WESTERN CIVILIZATION · STUDY GUIDE

Exam 1 Study Guide

This guide covers the first two chapters. You will follow farming, cities, writing and kingship as they appear in the river valleys of Iraq and Egypt, then watch a poor, mountainous Greece invent the citizen state and argue about who should rule. Work one chapter at a time. Read the "what to know" paragraphs, study the diagram, then try each worked case with the steps covered. Finish each chapter with its ten self-test items. The cram sheet at the end puts the key dates and terms in one place.

WHAT THIS GUIDE COVERS

- Chapter 1 · the Neolithic Revolution and its costs, Göbekli Tepe, Sumer and Uruk, tokens to cuneiform, Sargon and empire, Hammurabi's stele, Assyria and Babylon, the Nile and ma'at, the Bronze Age collapse, the alphabet and what the West inherited.
- Chapter 2 · Mycenaean collapse and the polis, colonies, coinage and the alphabet, the hoplite, Sparta and the helots, Solon and Cleisthenes, how the democracy worked and who it excluded, the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars, Greek philosophy and the Hellenistic world.

CHAPTER 1

Foundations: Mesopotamia and Egypt

Read it in full: **Chapter 1 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **The Farming Bargain** and **The Year the River Runs**.

What to know

Between roughly 9500 and 500 BCE, people in two river valleys built the tools every later society in this course will use: farming, cities, writing, kingship, written law, empire, calendars and standard weights. The two valleys were the Tigris and Euphrates plain of southern Iraq (Mesopotamia) and the Nile corridor of Egypt. They solved their problems in different ways, and the differences matter.

The **Neolithic Revolution** is the shift from foraging to farming and herding. It began around 9500 BCE in the **Fertile Crescent** and took about three thousand years. The region went first because of a lucky biological inventory: eight founder crops (such as einkorn and emmer wheat, barley, lentils and flax) and four key domesticable animals (sheep, goat, pig, cattle) lived close together. Farming fed more people per acre, but skeletons show shorter, sicker, harder-working people, with more tooth decay, anemia and joint wear, plus new diseases from living beside animals. Farming won because farming populations grew faster, not because each family was better off.

Göbekli Tepe in southeastern Turkey, excavated by Klaus Schmidt from 1995, holds huge carved stone pillars built around 9500 BCE, before farming is securely attested. It broke the old tidy order of surplus first, then monuments. Schmidt's strong claim that ritual building caused farming is contested; the safe summary is that building and food production grew up together. Jericho's stone tower (about 8000 BCE) and Çatalhöyük, a dense town with no streets and no sign of a palace or chief, show that a big settlement is not automatically a city with rulers.

Southern Mesopotamia is an **alluvial** plain with rich soil but almost no stone, metal or timber. Its rivers flood in April and May, too late for the winter grain, and their flow is unpredictable, so farming needed canals, levees and constant upkeep. That created disputes that rewarded whoever could settle them. Around 3500 BCE **Uruk** became the first city; by about 2900 BCE it held perhaps 40,000 to 50,000 people. Its temples were economic corporations that owned fields and herds and paid workers in barley.

Writing began as bookkeeping. The oldest substantial writing, from Uruk around 3300 to 3200 BCE, records barley, beer, textiles and rations. Denise Schmandt-Besserat traced it to clay counting tokens. Pictures became wedge marks pressed with a reed stylus, called **cuneiform**. The breakthrough was phonetic: a sign could stand for a sound, so scribes could write names and verbs. Cuneiform wrote Sumerian, a language isolate, then Akkadian and many other languages. Literacy stayed narrow, taught in the edubba, the tablet house.

Sumer was a set of rival **city-states**. The long Lagash and Umma border war is the first well-recorded interstate conflict. The **lugal**, or big man, was a war leader whose temporary command became hereditary kingship: war made kings. Around 2334 BCE **Sargon of Akkad** built the first territorial empire. He ruled different peoples from one center, installed governors, standardized

weights and measures, and made his daughter Enheduanna high priestess at Ur. The empire broke up within about a century.

