

DBQ 2: ANCIENT GREEK CONTRIBUTIONS

Historical Context

Many of the roots of Western civilization can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. They made long-lasting contributions in the areas of art, architecture, philosophy, math, drama, and science.

■ **Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying documents in Part A. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of each document and the author's point of view. Be sure to do each of the following steps:

1. Carefully read the document-based question. Consider what you already know about this topic. How would you answer the question if you had no documents to examine?
2. Read each document carefully, underlining key phrases and words that address the document-based question. You may also wish to use the margin to make brief notes. Answer the questions that follow each document before moving on to the next document.
3. Based on your own knowledge and on the information in the documents, formulate a thesis that directly answers the document-based question.
4. Organize supportive and relevant information into a brief outline.
5. Write a well-organized essay proving your thesis. You should present your essay logically. Include information both from the documents and from your own knowledge beyond the documents.

Question: What did the ancient Greeks contribute to Western civilization?

PART A

The following documents will help you understand the contributions of the ancient Greeks. Examine each document carefully. In the space provided, answer the question or questions that follow each document.

(continued)

Name _____

Date _____

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Document 1

This adapted quotation is from Socrates, who lived from about 470 to about 399 B.C.E.

The unexamined life is not worth living.

Who was Socrates, and what was he suggesting in this quote?

Document 2

This adapted quotation is from Aristotle, who lived in Greece from 384 to 322 B.C.E.

Since human reason is the most godlike part of human nature, a life guided by human reason is superior to any other. . . . For man, this is the life of reason, since the faculty of reason is the distinguishing characteristic of human beings.

Who was Aristotle, and what did he believe about human nature?

(continued)

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Document 3

This adapted excerpt is from Pericles' funeral oration, given to the people of Athens in about 430 B.C.E.

Our plan of government favors the many instead of the few: that is why it is called a democracy. . . .

As for social standing, advancement is open to everyone, according to ability. While every citizen has an equal opportunity to serve the public, we reward our most distinguished citizens by asking them to make our political decisions. Nor do we discriminate against the poor. A man may serve his country no matter how low his position on the social scale.

What type of government was Pericles describing? What were his expectations for citizens in this type of government?

Document 4

The following is an adapted excerpt from The Hippocratic Oath. Hippocrates, who created this oath, lived from about 460 to about 377 B.C.E.

I will follow that [treatment] which, according to my ability and judgment, I will consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is [harmful].

I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such [advice]. . . .

Who was Hippocrates, and what was he promising to do?

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Document 5

This excerpt is adapted from the *Elements*, written by Euclid in about 300 B.C.E.

Proposition 15, THEOREM: If two straight lines cut one another, the vertical, or opposite, angles shall be equal.

Who was Euclid, and what has been the impact of his work?

Document 6

This excerpt is adapted from the play *Antigone* by Sophocles, written in about 441 B.C.E. In this play, Antigone defies the king's order and buries her brother, who was killed while leading a rebellion.

Creon: And still you dared to overstep these laws?

Antigone: For me, it was not Zeus who made that order. Nor do I think your orders were so strong that you, a mortal man, could overrun the gods' unwritten and unfailing laws. . . . I know I must die . . . but if I left my brother dead and unburied, I'd have cause to grieve as now I grieve not.

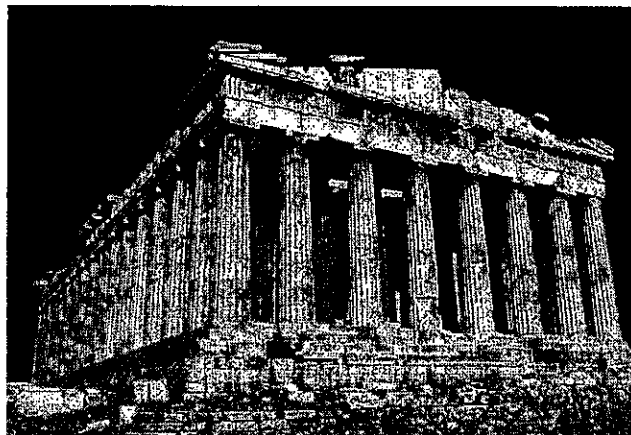
What values are expressed in this Greek play?

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Document 7

Examine this photograph of a famous Greek building, the Parthenon.



How have specific features of this building influenced Western civilization?

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Document 8

Myron's famous marble sculpture, *Discus Thrower (Discobolus)*, represents an Olympic event. Myron created this sculpture around 460–450 B.C.E.



What does this statue reveal about Greek values?

**PART
B**

What did the ancient Greeks contribute to Western civilization?