

**AP World History**  
*DBQ Essay*

**Directions:** The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-7. (The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.) Write your answer on the lined pages provided.

This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents.

Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents.
- Uses all of the documents.
- Analyzes the documents by grouping them in as many appropriate ways as possible. Does not simply summarize the documents individually.
- Takes into account the sources of the documents and analyzes the authors' points of view.
- Identifies and explains the need for at least one additional type of document.

You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents.

***Many societies had law codes prior to 600 C.E. Using the following documents, compare and contrast how these codes reflected the needs of various cultures.***

## Document 1

Source: *Code of Hammurabi*, 18th c. B.C.E.

[The purpose of the code is] to cause justice to prevail in the land, to destroy the wicked and the evil, and to prevent the strong from oppressing the weak,...to enlighten the land and to further the welfare of the people.

If his son is under age, and unable to administer his [deceased] father's affairs. then a third part of the field and garden shall be given to his mother, and his mother shall bring him up...

A captain, soldier, or official may not give his field, or garden, or house to his wife or his daughter; neither can they be given as payment for debt.

If a son has struck his father, his hands shall be cut off.

If a man has destroyed the eye of another free man, his own eye shall be destroyed.

If he has broken the bone of a free man, his bone shall be broken.

If he has destroyed the eye of a peasant, or broken a bone of a peasant, he shall pay one mina of silver.

## Document 2

Source: The Book of Exodus, *The Ten Commandments*

I am the Lord thy God...Thou shalt have no other gods before Me...

Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image...

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain...

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...

Honor thy father and thy mother...

Thou shalt not murder...

Thou shalt not commit adultery...

Thou shalt not steal...

Thou shalt not bear false witness...

Thou shalt not covet...

### Document 3

Source: *The Laws of Twelve Tables*, Roman Republic, 451 B.C.E.

Table III:

When a debt has been acknowledged...thirty days must be the legitimate time of grace. After that, the debtor may be arrested by laying on of hands. Bring him into court. If he does not satisfy the judgment...the creditor...may bind him either in stocks or in fetters....

Table IV:

Quickly kill...a dreadfully deformed child. If a father thrice surrender a son for sale, the son shall be free from the father.

Table V

Females shall remain in guardianship even when they have attained their majority.

Table VII

Should a tree on a neighbor's farm be bent crooked by a wind and lean over your farm, action may be taken for removal of that tree. It is permitted to gather up fruit falling down on another man's farm.

Table XI

Intermarriage shall not take place between plebeians and patricians.

### Document 4

Source: *The Laws of Manu*, 2nd or 3rd c B.C.E. India

At night they [unclean jatis or castes] shall not walk about in villages and in towns. By day they may go about for the purpose of their work, distinguished by marks at the king's command, and they shall carry out the corpses of persons who have no relatives; that is a settled rule.

A man of low caste who through covetousness lives by the occupations of a higher one, the king shall deprive of his property and banish.

A wife, a son, and a slave, these three are declared to have no property; the wealth which they earn is acquired for him to whom they belong...

What was given before the nuptial fire, what was given on the bridal procession, what was given in token of love, and what was received from her brother, mother, or father, that is called the six-fold property of a woman.

Where women are honored, there the gods are pleased; but where they are not honored, no sacred rite yields reward..

Where the female relations live in grief, the family soon wholly perishes; but that family where they are not unhappy ever prospers.

## Document 5

Source: Li Su, *On the Destruction of Books*, Qin Dynasty, 3rd c. B.C.E.

Your servant suggests that all books in the imperial archives, save the memoirs of Qin, be burned. All persons in the empire, except members of the Academy of Learned Scholars, in possession of the Book of Odes, the Book of History, and discourses of the hundred philosophers [including Confucius] should take them to the local governors and have them burned. Those who dare to talk to each other about the Book of Ideas and the Book of History should be executed and their bodies exposed in the market place. Anyone referring to the past to criticize the present should, together with all members of his family, be put to death. Officials who fail to report cases that have come under their attention are equally guilty. After thirty days from the time of issuing the decree, those who have not destroyed their books are to be branded and sent to build the Great Wall. Books not to be destroyed will be those on medicine and pharmacy, agriculture and aboriculture [the cultivation of trees and shrubs]. People wishing to pursue learning should take the officials as their teachers.

## Document 6

Source: Luke 2:1, *The New Testament*, 1st c B.C.E.-1st c. C.E.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be enrolled to be taxed.

## Document 7

Source: *The Justinian Code*, Byzantine Empire, 6th c. C.E.

Slaves are in the power of masters, a power derived from the law of nations; for among all nations it may be remarked that masters have the power of life and death over their slaves, and that everything acquired by the slave is acquired for the master.

If the wheat of Titius is mixed with yours, when this takes place by mutual consent, the mixed heap belongs to you in common because each body, that is, each grain, which before was the property of one or other of you, has by your mutual consent been made your common property; but, if the intermixture were accidental, or made by Titius without your consent, the mixed wheat does not then belong to you both in common; because the grains still remain distinct, and retain their proper substance...if either of you keep the whole quantity of mixed wheat, the other has a real action [claim or suit] for the amount of wheat belonging to him, but it is in the province of the judge to estimate the quality of the wheat belonging to each.