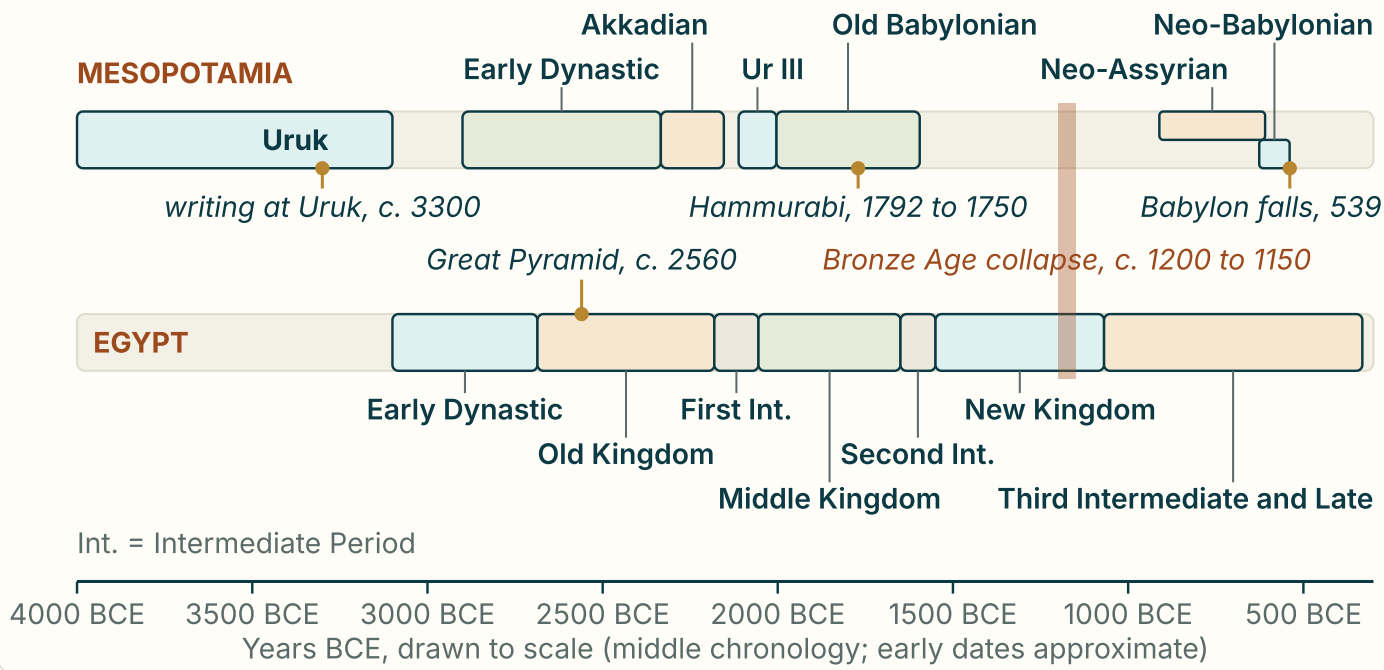
Hammurabi of Babylon (reigned about 1792 to 1750 BCE) set up a 2.25 meter stele with 282 provisions. Its laws are casuistic (if a man does X, then Y). Retaliation in kind, **lex talionis**, applied only between equals: injure a commoner and you paid silver; injure a slave and you paid the owner. Court records almost never cite the stele, so scholars read it as a royal monument to ideal justice and a teaching text rather than a working statute book. Later, Neo-Assyrian kings added provinces under salaried governors, roads and mass deportation, while Ashurbanipal built a library of more than 30,000 tablets. Nebuchadnezzar II destroyed Jerusalem in 587/586 BCE, and Cyrus of Persia took Babylon in 539 BCE.

Egypt's Nile flooded at the useful moment (rising from July, cresting in September) along a narrow, defensible valley. Simple basin irrigation worked, and desert, cataracts and sea protected it. The result was an early, durable, unified kingdom. The Old Kingdom (2686 to 2181 BCE) built the pyramids; Khufu's Great Pyramid (about 2560 BCE) was raised by organized, fed and housed Egyptian workers, not slaves, as the workers' village and the Merer papyri show. The core idea was **ma'at**, truth, justice and cosmic order, which the pharaoh upheld against chaos (isfet). The dead had their heart weighed against the feather of ma'at.

Around 1200 to 1150 BCE the connected Late Bronze Age world fell apart. Hattusa burned, Ugarit was destroyed, Mycenaean palaces fell and Egypt lost its empire. Most historians now reject a single cause: drought, earthquakes, raiders (the so-called Sea Peoples), revolt and a fragile tin trade reinforced each other. The aftermath spread iron and the alphabet. The Phoenician alphabet of 22 consonant letters, standardized around 1050 BCE, made literacy far cheaper, and the exile after 587/586 BCE pushed Israelite religion toward exclusive monotheism. The honest word for what the West took from these civilizations is transmission, not descent.

LOCK THESE IN

- Farming began about 9500 BCE in the Fertile Crescent and fed more people while making the average person shorter and sicker.
- Göbekli Tepe (about 9500 BCE) shows monuments before securely attested farming; the causal story is now open.
- Uruk became the first city around 3500 BCE; writing appears there around 3300 to 3200 BCE as accounting.
- War made kings: the lugal's temporary command became hereditary.
- Sargon of Akkad (about 2334 BCE) built the first territorial empire.
- Hammurabi's 282 provisions grade penalties by rank and read best as royal self-presentation.
- The Nile's timely flood and protective geography gave Egypt early unity; ma'at is cosmic order the king upholds.
- The Bronze Age collapse (about 1200 to 1150 BCE) had many interacting causes and freed iron and the alphabet.



