

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Homework Due \_\_\_\_\_

# Hammurabi's Law Code DBQ

Learning Target: I can use evidence from primary source documents, and make a list of main ideas that could answer the question: **What can we learn about Babylonia from Hammurabi's Code?**

**\*\* Questions in BOLD require analysis to earn a 4 \*\***

## Document A

When Anu the **Sublime** . . . and Bel, the lord of Heaven and earth, who **decreed** the fate of the land, assigned to Marduk, the over-ruling son of Ea, God of righteousness, power over earthly man, and made him great . . . they called Babylon by his celebrated name, made it great on earth, and founded an everlasting kingdom in it. Then Anu and Bel called by name me, Hammurabi, the **exalted** prince, who feared God, to bring about the rule of righteousness in the land, to destroy the wicked and the evil-doers; so that the strong should not harm the weak; so that I should rule over the black-headed people like Shamash, and enlighten the land, to further the well-being of mankind.

**Source:** "Code of Hammurabi," 1780 BCE.

1. According to this document, where did Hammurabi get his power as king? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. According to this document was Babylonia a monotheistic society (belief in one god) or a polytheistic society (belief in many gods)? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Highlight your evidence for your answer to #2 in the text above.

4. What seems to be the goal of Hammurabi's Code? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Document B

42. If any one take over a field to **till** it, and obtain no harvest from it, it must be proved that he did no work on the field, and he must deliver grain, just as his neighbor raised, to the owner of the field.

43. If he do not till the field, but let it lie **fallow**, he shall give grain like his neighbor's to the owner of the field, and the field which he let lie fallow he must plow and sow and return to its owner.

53. If any one be too lazy to keep his dam in proper condition . . . if then the dam break and all the fields be flooded, then shall he in whose dam the break occurred be sold for money, and the money shall replace the corn which he has caused to be ruined.

54. If he be not able to replace the corn, then he and his possessions shall be divided among the farmers whose corn he has flooded.

59. If any man, without the knowledge of the owner of a garden, **fell** a tree in a garden he shall pay half a mina in money.

**Source:** "Code of Hammurabi," 1780 BCE.

5. According to this document, do you think most people made a living in the cities or the country? Why?

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## Document C

117. If any one fails to pay a debt, and sells himself, his wife, his son, or daughter for money or give them away for forced labor: they shall work for three years in the house of the man who bought them and in the fourth year they shall be set free.

138. If a man wishes to separate from his wife who has borne him no children, he shall give her the amount of her purchase money and the **dowry** which she brought from her father's house, and let her go.

196. If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.

198. If he put out the eye of a freed man, or break the bone of a freed man, he shall pay one gold mina.

199. If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.

202. If any one strike the body of a man higher in rank than he, he shall receive sixty blows with an ox-whip in public.

203. If a free-born man strike the body of another free-born man or equal rank, he shall pay one gold mina.

**Source:** "Code of Hammurabi," 1780 BCE.

### Notes:

**Dowry** - money or property that a wife's family gives her husband when they marry.

**One gold mina** – equivalent of 4 months of wages

The three classes in Babylonia were the amelu, the muskinu and the ardu.

The amelu were in the highest class and "**another man**" refers to this class. The muskinu were free people who were probably poor or landless. The slaves were the lowest class and were considered property. However, they could also own their own property, even their own slaves, and could buy their freedom.

6. Read Law 138: What does this law suggest about the position of women in Babylonian society?

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7. Read Laws 196-203: Explain what is happening with the different punishments in Babylonia

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8. According to this document was everyone equal in Babylonia? Explain:

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9. Highlight a sentence in Document C that you could use as evidence for your answer to #8

**MAIN IDEAS:** What can we learn about Babylonia from Hammurabi's Code?

Document	Provides evidence that life in Babylonia was/included:
A	
B	
C	

**Grade breakdown: Your score has been circled and multiplied by 5**

0	1	2	3	4
Incomplete. Please finish and submit as soon as possible	Student has not successfully extracted evidence from documents or identified the main idea of those documents. Errors in logic and conclusions are present. Student can redo for additional practice and points.	Student shows the ability to extract evidence from documents by answering the questions, but has not successfully determined the main idea for each document. Can redo for additional practice and points.	You mostly have it! Answers to questions show that student has the ability to extract evidence from documents and determine main ideas.	