Citizenship

[For] the ancient Greeks
political participation formed
an intrinsic part of citizenship.
To enjoy the promise of civic equality
that the status of citizenship holds out,
all citizens had to play their part
in the political process.
Otherwise, instead of a situation
of ruling and being ruled in turn,
a citizen would simply be ruled.
Indeed, our word 'idiot' comes from
the Greek *idiotes*, a term used to
describe someone who concentrates
entirely on their private affairs
to the neglect of the public realm.

Richard Bellamy,
Citizenship: A Very Short Introduction