Two river valleys on one clock. Egypt's kingdoms run long and are broken by Intermediate Periods, while Mesopotamia passes from city-states to a series of conquest empires. Both are hit by the collapse around 1200 BCE.

Key terms and comparisons

Term or feature	Mesopotamia	Egypt
Flood timing	April to May, too late for winter grain	July to October, right for autumn planting
Flood behavior	Highly variable, sometimes destructive	Fairly regular; a low Nile meant famine
Irrigation	Large canal networks needing constant labor	Basin irrigation, largely local
Defenses	Open plain, exposed on all sides	Desert, cataracts and sea
Political form	Rival city-states, then conquest empires	One unified kingdom under a pharaoh
Building material	Sun-dried mudbrick	Limestone, sandstone, granite
Writing	Cuneiform on clay	Hieroglyphs, with hieratic and demotic
Outlook in texts	Often anxious; death bleak	Often confident; afterlife desirable
Big idea	Written law as royal advertisement	Ma'at, the order the king keeps

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · WHY FARMING SPREAD ANYWAY

A classmate says people started farming because it was obviously a better life. Test the claim with the chapter's evidence.

STEP 1 · STATE THE CLAIM

Farming spread because each family judged it better.

STEP 2 · CHECK THE BODIES

Neolithic skeletons show shorter stature, more caries, enamel defects, anemia and joint wear than earlier foragers.

STEP 3 · CHECK THE DISEASES

Dense villages beside animals bred measles, tuberculosis, smallpox and influenza.

STEP 4 · FIND THE REAL DRIVER

Farming feeds far more people per acre, so farming populations grew faster and displaced or absorbed foragers.

CONCLUSION

The claim fails. Farming won by population growth, not by making individuals better off. Evolutionary success and welfare are different measures.

WORKED CASE 2 · READING HAMMURABI'S STELE

A builder's house collapses and kills the owner's son. Separately, a free man of standing destroys the eye of a commoner. What does the stele say, and what does that show?

STEP 1 · THE HOUSE CASE

The stele punishes vicariously: the builder's son is put to death.

STEP 2 · THE EYE CASE

Mirrored harm applies only between equals. For a commoner (muškēnum) the penalty is 60 shekels of silver.

STEP 3 · THE PATTERN

Injury to a person of rank brings bodily retaliation; to a commoner, money; to a slave, money paid to the owner.

STEP 4 · ASK WHAT THE TEXT IS FOR

Court records almost never cite it, and the prologue and epilogue praise the king.

CONCLUSION

Justice was graded by rank, and the stele is best read as a monument to the king's justice and a teaching text, not a statute book.

WORKED CASE 3 · DOING DATE ARITHMETIC IN BCE

How long did Egypt's Old Kingdom last, and how many years separate the start of Sargon's empire from Hammurabi's accession?

STEP 1 · REMEMBER THE RULE

BCE years count down toward year 1, so subtract the later (smaller) number from the earlier (larger) one.

STEP 2 · OLD KINGDOM

2686 minus 2181 = **505 years**.

STEP 3 · SARGON TO HAMMURABI

About 2334 minus 1792 = **542 years**.

CHECK IT A SECOND WAY

Count forward: 1792 plus 542 is 2334, so the subtraction holds. Each span is about five centuries, which is why ancient history needs a timeline drawn to scale.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Calling farming progress for everyone.** It fed more people but hurt the average person's health.
- **Saying Göbekli Tepe proves religion caused farming.** It breaks the old sequence; it does not settle a new one.
- **Thinking writing began as literature.** It began as accounts of barley, beer and rations.
- **Treating Hammurabi's stele as a working statute book.** Courts almost never cite it; read it as royal monument and teaching text.
- **Saying eye for an eye applied to everyone.** Mirrored harm applied only between equals; others got fines.
- **Saying slaves built the pyramids.** The evidence shows organized, fed and housed Egyptian workers, likely in the flood season.
- **Blaming one cause for the Bronze Age collapse.** Drought, quakes, raiders, revolt and trade failure interacted.
- **Calling Egypt and Mesopotamia European ancestors.** They are African and Asian civilizations; the West inherited by transmission.

Chapter 1 self-test · ten items

1. Why did farming begin first in the Fertile Crescent, according to the chapter?

A. Its farmers had better stone tools than people anywhere else
B. Its rulers ordered villages to grow grain for temple workers
C. Many useful wild plants and animals lived close together there
D. Its rivers flooded at the right time for the winter crop

C. Many useful wild plants and animals lived close together there Eight founder crops and four key domesticable animals lived near one another. The chapter calls this a lucky biological inventory, not genius.

