

Document-Based Question

Your task is to answer a document-based question (DBQ) on democracy in ancient Greece. In a DBQ, you use your analysis of primary source documents and your knowledge of history to write a brief essay answering the question. Using all four sets of documents, answer this question. Below are two DBQs. The first is somewhat less demanding than the second. Use whichever DBQ your teacher assigns.

Document-Based Questions

1 **"Greek democracy was not 'flawed.' It was a tremendous triumph if you view it in the context of its own time in history." Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.**

OR

2 **Using these sources and your background knowledge, explain the relationship between Greek democracy, on the one hand, and the military needs and social class divisions of Greek city-states. Specifically, how could all of these things co-exist?**

Below is a checklist of key suggestions for writing a DBQ essay. Next to each item, jot down a few notes to guide you in writing the DBQ. Use extra sheets to write a four- or five-paragraph essay.

Introductory Paragraph

Does the paragraph clarify the DBQ itself? Does it present a clear thesis, or overall answer, to that DBQ?

The Internal Paragraphs — 1

Are these paragraphs organized around main points with details supporting those main ideas? Do all these main ideas support the thesis in the introductory paragraph?

The Internal Paragraphs — 2

Are all of your main ideas and key points linked in a logical way? That is, does each idea follow clearly from those that went before? Does it add something new and helpful in clarifying your thesis?

Use of Primary Source Documents

Are they simply mentioned in a "laundry list" fashion? Or are they used thoughtfully to support main ideas and the thesis?

Concluding Paragraph

Does it restate the DBQ and thesis in a way that sums up the main ideas without repeating old information or going into new details?