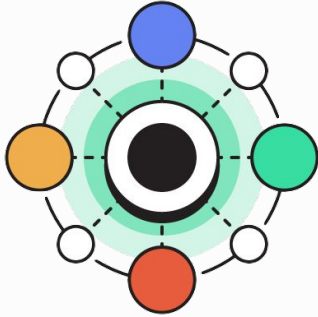


Formative Assessment: Contextualization and Sourcing



Thinking historically means interpreting historical events, developments, or processes in light of the surrounding historical context. It also means understanding key information about a historical source, such as its purpose, perspective, and reliability as a piece of evidence.

Directions: Read the following primary source. Then, answer the questions on contextualization that follow. The multiple choice questions for this formative assessment are Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC) questions. This means that there is only one *incorrect* answer, but the other 3 choices are weighted. The *best* answer is 3 points, the *second-best* answer is 2 points, and the *third-best* answer is 1 point. The *incorrect* answer is 0 points.

Formative Assessment: Contextualization and Sourcing

This document deals with Athens commemorating the first year of war with Sparta.

Source: Thucydides, "Pericles Funeral Oration" in *History of the Peloponnesian War*, 431 B.C.E. Translated by Richard Hooker, 1996.

Note: Pericles led the Athenian army at the start of the Peloponnesian War, which was fought between Athens and Sparta. Ancient Greek historian Thucydides wrote the speech in his book *History of the Peloponnesian War*.

Our [Athenian] government does not copy our neighbors', but is an example to them. It is true that we are called a democracy, for the administration is in the hands of the many and not of the few...

Then, again, our military training is in many respects superior to that of our adversaries. Our city is thrown open to the world, though and we never expel a foreigner and prevent him from seeing or learning anything of which the secret if revealed to an enemy might profit him. We rely not upon management or trickery, but upon our own hearts and hands. And in the matter of education, whereas they from early youth are always undergoing laborious exercises which are to make them brave, we live at ease, and yet are equally ready to face the perils which they face.

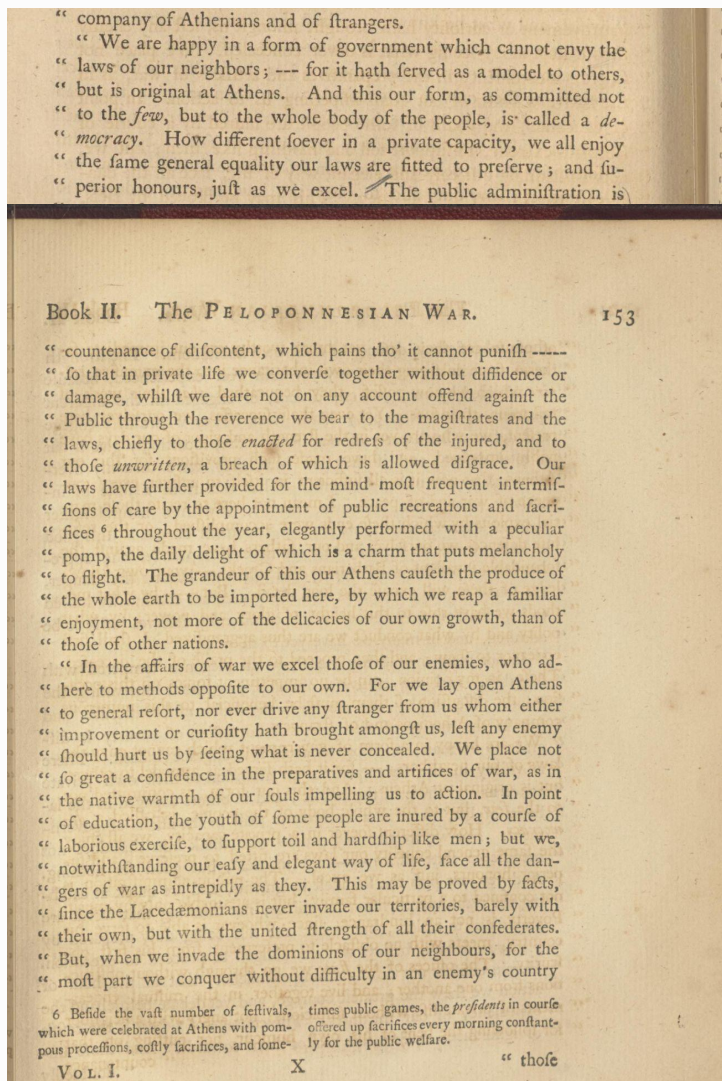


Image of Pericles' Funeral Oration taken from *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, translated by William Smith, 1753. This copy was Thomas Jefferson's and now resides in the Thomas Jefferson Library Collection [Library of Congress](#).



1. Each of the following statements is a historical fact that is related to the above document. Which historical fact *best* helps to contextualize the purpose of the above document? In other words, which fact *best* helps us understand why this document was written?
 - A. Pericles was the leader of the Athenian army and helped to guide the city through hardship.
 - B. Pericles was giving a speech memorializing the dead for their sacrifice, which was a traditional practice in Ancient Athens.
 - C. During the Golden Age of Athens, Pericles contributed significantly to the development of a flourishing cultural and democratic society.
 - D. Ancient Athens is known for its focus on the arts, literature, and philosophy, all of which influenced future Western civilizations.

2. Justify your choice in the space below.



1. Each of the following statements is a historical fact that is related to the above document. Which historical fact *best* helps to contextualize the purpose of the above document? In other words, which fact *best* helps us understand why this document was written?
 - A. Pericles was the leader of the Athenian army and helped to guide the city through hardship. **(2 points)**
 - B. Pericles was giving a speech memorializing the dead for their sacrifice, which was a traditional practice in Ancient Athens. **(3 points)**
 - C. During the Golden Age of Athens, Pericles contributed significantly to the development of a flourishing cultural and democratic society. **(1 point)**
 - D. Ancient Athens is known for its focus on the arts, literature, and philosophy, all of which influenced future Western civilizations. **(0 points)**

2. Justify your choice in the space below.

Choice B, worth 3 points, is the most helpful statement for contextualizing the purpose of the primary source, as it provides the purpose of his speech as memorializing the dead. Choice A is also helpful, and therefore worth 2 points, because it provides further insight into Pericles' role as a leader in motivating Athenian society through the war. Choice C, provides background to the historical moment in Athens, and is worth 1 point. Lastly, Choice D, while providing information about Ancient Athens is unrelated to the purpose of the document.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

3 points (Choice B)	2 points (Choice A)	1 point (Choice C)	0 points (Choice D)
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

2. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> fact—which was worth three points as shown on the teacher key—that would help contextualize the purpose of the source.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student’s justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student’s justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR tries to justify the 0 point option.
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

Total: _____ / 6