2. Compared with earlier foragers, early farmers' skeletons usually show what?

A. Fewer infections because villages kept animals far away
B. Greater height and stronger bones from a richer diet
C. Longer lives because stored grain ended all hunger
D. Shorter height, more tooth decay and more signs of stress

D. Shorter height, more tooth decay and more signs of stress Farming raised population but lowered average health: shorter stature, caries, enamel defects, anemia and joint wear.

3. What did Göbekli Tepe change about the standard story of the Neolithic?

A. It shows that cities came long before any ritual building
B. It proves that religion alone caused the start of farming
C. It confirms surplus first, then leisure, then monuments
D. Monumental building appears before securely attested farming

D. Monumental building appears before securely attested farming Pillars built around 9500 BCE broke the old order. Whether ritual caused farming is still debated.

4. Why did southern Mesopotamia need so much collective work on irrigation?

A. Its kings banned private wells and forced all to share
B. Its farmers grew only summer crops that needed no water
C. Its rivers flooded late and unpredictably, so canals needed upkeep
D. Its rivers flooded on time each year but carried far too little silt

C. Its rivers flooded late and unpredictably, so canals needed upkeep The Tigris and Euphrates flood in April and May, after planting, and shift their beds. Canals silted up and served many fields at once.

5. What were the earliest cuneiform tablets mostly about?

A. Barley, beer, livestock and workers' rations
B. Treaties between the kings of rival cities
C. Hymns to the gods and stories of heroes
D. Law codes posted for the public to read

A. Barley, beer, livestock and workers' rations Writing began as accounting for temple and palace estates. Literature came later.

6. What was the decisive breakthrough that let cuneiform write names and verbs?

A. Cutting the number of signs down to twenty-two
B. Letting a sign stand for a sound, not just a thing
C. Switching from clay tablets to sheets of papyrus
D. Writing from right to left instead of left to right

B. Letting a sign stand for a sound, not just a thing Phonetic use of signs let scribes write any word, so the script could carry Sumerian, Akkadian and other languages.

7. Which feature of Sargon's rule marks it as the first territorial empire?

A. He was the first king to be buried inside a great pyramid
B. He ruled distinct peoples from one center through his own governors
C. He gave every city in Sumer its own elected assembly
D. He was the first ruler to build a great wall around his own capital city

B. He ruled distinct peoples from one center through his own governors Ruling culturally distinct populations, installing governors, taking tribute and standardizing measures are the marks of empire.

8. In Hammurabi's stele, what happens when a man of standing destroys a commoner's eye?

A. He loses his own eye in return
B. He pays half the value to an owner
C. He pays sixty shekels of silver
D. He is put to death on the spot

C. He pays sixty shekels of silver Mirrored harm applied only between equals. For a commoner the penalty became a silver payment.

9. Which evidence shows the Giza pyramids were not built by slaves?

A. A workers' town with bakeries, honored graves and healed bones
B. Greek reports that the workers were paid in silver coins
C. A royal decree freeing all slaves before the work began
D. Carvings that show foreign captives hauling the blocks

A. A workers' town with bakeries, honored graves and healed bones Excavations found bakeries, breweries, dormitories and honored burials with set fractures, and Merer's logbook records routine stone deliveries.

10. How do most historians now explain the Late Bronze Age collapse?

A. Egypt's conquest of the Hittite kingdom broke all the old trade routes
B. Several stresses reinforced each other in a tightly linked system
C. A single huge earthquake leveled the eastern coasts
D. The Sea Peoples alone destroyed every major kingdom

B. Several stresses reinforced each other in a tightly linked system Drought, earthquakes, migration and raiding, revolt and fragile tin routes interacted. No single cause suffices.

Ancient Greece: Polis, Philosophy and Democracy

Read it in full: **Chapter 2 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **Forge a Polis** and **The Lot and the Demos**.

What to know

Greece is poor: thin soil, unreliable rain and mountains that cut the land into small plains. No Greek king could tax a Nile-sized surplus, so Greeks organized into hundreds of small citizen states. Greeks did not invent writing, law or math; what they did was insist on giving reasons, about who counts as a citizen, whether the many can rule and how we know anything.

From about 1600 to 1200 BCE, Mycenaean palaces at Mycenae, Pylos and Tiryns ran redistributive economies recorded in **Linear B**, deciphered in 1952 by Michael Ventris, building on Alice Kober's work, and shown to be early Greek. Around 1200 to 1150 BCE the palaces fell in the wider Bronze Age collapse. Writing vanished from Greece for about four hundred years. The so-called Dark Age (about 1100 to 800 BCE) was a reset, not a blackout: Lefkandi shows elites and contacts survived.

