiver — devised a new code of laws. Trial by jury, an ancient Greek tradition was retained, but enslaving debtors was prohibited as were most of the harsh punishments of Draco's code. Under Solon's law citizens of Athens were eligible to serve in the assembly and courts were established in which they could appeal government decisions.

What the Greeks may have contributed to the Romans was the concept of 'natural law'. In essence, natural law was based on the belief that certain basic principles are above the laws of a nation. These principles arise from the nature of people. The concept of natural law and the development of the first true legal system had a profound effect on the modern world.

\*Draco — ['dreikou] — Драконт, афинский законодатель

**TASK 2. Find English equivalents to the following words and word combinations (see the text) and learn them by heart:**

1) развить концепцию закона; 2) религиозные верования; 3) приписывать законы богам и богиням; 4) законы делались людьми для людей; 5) первый письменный свод законов; 6) наказание за большинство нарушений; 7) чрезвычайно жесткие меры; 8) законодатель; 9) суд присяжных; 10) продажа должников в рабство; 11) обжаловать решения правительства; 12) понятие «естественного права»; 13) основные принципы выше законов страны; 14) первая истинная правовая система; 15) глубокое влияние на современный мир.