

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response, you will be assessed on the following.

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least four documents.
- Use at least one additional piece of specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.
- For at least two documents, explain how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
- Demonstrate a complex understanding of a historical development related to the prompt through sophisticated argumentation and/or effective use of evidence.

Evaluate to the extent to which Kevin Durant helped or harmed the Golden State Warriors from 2016-2019.

Document 1

Source: NBA.com article, *Warriors to Celebrate 10-Year Anniversary Of 2015 Championship Team on February 25*, published February 18, 2025.

On June 16, 2015, Golden State's 105-97 win over the Cavaliers completed a series comeback from down 2-1, giving the Warriors their second title since moving to the Bay Area and first since the 1974-75 season. Forward Andre Iguodala, who will have his jersey retired by the organization on Sunday, Feb. 23, earned the Bill Russell NBA Finals MVP Award with averages of 16.3 points, 5.8 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 1.33 steals in 37.0 minutes per game during the series. Iguodala became the first Finals MVP to win the award without having started a regular season game during that season.

Current Warriors Stephen Curry and Draymond Green, along with Iguodala and Mavericks forward Klay Thompson, were part of each of Golden State's four championships over the last decade. Coach Kerr became the first person to lead his team to a title in his first season as an NBA head coach since Pat Riley led the Lakers to a championship in 1981-82.

Document 2

Source: NBA analyst Marc Stein, in an article for ESPN, *Joy in Warriors 73 wins*, published April 14, 2016.

You see the Warriors make it all the way to the 25th game of the season before they lose. You see Steph zoom right past your seat at the scorer's table to plant a few steps past midcourt and launch an audacious, unforgettable 40-foot dagger at the buzzer in Oklahoma City without a twitch of hesitation. And you ultimately see them trump the Chicago Bulls' supposedly untouchable 72 wins from 1995-96, but only after the Warriors ratcheted up the drama to 11 by unexpectedly losing a couple of home games, then beating the winningest team that the mighty San Antonio Spurs have ever fielded twice in a span of four days as part of a 4-0 flourish that dragged them to a magical 73.

"It's his league," Grizzlies coach Dave Joerger said, naturally referring to [Curry] and offering up that declaration more than an hour before any of the 10 3-pointers Curry drained in a 46-point virtuoso performance that ultimately took him to 402 for the season.

"The Ted Williams of the 3-point line," Warriors play-by-play man Bob Fitzgerald called him.

"The last two years," Joerger continued, "it's Steph Curry's league."

Document 3

Source: Twitter screenshot depicting the lead reporter of NBA transactions, Adrian Wojnarowski, breaking the news that Kevin Durant will sign with the Golden State Warriors on July 4th, 2016.

The image shows a Twitter post from the account @wojespn. The post features a profile picture of Adrian Wojnarowski, a checkmark indicating verification, and the handle @wojespn. The tweet content reads: "Kevin Durant will sign with Golden State, he writes on the Players Tribune." Below the tweet, the timestamp "10:39 AM · Jul 4, 2016" is visible. At the bottom of the post, there are engagement metrics: 619 replies, 16K retweets, 10K likes, 514 bookmarks, and an upward arrow icon.

Document 4

Source: Bleacher Report article, *Warriors Win 2018 NBA Finals: Score, Celebration Highlights and Twitter Reaction*, published June 9, 2018

The party is on once again for the Golden State Warriors after they captured their third championship in four years with a 108-85 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 4 of the NBA Finals...

...A close battle for the honor of being crowned NBA Finals MVP went in Kevin Durant's favor for the second consecutive year. The nine-time All-Star went out in style by recording his first-career triple-double in the Finals with 20 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists.

Document 5

Source: Yahoo! Sports article, *Warriors' primary concern: Draymond Green's conduct was detrimental to Kevin Durant's future with the team*, published November 18, 2018

Green called Durant a "(explicit)" multiple times, sources said. In a summarized version, sources said Green shouted, "You're a (explicit) and you know you're a (explicit)." The rhetoric, sources said, continued even when Kerr attempted to direct the team's attention to his whiteboard.

But what ultimately led to Green's suspension, sources said, was a remark in which he dared Durant to bolt in free agency next summer. Durant has a player option for the 2019-20 season, and the Warriors want their superteam intact for the opening of their new arena, the Chase Center, in San Francisco next season.

Green blurted to Durant something along the lines of, "We don't need you. We won without you. Leave," sources said.

Document 6

Source: NBA.com report, *Kevin Durant announces move to sign with Brooklyn Nets*, published July 1st, 2019

Kevin Durant is headed to the Brooklyn Nets, leaving the Golden State Warriors after three seasons.

His decision was announced Sunday at the start of the NBA free agency period on the Instagram page for The Boardroom, an online series looking at sports business produced by Durant and business partner Rich Kleiman.

Durant won titles with Golden State in 2017 and '18 then was injured for much of the postseason this year as the team lost the NBA Finals in six games to the Toronto Raptors.

A ruptured right Achilles tendon could keep him out the entire next season, and whenever he returns it will be in the Brooklyn black.

Document 7

Source: Table recapping the Warriors team from 2014 to 2022, source unknown.

Golden State Warriors Season Stats					Key
Year	Wins	Losses	Conference Ranking	Leading Scorer	
2014-15	67	15		1 Stephen Curry	
2015-16	73	9		1 Stephen Curry	
2016-17	67	15		1 Stephen Curry	
2017-18	58	24		2 Kevin Durant	
2018-19	57	25		1 Kevin Durant	
2019-20	15	50		15 Eric Paschall	
2020-21	39	33		9 Stephen Curry	
2021-22	53	29		3 Stephen Curry	