When Greece recovered it built the **polis**: a self-governing community of citizens with an acropolis, an agora and farmland. There were perhaps a thousand, most tiny. Geography helps explain this, but the same mountains once held palace kingdoms; the decisive change was that the collapse erased the memory of central kingship. Greeks saw the polis as people, not place: men make a city, not walls. Between about 750 and 550 BCE colonies spread from Spain to the Black Sea, the Greek alphabet added vowels (around 800 BCE), and coins from Lydia made wealth portable.

Around 700 BCE the **hoplite** phalanx changed war. Each man's round shield covered his own left side and the right side of the man beside him, so survival depended on everyone holding his place. The hoplite revolution thesis says that farmers who could afford armor gained political leverage. Scholars now soften this: the phalanx developed slowly, and Sparta, with the best hoplites, never became a democracy. Military and political participation tracked each other, with causes running both ways.

Sparta solved its land problem by conquering Messenia and turning its people into **helots**, state-owned farm laborers who outnumbered citizens perhaps seven to one. Everything else followed: the **agoge** from age seven, common messes, a ban on trade, the krypteia and a yearly declaration of war on the helots. Its constitution mixed two kings, a council of elders, an assembly and five **ephors**. Spartan women could own property. Citizen numbers fell from about 8,000 to perhaps 1,200 to 1,500 by 371 BCE, when Thebes won at Leuctra. Much of the heroic image is the Spartan mirage written by admirers.

Athens took another road. In 621 BCE Draco wrote down the law. In 594 BCE **Solon** canceled debts (the seisachtheia), banned enslavement for debt and tied rights to income, not birth, letting the poorest attend the assembly; he refused to redistribute land. Peisistratus ruled as a mostly popular tyrant from 546 BCE. In 508 to 507 BCE **Cleisthenes** built ten new tribes, each mixing one trittys from coast, inland and city, out of about 139 demes. That broke aristocratic power bases. The Council of 500 was chosen by lot.

Under Pericles (dominant from about 461 to 429 BCE) the radical democracy ran on lot and mass participation. The **Ekklesia** of all adult male citizens met about forty times a year and decided war, treaties and taxes. The **Boule** set the agenda. The courts, or dikasteria, used paid juries of 201, 501 or 1,501. About 700 offices were filled by lot; only the ten **strategoi** were elected. Aristotle said lot is democratic and election oligarchic. Ostracism exiled a leading man for ten years without loss of property. Yet women, metics and perhaps 60,000 to 150,000 enslaved people had no political rights.

