

Formative Assessment: Evaluating Evidence



Thinking historically means identifying the evidence related to a claim, assessing its validity, and corroborating it by comparing multiple sources' interpretations of events, developments, or processes.

Directions: Review the following documents and answer the questions on evaluating evidence 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.

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Source: Solomon, 1 Kings 9:4; 11:1–11, around 940 B.C.E.

Note: David's son, Solomon, took over as king of Israel when David died.

And the Lord said to [Solomon],
“...if you will walk before me, as
David your father walked, with
integrity of heart and
uprightness, doing according to
all that I have commanded you,
and keeping my statutes and my
rules, then I will establish your
royal throne over Israel forever,
as I promised David your father...

Now King Solomon loved many
foreign women... For when
Solomon was old his wives
turned away his heart after other
gods, and his heart was not
wholly true to the Lord his God,
as was the heart of David his
father... So Solomon did what
was evil in the sight of the Lord
and did not wholly follow the
Lord, as David his father had
done.

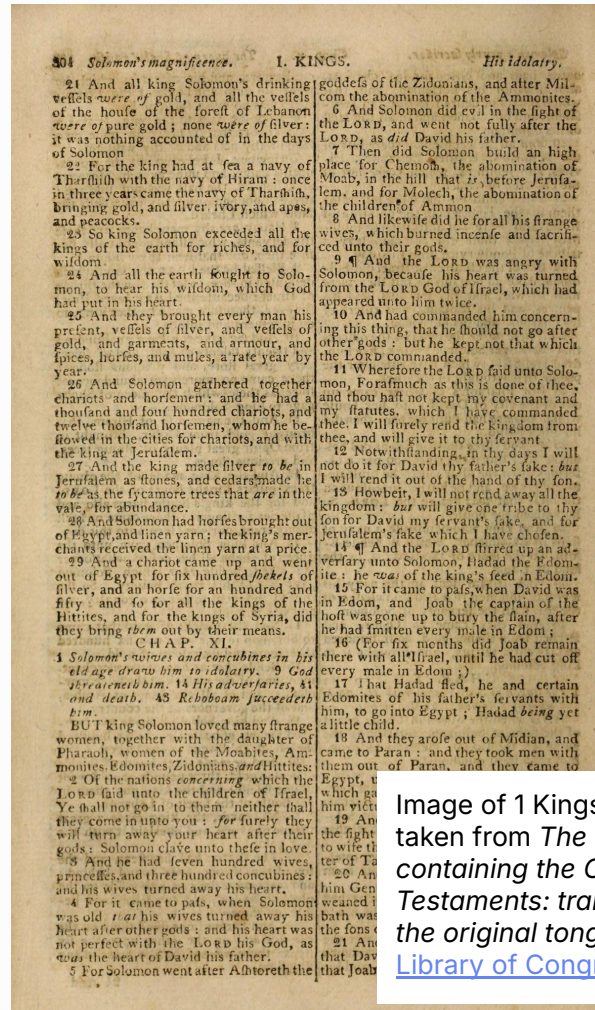


Image of 1 Kings 11 passage
taken from *The Holy Bible,
containing the Old and New
Testaments: translated out of
the original tongues, 1815.*
[Library of Congress.](#)

And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away
from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had
commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods.
But he did not keep what the Lord commanded. Therefore the Lord said to
Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my
covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the
kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.”



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1. Select the piece of evidence that *best* represents the reasons why Solomon lost the support of God according to the excerpt from 1 Kings.
 - A. "when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God"
 - B. "Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord"
 - C. "...if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever"
 - D. "the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods"

2. Justify your choice in the space below.



1. Select the piece of evidence that *best* represents the reasons why Solomon lost the support of God according to the excerpt from 1 Kings.
 - A. "when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God" **(3 points)**
 - B. "Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord" **(1 point)**
 - C. "...if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever" **(0 points)**
 - D. "the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods" **(2 points)**

2. Justify your choice in the space below.

Choice A, worth 3 points, is the best piece of evidence of how Solomon lost the support of God, as it explicitly identifies the specific cause of his downfall: his foreign wives turning his heart toward other gods. Choice D explains God's anger and references Solomon's disobedience, but does not identify the specific mechanism that led to it, making it a strong but incomplete piece of evidence worth 2 points. Choice B acknowledges that Solomon committed an offense but offers no specifics about what that offense was, making it too vague to fully support the claim, worth 1 point. Choice C tempting, as it is a lengthy and authoritative quote from God, but it describes the conditions God set for Solomon's success rather than evidence of Solomon's failure; therefore worth 0 points.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

3 points (Choice A)	2 points (Choice D)	1 point (Choice B)	0 points (Choice C)
			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> piece of evidence—which is worth three points as shown on the teacher key—that supports the claim.	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 try to justify the 0 point option.
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

Total: _____ / 6