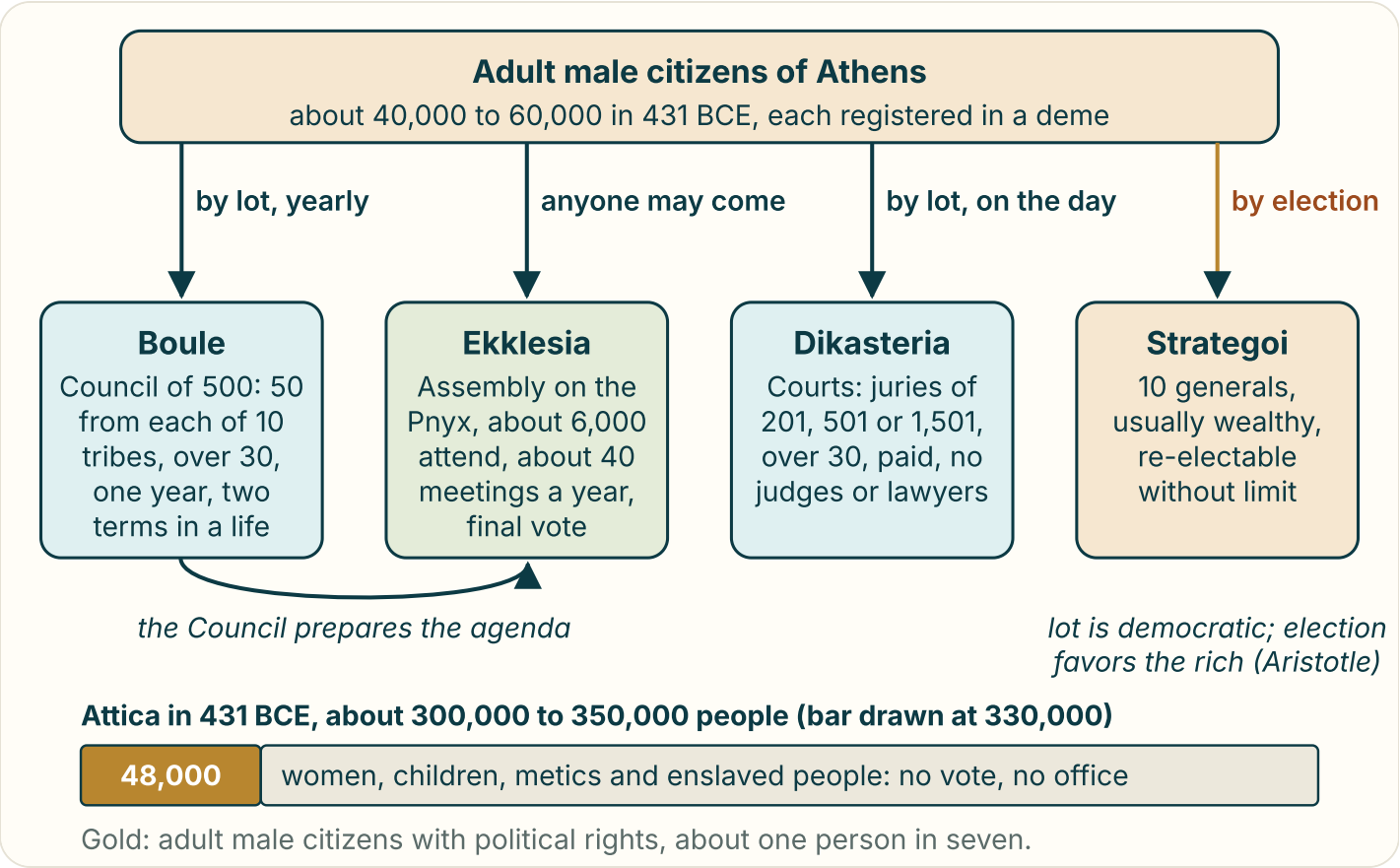
After the Ionian revolt (499 BCE), Athens won at Marathon (490 BCE). In 480 BCE Leonidas held Thermopylae, but Themistocles' fleet of 200 triremes, built from the Laurion silver strike of 483 BCE, won at Salamis; Plataea and Mycale followed in 479 BCE. The Delian League (478 BCE) became an Athenian empire: rebels were crushed and the treasury moved to Athens in 454 BCE. Thucydides gave the Peloponnesian War (431 to 404 BCE) its famous cause: Athenian growth and Spartan fear. Plague, Melos, the Sicilian disaster and a Persian-funded Spartan fleet led to defeat in 404 BCE, but democracy was restored in 403 BCE.

Greek thought moved from nature to people to the self. Thales and the Presocratics explained nature without gods. The Sophists taught that law is human convention. **Socrates** questioned

people (the elenchus) and was executed in 399 BCE. **Plato** taught unchanging Forms and attacked democracy; **Aristotle** began with observation, invented formal logic and defined the good life as eudaimonia. Philip II won at Chaeronea (338 BCE); Alexander conquered Persia and died in 323 BCE. In the Hellenistic kingdoms, Stoicism and Epicureanism turned ethics inward, and Alexandria produced Euclid, Eratosthenes and Aristarchus. Greek learning was never lost; Byzantine and Arabic scholars kept it.

LOCK THESE IN

- The Mycenaean collapse, more than geography alone, cleared the way for the polis.
- Linear B was early Greek, deciphered by Ventris in 1952, building on Kober.
- The hoplite shield protected the man beside you; military and political roles tracked each other.
- Sparta rested on helots; its citizen body shrank and Thebes broke it at Leuctra in 371 BCE.
- Solon (594 BCE) canceled debts but refused land redistribution; Cleisthenes (508 to 507 BCE) built ten mixed tribes.
- Lot filled most Athenian offices; the ten generals were elected.
- Thucydides: the truest cause of the war was Athenian growth and Spartan fear.
- Socrates died in 399 BCE; Plato taught Forms; Aristotle began from observation.



Lot, rotation and a narrow citizen body. Three of the four institutions were filled by lot or open attendance; only the generals were elected. The bar uses the chapter's working figures, and estimates vary.

Key terms and comparisons

Term or feature	Sparta	Athens
Economic base	Helot farming in Laconia and Messenia	Small farms, olives, Laurion silver, imported grain
Unfree labor	Helots, state-owned and tied to land	Chattel slaves, privately owned, often bought abroad
Decisive arm	Hoplite infantry	Trireme navy rowed by poorer citizens
Executive	Two kings, five ephors, council of elders	Ten elected generals; most offices by lot
Women	Exercised, inherited and owned land	Under a male guardian (kyrios), no property control
Outsiders	Periodic expulsion of foreigners	Many metics, taxed but never enfranchised
Citizen trend	About 8,000 falling to about 1,200 to 1,500	About 40,000 to 60,000 adult men in 431 BCE
Key reformer	The mixed constitution Aristotle admired	Solon, then Cleisthenes, then Pericles

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · WHY CLEISTHENES MIXED THE REGIONS

An aristocratic family dominates one coastal district. Show how Cleisthenes' tribes weaken its hold on politics.

STEP 1 · THE OLD SYSTEM

Four kinship tribes let great families command local loyalty.

STEP 2 · THE BUILDING BLOCKS

About 139 demes were grouped into 30 trittyes: 10 coastal, 10 inland and 10 city.

STEP 3 · THE MIX

Each of the 10 new tribes took one trittys from each region, so 3 trittyes per tribe and 30 in all.

STEP 4 · THE RESULT

The family's coastal followers now sit in a tribe alongside inland farmers and city dwellers who owe it nothing.

CONCLUSION

A tribe became an artificial cross-section of Attica. No single region or family could control one, and each tribe sent 50 men to the Council of 500.

WORKED CASE 2 · WEIGHING THE CLAIM THAT ATHENS WAS A DEMOCRACY

Write a balanced answer to the question, "Was Athens a democracy?" using the chapter's figures.

STEP 1 · THE CASE FOR

Citizens decided policy in the assembly, served on juries by the hundreds and held office by lot, far more directly than in any modern state.

STEP 2 · THE CASE AGAINST

Of perhaps 300,000 to 350,000 people in Attica, only 40,000 to 60,000 adult male citizens had political rights.

STEP 3 · SIZE THE GAP

At the bar's working figures, 48,000 of 330,000 is about 14.5%, roughly one person in seven.

CONCLUSION

Hold both together. It was a radically direct democracy for a minority, built on the exclusion of women, metics and the enslaved.

WORKED CASE 3 · SEPARATING CAUSE AND TRIGGER

Sort these into Thucydides' categories: the dispute over Corcyra, Spartan fear of growing Athenian power, the Megarian decree, the siege of Potidaea.

STEP 1 · DEFINE THE TRUEST CAUSE

A deep, least openly stated cause that makes war likely.

STEP 2 · DEFINE THE TRIGGERS

Immediate grievances that people cite at the time.

STEP 3 · SORT

Truest cause: Spartan fear of Athenian power. Grievances: Corcyra, Potidaea, the Megarian decree.

CONCLUSION

Structure versus trigger is Thucydides' lasting gift to historical method, and you will use it again for 1914.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying geography alone made the polis.** The same mountains held palace kingdoms; the collapse of kingship was decisive.
- **Calling the Dark Age a time when nothing happened.** Palaces died, iron spread and the citizen farmer community formed.
- **Treating the hoplite revolution as proven.** Sparta had the best hoplites and never became a democracy.
- **Thinking Athenian elections were the democratic part.** Lot was democratic; only generals were elected.
- **Thinking ostracism was a punishment.** It was a ten-year exile without loss of property, a pressure valve.
- **Saying the Peloponnesian War ended Athenian democracy.** It was restored in 403 BCE; Macedon ended it in 322 BCE.
- **Saying Greek learning was lost until the Renaissance.** Byzantine and Arabic scholars kept and extended it.
- **Reading Spartan stories as plain fact.** Much comes from admirers; scholars call it the Spartan mirage.

Chapter 2 self-test · ten items

1. What did Michael Ventris show about Linear B in 1952?

A. It was a version of Egyptian hieroglyphs
B. It was a script that no one can read today
C. It recorded epic poems about the Trojan War
D. It recorded an early form of the Greek language

D. It recorded an early form of the Greek language Building on Alice Kober's sign grid, Ventris proved Linear B was early Greek. The tablets are inventories, not literature.

2. According to the chapter, what most likely decided that Greece rebuilt as poleis rather than kingdoms?

A. Persian kings forbade the Greeks to crown a single ruler
B. The mountains rose higher after the great earthquakes
C. The collapse erased the memory of centralized kingship
D. Colonists brought back the polis idea from Egypt

C. The collapse erased the memory of centralized kingship Geography mattered, but the same land had held palace kingdoms. Losing kingship's institutions was the decisive fact.

3. Why did the hoplite's shield grip matter politically?

A. It allowed each man to fight alone as a skilled and famous champion
B. It was given free by the state to every adult male
C. It also covered the man beside him, so all depended on each other
D. It was so costly that only nobles could ever afford it

C. It also covered the man beside him, so all depended on each other Gripped at the rim, the shield covered the bearer's left and his neighbor's right. Cohesion, not individual skill, won battles.

4. What explains most of Sparta's distinctive institutions?

A. The need to keep peace among its many colonies
B. The need to control a much larger helot population
C. The need to pay a large fleet of hired rowers
D. The need to defend a huge overseas trading empire

B. The need to control a much larger helot population Helots outnumbered citizens perhaps seven to one, which drove the agoge, the messes, the krypteia and the yearly declaration of war.

5. What did Solon refuse to do in 594 BCE?

A. Redistribute land to the poor
B. Ban enslaving Athenians for debt
C. Tie political rights to income
D. Cancel debts that farmers owed

A. Redistribute land to the poor He canceled debts, banned debt slavery and set property classes, but not land redistribution, so neither rich nor poor were satisfied.

6. How many new tribes did Cleisthenes create?

A. Thirty
B. Four
C. Five hundred
D. Ten

D. Ten He replaced the four old kinship tribes with ten new ones, each built from three trittyes. Thirty was the number of trittyes.

7. Which Athenian officials were elected rather than chosen by lot?

A. The Council of 500 (Boule)
B. The daily chairman of the council
C. The jurors of the courts
D. The ten generals (strategoi)

D. The ten generals (strategoi) Athenians gambled on amateurs almost everywhere but elected their generals, who could be re-elected without limit.

8. What did Themistocles persuade Athens to do with the Laurion silver strike of 483 BCE?

A. Pay a dividend to every citizen
B. Build 200 triremes for the fleet
C. Build the Parthenon on the Acropolis
D. Hire Spartan troops for the defense

B. Build 200 triremes for the fleet The fleet won at Salamis in 480 BCE, and because poorer citizens rowed it, it gave them political weight.

9. Which is a sign that the Delian League had become an Athenian empire?

A. The treasury moved from Delos to Athens in 454 BCE
B. Each member city minted its own coins freely
C. Members could leave whenever they wished
D. Sparta was invited to lead the alliance's fleet

A. The treasury moved from Delos to Athens in 454 BCE Crushing Naxos and Thasos, moving the treasury and forcing Athenian coinage and courts all show alliance turning into empire.

10. Why did Hellenistic philosophy turn toward the individual's peace of mind?

A. Alexander banned all talk of politics in Greek cities
B. The plague had killed most of the old teachers
C. Greeks now lived as subjects of distant kings, not voters
D. Persian religion replaced Greek gods everywhere

C. Greeks now lived as subjects of distant kings, not voters After Alexander, citizens of small poleis became subjects of large kingdoms, so Stoics and Epicureans asked how one person lives well.

Cram sheet

Everything from chapters 1 and 2 in one place. Cover the right column and see if you can rebuild each row.

Dates to know

Item	Date	Note
Farming and Göbekli Tepe begin	About 9500 BCE	Fertile Crescent; three-thousand-year shift
Uruk becomes a city; writing	About 3500; about 3300 to 3200 BCE	Writing begins as accounting
Unification of Egypt	About 3100 BCE	Narmer Palette; Two Lands
Old Kingdom; Great Pyramid	2686 to 2181; about 2560 BCE	Pyramid age
Sargon of Akkad	About 2334 BCE	First territorial empire
Hammurabi	About 1792 to 1750 BCE	Stele of 282 provisions
New Kingdom	1550 to 1069 BCE	Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Ramesses II
Bronze Age collapse	About 1200 to 1150 BCE	Many interacting causes
Solon; Cleisthenes	594; 508 to 507 BCE	Debt reform; ten tribes
Marathon; Salamis	490; 480 BCE	Persian Wars
Peloponnesian War	431 to 404 BCE	Democracy restored 403 BCE
Socrates executed; Alexander dies	399; 323 BCE	Hellenistic age follows

Terms to know

Term	Meaning
Neolithic Revolution	Slow shift from foraging to farming and herding
Cuneiform	Wedge-shaped writing on clay, first for Sumerian
Lugal	Sumerian war leader who became a hereditary king
Lex talionis	Retaliation in kind, only between equals at Babylon
Ma'at	Egyptian truth, justice and cosmic order against isfet
Polis	Self-governing Greek citizen state
Helot	State-owned unfree farmer under Sparta
Ekklesia, Boule, dikasteria	Assembly, Council of 500, citizen courts
Ostracism	Ten-year exile by potsherd vote
Elenchus	Socratic cross-examination

Arguments that score points

Question	The strong answer
Why did farming spread?	Population growth, not individual welfare
Was Hammurabi's stele law?	Monument to ideal justice and teaching text more than statute
Why did Egypt unify early?	Timely flood, simple irrigation, natural defenses
Why the collapse?	Interacting stresses in a tightly linked system
Why the polis?	Collapse of kingship, then local landholders
Was Athens a democracy?	Direct for citizen men, exclusive for everyone else
Why the Peloponnesian War?	Athenian growth and Spartan fear, plus triggers

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